



Garfield Middle School
Grade 6 Summer Reading 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we begin to enter the summer following our first remote learning experience, we would like to encourage all students to embrace summer reading! Our teachers have been doing their best to reach all students during this unprecedented academic experience. Although there are many unknowns for the upcoming school year, we do know that students will benefit greatly from reinforcing their skills through continued reading. They will be expected to submit their work and share their book talks with peers in September. Research tells us that students who read during the summer avoid what is known as “summer slide,” which is the loss of academic skills and practice during the summer months. **Studies show that students who don’t read over the summer lose as many as 3 months of instruction—that’s 1/3 of the year!** Over time, children who don’t read over the summer will fall years behind their peers academically.

Remember that tablets, iPads, iPhones, and Android devices are ways in which the summer reading can be downloaded and carried to any place that you can take a traditional book! Some of our selections can also be enjoyed on audio books and used in conjunction with the text as well. The Garfield Public library is another great resource for students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: GRADE 6

- **ALL** Students are **required to read at least 2 books**. They can be any of the choices on the attached listing of books by grade level or of your choice. Teachers ask that students challenge themselves to read two books they have not read before.
- **These two books will be counted towards the required reading for the first marking period.**
- Students will be **REQUIRED** to answer the attached worksheets for **EACH** book.
- Be sure to list the title and author of **each** book you read on the worksheets.
- Students will be expected to present a **BOOK TALK** about their books to the class which teachers will assist them with when they return in September.
- Once you complete the two books, it is recommended that you continue to read as much as possible during the summer! Any extra completed worksheets will count toward the required reading for first marking period.
- Suggested reading lists are on gboe.org by grade level. The reading lists were created with student recommendations for that grade.
- 6th grade students will be required to have a marble notebook, highlighters, post-it notes, index cards, and pencils/pens for literature class.

The worksheets will be given to your LITERATURE teacher on **September 14, 2020**. The assignments will be explained and discussed in detail by the end of the school year through the same virtual platforms that remote learning has been implemented since March. Students will be

held accountable for the assigned reading during the first marking period. All work should be the students' own work and not plagiarized from the internet or other sources.

The Language Arts Department



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Grade 6 Students:

Welcome to Garfield Middle School! Literature classes will be using the Reader's Workshop model. This simply means you are given a choice of what to read over the summer. This reading list was put together with recommendations from this year's grade 6 students.

Choose **2 books** from this list **or** any 2 books you would like to read.

Complete the attached worksheets for **EACH book**. The worksheets will be used in your literature class the first marking period. It's suggested that you purchase a marble notebook, highlighters, post-it notes, index cards, and writing utensils for literature class. Use the attached book talk worksheet to prepare one of your books for discussion with the class.

Happy Reading!

See you in September!

The Grade 6 Literature teachers of GMS



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Book#1

Respond to each question in paragraph form. Be sure to use specific details from the book to support your answers.

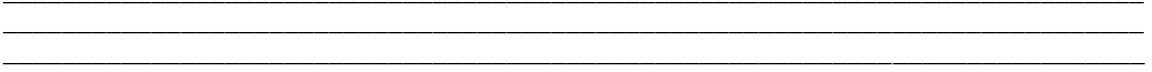
Name _____ Date _____

Title _____ Author _____ Level _____

1. Why is the title a good title for the book? If you had to give it a different title what would it be? Why?

2. Who is the main character in the story? Describe him/her. Be sure to use personality traits and physical traits.

3. Describe the conflict the main character faces and how he/she overcomes it.





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4. Describe a character who changed throughout the story? How did they change? (This should not be a physical change. It should be an inner change.)

5. What was your favorite part? Why?

6. Which character in the story reminds you of someone? Who are they like and why do you think that?



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BOOK # 2

Respond to each question in paragraph form. Be sure to use specific details from the book to support your answers.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Title _____ **Author** _____ **Level** _____

1. **Why is the title a good title for the book? If you had to give it a different title what would it be? Why?**

2. **Who is the main character in the story? Describe him/her. Be sure to use personality traits and physical traits.**

3. **Describe the conflict the main character faces and how he/she overcomes it.**

6. Which character in the story reminds you of someone? Who are they like and why do you think that?



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Organizer: For Preparing a Book Talk

Fill this out for each book to help with your book talk in September.
You will do the actual book talk in class with your literature teacher when you
come to the middle school.

Attention-Getter (Quote from the book to hook the audience)

Introduction (Title, Author, Genre)

Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without
giving too much away!)

Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be
specific)



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SUGGESTED BOOK LIST

Adventure / Survival

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley. Pearson Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin. (Sequels: Peter and the Shadow Thieves; Peter and the Secret of Rundoon; Peter and the Sword of Mercy) Level X

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature and animal friends and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship. (Sequels: On the Far Side of the Mountain; Frightful's Mountain) Level U

Alabama Moon by Watt Key. After the death of his father, 10-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love and humanity. Level V

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (Sequels: The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey; The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma; The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict) Level W

The Cay by Theodore Taylor. Shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island, Philip must overcome his prejudice towards Timothy, the old black sailor who becomes the key to his survival. (Sequel: Timothy of the Cay) Level V

Fantasy / Science Fiction

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. Level S

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer. After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls. (Sequels: The Land of the Silver Apples; The Islands of the Blessed) Level X



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Savvy by Ingrid Law. Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose 13th birthday has revealed her "savvy" -- a magical power unique to each member of her family -- just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. (Sequel: Scumble) Level U

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. Level W

Wildwood by Colin Meloy. When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, seventh-grader Prue McKeel ventures into the forbidden Impassable Wilderness -- a dangerous and magical forest at the edge of Portland, Oregon -- and soon finds herself involved in a war among the various inhabitants. (Sequel: Under Wildwood) Level W

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. (Sequels: Skybreaker; Starclimber) Level W

Eragon by Christopher Paolini. In Alagaesia, a 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters. (Sequels: Eldest; Brisingr; Inheritance) Level Y

Magyk (Septimus Heap, Book One) by Angie Sage. Ten-year-olds Septimus Heap, the seventh son of the seventh son, and Jenna, the little girl Septimus's father found abandoned in the snow the night Septimus was born and taken away, are threatened by the evil wizard DomDaniel, who intends to finish off the entire royal line. (Sequels: Flyte; Physik; Queste; Syren; Darke) Level X

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space. Level W

Emerald Atlas by John Stephens. After years of moving from one orphanage to another following their parents' disappearance, Kate, Michael, and Emma learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy. (Sequel: The Fire Chronicle) Level R

Liesl and Po by Lauren Oliver. A magical mix-up has tremendous consequences for Liesl, an orphan who has been locked in an attic; Will, an alchemist's runaway

apprentice; and Po, a ghost, as they are pursued by friend and foe while making an important journey. Level U



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Historical Fiction

The Watsons Go to Birmingham -- 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis. The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. Level U

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai. Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. Level W

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck. A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. (Sequels: A Year Down Yonder; A Season of Gifts) Level V

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus. In 1841, after he is rescued from a remote island by an American whaler, teenage Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States. Level R

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool. Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. Level W

Listening Slowly by Thanhha Lai. Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family. Level W

Al Capone Does My Shirts by GenniferCholdenko. A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. (Sequel: Al Capone Shines My Shoes) Level X

Humor

Swindle by Gordon Korman. After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back. (Sequel: Zoobreak; Framed; Showoff) Level T



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Mystery

City of Orphans by Avi. In 1893 New York, 13-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes. Level W

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd. When Ted and Kat's cousin, Salim, disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together -- Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat -- to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim. Level P

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, 12-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures. Level W

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead. Moving into an apartment when his father loses his job, Georges befriends Safer, a 12-year-old coffee-drinking loner and self-appointed spy, who recruits Georges into the world of espionage so that they can investigate a mysterious neighbor who lives on the top floor. Level Q

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. Level W

Realistic Fiction

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant. Level W

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. Level W

The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Heather Vogel Frederick. The mothers of four very different sixth-grade girls pressure them into forming a book club and find, as they read the classic novel "Little Women," that they have more in common than they



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thought. (Sequels: Much Ado About Anne; Dear Pen Pal; Pies Prejudice; Home for the Holidays; Wish You Were Eyre) Level T

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes. On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, her relationship with her grandmother, her feelings for an older boy and her plans to be a writer. Level V

***Schooled by Gordon Korman** Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school. Level Z

Love, Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur. While living with her Gram in Vermont, 11-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother. Level X

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass. When four 12-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents' Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process. Level R

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin. "Struggling with Asperberger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet." --OCLC Level R

Sports

Baseball Great by Tim Green. All 12-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball, but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences. (Sequels: Rivals; Best of the Best) Level U

Football Genius by Tim Green. Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players. (Sequels: Football Hero; Football Champ; The Big Time; Deep Zone) Level T

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. Level Z



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NONFICTION

Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos. Traces the panoramic story of the sweet substance and its important role in shaping world history. Level Z

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert by Marc Aronson. Describes the rescue of 33 miners trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile and how experts from around the world, from drillers, to astronauts, to submarine specialists, came together to make their remarkable rescue possible. Level Z+

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl. Level Z

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Differently: A Biography by Karen Blumenthal. Presents the life and career of the computer industry visionary, from his early life and creation of Apple Computer at the age of twenty to his accomplishments in technology and design. Level Z+

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown. Celebrates the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team -- nine working class boys who transformed the sport and earned the attention of millions of Americans. Level Z

The World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller by Joan Dash. Biography of Helen Keller who, despite being both deaf and blind, thrived under the tutelage of Annie Sullivan, graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College, and became famous for remaining strong and successful through adversity. Level Z+

Throwing Strikes: My Quest for Truth and the Perfect Knuckleball by R.A. Dickey. Relates the author's unlikely journey to the big leagues after his athletic dream was nearly destroyed, and how he was sustained by his Christian faith and the love of his family before emerging as one of the National League's premier pitchers. Level W

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia by Candace Fleming. Traces the story of the Russian Revolution, the lives of the Romanov family and the story of their tragic deaths, in an account that draws on primary source materials and includes period photography. Level X



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An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth: What Going To Space Taught me About Ingenuity, Determination and Being Prepared for Anything by Chris Hadfield.

Takes readers deep into his years of training and space exploration to show how to make the impossible possible. Through eye-opening, entertaining stories, his vivid and refreshing insights will teach you how to think like an astronaut and will change, completely, the way you view life on Earth--especially your own. Level Z

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. (YA edition) A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down. Level Z+

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose. Presents the life of the Alabama teenager who played an integral but little-known role in the Montgomery bus strike of 1955-1956, once by refusing to give up a bus seat, and again, by becoming a plaintiff in the landmark civil rights case against the bus company. Level Z

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip M. Hoose. Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird that has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline. Level Z+

Hoop Dreams: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph by Ben Joravsky. A study of the struggles of Arthur Agee and William Gates to win college scholarships and positions on professional teams follows the stories of their families, relationships, and personal aspirations. Level Z

GO: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design by Chip Kidd. Graphic designer Chip Kidd describes the elements of graphic design, including form, function, color, and typography. Level T

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer. The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense. Level Z+

World without Fish by Mark Kurlansky. Examines the threats to the survival of fish in the world's oceans, discussing the damage caused by various types of fishing



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equipment, the impact of politics on the regulation of fishing, and the harmful effects of overfishing, pollution, and global warming. Level W

We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March by Cynthia Levinson. Discusses the events of the four thousand African American students who marched to jail to secure their freedom in May 1963. Level Y

Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (with a Few Flat Tires Along the Way) by Sue Macy. Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons, and songs, a lively look at women's history transports young readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives. Level Z+

Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy by Albert Marrin. Describes the conditions in the textile industry in the early 20th century behind the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company that led to the death of many young women, and explains its impact on the labor movement and on society. Level Z+

Almost Astronauts: The True Story of the "Mercury 13" Women by Tanya Lee Stone. Presents the story of the 13 women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow. Level Y

Tanya Lee Stone Examines The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us by Tanya Lee Stone. How the Barbie doll became the icon that she is and the impact she has had on our culture through passionate anecdotes and memories from a range of girls and women. Level Y

Courage Has No Color by Tanya Lee Stone. Tells the story of America's first black paratroopers during World War II. Level Y

"The President Has Been Shot!" The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James L. Swanson. Recounts the 35th president's assassination and details key events while sharing informative back matter and archival photographs. Level Z+

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek by Maya Van Wagenen. Documents a high schooler's year-long attempt to change her social status from misfit to member of the "in" crowd by following advice in a 1950s popularity guide, an experiment that triggered embarrassment, humor, and surprises. Level V

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. "The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South." Level Z