

McCleskey Middle School 8th Grade Summer Reading List and Assignment

This list, divided into the categories of **Literature** and **Nonfiction/Informational Text**, comprises titles related to the themes and content of Unit 1 – The Challenge of Heroism.

When you think of **Heroism**, you might think of great acts of bravery, such as rushing into burning buildings and facing danger in battle. *Heroism* consists of putting others first, even at your own peril.

The Hero's Journey Archetype is the common template of a broad category of tales that involve a **hero** who goes on an adventure, and in a decisive (determining) crisis wins a victory, and then comes home changed or transformed.

For summer reading, **select one book from this wide array of titles**, which have been chosen based on complexity and interest.

The book you choose from the list below will take you on a Hero's Journey which you will track - see assignment attachment.

Unit 1: The Challenge of Heroism		
Literature		
Author	Title	Lexile
Alexie, Sherman	<i>Reservation Blues</i>	670L
Alvarez, Julia	<i>Before We Were Free</i>	890L
Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>Fever 1793</i>	580L
Avi	<i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i>	780L
Butler, Octavia	<i>The Parable of the Sower</i>	710L
Coelho, Paul	<i>The Alchemist</i>	910L
Crew, Linda	<i>Children of the River</i>	700L
Crutcher, Chris	<i>Whale Talk</i>	1000L
Ellis, Deborah	<i>The Breadwinner</i>	630L
Jeffrey, Gary	<i>African Myths</i>	N/A
Johnston, E.K.	<i>The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim</i>	1020L

Jones, Diana Wynne	<i>Howl's Moving Castle</i>	800L
L'Engle, Madeline	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	740L
Lewis, C.S.	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia series</i>	N/A
Lewis, Richard	<i>The Killing Sea</i>	760L
Lupica, Mike	<i>Hero</i>	730L
O'Connor, George	<i>Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess</i>	720L
Park, Linda Sue	<i>When My Name Was Keoko</i>	610L
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Soldier's Heart</i>	1000L
Pierce, Tamora	<i>Alanna of Trebond</i>	690L
Riordan, Rick	<i>Heroes of Olympus series</i>	N/A
Robbins, Trina	<i>Freedom Songs: A Tale of the Underground Railroad</i>	580L
Robbins, Trina	<i>Lily Renee, Escape Artist: From Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer</i>	510L
Selznick, Brian	<i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret (Graphic Novel)</i>	820L
Sepetys, Ruta	<i>Between Shades of Gray</i>	490L
Storrie, Paul	<i>Hercules: The 12 Labors</i>	N/A
White, T.E.	<i>The Once and Future King</i>	1080L

Nonfiction/Informational Text

Author	Title	Lexile
Bardhan-Quallen, Sudipta	<i>Up-Close: Jane Goodall</i>	N/A
Beales, Melba Pattilo	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>	N/A
Bradley, James	<i>Flags of Our Fathers</i>	950L
Freedman, Russell	<i>Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery</i>	1100L

Freedman, Russell	<i>Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor</i>	1140L
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive (Young Adult Adaptation)</i>	850L
Hurley, Michael	<i>World's Greatest Olympians</i>	960L
Krull, Kathleen	<i>Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)</i>	1150L
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>The Greatest: Muhammad Ali</i>	N/A
Peet, Mal	<i>The Keeper</i>	780L
Wells, Susan	<i>Amelia Earhart: The Thrill of it All</i>	N/A