

SUMMER READING LIST

Incoming 6th Graders

Over the summer all rising 6th grade students are required to read *at least one* book from this list and complete the following activity. Choose one book from the list and write a friendly letter to your teacher indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be handed in to your reading teacher once school starts in August.

Your one-page letter should include the following:

- 1st paragraph: A short introduction including your name, the elementary school you attended, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book.
- 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book, a description of one or two of the main characters, the setting, and a summary of the story.
- 3rd paragraph: Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating.

Wonderful Books from Which to Choose:

NUMBER THE STARS by Lois Lowrey - Ten year old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. (This is an excellent choice if you didn't read it in 5th grade as it complements the 6th grade Social Studies curriculum. It is one of my favorite books as well!)

SAMMY KEYES AND THE HOTEL THIEF by Wendelin van Draanen - Samantha Keyes is one tough, smart, resourceful 13-year-old capable of holding her own against Mrs. Graybill, her nosy, suspicious neighbor. Join Sammy as she solves crimes and keeps the neighborhood free of crooks.

THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY by E.L. Konigsburg - Four 6th graders with their own individual stories develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO: A NOVEL IN STORIES by Richard Peck - This Depression-era novel is made up of seven humorous, rollicking tales about a boy and the summers he spent with his larger-than-life grandmother.

CRASH by Jerry Spinelli – Everybody knows Crash Coogan, seventh-grade football sensation. He's been mowing down everything in his path since the time he could walk – and Penn Webb, his dweeby, vegetable-eating neighbor, is his favorite target.

PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS by Patricia Reilly Giff – 12 year- old Hollis Woods has be sent to (and running away from) one foster home after another all her life. She is an amazing artist. With descriptions of her drawings, Hollis tells a moving story of a deeply bonding relationship with her newest foster mother, artist Josie, and her dream of a perfect family.

RUBY HOLLER by Sharon Creech – “Trouble twins” Dallas and Florida are orphans who have given up believing there is such a thing as a loving home. Tiller and Sairy are an eccentric older couple who live in the beautiful, mysterious Ruby Holler, but they're restless for one more big adventure. When they invite the twins to join them on their journeys, they first must all story together in the Holler and the magic of the place takes over.

THE BOOK WITHOUT WORDS: A FABLE OF MEDIEVAL MAGIC by Avi – It was in the 1046, on a cold winter's night, when a fog, thick as wool and dank as a dead man's hand, crept up from the River Scrogg into the ancient town of Fulworth. So begins this fascinating fable.

Any Newberry Medal book (ask the librarian or bookstore clerk).