

## Summer Reading Assignment - For Students Entering Grade 6 -- 2015

### Required Reading:

- Students entering Grade 6 are required to read ONE of the following books: *Hatchet* (Paulsen), *The Outsiders* (Hinton), or *A Wrinkle in Time* (L'Engle).
  - In addition, students must read at least ONE other book of their own choice (note: you may choose your book from the required list if you wish)
- After you have read **two** books in the summer, please complete the following assignment for each book:

### Reading Assignment:

**Directions:** In each book, the characters face many problems; these problems are called conflicts. **Choose three conflicts to discuss.** The conflicts may involve the main character and/or any other character. For **each** book, complete a 3-conflict chart (attached on a separate page).

1. Describe the conflict. Consider these questions when describing the conflict: Who is involved? What is happening in the conflict? Where and when is the conflict happening? Why did the conflict occur?
2. Select a direct quote from the book that proves this conflict. Write your evidence from the book **in quotations** and provide the **page number in parenthesis** following the quote. **Do not include additional information in this box besides the direct quote and page number.**

### Assessment:

You will hand in your reading assignment when requested by your LAR teacher during the first week of school. Your teacher will record that you have completed the assignment and will check for the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of your responses. Two grades will be given: one for turning in the completed work and one for the required in-class assignment. Your summer writing will provide the raw material for a revised, final draft that will be completed in class during the first few weeks of school.

### Recommended Fiction – Grade 6:

#### *Anne of Green Gables* – Lucy Montgomery

As Anne arrives at the snug, white farmhouse called Green Gables, she knows she wants to stay forever. And the longer Anne stays, the harder it is for anyone to imagine Green Gables without her.

#### *Hatchet* – Gary Paulsen

Brian Robeson is traveling to visit his father for the summer. Somewhere over the Canadian wilderness, the pilot of the small plane suffers a heart attack and dies, leaving Brian to crash-land by himself. With nothing but the hatchet his mother gave him before he left, Brian must face the wilderness alone and learn to survive.

#### *Brian's Winter* – Gary Paulsen

In *Hatchet*, 13-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. Finally, as millions of readers know, he was rescued at the end of the summer. But what if Brian hadn't been rescued?

#### *Bud, Not Buddy* – Christopher Paul Curtis

Bud Caldwell is an orphan with a suitcase of treasures, including a book he's authored (*Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having A Funner Life and Making a better Liar Out of Yourself*).

#### *Catherine Called Birdy* – Karen Cushman

Catherine's father is determined to marry her off to a rich man—any rich man, no matter how awful. But by wit, trickery, and luck Catherine manages to send several would-be husbands packing.

#### *Chasing Redbird* – Sharon Creech

You will surely be drawn into this eerie book! Zinnia's life begins to change when she stumbles upon a hidden pathway that stretches from the edge of her family's farm into the great unknown.

***Colibri* – Ann Cameron**

Young Rosa, nicknamed Colibri or “hummingbird,” is kidnapped when she is 4 years old. Her “Uncle” takes her across Guatemala looking for lost treasure while Rosa searches for her parents.

***The Fat Man* – Maurice Gee**

The Fat man's name is Herbert Muskie. Skinny Colin Potter has to figure out why this man hates the people who live in Colin's town. What did Colin's parents do to make the fat man so vengeful?

***The Hobbit* – J. R. R. Tolkien**

Bilbo Baggins's quiet life as a hobbit turns upside down when the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarfs whisk him into adventure.

***Holes* – Louis Sachar**

When Stanley Yelnats, convicted of theft, is sentenced to time at Camp Green Lake Juvenile Correctional Facility, the focus of the story is on endurance. However, his lessons extend to family history and the great wheel of justice.

***Miss Alaneius: A Vocabulary Disaster* – Debra Frasier**

Sage, a fifth grader home with the flu, gets her vocabulary homework over the phone and misinterprets one of the words. She thinks it is Miss Alaneius. She invents a definition and draws a picture to go with it. She's mortified when she realizes her mistake.

***Nightjohn* – Gary Paulsen**

Why would John, an escaped slave, return to the South and to slavery? He says he wants to teach other slaves how to read!

***Our Only May Amelia* – Jennifer Holm**

Twelve-year-old May Amelia is too busy chasing sheep, fishing for salmon, and keeping pace with the antics of her seven Finnish brothers to bother wearing a dress or scrubbing behind the ears.

***Stepping on the Cracks* – Mary Downing Hahn**

In 1944, sixth graders Margaret and Elizabeth are proud of their brothers fighting in Europe. At home in America, the girls fight their own battles against the class bully, Gordy, and discover that he has a secret. He is helping to hide his brother, who should be fighting as well.

***Stargirl* – Jerry Spinelli**

Stargirl Carraway wears pioneer dresses, carries her pet rat everywhere, and plays the ukulele. When Stargirl goes to a new school, her classmates don't know what to think of her.

***Time Stops for No Mouse* – Michael Hoeye**

Hermux Tantamoq repairs watches by day and relaxes at home in a flannel shirt printed with pictures of cheeses from around the world. His quiet life changes one day when spunky Linka Perflinger walks into his shop. When she mysteriously disappears, it's clear that Hermux must find her.

***The View from Saturday* – E. L. Konigsburg**

This book presents four brilliant, shy 12-year-olds—members of an extraordinarily successful 6th-grade quiz bowl team—and the tea party they have each Saturday morning. Konigsburg's knack for creating offbeat characters make this a funny and endearing story of friendship and self-discovery.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963* – Curtis**

Kenny, the narrator, does well in school and tries to meet his hard-working parents' expectations. When Mr. and Mrs. Watson decide that older brother Byron must be removed from the bad influences of Flint, Michigan, the family packs up and drives straight into one of the most chilling moments in America's history: the burning of the Sixteenth Avenue Baptist Church with four little girls inside.

***A Wrinkle in Time* – L'Engle**

People consider Meg Murry volatile and her brother, Charles Wallace, dumb. People say their physicist father ran off and left their brilliant scientist mother. Spurred on by these rumors and by an unearthly visitor, Meg, Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe embark on a perilous quest through space to find their father, relying on their individual and collective abilities, and delving deep within themselves to find answers . . . and strength.

**Recommended Nonfiction – Grade 6:**

***Crocodiles, Camels and Dugout Canoes***

Eight short biographical essays invite armchair explorers to go along with Ernest Shackleton, Charles Waterton, Richard Burton, Mary Kingsley, and Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

***The New Way Things Work* – David Macauley**

Ever wonder what gadgets such as a toilet, a carburetor and a fire extinguisher have in common? If you stay up at night wondering about how things work—from electricity to can-openers—then read this book and learn about the whirring and whizzings of the world of machines. The machines are grouped together by the principles that govern their actions rather than by their uses.

***The Forest in the Clouds* – Michael Rothman**

“From East to West the tropical trade winds blow, sucking up moisture like dry, thirsty lungs from the warm, Caribbean Sea.” So begins this engaging guided visit with some exotic plants and animals in the tropical cloud forests of Costa Rica.

***It’s Raining Pigs and Noodles* – Jack Prelutsky**

These creative and witty poems will entertain and amuse you. The author includes a section that will help you write your own poems.

***How to Talk to Your Cat* – Jean Craighead George**

Can you translate the purrs, whisker angles, tail and ear movements, postures, and actions of your cat? If you seek a deeper understanding of your feline, read this book.

***The Most Beautiful Roof in the World* – Kathryn Lasky – photographs by Christopher Knight**

Biologist Meg Lowman takes her two young sons to the cloud forest in Belize to observe insects and plants in the rain forest canopy. Readers capture the excitement this biologist feels as she studies the rich ecosystem.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of required book:**

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<b>Conflict #1 (Problem)</b>	<b>Book Quote and Page Number</b>

<b>Conflict #2 (Problem)</b>	<b>Book Quote and Page Number</b>

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<b>Conflict #3 (Problem)</b>	<b>Book Quote and Page Number</b>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title of choice book:**

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<b>Conflict #1 (Problem)</b>	<b>Book Quote and Page Number</b>

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<b>Conflict #2 (Problem)</b>	<b>Book Quote and Page Number</b>

<b>Conflict #3 (Problem)</b>	<b>Book Quote and Page Number</b>