

MacArthur Middle School

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Summer reading is one way that students can practice reading without the in-school stress of a time crunch or teacher-directed reading. Research shows that children benefit greatly from the continual practice of academic skills over long breaks, and reading over the summer will help make the transition back into the classroom infinitely easier. We wanted to take this opportunity to share our summer reading program with you. In order to make the transition from summer to classes in the fall easier, we are asking your child to read **at least one selection** from the top list of summer reading books and then complete **the required book prompts**. If you are in accelerated reading, students should read **one book from the bottom list and another book from either list** over the summer break and then complete **the required book prompts**. This assignment will be due August 30th in Schoology. These assignments will not only serve as a way for us to see that students have read the book, but also prepare your child for classroom discussions and/or activities relating to the summer novels.

6th Grade Summer Reading List 2019-2020

BOOKS FOR ALL READERS

2-Minute Drill by Mike Lupica (Realistic Fiction/Sports)

Chris Conlan is the coolest kid in 6th grade. He is the golden-armed quarterback of the football team who the boy others look up to. The new kid, Scott Parry, is a boy with the huge brain but with feet that trip over themselves daily. Each of these boys has a secret that draws them together as friends.

Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova (Graphic Novel)

Rule 1 for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids. Rule 2: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On Penelope -- Peppi -- Torres's first day at a new school, she trips into a boy in the hall, Jamie Thompson. Peppi has already broken the first rule, and mean kids start calling her the "nerdiest girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away! Peppi realizes that sometimes you have to break the rules to survive middle school.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz (Historical Fiction)

Esperanza Ortega is a thirteen-year-old adored child of a wealthy ranch owner and his gentle wife, Ramona. Esperanza's father is killed and the land is left to her father's stepbrothers. In an effort to gain control of the inheritance, one of the stepbrothers insists on marrying the new widow. She turns him down, so he burns down the house and grape arbors. Esperanza and her mother flee to the United States for safety.

The Graveyard by Neil Gaiman (Fantasy)

After a grisly murder of his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. Bod could be a completely normal boy if he didn't live in a graveyard and was being raised by ghosts. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard, but he cannot leave or he will come under attack from Jack.

Rain, Reign by Ann M. Martin (Realistic Fiction)

Rose Howard has Asperger's syndrome and an obsession with homonyms (even her name is a homonym). Rose's father brings home a lost dog, and she names him Rain, Reign. They are practically inseparable and often home alone. A storm hits their town, and her father lets Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog even if it means leaving her routines and safe places.

Red Midnight by Ben Mikaelson (Historical Fiction)

Soldiers burn 12-year-old Santiago's Guatemalan village and kill his family. Following the instructions of his uncle, Santiago and his sister begin a terrifying journey across the Gulf of Mexico to Florida to escape. The siblings face starvation, lack of sleep, and wind and waves to win their game of staying alive.

Schooled by Gordon Korman (Realistic Fiction)

Capricorn Cap Anderson lives on a farm commune with his hippie grandmother, Rain, who homeschools Cap. When Rain breaks her hip in a fall from a tree and is hospitalized, Cap is forced to attend the local middle school. Although he knows a lot about Zen Buddhism, nothing has prepared him for the politics of public school.

The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John (Fantasy)

When Martine's home in England burns down, she must go to South Africa to live with her grandmother she didn't know she had, who lives on a wildlife game preserve. As soon as she arrives, Martine hears stories about a white giraffe that lives on the preserve, but others tell her it is a myth. Martine is not so sure until she looks out her window and locks eyes with Jemmy, a young silvery-white giraffe.

BOOKS FOR ACCELERATED READING STUDENTS

The Boy that Saved Baseball by John H. Ritter (Sports)

Tom Gallagher is in a tight spot. The fate of the Dillontown team rests on the outcome of one baseball game. If Tom's team loses, they lose their field too. Just when everything seems hopeless, a mysterious boy named Cruz de la Cruz rides into town and claims to know the secret of hitting.

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (Historical Fiction)

This story takes place in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule. When Parvana's father is arrested, she has to cut her hair, get into boy's clothes, and work in the marketplace to get money for her family. Her mother goes to another town which is seized by the Taliban. Parvana's father returns from prison and together they go to find her mother.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown (Graphic Novel/Nonfiction)

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded and left some places under twenty feet of water. The tale of this horrific storm and drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage.

Elephant Run by Roland Smith (Historical Fiction)

In 1941, bombs drop from the night skies of London, demolishing the apartment Nick Freestone lives in with his mother. Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma because of the unstable situation in London, hoping for safer living. However, after he arrives, Japanese soldiers invade. Nick's father is taken prisoner, and Nick is forced to work as a servant until Nick and his friend Mya plan their escape on the back of elephants.

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar (Fantasy)

While her friends are spending their summers having sleepovers and pool parties, Carol is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. Carol becomes fascinated with her grandfather's stories. As the line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible - and what it means to be true to her roots.

House Arrest by K.A. Holt (Realistic Fiction)

This is written in diary format. Twelve-year-old Timothy has gotten himself into big trouble with the law. Not because he is a bad kid, but because he is desperate. Timothy tells his heartbreaking story and about the good people that helped him.

Thornhill by Pam Smy (Mystery)

Mary is a lonely orphan at the Thornhill Institute For Children. When a few friends are all adopted or re-homed and she's left to face a bully alone, her revenge will have a lasting effect on the bully, on Mary, and on Thornhill. Ella has just moved into town and from her room on the top of her home. She has a perfect view of Thornhill Institute where she sees a girl in a window. Determined to befriend the girl, Ella resolves to unravel Thornhill's shadowy past.

Ties that Bind by Lensey Namioka (Historical Fiction)

In 1911, China is slowly beginning to accept modern ideas-but changes may not happen fast enough for young Ailin. Her grandmother has decided that it is time for her to have her feet bound in order to make her more attractive to a future husband. Her father allows her to keep her feet unfettered, and therefore breaking off her prearranged marriage. He also sends her to a public school to learn English. Her father dies leaving her in the care of Big Uncle who forbids her to be schooled and gives her two alternatives which she refuses and becomes a nanny for an American missionary couple. Due to their generosity, Ailin starts a new life in the United States.

After reading your novel(s) you have selected, please complete **BOTH** of the following **2 prompts** [conflict and connection for each novel(s)] according to these requirements:

- Must be a minimum of 5 sentences for each prompt
- Must **INCLUDE evidence** from the story to support your answers.
- Should be **typed**, double-spaced in Google Docs.
- You will submit into Schoology during the second week of school.
- Please make sure you have the appropriate heading in the top left corner:
 - First and Last Name
 - ENG - (period number)
 - *Title of Book* by Author

PROMPT 1 (Conflict)

There are four different types of conflicts:

Man vs. Man (character vs. character)

Man vs. Self (character vs. internal conflict)

Man vs. Nature (character vs. natural disasters/animals)

Man vs. Society/World (character vs. community, team, whole town)

Identify one conflict (problem) in your story and write a response explaining which type of conflict from above it is, who the conflict involves, and how the conflict is resolved. Make sure to include text evidence.

PROMPT 2 (Connection)

There are three different types of connections:

Text-to-Text (a story you read to another story, movie, TV show you have read/seen)

Text-to-Self (you have had something similar happen to you/you can relate)

Text-to-World (a story you read to something that has happened or is happening somewhere in the world)

Describe one of these types of connections. Write a response explaining what the connection is, who or what it involves, and how. Make sure to include text evidence.