

Ms. Nichols's Reading Class
Summer Reading List
For students starting the 2009-2010 school year in the Eagles group

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson (or any book in this series)

Max, Fang, Iggy, Nudge the Gasman, and Angel are kids who are pretty normal—except they're 98% human, 2% bird. They grew up in cages, living like rats, and now they're free—but being chased by the wicked, wolf-like Erasers, who've kidnapped Angel. Led by Max, the "Flock" embarks on a quest to find Angel, track down their parents, get revenge on an evil traitor, and try to save the world...if there's time.

James Patterson's masterpiece of action, mystery and suspense became a bestseller and favorite among young adults. Many students who read this over the summer have gone on to read the entire series!

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murray, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. "Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract."

A tesseract is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would ruin the story....*A Wrinkle in Time* is a book you will remember as one of your favorites for years to come.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Ponyboy can count on his brothers and on his friends, but not on much else besides trouble with the socials or "Socs," a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far. What happens leads Ponyboy to discover the meaning of family and "staying gold." This book is one of Ms. Nichols' all-time super fabulous favorites, and she thinks everyone should read it!

Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Jerry Spinelli takes the bullying jock who is the villain in so many middle-grade novels and casts him as the narrator of this tale. Ever since first grade "Crash" Coogan has been tormenting dweeby Penn Ward, a skinny vegetarian Quaker boy who lives in a tiny former garage with his aged parents. Now that they're in seventh grade, "chippy chirpy perky" Penn becomes an even better target: not only does Penn still wear outdated used clothes, he joins the cheerleading squad. But even though Crash becomes the school's star football player and wears the most expensive clothes from the mall, he still can't get what Penn has--his parents' attention and the admiration of the most gorgeous girl in school. And when his beloved grandfather Scooter is severely disabled by a stroke,

Crash no longer sees the fun in playing brutal pranks and begins to realize that there are more important things in life than wearing new shoes and being a sports star. Once again, Jerry Spinelli writes a great book that you will be able to relate to!

The Face On the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney

The message on the milk carton reads, "Have you seen this child?" Three-year-old Jennie Spring was kidnapped 12 years earlier, but Janie Johnson, looking at the photo, suddenly thinks that little girl might be...her. Who is she, and where did she come from? Janie wants desperately to find out, but where can she go to find the truth? Fans of mystery and suspense will love this, and anything by Caroline Cooney, who is a master of the "can't put it down" novel.

White Fang by Jack London

In the frozen north during the Gold Rush days, canine killers hunt in packs and search for their next victim. Dog trainers are looking for easy money, and the spirit of a vicious wolf roams free until he receives a human being's love and understanding. All these come together in *White Fang*. The story serves as a comparison of what London saw as the characteristics we all share with the world of the Wild-adapt and thrive, or die. The fast-paced action of *White Fang* never lets up; danger is always waiting beyond the next pile of snow or beneath the claws of a snarling predator. Weaving adventure, bravery, greed, survival of the fittest, and instinct versus nurture, London's novel was an immediate success when it was first published in 1905, and it has been so ever since. Dolphins who read *The Call of the Wild* and loved it last year are highly encouraged to read this, as it is considered a sequel to that novel!