

Holten-Richmond Middle School 2008 Summer Reading Contract

Student Name: _____ Grade Level (Fall): _____

Title of Book: _____

Author of Book: _____ Number of Pages: _____ Genre: _____

Please write your answers in complete sentences using evidence from the text. You may choose to type your responses instead of using this response sheet.

What is the book about? (Fiction – Theme or lesson taught / Non-Fiction – subject or topic) If it's one of the 12 titles from the list of "Caring for Our World" books, how does the book illustrate the theme of caring for our world?

What was your favorite part of the book?

What connections can you make between this book and your life?

Your signature below confirms that you have read this book.

Student Signature (Required)

Parent/Guardian Signature (Required)

Please complete a separate copy of this contract for each book read. You will find additional copies on our library Web site: <http://www.danvers.mec.edu/hrmslibrary>. Submit completed contracts to your Language Arts Teacher in September.

BRIEF ANNOTATIONS FOR 12 “CARING FOR OUR WORLD” BOOKS

Bertagna, Julie. *Exodus*. In the year 2100, as the island of Wing is about to be covered by water, fifteen-year-old Mara discovers the existence of New World sky cities that are safe from the storms and rising waters, and convinces her people to travel to one of these cities in order to save themselves.

Collard, Sneed B, III. *Flash Point*. High school sophomore Luther Wright volunteers to help raptors at a local veterinary clinic and helps Alex, a new girl who is a social outcast, discover the truth behind the forest fires that are afflicting their small Montana town.

Curtis, Christopher P. *Elijah of Buxton*. Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Gore, Al. *An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming (YA version)* An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously. Includes photographs, maps, and graphs.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Flush*. With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Hobbs, Will. *Jackie's Wild Seattle*. Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.

Hoose, Phillip. *It's Our World, Too!: Young People Who are Making a Difference: How They Do It—How You Can, Too!* A collection of essays about children who have made notable achievements, arranged in the categories "Taking a Stand," "Reaching Out to Others," "Healing the Earth," and "Creating a Safer Future," accompanied by a handbook for young activists.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.

Preller, James. *Six Innings*. Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game.

Rorby, Ginny. *Hurt Go Happy*. Thirteen-year-old Joey Willis has been deaf since age six, but her mother has refused to let her learn sign language, leaving Joey struggling to connect with those around her until she meets Dr. Charles Mansell and his baby chimpanzee, who secretly teach Joey how to sign.

Schmidt, Gary. *The Wednesday Wars*. During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. An African-American family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.