

Fifth to Sixth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Choose **two** of the following novels to read this summer. The books have been organized by levels. Please be sure to read books that are appropriate for your personal reading level. For the first novel you will keep a journal. In your journal, write a brief summary of the major events for **each** chapter. Journals will be collected when school begins. You do not need to keep a journal for the second novel. You will take a **Reading Counts** quiz when you return to school for **both** of the novels you have read. You may purchase your own copy of the books or borrow them from a local library. There **may** be a few copies of some of the titles available to sign out in the middle school office.

Level 1 - Lower average reading level

The Burning Questions of Bingo Brown by Betsy Byars

About to leave the comfort and security of childhood behind, sixth-grade Bingo Brown realizes that the coming years will be full of doubts and uncertainties. These he records as --Burning Questions" in his school journal. Bingo's concerns are far-ranging: how he fell in love three times during English class; how long it will be before the class Rambo, of whom he is terrified, discovers that he is moving next door to Bingo; and foremost, what exactly is wrong with his favorite teacher?

Superfudge by Judy Blume

Farley Drexel Hatcher-otherwise known as Fudge-thinks he's a superhero but his older brother, Peter, knows Fudge is nothing but a big pain! Dealing with Fudge is hard enough, but now Peter's parents have decided to move to New Jersey for an entire year. Even worse, Peter's mom is going to have a new baby! And if this baby is anything like Fudge-help!

Thank you, Jackie Robinson by Barbara Cohen

After Sam's father died, he became so wrapped up in the Brooklyn Dodgers that he could describe every game they'd played in the past four years. Nobody was very interested, until Sam met Davy. They came from different races, religions and generations. But it didn't take long before they had a friendship that went well beyond baseball.

The Twenty-one Balloons by William Penne Dubois

Professor William Waterman Sherman intends to fly across the Pacific Ocean. But through a twist of fate, he lands on Krakatoa, and discovers a world of unimaginable wealth, eccentric inhabitants, and incredible balloon inventions.

Miracles on Maple Hill by Virginia Sorensen

The war is over and Marly's father is home- but he is not the same. Something inside him seems as cold and dead as the winter world outside. But when the family moves to Grandma's old house on Maple Hill, miracles begin to happen. The sap in the trees begins to rise, the leaves start to turn, and maybe, just maybe, Marly's father will begin to bloom again, like the world around him.

Slake's Limbo by Felice Holman

Aremis Slake, at the age of thirteen, took his fear and misfortune and hid them underground. The thing is, he had to go with them. For one hundred and twenty-one days, feeling like a misfit, he attempts to survive in the sheltering depths of the New York City Subway.

Level 2- Average reading level

Call it Courage by Armstrong Sperry

Ever since his mother was killed in a hurricane, Mafatu, the son of the Great Chief of the people of Hikueru, an island in the southern Pacific ocean, has feared that Moana, the Sea God, would kill him, too. Tired of being called a coward and saddened by the shame he has brought his father, 12-year-old Mafatu decides to face and conquer Moana on his own.

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

This is the story of Miyax, an Eskimo girl who is known to her pen pal in San Francisco as Julie. Julie leaves her home to go visit her pen pal because her father has gone, and she is married to a boy that does not treat her well. On the way, Julie gets lost and has to depend on a pack of wolves to survive. Using her father's words on how to befriend wolves, Julie, becomes one of the pack as she tries to find her way to San Francisco.

The Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars

Sara is a teenage girl with lots of reasons to be angry. Her mother died, her father has left her to be raised by her aunt, her older sister seems prettier and more mature, and her younger brother Charlie is mentally retarded. She often feels put upon to look after Charlie when nobody else wants to. On top of all this, she is having the worst summer vacation ever. She learns to see her world with new eyes, though, when Charlie disappears one day.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

Four students, 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.

The Magic Circle by Donna Jo Napoli

After learning sorcery to become a healer, a good-hearted woman is turned into a witch by evil spirits and she fights their power until her encounter with Hansel and Gretel years later.

Level 3- Above average reading level

Golden Compass by Phil Pullman

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Catherine Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Wild Man Island – by Will Hobbs

After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive, encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America.