



5th and 6th Grade Summer Reading Assignments 2017

Strong readers make reading a habit and a hobby, so reading during the summer vacation is important. The most effective way to grow as a reader is to read at, or around, your current reading level. For example, if your current reading level is a V, it is a good idea to read books that are leveled U-V-W. If you are unsure of the book level, explore the features of the book and read a few pages to see if it feels “right”.

Each incoming 5th and 6th Grade student is *required* to read at least one fiction and one non-fiction book over the summer. Along with the reading, you will be accountable for completing an assignment for each of the books. These assignments will be due on the second day of school. It will be the first grade for the trimester. Happy reading!

Assignment #1: Fiction

Choose a book that is right for you and respond to any four of the prompts from the “Reader Response Questions” (attached) as you read. You may type or neatly write your responses. Support all of your answers with thorough evidence/examples/direct quotes from the text. Each response should be a paragraph (between 6-10 sentences, depending on level of the text).

Suggested Authors:

Gordon Korman
Wendy Mass
Lisa Graff
Anthony Horowitz
Mike Lupica
Jerry Spinelli
Lois Lowry
Louis Sachar
Rick Riordan
Rebecca Stead

Suggested Fiction Titles:

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes- O
The Night Crossing by Karen Ackerman - O
Justin Case... series by Rachel Vail (humor) – O
Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar- P

Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford (humor) - Q

Island series by Gordon Korman (adventure) - Q

Touch Blue by Cynthia Lord (realistic fiction) - R

The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett (humor) - R

The Worst Class Trip Ever by Dave Barry (Pulitzer Prize award-winning author) - R

My Life as a Book series by Janet Tashjian (humor) - S

On My Honor by Marion Dane Bauer - S (realistic; Newbery Honor winner)

Half a Chance by Cynthia Lord (realistic fiction; family) - S

Room One by Andrew Clements (mystery) - S

The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden (fantasy; Newbery winner) - S

Derek Jeter: The Contract series (sports fiction) - T

Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life series by James Patterson (humor) - T

El Deafo by Cece Bell (graphic novel; Newbery honor; memoir) - T

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (technology and wilderness best-seller) - T

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar - U (suspense; author of *Holes*)

Midnight for Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo (fantasy) - U

A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass - U

Theodore Boone series by John Grisham (mystery) - U

All the Answers by Kate Messner (realistic fiction) - U

Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo (fantasy; Newbery winner) - U

Joey Pigza Loses Control series by Jack Gantos (Newbery winner) - U

Ungifted by Gordon Korman (realistic fiction) - U

Jake and Lily by Jerry Spinelli (realistic fiction) - U

Dandelion Fire by N.D. Wilson (fantasy sequel to *100 Cupboards*) - U

Liar, Liar by Gary Paulsen - V

Wonder by R.J. Palacios - V

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff - V
Firegirl by Tony Abbott (realistic fiction) - V
33 Minutes by Todd Hasak-Lowy (realistic adventure) - V
Everything for a Dog by Ann M. Martin (realistic fiction) - V
Rooftoppers by Katharine Rundell (mix of historical, fantasy) - V
Schooled by Gordon Korman - V
The Way to Stay in Destiny by Augusta Scattergood (historical fiction; Vietnam War) - V
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli - V
Same but Different by Holly Robinson Peete (autism) - V
The Way to Stay in Destiny by Augusta Scattergood (historical fiction) - V
Mr. Lemoncello's Library series by Chris Grabenstein - V
It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas (multicultural) - V
Hoot series by Carl Hiaasen (realistic fiction) - W
Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage (mystery) - W
Summerlost by Ally Conde - W
The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages (historical fiction, World War II) - W
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech (Newbery winner) - W
The City of Ember series by Jeanne DuPrau (science fiction) - W
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia (historical fiction; Newbery honor award) - W
The Ability by M. Vaughn (fantasy) - W
Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton (historical fiction - Apollo 11; verse; multicultural) - W
The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death... (mystery & historical fiction) - X
The Whole Story of Half a Girl by Veera Hiranandani (multicultural) - X
Al Capone... series by Gennifer Choldenko - X
The Glass Sentence by S.E. Grove (fantasy series) - X

Connect the Stars by Maria de los Santos (realistic) - X
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (scary; supernatural; Newbery honor) - X
Hero by Mike Lupica (fantasy) – X
Is it Night or Day? by Fern Chapman (historical fiction) - X
Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt (historical fiction) – Y
Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan – historical fiction (2016 Newbery Honor book)– Y
Paperboy by Vince Vawter (historical fiction; Newbery Honor) – Y
We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen (realistic best-seller) - Y
The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel – Y (adventure)
Tangerine by Edward Bloor – Y
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Newbery Honor book; verse) - Y
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli – Y (historical fiction Holocaust)
One Came Home by Amy Timberlake (historical; mystery; Newbery winner) - Y
Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry (science fiction sequel to *The Giver*) – Z
Revolution series (historical fiction) by Deborah Wiles – Z
Mister Orange by Truus Matti (historical fiction) - Z
Paper Hearts by Meg Wiviott (historical fiction; Holocaust) - Z

Assignment #2: Non-Fiction

Create informational **power-point** or a **video trailer** that includes:

- the main *idea* of the book
- 4-6 interesting facts
- 2-3 important quotes
- 2-3 pictures
- Anything else you want to include regarding the topic you read about.

Be sure that content is readable and creative. The title page should include title of book, type of information, and author. A minimum of five slides required (not including title page), and any pages with graphics should have information as well. * You can also do this in the form of a Word

document or brochure.

Suggested Non-Fiction Titles:

Who Was...series (biography) - Q

You Wouldn't Want to Be...series - T

Titanic by Simon Adams - V

Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl by Albert Marrin - V

Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman - V

Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently by Patricia Lakin - V

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women - V

Boys Who Rocked the World: Heroes from King Tut to Bruce Lee - V *How They Choked: Famous*

Failures by Georgia Bragg - V

Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts by Susan Cain and Gregory Mone (Young Reader's Edition) - V

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food, Young Reader's Edition by Charles Wilson - V

Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know (Young Reader's Edition) - W

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy (Newbery Honor book) - W

Brilliant by Roddy Doyle - W

The Blizzard by Jim Murphy - W

Fighting Fire!: Ten of the Deadliest Fires in American History and How We Fought Them by Michael L. Cooper - X

The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown - X

Big Questions from Little People and Simple Answers from Great Minds - Gemma Elwin Harris - X

Frozen in Time: Clarence Birdseye's Outrageous Idea About Frozen Food by Mark Kurlansky - X

Disasters: Natural and Man-Made Catastrophes Through the Centuries by Brenda Guiberson - X

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education - Young Reader's Edition - Z

Fiction Reader Response Questions

Before Reading

- What made you choose this book? Consider the author title, layout, genre, topic, etc.
- What predictions do you have about the story based on the title and cover picture?

During Reading

- Does the setting have an effect on the characters' lives? If so, explain how.
- Were you surprised or confused by the actions of any of the characters? Why? \
- What trait do you admire most in a character from the story? Provide examples.
- How would the characters behave differently if the story were set in a different place or time?
- How does the personality of a character contribute to his or her success or failure?
- How do you think the plot might develop?
- What character(s) do you dislike? Why?
- What character(s) do you like? Why?
- What problems does the character have? How is the character dealing with them?
- What is the internal or external conflict in the story? Explain.
- What are you imagining will happen next? What evidence do you have to make this prediction?
- Explain what motivates one of the character's actions.
- What pieces of the plot did the author leave out? How do you imagine them?
- How would you solve the problem in this story?
- What would it be like to live during the time period or in the setting of the book?
- Is there anything that happened in your life that is similar to what is going on in the story?
- Does this story remind you of another book, short story, play, or film you have read or seen? If so, explain the similarities and differences.
- Is the problem in the story similar to that of another book you've read? How is the solution to the problem the same or different in each text?
- Is there a character in the story that reminds you of a character from another text or film? In what ways do they compare and contrast?
- What do you feel is the most significant passage or scene in the novel? Why?
- Did your impression of a character change? When and how?
- What point-of-view is the story told from? How would the details of this story change if it were told in 3rd person or from another character's point-of-view?

After Reading

- What characteristics of a good story do you feel this story has? Give examples.
- Which other text you've read contains a similar theme? How are they similar?
- What are some feelings and questions you were left with at the end of the novel?

- What events in the story would you change? How would you change them?
- What do you feel is the theme (main message) of the novel?
- What have you learned about people or life that you didn't think about before reading this book?
- Were you satisfied with the ending of the story? Why or why not?

Social Studies Current Event Guide

Choose articles from reliable sources. A reliable source is a source that is credible and trustworthy. It is reported from a respectable news organization or publishing company. These kinds of sources publish facts that are checked thoroughly by knowledgeable people.

Our "Social Studies Links" page on the humanities webpage is a good place to find online versions of these sources. You can print or include the web address. You can also cut an article out from a newspaper or magazine.

Reliable sources:

NewsELA.com

Time for Kids

CNN Student News

Scholastic News for Kids

Bergen Record

Cover stories from *Scholastic News* classroom magazines

Choose from:

world/international news (other countries or continents)

national news (the United States)

local news (New Jersey or Hudson County).

- * Choose an article that is not too short but not too challenging.
- * Choose an article that reports an event or an issue, not just statistics.
- * Make sure it is current (within the past week) even if it is an ongoing topic/issue.
- * Write your summary *in your own words*. Paraphrase by including only parts that are important (this does not usually include quotations from the article), changing the vocabulary, or rephrasing the sentences.
- * Highlight the article as you read (if you can).

Reflection

Share your opinion, reactions, predictions, connections, and/or background knowledge on this topic.

Definitions of three challenging **vocabulary** from the article:

1.) _____ (_____) -

2.) _____ (_____) -

3.) _____ (_____) -

