

Grade 6 2020 Summer Reading List

Required Reading for all students:

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Students will select one or more other texts from the reading list.

Recommended Summer Reading:

Fiction:

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick

Leviathan by Paul Westerfield

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Countdown by Deborah Wiles

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

Contemporary Fiction:

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

Smiles to Go by Jerry Spinelli

Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonneblick

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel

Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen

Fantasy/Science Fiction:

The Alchemyst by Michael Scott

Impossible by Nancy Werlin

The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to a Nation: Volume One by M.T. Anderson

Graceling by Kristen Cashore

Ship Breaker by Paola Bacigalupi

Watership Down by Richard Adams

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

The Little Prince by Antoine De Saint-Exupery

The False Prince by Jennifer Nielson

Classics:

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Non-Fiction:

The Real Benedict Arnold, by Jim Murphy

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman

Mao's Last Dancer by Li Cunxin

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip Hoose

Poetry:

Swan: Poems and Prose Poems by Mary Oliver

Delights and Shadows: Poems by Ted Kooser

Boris by Cynthia Rylant

Grade 6 Summer Reading Essay Assignment

Please write a five-paragraph essay and outline in which you explore and analyze one of the themes you have encountered in *Wonder* (for example, themes include: family, appearances, isolation, friendship, kindness, courage, coming of age, etc.).

Please take some time to organize your thoughts and write the outline first. Make sure the outline contains your thesis, main points, and evidence. The outline must be stapled to your essay.

Your essay must include:

An introduction with:

1. A clear hook/lead
2. The title and author of the book you are discussing
3. A well formulated thesis statement: the thesis statement must state the theme you wish to analyze and explore.

Three Body Paragraphs with:

1. Topic Sentences
2. Explanation and logic
3. Textual evidence in MLA format “.....” (Palacio 12)
4. Explanation of the evidence
5. Transitional Words
6. Concluding statements

A Conclusion with:

1. A restatement of the thesis in different words
2. Implications/Observations/Questions

This essay format may look familiar to all you. Take this opportunity to think about the text, formulate a clear argument, and utilize strong textual evidence for support. I look forward to reading your analysis in September!

Grade 6 Secondary Reading Assignment

Please write 3-4 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list (five sentences per paragraph).

This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

An introduction with:

1. A clear topic/leading sentence.
2. The title and author of the book.
3. A brief summary of the book.

One or two supporting paragraphs with:

1. Your opinion/reflection on the book – likes, dislikes, commendations, critiques, etc.
2. Evidence from the book to support your opinion.

A conclusion with:

1. A statement reinforcing your topic sentence from your introduction.
2. Any reflections or conclusions you have made throughout reading the book that you would like to reinforce to your reader.

Grade 7 Summer Reading List 2020

Required Summer Reading for all students:

Chains by Laura Halse Anderson

Students will select one or more other texts from the reading list.

Recommended Books:

Fiction:

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Milkweed: A Novel by Jerry Spinelli

If I Stay by Gayle Forman

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick

If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
A Voice of Her Own: Becoming Emily Dickinson by Barbara Dana

Heart of a Champion: A Novel by Carl Deuker
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
Little Brother by Cory Doctorow
Son by Lois Lowry

Fantasy and Science Fiction:

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast by Robin McKinley

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. LeGuin
Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

Historical Fiction:

Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep
Nightjohn by Gary Paulson
Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene

Non- Fiction:

The Ultimate Weapon: The Race to Develop the Atomic Bomb by Edward T. Sullivan
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson
Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland by Sally M. Walker

Mystery and Adventure:

Murder on The Orient Express by Agatha Christie
No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

Biography/Memoir:

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust by Livia Bitton Jackson

Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI by Ryan Smithson

Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China during the Cultural Revolution by Moying Li

Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories about Growing up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka

Poetry:

You and Yours by Naomi Shihab Nye

The Trouble with and Other Poems by Billy Collins

Grade 7 Chains Summer Essay Assignment

Please write a five-paragraph essay and outline in which you explore and analyze one of the themes you have encountered in Chains.

Please take some time to organize your thoughts and write the outline first. Make sure the outline contains your thesis, main points, and evidence. The outline must be stapled to your essay.

Your essay must include:

An introduction with:

4. A clear hook/lead
5. The title and author of the text you are discussing
6. A well formulated thesis statement: the thesis statement must state the theme you wish to analyze and explore (e.g. Family, friendship, identity, war, slavery, courage, betrayal, kindness, etc.).

Three Body Paragraphs with:

1. Topic Sentences
2. Explanation and logic

3. Textual evidence in MLA format “.....” (Halse Anderson 12)
4. Explanation of the evidence
5. Transitional Words
6. A concluding statement

A Conclusion with:

1. A restatement of the thesis in different words
2. Implications/Observations/Questions

Take this opportunity to think about the text, formulate a clear argument, and utilize strong textual evidence for support. I look forward to reading your analysis in September!

Grade 7 Secondary Reading Assignment

Please write 3-4 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list (five sentences per paragraph).

This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

An introduction with:

1. A clear topic/leading sentence.
2. The title and author of the book.
3. A brief summary of the book.

One or two supporting paragraphs with:

3. Your opinion/reflection on the book – likes, dislikes, commendations, critiques, etc.
4. Evidence from the book to support your opinion.

A conclusion with:

3. A statement reinforcing your topic sentence from your introduction.

4. Any reflections or conclusions you have made throughout reading the book that you would like to reinforce to your reader.

Grade 8 2020 Summer Reading List

Required Summer Reading for all students:

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Students will select one or more other texts from the reading list below:

Fiction:

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus

Elephant Run by Roland Smith

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Fantasy:

The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo

The Divergent Series by Veronica Roth

The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

Classics:

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Non- Fiction:

Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick (there is also an adult version called *In the Heart of the Sea*)

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan (if students enjoyed *The Omnivore's Dilemma*)

Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long Distance Swimmer by Lynne Cox

Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition by Karen Blumenthal

Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant by Daniel Tammet

Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading

During the summer, students are expected to read *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. We will be using this novel to launch a discussion of the main themes within the novel when school begins in September.

As you read, think about which of the characters in the novel has the most (and least) progressive thoughts.

Grade 8 *To Kill A Mockingbird* Summer Essay Assignment

Please write a five-paragraph essay and outline in which you explore and analyze one of the themes you have encountered in *To Kill A Mockingbird* (e.g. social inequality, the mockingbird, racism, coming of age, bravery, education, morality, courage, etc.).

Please take some time to organize your thoughts and write the outline first. Make sure the outline contains your thesis, main points, and evidence. The outline must be stapled to your essay.

Your essay must include:

An introduction with:

1. A clear hook/lead
2. The title and author of the text you are discussing
3. A well formulated thesis statement: the thesis statement must state the theme you wish to analyze and explore.

Three Body Paragraphs with:

1. Topic Sentences
2. Explanation and logic
3. Textual evidence in MLA format “.....” (Lee 12)
4. Explanation of the evidence
5. Transitional Words
6. Concluding statements

A Conclusion with:

1. A restatement of the thesis in different words
2. Implications/Observations/Questions

This essay format should look very familiar to all you. Take this opportunity to think about the text, formulate a clear argument, and utilize strong textual evidence for support. I look forward to reading your analysis in September!

Grade 8 Secondary Reading Assignment

Please write 3-4 paragraphs in which you present a summary and opinion of the book you selected from the reading list (five sentences per paragraph).

This second piece of writing should be formatted as follows:

An introduction with:

1. A clear topic/leading sentence.
2. The title and author of the book.
3. A brief summary of the book.

One or two supporting paragraphs with:

5. Your opinion/reflection on the book – likes, dislikes, commendations, critiques, etc.
6. Evidence from the book to support your opinion.

A conclusion with:

5. A statement reinforcing your topic sentence from your introduction.
6. Any reflections or conclusions you have made throughout reading the book that you would like to reinforce to your reader.