

## 6t Grade Summer Reading

Select 2 books, one from the list and one of your own choosing. Read the books and fill out a book report form (available on the school website) for each. The book report forms will be turned in during the first week of school - September 2018.

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1. Philbrick, W. R. *Freak the Mighty*

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

2. Chaim, Potok *The Chosen*

A suspected deliberate bean-ball in a game between two Jewish boys' schools leads at first to hostility between the Hasidic boy and the less observant secular youth.

3. Creech, Sharon *Walk Two Moons*

Two stories intertwine. Salamanca Sugar Maple Tree Hiddle, also known as Sal, tells the tale of her best friend, Phoebe, whose mother has disappeared. At the same time, Sal is on a quest to find her own mother, whose death she refuses to accept.

4. Lowry, Lois *Number the Stars*

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Holm, Jennifer *Boston Jane*

Seventeen-year-old Jane Peck has ventured to the unknown wilds of the Pacific Northwest to marry her childhood idol, William Baldt. But her impeccable training at Miss Hepplewhites's Young Ladies Academy in Philadelphia is hardly preparation for the rough pioneer life and colorful characters that await her in Washington Territory.

Lowry, Lois *The Giver*

Meet Jonas, an eleven-year-old boy who lives in a rigidly controlled society where there is no suffering, hunger, war, but also no color, music, or love. Everything is controlled by "the Elders." Jonas has been "selected" to be The Receiver of Memory, which consists of receiving a series of memories from the past of humanity. Jonas must decide whether he will remain the Receiver, or follow his conscience and leave the community.

### Classics – Contemporary

5. Tolkein, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*

This book tells about Bilbo Baggins, the Hobbit, and how he embarks (reluctantly) on a great adventure, where he encounters Elves, Goblins, Ogres, and even an evil dragon with a horde of gold. This classic tale was the basis for the remarkable story of *The Lord of the Rings*.

6. Alexander, Lloyd *The High King*

This book is the fifth and final adventure of Taran, would-be hero and Assistant Pig-keeper, begun in *The Book of Three*. The sword of Drnwyn has fallen into the hands of Arawn-Death-Lord. After a winter march filled with danger, Taran and his army finally arrive at Arawn's stronghold and, ultimately, to a decision for Taran that is the most crucial of his life.

7. Lowry, Lois *A Summer to Die*  
Meg, 13, envies her older sister's popularity and prettiness and finds it difficult to cope with Molly's degenerating illness and eventual death.
8. Paterson, Katherine *Jacob Have I Loved*  
Feeling deprived of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by a pretty twin sister, plain-looking Louise finally begins to find her identity.

#### Classics – Traditional

9. Austen, Jane *Pride and Prejudice*  
The wealthy Mr. Bingley and Jane Bennett are attracted to each other when they meet at the Meryton assembly ball, but Mr. Darcy's cold and proud behavior offends Jane's younger sister, Elizabeth. Her prejudice is confirmed when Mr. Wickham claims that Darcy cheated him out of an inheritance.
10. Burnett, Frances Hodgson *The Secret Garden*  
Colin lives the life of a spoiled and incurable invalid until Mary, his orphaned cousin, arrives. The robin shows her the way to a locked, hidden garden, which Colin and Mary secretly restore. Find out what else is changed as the garden works its magic.
11. Defoe, Daniel *Robinson Crusoe*  
Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked and leads a solitary existence for twenty-four years on an uninhabited island near the Orinoco River. He meets the difficulties of primitive life with wonderful ingenuity. This novel is based on the actual experiences of Alexander Selkirk.
12. Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan *The Hound of the Baskervilles*  
Eerie howling on the moor and strange deaths at Baskerville lead Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to remarkable conclusions. Share with them the exploration of the old superstition of death on the moor, and discover the parts played by the escaped convict and the property disputes.
13. London, Jack *The Call of the Wild*  
This is the story of the dog Buck, half St. Bernard and half Scotch Shepherd, who strives to adapt himself to a hostile Klondike environment, struggling against cruel elements and even crueler men. When his master, John Thornton, is murdered, Buck escapes and becomes the leader of a wolf pack, where he struggles to survive in a ruthless world governed by the "law of claw and fang."

#### London, Jack *White Fang*

This story about a half-wolf-half-husky dog takes place in the Yukon Territory, Canada, during the 1890's Klondike Gold Rush, and details White Fang's journey to domestication. Much of *White Fang* is written from the viewpoint of the canine character, and explores how animals view their world and how they view humans.

#### Historical Fiction

14. Crane, Stephen *The Red Badge of Courage*  
This is the story of a young man who enlists in the Union Army during the American Civil War. It tells of his experiences on the battlefield, and how he discovers courage within himself.

15. Avi The Fighting Ground

A farm boy fights and is taken prisoner by Hessian soldiers in the American Revolution in this swiftly paced adventure story.

16. Fox, Paula The Slave Dancer

In 1840, Jessie Bollier was thirteen, earning pennies and playing his fife on the docks of New Orleans when he was kidnapped and thrown on a slave ship headed for Africa.

17. Yolen, Jane The Devil's Arithmetic

A young Jewish girl finds herself transported back in time to the 1940s, where Nazi soldiers take her and her family away to a death camp, a place of unspeakable horrors.

## Humor

18. Conford, Ellen Why Me?

Thirteen-year-old Hobie, who works after school in his grandfather's bookstore, gets up the nerve to send a love poem to a real knockout named Darlene. Hobie's fantasies, predicaments, and realizations will have readers rolling with laughter in this comic episode.

19. Danziger, Paula Make Like a Tree and Leave

The same things are still driving Matthew Martin nuts: his bossy sister, his mother the health food freak, and Vanessa, who has never forgiven him for living. Things don't work out quite right when Brian Bruno gets wrapped up in a lot of plaster gauze. Will Brian ever get out of the cart? Will Wilbur ever get out of trouble?

20. Spinelli, Jerry Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

The sibling rivalry between twelve-year-old Megin and her older brother Greg intensifies after she ruins his science project and he retaliates by throwing her favorite hockey stick into the pond.

## "True" Books – Nonfiction

21. Fekete, Irene Mathematics

In an increasingly technological world, a knowledge of mathematics is not only desirable, it is essential. Photographs and drawings illustrate concepts of symmetry, statistics, etc. Varied chapters include mathematics as magic, an aid to travel, and computers for work and play.

22. Halton, Cheryl Those Amazing Leeches

Have you ever visited a leech farm? Did you know that leech saliva may have important medical uses? Discover many fascinating facts about these creepy crawly critters!

23. Jaspersohn, William Bat, Ball, Glove: The Making of Major League Baseball Gear

From the sewing of the baseball covers through the preparation of special bats required by major-leaguers, Jaspersohn presents an intriguing picture of how baseball equipment is produced.

24. Perl, Lila From Top Hats to Baseball Caps, from Bustles to Blue Jeans; Why We Dress the Way We Do

This clothing survey shows that while many fashion changes were reflections of world events, clothes are more than just a mirror of history. They also display our individual lifestyles, how we see ourselves, and how we would like others to see us.

25. Schwartz, Alvin Cross Your Fingers, Spit in Your Hat

Almost everyone is superstitious, though few people will admit to it. Some superstitions are funny, most of them involve magic, and all of them comfort us in some way. Collected in this book are superstitions and beliefs to guide you through a lifetime.