

# BANCROFT MIDDLE SCHOOL      GRADE 7 SUMMER READING

## Required Reading:

1. *Anything But Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin (common read for grades 6-8)
2. *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick (7<sup>th</sup> grade only)
3. Two books of your choice (see list on back for suggestions or use the library website for lists of award winners)



## Assignments:

*Anything But Typical*—see separate assignment sheet

### *Freak the Mighty:*

Max and Kevin use each other's strengths to do more than they ever dreamed possible. During the course of the story, Max and Kevin also could be said to acquire some of the ability that they thought they were lacking. In one – two paragraphs, answer these questions: How and when does Max show intelligence? How and when does Kevin show strength? Use specific examples or quotations in your response, including page numbers.

Next, apply this idea to yourself. In two columns, use the left column to list 3-5 of the skills, abilities or qualities that you think of as personal strengths. In the right column, list 3-5 skills, abilities, or qualities that you admire in others, but don't think that you possess personally at this point in your life. If possible, include the person who you admire as well as the quality (for example, you might write that you admire your mom's organizational skills or your friend's soccer ability).

### **Two Choice Books:**

Please read at least two other books of your choice. For each book, list the title, the author's name, and write a brief (one-two paragraph) review of the book. Your review shouldn't give away the ending of the book, but should entice people to read it (if you liked it!). See the example below. Instead of one of these reviews, you may choose to create a piece of artwork (collage, painting, drawing, etc.) that reflects an important theme in one of your books. If you choose this option, make the artwork no bigger than 9 x 12 inches. Write the book title, author, and your name on the front of your artwork. For the choice books, then, you should do either two brief reviews or one review and one piece of artwork.

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### **EXAMPLE BOOK REVIEW**

TWOPENCE TO CROSS THE MERSEY, by Helen Forrester.

Imagine being so poor that you don't have the two pennies needed to pay for the ferry that would take you across the Mersey River to the safety and security of your grandmother's house. This book is the autobiographical story of the author's childhood. Set in the city of Liverpool, England during the Depression, the book tells of Helen Forrester's plunge into poverty when her once-wealthy father squandered the family's money. Cold, hungry and exhausted, Helen is put in charge of her younger siblings while her father desperately and unsuccessfully tries to get money, and her mother is too depressed to accept their new circumstances.

Helen survives, but there is no magic to help her along, only her courage and perseverance. I recommend this book because it is well-written, fast-paced, and it is about survival against all odds.

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