

May 30, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

The faculty at Elkin Middle School believes strongly in the importance of a summer reading program. Reading a good book during the summer helps to enhance student achievement and foster a lifelong interest in reading. All students attending Elkin Middle School in the fall are required to read two (2) novels prior to the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. One title is required for all students and one title is chosen by the student from a provided list. The books may be checked out from the public or school library or purchased. If purchasing either book provides a financial hardship, please contact Mrs. Colbert at 835-3175 prior to August 1, 2011.

The required title for all students is The Misfits by James Howe. The subject of *The Misfits* is bullying and the comedy comes from its narrator, Bobby. Bobby is one of the Gang of Five. The Gang of Five is made up of four members-the number five is just to keep people guessing. All four have been teased since early grade school. The Gang of Five starts the NO-NAME PARTY. Their platform is "End name-calling once and for all!" They make a list of seventy names that they have been called, write each word on paper inside a red circle with a line cutting through, and secretly post these all over the school. The school buzzes; even the principal cannot ignore the name calling any more because, as Bobby says, "Sticks and stones may break our bones, but names will break our spirit." Howe allows the reader to become a fly-on-the-wall spy while these four very real kids chatter away about everyday happenings that should not be normal in this timely, sensitive, laugh-out-loud must-read for all middle school students and teachers. Upon returning to school, Elkin Middle School students and staff will participate in a workshop about bullying and the importance of treating one another with respect, despite our differences.

On the back of this letter you will find the 2011-2012 Battle of the Books list. The second book your child reads MUST come from this list. Upon returning to school your child will be required to write a paper on a provided prompt using the Write to Learn online writing program provided by the school during designated class times.

Please contact the middle school office if you have any questions regarding the summer reading program. We look forward to teaching your child next school year!

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Pam Colbert
Elkin Middle School Principal

Mrs. Emily Morrison
7th Grade ELA Teacher

Mrs. Amanda Burton
8th Grade ELA Teacher

Enclosures

**Elkin Middle School
2011-2012
Summer Reading List**

NCSLMA Battle of the Books Booklist 2011-2012

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park
Al Capone Does My Shirts	Gennifer Choldenko
Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians	Brandon Sanderson
Beneath My Mother's Feet	Amjed Qamar
Chasing Lincoln's Killer	James L. Swanson
Cuba 15	Nancy Osa
Fever 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village	Laura Amy Schlitz
Good Night, Mr. Tom	Michelle Magorian
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery	John Feinstein
Mockingbird	Kathryn Erskine
Moon Over Manifest	Clare Vanderpool
My Life in Dog Years	Gary Paulsen
One Crazy Summer	Rita Williams-Garcia
Road to Tater Hill	Edith M. Hemingway
Romiette and Julio	Sharon M. Draper
Tangerine	Edward Bloor
The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel	Michael Scott
The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn	Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler
The House of the Scorpion	Nancy Farmer
The Other Half of My Heart	Sundee T. Frazier
The Other Side of Truth	Beverley Naidoo
The Red Pyramid	Rick Riordan
The Roar	Emma Clayton
The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Elizabeth George Speare
Treasure Island (Complete & Unabridged)	Robert Louis Stevenson