

6th Grade Summer Reading

Requirements:

1. Read *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA* by Brenda Woods and design a postcard. On the front, create a scene based on the description, imagery, and symbolism found in the story. (Tip, look at postcards and notice the designs and layout - be creative.) On the back of the postcard, write a letter to a friend that includes a description of:
 - a. Two characters
 - b. A summary of the plot
 - c. A description of the setting
 - d. Whether or not you would recommend someone to visit this town. Explain why or why not.
2. Choose one book from the choice reading list below and create a story elements poster on 11 X 17 paper. The poster should be creative and colorful and include the following:
 - a. Characters
 - b. Plot
 - c. Setting
 - d. Conflict
 - e. Include any favorite lines or quotes from the book.

*** You can use a combination of drawing and writing with this ***

Choice Reading List

Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands

Interest Level: Gr 5-8 and Harry Potter fans. Set in the 1600s, the story revolves around Christopher Rowe, the apprentice to a Master Apothecary. After losing his master, Christopher begins to unravel a series of complex codes that his master had, unbeknownst to Chris, been preparing him to solve all along. The more that the protagonist uncovers, the more he finds himself in danger, along with his loyal-to-a-fault best friend. This is an excellent story for readers who enjoy puzzles, action, and fantasy.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead Spears

Interest Level: Gr 5-8. This is the first book in the trilogy.

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, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Refugee by Alan Grantz

Historical fiction, adventure, and alternating point view. Gratz presents three interrelated stories about surviving. The tales center on children and their families who are driven from their homes by war, violence, and unrest. Josef must leave Nazi-controlled Germany with his mother, his sister, and his mentally broken father (just returned to them from Auschwitz). Isabel and her family live in Cuba and escape on a makeshift raft during the exodus in the 1990s. They flee the repression and poverty of Fidel Castro's rule. Mahmoud, a Syrian boy, and his family seek refuge from the ongoing war and violence in their home city of Aleppo. They board a dinghy in order to cross the Aegean sea from Turkey to Greece.

Ghost by Joseph Reynolds

Interest level: Grades 5-8. Realistic fiction. Urban and sports fiction. Part of the Track series. At school, Castle "Ghost" Crenshaw is taunted about where he lives and what he wears. He also has an anger management problem, but the kid can run, really run. Supported by a loving mother and a tough but caring track-and-field coach, Ghost learns a few lessons about life and teamwork while reminding readers of the potential in everyone.

The Inquisitor's Tale, or, The Three Magical Children and their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz

Interest level: Grades 5-10. Adventure, fantasy, historical fiction, includes humor. What is a miracle? Gidwitz's tale of medieval France successfully combines the epic with the personal, aiming for that heart-stopping moment when characters readers have come to care about find themselves on a collision course with one of the great wood chippers of

history-the Inquisition, agents of which are in hot pursuit of three underdog characters (and one actual dog) from the very start.

Close to Famous by Joan Bauer

Interest Level: Grades 5-8. Realistic fiction. Includes characters with disabilities that persevere. Sixth-grader Foster McFee is a supremely talented baker and dreams of being a famous television chef like Sonny Kroll, star of her favorite show on the Food Network, but she has already had to face some major challenges in her life. After her father's death in combat in Iraq, she and her mother, a talented singer, have had a hard time financially, and ultimately they are forced to leave Memphis. The story is fast paced, and readers will be rooting for likable and gutsy Foster, who expresses her views on life in baking metaphors. The quirky residents of Culpepper are equally believable and appealing.

Ungifted by Gordan Korman

Interest Level: Grades 5-8. Humor. Realistic fiction. Donovan Curtis is an impulse-driven prankster who, at the start of *Ungifted*, manages to alienate both the students and faculty of his middle school. Using an ancestor who survived the Titanic as inspiration, Donovan has a goofy kindness that charms characters and readers alike. The story is told from the points of view of various characters (each chapter titled with an Un-word), and readers hear from teachers and administrators, students-both gifted and not-and family members.

Please note: You may also choose from any book on this upcoming year's Battle of the Books list for your choice book.

