

Summer Reading

June 2021

Dear Incoming Sixth-Grade Students and Parents:

Summer is a time for vacation and relaxation. It is also a perfect time for students to keep their minds active by reading an interesting book.

This year's incoming sixth-grade students will be required to read **two** books. Students may select books from the following suggested reading list or on their own. Students will participate in book talks upon return in September. A book talk is a short presentation about a book with the goal of convincing other people to read it. It's not a formal book report or review. A book talk could highlight the plot, focus on a character, or recreate a book's mood to ignite readers' curiosity. Probably the best way to choose a book for a book talk is to choose one you really like!

I wish you a happy, restful and safe summer. Please take the time to enjoy a good book!

Sincerely,

Kim McCollum

Incoming 6th Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

Transitional

The Frog Princess by E.D. Baker
Lunch Money by Andrew Clements
NERDS by Michael Buckley
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz
Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen
The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy by Diane Stanley
Liesel & Po by Lauren Oliver
The Sisters Grimm by Michael Buckley
The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger
Smile by Raina Telegmeir

Intermediate

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins
Trash by Andy Mulligan
The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch
Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix
How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen
Coraline by Neil Gaiman
Hidden by Helen Frost
Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz
Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone
Lucy Long Ago by Catherine Thimmesh
The Elephant Scientist by Caitlin O'Connell
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead

Challenging

The Alchemyst by Michael Scott

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

The Fire Within by Chris D'Lacey

Heist Society by Ally Carter

The Last Apprentice by Joseph Delaney

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson

Blizzard! by Jim Murphy

Biomimicry: Inventions Inspired by Nature by Dora Lee

Can I See Your I.D.?: True Stories of False Identities by Chris Barton

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

HOW TO GIVE A BOOKTALK

[OPENING]

Hook your audience!

Read a quote from the book, ask a question of your audience, introduce the main character, vividly set the scene, or do a combination of a few of these techniques.

Make sure to also give the title and author of the book.

[SUMMARY]

In a paragraph or two, summarize the plot of the book.

Be sure that your summary introduces the main character, identifies the problem, and leads us toward the solution -- without giving away the ending!

[IMPRESSION]

Share your opinion!

How did you feel about the book?

What did you think of the author?

Would you recommend it to others?

What would you rate it?

[CLOSING]

Entice your audience!

Ask a rhetorical question, read a quote from the book, use a cliffhanger, or do a combination of these techniques.

Remember, your book talk should flow nicely, like a commercial.

It should not be a giant list answering these questions!