

THE PHELPS SCHOOL

Summer Reading List for 7th & 8th grades

While all selections are grade-appropriate, and many are award winners, the maturity level of students can vary widely. Some may contain content, language, or violence that you may deem inappropriate for your son's current maturity level. If you have any question about a particular book, please check with your local library or bookstore.

Tears of a Tiger (Sharon Draper) Tigers don't cry—or do they? After the death of his longtime friend and fellow Hazelwood Tiger in a car accident, Andy, the driver, blames himself and cannot get past his guilt and pain. While his other friends have managed to work through their grief and move on, Andy allows death to become the focus of his life. In the months that follow the accident, the lives of Andy and his friends are traced through a series of letters, articles, homework assignments, and dialogues, and it becomes clear that Tigers do indeed need to cry.

The Compound (S.A. Bodeen) Eli-fifteen year old and son of a billionaire has spent the last six years in an underground compound built by his father. Nuclear war has destroyed the world and killed his grandmother and twin brother. The doors are time locked and will not open for fifteen years. Well with nine years to go and the food running out, Eli's father has some solutions in survival but things aren't as they seem in the compound and Eli soon starts to question the sanity of his father.

Animal Farm (George Orwell) After realizing their desire for freedom, the animals of Manor Farm chase Mr. Jones off his property and take control. They learn many lessons as they struggle to define and create an ideal community. The novel, presented as a fable, uses animals to comment on human society and nature. *Animal Farm* satirizes the events of the Russian Revolution and the years following, from 1917 to 1943.

The Graveyard Book (Neil Gaiman) After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family... Beloved master storyteller Neil Gaiman returns with a luminous new novel for the audience that embraced his New York Times bestselling modern classic *Coraline*. Magical, terrifying, and filled with breathtaking adventures, *The Graveyard Book* is sure to enthrall readers of all ages.

Paper Towns (John Green) When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night—dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q . . . until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q.