

TMS 6th Grade ELA Summer Reading

Required summer assignment. You can choose to do the following assignment at your leisure over the summer or all at once during the first week of school.

Pick one fiction and one non-fiction reading from your grade level list below. As you read, pay attention to the following items:

- Plot or events of the text
- Main characters of the text
 - how they are described
 - if they change in any way
- Theme or themes (life lessons) from the text
- Major similarities and differences (any connections) between the two texts you choose to read.

During the first weeks of school, you will have an assignment involving your texts and the focus information above.

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. In 1832 Charlotte is warned not to board the brig Seahawk, but she has to obey her father's orders in order to cross the Atlantic from Liverpool to Providence. Once upon the sea as the only passenger among the rough crewman, the ship's cook gives her a dagger -- for her own protection. Intrigue on the high seas!

Tracy Barrett, *The 100-Year-Old-Secret*. An American brother and sister living in London discover that Sherlock Holmes was their great-great-great grandfather. They are inducted into the Joshua Sneiderman, *Climate Change: Discover How it Impacts Spaceship Earth*. This installment of the well-known series encourages students to examine the timely subject of climate change. The volume is full of questions, words to know, primary sources, and fun-filled learning activities.

Bridget Heos, *It's Getting Hot in Here: The Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change*. Engaging and relevant, this book urges readers to think about the implications of their actions beyond their own communities.

James Patterson, *The Final Warning*. "Three cheers! Max is one of the smartest, strongest, funniest heroines around." In this breathtaking new story from the astonishing imagination of James Patterson, a girl has to save herself and maybe the planet. This story, a science fiction/adventure is for readers from ten to a hundred and ten. Society for the Preservation of Famous Detectives and given his unsolved casebook. They attempt to solve the case of a famous missing painting.

Joan Bauer, *Almost Home*. Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness.

Rob Buyea, *Because of Mr. Terupt*. Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

Lynne Cherry, *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*. Veteran science writer Cherry and award-winning photographer Braasch team up to make climate change less frightening by showing children how to empower themselves as "citizen scientists."

Beth Choat, *Soccerland*. Flora is such a good soccer player that she has been invited to the International Sports Academy to compete for a chance on the U.S. Girls' Soccer team. It's her first time away from home, and she works hard to make new friends as well as trying to become the best soccer player that she can be.

Andrew Clements, *About Average*. As the end of sixth grade nears, Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence, and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her central Illinois elementary school.

Andrew Clements, *Trouble-Maker*. When his older brother gets in serious trouble, sixth grader Cly decides to change his own mischief-making ways, but he cannot seem to shake his reputation as a troublemaker.

Sharon Creech, *Walk Two Moons*. Salamanca Tree Hiddle discovers the truth about her mother's disappearance during a cross-country quest with her grandparents.

Candace Fleming, *Amelia Lost*. This book tells the story of Amelia Earhart's life – as a child, a woman, and a pilot – and describes the search for her missing plane.

Russell Freedman, *Freedom Walkers*. The author breathes life into the key personalities and events that contributed to the yearlong civil rights struggle. The struggle became known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, A Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. This is a fairy tale-like story of an outcast who overcomes all odds to succeed. Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family who truly seemed to care about her.

Carl Hiaasen, *Hoot*. Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved with another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Jennifer L. Holm, *Middle School is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff*. Ginny uses "stuff" to share the ups and downs of her seventh grade year. Her stuff includes unique items such as to do lists, email, notes, receipts, diary entries, and much more.

Deborah Hopkinson, *Annie and Helen*. This book describes the relationship between Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, and includes excerpts from letters written by Annie about her work with Helen.

Patricia Lakin, *Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently*. Everyone knows that Steve Jobs was an entrepreneur and a visionary. This book discusses Jobs' triumphs, but it also lets us see his human side. Readers are reminded that people who dare to dream can change the world.

Ann M. Martin, *A Corner of the Universe*. Hattie Owen's life is changed forever when an autistic uncle she never knew existed moves back to town after his school closes.

Norma Fox Mazer, *Good Night, Maman*. Karin Levi captivates readers with a gripping yet sweet account of her flight from German soldiers and escape to America during World War II.

Susan Lynn Myer, *Black Radishes*. A young boy and family are forced to move out of their home when the Germans invade France. The boy finds himself helping to smuggle people into the free

part of France for the French Underground.

Bill Nye, *Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World*.

Lauren Oliver, *Liesl and Po*. In this fairytale-like adventure, a little girl, a ghost, and an alchemist's apprentice team up on an extraordinary journey through the English countryside while searching for a box that contains the most powerful magic in the world.

Linda Sue Park, *A Single Shard*. Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potter's village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Gary Paulsen, *Hatchet*. When his plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness, Brian Robeson awakens to find himself in a world of great beauty and terrible danger, a world in which he must survive using his wits and a single tool – a hatchet.

Gary Paulsen, *How Angel Peterson Got His Name, And Other Extreme Sports Stories*. Paulsen's memoir about the crazy antics and stunts he and his friends attempted at age thirteen.

Jane Redd, *Solstice*. Science Fiction/Dystopian novel about a time when it rained non-stop for 37 years.

Martin Sandler, *The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure*. In the dead of an Arctic winter, whaling ships full of men are stranded in ice. Follow three rescuers in a race against time in this heart-pounding true adventure.

Agusta Scatterwood, *Glory Be*. Gloria Hemple celebrates her Fourth of July birthday at the community pool, but 1964 brings changes that she had not anticipated. Her hometown of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, is in turmoil, and Gloria must navigate her way through changing relationships with family and friends.

N.H. Senzai, *Shooting Kabul*. Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.

Theodore Taylor, *Timothy of the Cay*. If you enjoyed *The Cay*, you'll love this sequel-prequel story. Details are revealed about Timothy's life prior to *The Cay* as the book describes Phillip's life after his rescue.

Shelia Turnage, *Three Times Lucky*. Eleven years ago in a small town in North Carolina, Moses LoBeau was adopted into a family who discovered her floating downriver after a hurricane. Now the family she loves is threatened when a policeman comes to town asking about a murder. Moe and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth.

Jacqueline Woodson, *Each Kindness*. When a newcomer is shunned by the popular girls, their teacher shows them how small acts of kindness can change the world. It is too late to undo the harm they have caused, but these students will take this anti-bullying message to heart.