

MORE SUGGESTED READINGS

GRADES 6 & 7

6th Grade

Recommended Reading: Fiction

- Absolutely Normal Chaos, by Sharon Creech
- Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson
- Counting by Sevens, by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- The Dark is Rising, by Susan Cooper
- Ender's Game, by Orson Scott Card
- Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan
- The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, by Jacqueline Tate
- The Giver, Gathering Blue, Messenger and Son, by Lois Lowry
- Gone With the Wind, by Margaret Mitchell
- Halloween Party, by Agatha Christie
- Hush, by Jacqueline Woodson
- Out of My Mind, by Sharon Draper
- The Thing About Luck, by Cynthia Kadohata
- The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin
- Where the Red Fern Grows, by Wilson Rawls

Recommended Reading: Non-fiction

- Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts, by Susan Cain and Gregory More
- Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream, by Tanya Lee Stone and Margaret A. Weitekamp
- Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (with a Few Flat Tires Along the Way), by Sue Mac

7th Grade

Recommended Reading: Fiction

- Far, Far Away, by Tom McNeal
- Jacob Have I Loved, by Katherine Paterson
- Feathers, by Jacqueline Woodson
- Let the Circle Be Unbroken, by Mildred Taylor
- The Road to Memphis, by Mildred Taylor
- The Land, by Mildred Taylor
- Life as We Knew It, by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Recommended Reading: Non-fiction

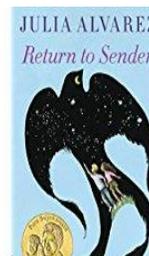
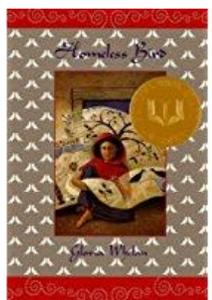
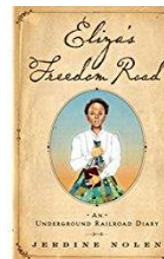
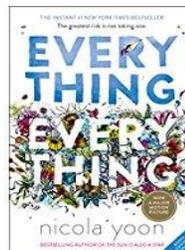
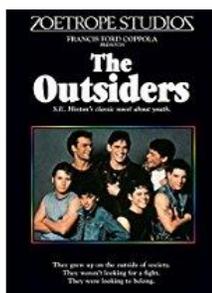
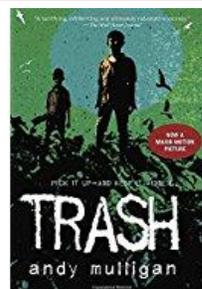
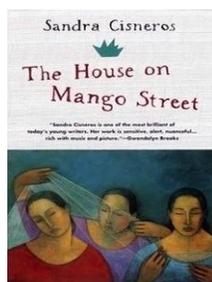
- The Story of Seeds: From Mendel's Garden to Your Plate, and How There's More of Less to Eat Around the World, by Nancy F. Castaldo
- The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat, Young Reader's Edition, by Michael Pollan
- Dive, by Hannah Safren

Work cited (cut and paste)

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SUMMER READING BOOKS



Summer Reading 2018 RISING 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADES

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL!!!!



Administration

Ms. Zellee Barnes, Faculty Administrator
Mr. Arnett Moore, Faculty Administrator
Mr. Elijah Key, Interim Elementary Principal
Mrs. Joan Belle-McGlockton, Secondary Principal
Dr. Kirk Gavin, Interim Superintendent

Dr. Vivian Wilson, Reading
Associate Professor

GRADE 6

Incoming sixth graders must read three books:

- *Eliza's Freedom Road*, by Jerdine Nolan
- *Homeless Bird*, by Gloria Whelan
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, by Kelly Barnhill

Written assignments are required for *Eliza's Freedom Road* and *Homeless Bird*. While no assignment is required for *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, students should be prepared to discuss the book in class, in September.

In addition to the two assignments, students should keep a reading log to track all their reading this summer. We are also providing a list of recommended titles we think students will enjoy.

Required Reading: *Eliza's Freedom Road*, by Jerdine Nolan **Book Description:**

Eliza is an eleven-year old slave, in Alexandria, Virginia. Her mother has been sold away, and Eliza misses her terribly. All she has to remember her mother by is the story quilt her mother made for her. Eliza learns about the Underground Railroad and begins to plan her escape to freedom.

Assignment: There are ten fables and Bible stories in *Eliza's Freedom Road*, each offering a moral that serves as advice to the listener or reader. You will notice that the titles are in italics. As you read, use the table to record the main characters and moral of each of the ten stories.

***Homeless Bird*, by Gloria Whelan** **Book Description:**

Homeless Bird is set in India and tells the story of thirteen-year-old Koly. Her family has arranged a marriage for her with a boy from a far-away town, a boy she has never met.

Assignment: Your task is to find if and how Koly changes throughout the novel. You will use the Venn diagram for this assignment. For the circle on the left, write about what Koly is like in the beginning of the novel, and for the circle on the right, write what Koly is like at the end of the novel. In the middle, where the circles overlap, write about how she has stayed the same. You may find that you do not have enough room in the circles; feel free to continue on another piece of paper.

***The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, by Kelly Barnhill** **Book Description:**

Once a year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives nearby, hoping that the sacrifice will persuade her to leave the people in peace.

GRADE 7

Incoming seventh graders will read three novels:

- *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros
- *Love That Dog*, by Sharon Creech
- *Return to Sender*, by Julia Alvarez

As students read, they will complete three assignments, outlined below. Students should also keep a reading log of everything they read over the summer.

Students must read all three of the following books:

***The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros** ***Love That Dog*, by Sharon Creech** ***Return to Sender*, by Julia Alvarez**

Reading and Note Taking: Please complete the following three assignments:

1. How do people tell their stories? In today's society there are countless ways to express yourself. You can tell your story in the form of a song, a poem, a dramatic monologue, a letter, or even a text message. As you read *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros, *Love That Dog*, by Sharon Creech, and *Return to Sender*, by Julia Alvarez, you'll see characters telling their stories in a variety of forms. Notice these choices, and record the different storytelling styles that you see. These could include, but are not limited to, any of the following: vignettes, poems, songs or letters. List these on the "Ways to Tell Stories" chart.

2. Additionally, think about how the writers of these stories have engaged their readers. What techniques are used to hold attention? Use the "How Good Writers Engage Readers" chart to record specific passages that attracted your attention and explain why each passage was effective.

- Was the language the author used beautiful?
- Did it paint a picture in your mind?
- Was it action-filled?
- Was the dialogue realistic?
- Did the story communicate an important message?

Come to Reading class with a list of examples of great passages that we can evaluate. Please find at least two passages from each story, recording your examples on the "How Good Writers Engage Readers" chart.

3. Lastly, as you read Esperanza's story in *The House on Mango Street*, you'll hear how she feels about her name. How do you feel about yours? Prepare to introduce yourself to Dr. Wilson in the form of an essay on your name. Your essay should answer the following question: What does my name say about who I am? Please come to class with notes that show you have brainstormed about some or all of the following: your name, what it means to you, why it was chosen by your family, your personality. We will begin drafting your essay once our class begins, and the more you've brainstormed about your name ahead of time, the better

GRADE 8

Incoming eighth graders must read three books:

- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton
- *Popular: A Memoir* by Maya Van Wagenen
- A third book, chosen from the list below

Directions: Each of the books deals with being an outsider. Before you begin reading, consider the following questions and read the assignment below.

Questions:

- What does it mean to be an outsider?
- Does the label come from within, or is it applied by some external source?
- What effect does it have on the individual?

Assignment: As you read each of the three books, compile a list of quotations that you think develop the theme of being an outsider. You may abbreviate the quotations if necessary, but be sure to include page numbers for each. Then, for each book, select one of these quotations and briefly (3-5 sentences) examine it in the context of the questions listed above. You should come to school in the fall with your list of quotations and three brief written responses (one for each book). You should also keep a reading log to track all of your reading this summer. Read Both of These Books:

***The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton** ***Popular: A Memoir* by Maya Van Wagenen**

Choose One of These Books: ***Written in the Stars* by Aisha Saeed**

Seventeen-year-old Naila's parents are immigrants to the U.S. but try to maintain their Pakistani culture. Naila generally follows her parents' strict rules, but she hides it from them when she begins to date Saif, a Pakistani-American boy.

***Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon**

Maddy suffers from SCI (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency). She is "allergic to the world," which means she can't leave her home. Her only human contact has been with her mother, who is a doctor, and her kind nurse, Carla.

***Trash* by Mulligan, Andy**

Three boys live with hundreds of other families beside a city's mountainous garbage dump site. Their days are spent picking through trash for something to use, something to sell, or something to eat. One day their lives change forever after one of them finds a bag that contains a wallet, a key, and a map.

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander**

Twelve-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother JB promise to be basketball superstars, like their father whose own basketball career had been cut short by injury. The boys live and breathe basketball. Conflict arises between the boys, which results in Josh taking his anger out on his brother on the court. Josh ends up benched, suspended from basketball by his parents. But Josh's whole identity revolves around the sport . . .