

**2016 Summer Reading Requirements
For Students Entering Grade 6**



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Foxborough, MA

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Summer is here and many students are looking forward to a break from schoolwork, but summer is not a time to take a break from reading! **Research tells us that when students don't read for two months their skills regress.** Research done at Harvard University by James Kim has shown that even reading 4 or 5 books over the summer helps to prevent the summer slide. Reading is a skill which requires practice, just like baseball or playing an instrument. Summer reading helps students of all ages keep their skills sharp so they are ready when school begins again in the fall.

All students are expected to read a minimum of **AT LEAST TWO BOOKS** over the summer, **ONE OF WHICH IS A REQUIRED TITLE FOR THEIR GRADE LEVEL.** The required read is tied to the theme of treating others with respect and accepting differences. This minimum requirement of two books will count as a homework grade. In addition, during the first full week of school, all ELA classes will have a graded assignment based on the required summer reading book.

However, we are encouraging all students to read **beyond the minimum requirement and double their efforts by reading four books or more.** Any student who doubles his or her effort will have their name entered into a raffle to win \$50 in free books during the first Scholastic Book Fair of the year which will be held in November. One student from each grade level will be selected to win.

Wherever your summer days take you, bring along a good book, and read, read, read!



Requirements

1. **Students entering grade 6 in September are required to read RULES by Cynthia Lord.**
2. After reading RULES, students are to complete the response page in their reading log.
3. Next, using the suggested summer reading list as a guide, students select at least one other book to read during the summer. (Feel free to select books that may not appear on the list).
4. For each book read, students will record the title and author, as well as a brief response. Their response can take any **one** of the following forms:
 - ❖ Write a brief summary of the book.
 - ❖ Write a book recommendation/critique, describing why someone may or may not be interested in reading that book.
 - ❖ Share your thoughts, a reaction, or a connection you made to a character or event in the story, or to the information you may have learned.
 - ❖ Draw or sketch a favorite or interesting part of the book.
5. Parents will sign on the line provided in the reading log for each book your child completes.
6. During the first week of school in the September, students will hand their reading logs in to their homeroom teachers.
7. Students who read a minimum of two books will receive credit for the first homework assignment. Students who read four or more books will be entered into a drawing to win \$50 in free books at the first Scholastic Book Fair to be held in November.

Grade 6 Summer Reading

Suggested Fiction Titles

[LC = Less Challenging C = Challenging MC = More Challenging]

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. (VC) This story of an exuberant, high-spirited boyhood by the Mississippi River captures the magical years of the very young.

Alex Rider: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz. (VC) They told him his uncle died in a car accident, but fourteen-year-old Alex knows that's a lie. Nothing could prepare him for the news that his uncle was really a spy for MI6-Britain's top secret intelligence agency. Alex suddenly finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer. (C) Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. With two trusty sidekicks in tow, he hatches a cunning plot to divest the fairy folk of their pot of gold.

Batboy by Mike Lupica. (C) After Brian Dudley lands his dream job as a batboy for the Detroit Tigers, he is disappointed with his hero, Hank Bishop, who is hostile. An unlikely friendship slowly develops between this man in need of a family and this boy in need of a father.

Belle Prater's Boy by Ruth White. (C) When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.

Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis. (C) This classic children's story combines adventure and fantasy.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling. (C) Orphan Harry Potter has spent eleven miserable years living with his horrible aunt and uncle. But, all that is about to change when destiny calls, and Harry is enrolled in Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. (C) When the pilot of a small, two-person plane has a heart attack and dies, Brian has to crash land in the forest of a Canadian wilderness. Only after he stops pitying himself and understands that no one can help him but himself, does he learn to survive, and to plan on food not just for a day but for until he is rescued.

Honus and Me by Dan Gutman. (LC) Joe Stoshack and his mom aren't rich, so when Joe finds a valuable baseball card in an old lady's attic, he thinks he's got it made. What he doesn't know is that the card has properties that allow both Joe and Honus Wagner to travel through time.

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks. (LC) A young boy discovers that this magic cupboard and key can turn toys into live people and animals. But he must learn that real people have real needs and that responsibility accompanies friendship.

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George. (LC) A young Eskimo girl runs away from home and becomes lost in the Arctic, where her relationship with a pack of wolves helps her to survive.

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff. (LC) During the summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Love That Dog by Sharon Creech. (LC) As school starts in September, Jack is not eager to embark on Miss Stretchberry's poetry writing assignments. As Miss Stretchberry reads the works of great poets to the class and encourages Jack's writing efforts, Jack discovers his unique voice--and a true talent for creative expression.

Midnight Magic by Avi. (C) A nervous king, an exasperatingly playful princess, a diabolical count, an oddly ubiquitous kitchen boy, a magician who doesn't believe in magic, and a servant who knows far too much for his own good. When this motley crew embarks on a medieval ghost hunt, destiny throws plenty of twists and turns their way.

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli. (VC) He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi some day, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind.

Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn. (C) When he goes to spend the summer with his great aunt in the family's old house, eleven-year old Drew is drawn eighty years into the past to trade places with his great-great uncle who is dying of diphtheria.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis. (C) The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family from Flint, Michigan in 1963, are drastically changed after they visit Grandma in Alabama.

Grade 6 Summer Reading

Suggested Non-fiction Titles

Cool Stuff and How It Works by Chris Woolford, et al. From microchips and iPods to robots in the human bloodstream, "Cool Stuff and How It Works" takes readers on an eye-opening journey through the world of modern technology.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The extraordinary true story of Shackleton and the Endurance by Jennifer Armstrong. Armstrong vividly describes how 28 men sailed from England in 1914 on the "Endurance" to become the first team of explorers to cross Antarctica.

The Crossing: How George Washington saved the American Revolution by Jim Murphy. A well-researched, absorbing account of the early battles of the Revolutionary War with Gen. George Washington at their center.

Exploring the Titanic: How the Greatest Ship Ever Lost-Was Found by Robert D. Ballard. The story of the Titanic 's first and final voyage as well as that of her rediscovery and exploration is told.

Harriet Tubman: conductor on the underground railroad by Ann Petry. Born a slave, Harriet dreamed of freedom and made her escape. Realizing that her own freedom was not enough, she became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and devoted her life to helping others make the journey out of bondage.

Yes She Can! Women's Sports Pioneers by Glenn Stout. Girls don't do that. Girls shouldn't do that. Girls *can't* do that. Not very long ago, that's exactly what many people said whenever a woman tried to play a sport or do anything athletic. Fortunately, not all women believed what they were told. This book tells the story of these pioneers in women's sports.

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