



2010 SHCPS Big Summer Read

Going Into GRADE EIGHT Theme

When the world
says, "Give up, Hope
whispers, "Try it one
more time."

~Author Unknown

When your child returns in August s/he will have an opportunity to be part of a Literary Luncheon Group that meets to discuss the books they've read. All the books below focus on the same THEME of Perseverance or overcoming something.

Help your child focus on the theme of perseverance:

- *Perseverance is commitment, hard work, patience, endurance.*
- *Perseverance is being able to bear difficulties calmly and without complaint.*
- *Perseverance is trying again and again.*

A **theme** is the main idea, or message, of an essay, paragraph, or a book. The message may be about life, society, or human nature. Themes often explore timeless and universal ideas and may be implied rather than stated explicitly. Along with plot, character, setting, and style, theme is considered one of the fundamental components of fiction. It is the universal statement or feel when you read a piece of writing. The theme of a fable is its moral. The theme of a parable is its teaching. The theme of a piece of fiction is its view about life and how people behave. In fiction, the theme is not intended to teach or preach. In fact, it is not presented directly at all. You extract it from the characters, action, and setting that make up the story. In other words, you must figure out the theme yourself.

Worcester Public Library has a collection of books focusing on perseverance, ask a librarian for one of the titles below. Borrow books from the public library at no cost and continue reading all summer long.

Read as many books as you want BUT you MUST read at least TWO.

Books in the Worcester Public Library

- A Thousand Never Evers by Shana Burg
- Goose Girl by Shannon Hales
- Jim Horne: Original All-American by Joseph Bruchac
- Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
- Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff
- Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson
- Guts by Gary Pausen
- Frances Tucket (series) by Gary Pausen
- Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers
- Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers
- Cracker by Cynthia Kadahota
- Return to Sender by Julie Alvarez
- The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon
- Tropical Secrets by Margarita Engle