



June 2009

Dear Future Sixth Grade Student,

Over the summer we would like to encourage you to read as many books as you have the time and interest to read. Reading is a wonderful way to escape a hot, humid summer afternoon and travel to anywhere a good author can take you. Enjoy these books!

ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS: For summer reading:

1. You are required to read **AT LEAST TWO BOOKS.** One must be from the list below and the other is your choice. (See websites below for suggested titles*)
2. You must choose and write **two literature responses for each book** from “Literature Response Ideas.” Do not choose the same responses for each book. A total of four different responses are required. Include the title of the book and the author in your topic sentence. A suggestion is to write the responses as you read.
3. The rubric and scoring guide can be found on the school website or at your middle school. These assignments will count as quiz grades.

TITLE	AUTHOR	Reading Level	Interest Level
<u>A Year Down Yonder</u>	Richard Peck	5.2	5-8
<u>Alex Rider Series</u>	Anthony Horowitz	7.8	5-8
<u>All the Way Home</u>	Patricia Reilly Giff	5.0	3-6
<u>Artemis Fowl Series</u>	Eoin Colfer	7.1	5-8
<u>Gold Dust</u>	Chris Lynch	6.2	5-8
<u>Percy Jackson And The Olympians [set/series]</u>	Rick Riordan		5-8
<u>Heat</u>	Mike Lupica	5.6	5-8
<u>Julie of the Wolves</u>	Jean Craighead George	5.6	5-8
<u>Room One</u>	Andrew Clements	4.7	3-7
<u>Shadow Children Series</u>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	4-7	4-6
<u>The Secret of Platform Thirteen</u>	Eva Ibbotson	7.5	5-8
<u>The Thief Lord</u>	Cornelia Funke	6.8	5-8
<u>Travel Team</u>	Mike Lupica	6.5	5-8
<u>Magyk</u>	Angie Sage	6.1	3-6

When you return in September, your literature responses will be collected and evaluated. You will use your responses to review the books in discussion groups.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing our summer reading experiences.

Sincerely, Your Sixth Grade Teachers

Note:

*This assignment, the rubric and scoring guide, and a brief description of each book **on this list** can be found at both Chelmsford public libraries, at your middle school, and listed on the website at http://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/middle/summerread_09.htm*

*Newbery Medal Home Page:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alscawardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/newberymedal.htm>

*2009 Notable Children’s Books (scroll down to *Middle Readers* section)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/childrensnotable/notablebooklist/currentnotable.htm>

LITERATURE RESPONSE IDEAS

Grade 6

Choose two responses for each book. Each response should be a well *written paragraph on white lined paper, in cursive, and in ink* (or you may type your response). A total of four responses should be turned in to your teacher the first week of school.

- 1) THE BOOK AND I: Sometimes what I read makes me think about my own life. Did something that happened to a character ever happen to you? Did you ever feel how the other characters felt? When? Tell how the book reminds you of your life.
- 2) INTERTEXTUALITY: Sometimes what you read makes you think of another text – a book you’ve read. Tell the name of the other text this story reminds you of and why you thought of it while reading.
- 3) CHARACTER MAP: You can write about a character in a story. You can include character traits, descriptions, actions, and anything else you think is interesting about a character. Give your opinion of this character and tell why you feel that way.
- 4) PICTURE: Every time you read, you get a picture in your head about the story. Draw the picture from your head. Write under your picture a paragraph telling why you drew it. Your picture and description should include many details from the picture in your head.
- 5) SPECIAL STORY PART: When you find a part in a book that you really like, you should record the page number so you can refer back to it. Write a paragraph telling about the part that you chose and why you think it is special.
- 6) FEELINGS: Sometimes a book makes you feel a certain way. Write about that feeling and why the book makes you feel that way. You can also write about what the character(s) in the book might be feeling.
- 7) AUTHOR’S CRAFT: Sometimes authors use special words, paint pictures with words, make you wish you could write like they do, use funny language, or write with really good dialogue. Give examples of things the author does to make you like the story. Write the page number(s) next to your description(s).
- 8) COMPARE/CONTRAST: You can tell how two things are alike or different. Some ideas are: two characters, two books, you and a character, a book and a movie, a character in this book and a character from another book. Write about any two things that share similarities or differences.
- 9) IF IT WERE ME: Put yourself in the place of a story character. Tell what you would do or how you would feel about something happening in the story.
- 10) IF I WERE THE AUTHOR: Tell what part of the story you would change and why you would change it.
- 11) SUSPENSE: Write about what the author does to create suspense and make you want to read to find out what happens. Give at least one example of a suspenseful part.
- 12) IT SEEMS REAL: Write about how the author makes the story seem possible or probable even though he/she has created a make believe world, far different from your own, and filled it with characters.
- 13) **PEOPLE CHANGE: Tell how a main character changed during the course of the story. Describe the change, and tell what you think caused the change in him or her.

****only to be done at the END of a book**

Book Description - Grade 6

A Year Down Yonder

Sequel to: A long way from Chicago. During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

Alex Rider Series

Check website for description of the books

All the Way Home

In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a boy from New York's apple country, and Mariel, a young girl made shy by her bout with polio, and the two make a journey from Brooklyn back to help Brick's elderly neighbors save their apple crop and to help Mariel learn about her past.

Artemis Fowl Series

Artemis, the main character, is a ruthless and extremely intelligent young criminal whose main goal is the acquisition of money through a variety of schemes (although his values change towards the 5th book).

Gold Dust

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.

Heat

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Julie of the Wolves

Newbery Medal, 1973. While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Magyk - multi-volume set

Follows the adventures of Septimus Heap, the seventh son of a seventh son, as he grows in his knowledge of magic, and fights to protect the fledgling princess Jenna.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians series

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr.

Room One

Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town's one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family

Shadow Children Series

See website for descriptions.

The Secret of Platform Thirteen

Odge Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their Island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son who had been stolen as an infant.

The Thief Lord

Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

Travel Team

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.