

Dear Sixth Grader,

We are so excited about starting the new school year with you in September 2023! Over the summer, I encourage you to continue reading, writing, and thinking. Reading through the summer helps you maintain reading stamina, and that's an important part of sixth grade. To help you focus some of your reading, I would like you to choose a book that you feel is a good fit for you. Try to choose something that is challenging but not too challenging; something that holds your interest. I've attached a list of good books that may help you choose something to read. (It is at the back of this packet!) I am including a list of good books, as well as a list of books to avoid reading as we will read them together this year (I'd love to have you experience the books with me in class- the ones we are reading in class have a line through them to help you avoid them). I just ask that your book be over 100 pages, and that it allows you to complete the attached project that we will display when we return in September. The completion of this project will serve as your first grade for ELA in sixth grade.

I am asking you to fill in a character "head" having chosen a character from a book that you can analyze. Follow the description on the sheet provided (a checklist). Make sure to fill it in completely with the requirements listed on the sheet and use color! We will display these when you return to school!

We hope you have a wonderful summer! Go outside and play, read a lot, and try at least one new thing. I'll see you in September.

Love,

Mrs. Brannen and Ms. Britton

6th Grade ELA/SS Teachers

If you have questions during the summer and need to contact us, our emails are:

jbrannen@germantowncsd.org

mdodge@germantowncsd.org

cbritton@germantowncsd.org

These are books we will read (please try to avoid reading them as I'd love to read them together this year! If you've already read some of these that's okay!)

Bridge to Home

Bridge to Terabithia

The Family Under the Bridge

Dreambender

The Giver

Among the Hidden

Hatchet

Touching Spirit Bear

Refugee

Number the Stars

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

The Lightning Thief

Bystander

Brown Girl Dreaming

I am Malala

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Character Head Characterization Rubric

Choose one character and characterize him or her using the template provided.

_____ POINTS AVAILABLE

_____ Character's name in large font.

_____ Include one significant character quote.

_____ Include two images relevant to the character (concrete or abstract).

_____ Include three adjectives to describe the character.

_____ Include the character's nickname in the story or one you create.

_____ Briefly describe a turn point event involving the character.

_____ Identify the character as either dynamic or static with a brief explanation of why.

_____ Include the title of the novel or story, author, and genre.

_____ Use an attractive color scheme with virtually no white space.

_____ All text is legible, dark, and attractive. Final text is not written in pencil.

_____ Head is securely glued to reinforced backing. (construction paper, cardstock, or poster board)

_____ Head and backing are cut and trimmed neatly.

_____ Error free in grammar, mechanics, and spelling.

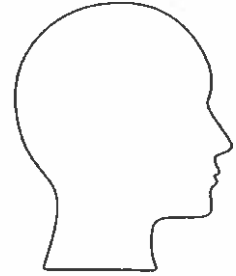
_____ Name, date, and class period on the back of the final product.

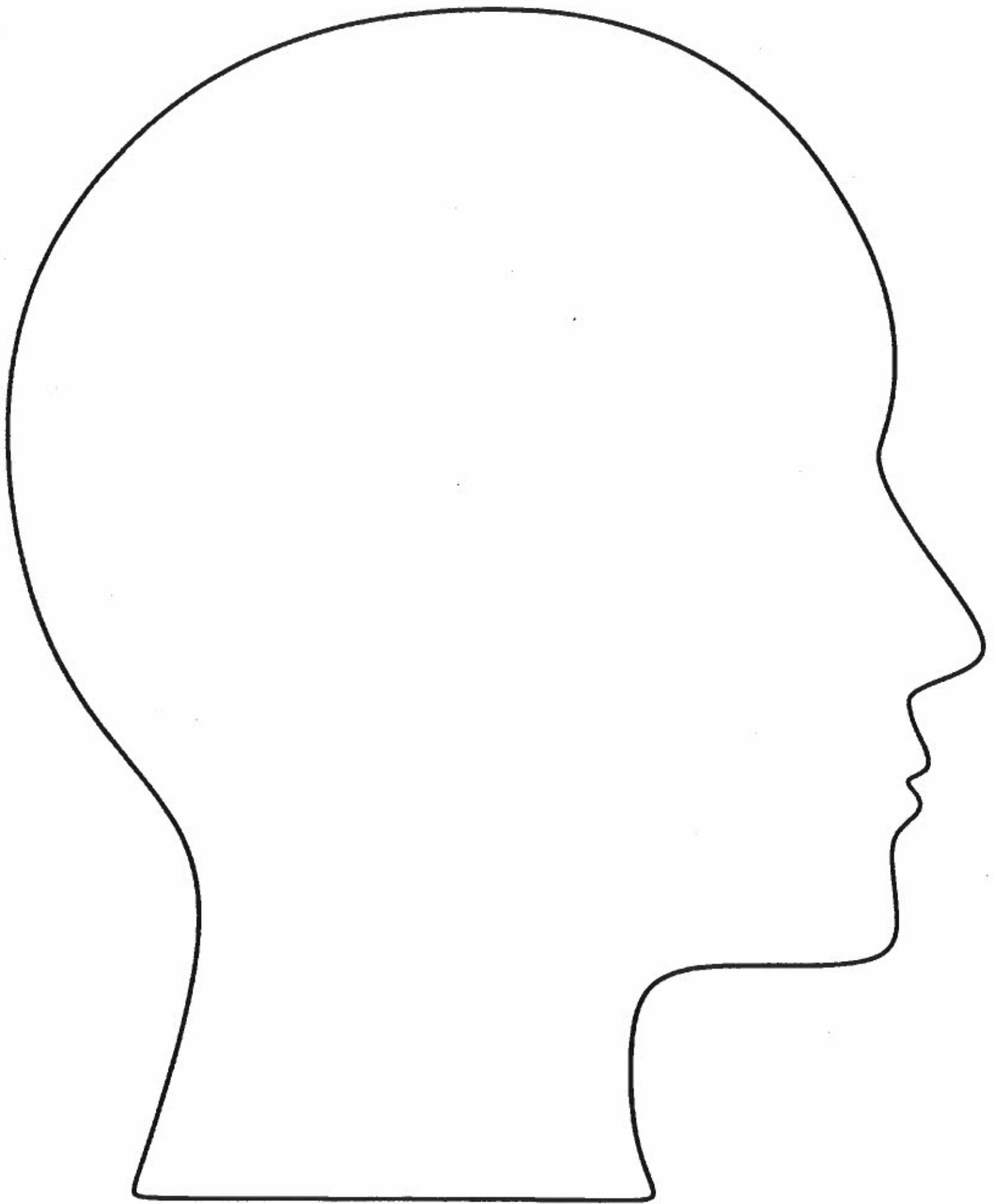
_____ Attention to detail, high quality of work, unfolded without creases and crumples.

_____ Quality of work reflects knowledge and understanding of character.

_____ POINTS EARNED

Be Creative!





Incoming 6th Grade Suggested Summer Reading



The Witch of Blackbird Pond- Elizabeth George Speare

In this Newbery Medal–winning novel, a girl faces prejudice and accusations of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Connecticut. A classic of historical fiction that continues to resonate across the generations. Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687.

Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.



Stand Up, Yumi Chung! -Jessica Kim

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm gone wrong, and kids calling her “Yu-MEAT” because she smells like her family’s Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she’s reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage.

Mockingbird- 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. (Fiction, Mature)

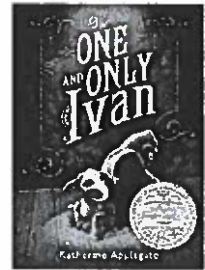


The Phantom Tollbooth – Norton Juster

Milo, a bored ten-year-old, comes home to find a toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth’s gates and begins a memorable journey. (Fiction)

The One and Only Ivan- 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. (A Newbery Award-winner, Fiction)

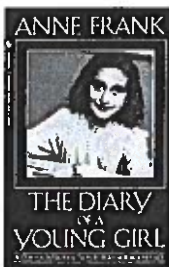
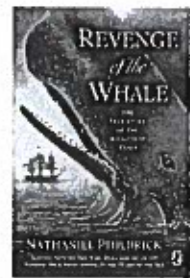


Masterminds- Gordon Korman

From bestselling author Gordon Korman comes a thrilling new middle-grade trilogy of kids living in a Pleasantville-type town who discover a dark secret that connects them to some of the greatest criminal masterminds of their time. (Fiction)

Revenge of the Whale – Nathaniel Philbrick

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship “Essex” by an enraged whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. (Non-fiction)



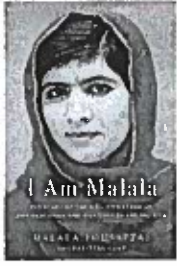
The Diary of a Young Girl- Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic-a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. (Non-fiction)



The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue – Michael Tougias

In the winter of 1952, New England was battered by the most brutal nor'easter in years. As the weather wreaked havoc on land, the freezing Atlantic became a wind-whipped zone of peril. (Non-fiction)



I am Malala - The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban - Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. (Non-fiction, Mature)

The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets – Jean Craighead George

Humorous, heartwarming, and just plain entertaining, these stories by Newbery Medalist Jean Craighead George recall what life was like as she raised three children and 173 wild pets. (Non-fiction)

**172
TARANTULA
in My Purse
and 172 Other Wild Pets**



Other Words for Home - Jasmine Warga

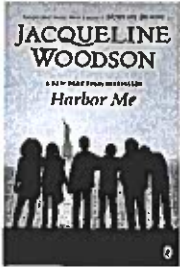
Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, a place where Jude can be seen as she really is. (Fiction)



Brown Girl Dreaming - Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she

struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become. (Non-Fiction, Poetry)



Harbor Me - Jacqueline Woodson

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”), they discover it’s safe to talk about what’s bothering them—everything from Esteban’s father’s deportation and Haley’s father’s incarceration to Amari’s fears of racial profiling and Ashton’s adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives. (Fiction, Mature)

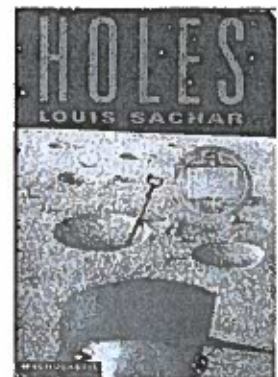
New Kid - Jerry Craft

New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft. Seventh-grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. (Graphic Novel)



Holes- Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats, a boy who has bad luck due to a curse placed on his great-great-grandfather, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, for a crime he did not commit. Stanley and the other boys at the camp are forced to dig large holes in the dirt every day. (Fiction)





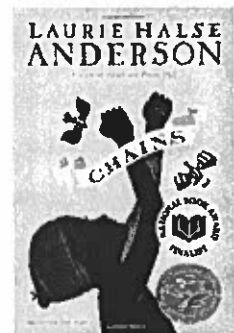
When You Reach Me- Rebecca Stead

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for an emergency is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note and the notes keep coming. Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet.

(Fiction)

Chains- Laurie Halse Anderson

The story of a thirteen-year-old slave named Isabel and her journey to discover her inner strength and fight for her freedom amidst the depravity of slavery and the upheaval of the Revolutionary War that divided America. (Fiction, Mature)

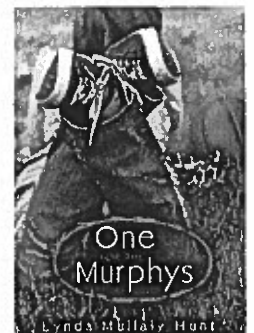


Everything for a Dog- Ann. M Martin

In this companion to her acclaimed 2005 novel, *A Dog's Life*, Ann M. Martin tells the parallel stories of a stray dog (the brother of the dog featured in *A Dog's Life*), a boy dealing with unspeakable loss, and a boy whose most ardent wish is to own a dog—and everything for a dog. (Fiction, Mature)

One for the Murphys – Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Twelve-year-old Carley Connors can take a lot. Growing up in Las Vegas with her fun-loving mother, she's learned to be tough. But she never expected a betrayal that would land her in foster care. When she's placed with the Murphys, a lively family with three boys, she's blindsided. Do happy families really exist? Carley knows she could never belong in their world, so she keeps her distance. (Fiction, Mature)





Schooled – Gordon Korman

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school. (Fiction)

Chomp – Carl Hiaasen

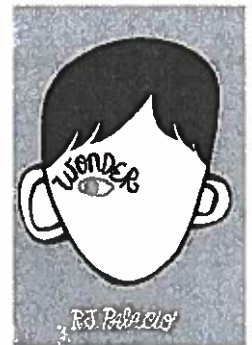
A combination of wild animals and reality TV is mixed with a dose of humor, adventure, and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Florida Everglades and Wahoo Cray, the young animal wrangler, and his new friend Tuna are the only ones who can find him. (Fiction)

Also: Hoot, Flush, Scat



Wonder - RJ Palacio

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Augie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life, in an attempt to protect him from the cruelty of the outside world. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. (Fiction)



Stuntboy, in the Meantime- Jason Reynolds

This sweet and funny illustrated novel follows Portico Reeves, a young boy with a super-secret superhero identity who protects the people in his castle, also known as an apartment building. With Portico's parents fighting more and more, he gets the worry wiggles and makes it his mission to save them too. This relatable story about a boy experiencing anxiety and life changes from favorite author Jason Reynolds is full of heart.





Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene - Emma Otheguy

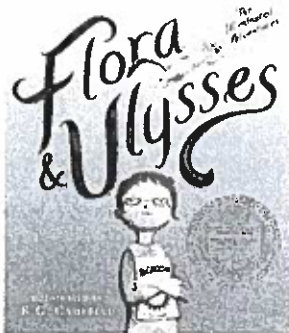
Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene follows fifth-grader Sofia Acosta who feels like the black sheep of her ballet-loving family. Her parents were professional dancers who emigrated from Cuba to the United States. Her sister, Regina is a ballet prodigy whose eyes are set on the American Ballet Theater (ABT) and even their little brother Manuel is an excellent ballet dancer. Sofia, though? She can't stop stepping on people's toes when she dances.

What she loves the most is sewing the costumes for the dancers and hanging out with her best friend Tricia. But when a family friend visiting from Cuba hints at staying in the US long-term to dance for the ABT, Tricia's response hints at the prejudice that Sofia never saw coming. Will Sofia stand up for what's right?



TOWN OF PELHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY

KATE DICAMILLO



GET A JUMPSTART ON THIS

FALL'S PELHAM READS

***FLORA AND ULYSSES*, BY KATE DICAMILLO**

6th Grade Book Series Recommendations

Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene

Divergent by Veronica Roth (Mature)

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

Hardy Boys by Franklin W. Dixon

Kingdom Keeper by Ridley Pearson

Mr. Terrupt by Rob Buyea (Mature)

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Steward

I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore (Mature)

The Doll People by Ann. M Martin

Michael Vey by Richard Paul Evans

The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer

I Funny by James Patterson

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (Mature)

Alex Rider by Anthony Horowitz

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Mature)

A VARIETY OF LISTS FOR CHILDREN'S AND YA LITERATURE

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu> is the homepage for the BCCB, one of the best sites for information on quality literature for children.

Lee and Low Diverse Books

<https://www.leeandlow.com/high-school/diversity> is a collection of book lists that can serve as “windows and mirrors” for our children.

International Literacy Association

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists> is a collection of “reading lists, shaped by thousands of students and educators across the United States.”

American Library Association

<https://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading/children> is a collection of ALA's literature award winners and various notable reading lists for children.

Newbery Award Winners

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal> allows you to browse the many years of Newbery Award winners. Dozens of extraordinary books are included for your consideration as you search for books to enjoy over the summer.

Read Kiddo Read

<http://www.readkiddoread.com> is a successful and popular site for a variety of readers. Try it out, and be sure to share its great suggestions with your friends!

But when he stopped to catch his breath he looked back and saw how far he had come...
he changed from angry to forgiving over the course of the novel...
turning point

Dynamite



STUBBORN

Cole

When Cole lays on the ground unable to move, he sees a baby bird out of his nest, he becomes empathetic towards the bird.

PERSISTENT

Touching Spirit Bear
by Ben Michaelson
(REALISTIC FICTION)

"Cole kept stretching. Then he lifted the rock + started up the hill. He neither rushed nor dawdled. He moved deliberately, trying not to look ahead at how far he had left to go. Instead, he tried to imagine each step as a day in his life. When he stumbled, he imagined a day when he had stumbled. There had been plenty of those days."

Character Head Characterization Terms

Quote: Text from your book that was either spoken by a character, or that you feel is an important part of your book.

Adjectives: Words that describe someone or something

Turning Point: A point in your book where the character begins to change

Dynamic: Character that changes

Static: Character that stays the same

Genre: Type of book

Welcome to 6th Grade Math!!!!

PRODIGY SUMMER MATH

Over the summer I will assign various assignments on Prodigy. If you already have an account, you can put in the code

9F6E351

This will connect you to 6th Grade Summer math assignments. This is not a mandatory assignment but something you can do over the summer (preferably on rainy days. I would much rather you get outside and playing the sunshine!).

Why should you play Prodigy?

- Keep practicing math skills you learned from K-5
- Get ready for 6th grade math
- Learn higher level concepts over the summer
- EARN BONUS points for 6th grade math class

Please contact me if you have any questions at mdodge@germantowncsd.org or sign up on Remind.

Join REMIND
for 6th grade information

Send a text to 81010

Text this message @73b8gh

Can't wait for next year!!! Have a great summer!!!

