Summer Reading List for rising 6th graders

**All School Required Read:** The common book that everyone reads will be our jumping off point as we begin in August. The use of a common read gives us a shared experience upon which we can build as we start the year.

**** I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition) How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World By Malala Yousafzai , Patricia McCormick

**Assessment:** There will be a writing response to prompts during the first weeks of school. You will be asked to reflect on your reading experience in the form of an open book in-class writing assignment.

**Choose three of the following:**

**The Postcard** by Tony Abbott
While in St. Petersburg, Florida, to help clean out his recently-deceased grandmother's house, thirteen-year-old Jason finds an old postcard which leads him on an adventure that blends figures from an old, unfinished detective story with his family's past.

**The Naked Mole-Rat Letters** by Mary Amato
Twelve-year-old Frankie sends fabricated e-mail letters in an attempt to end her widowed father's long-distance romance with a Washington, DC zookeeper.

**Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor and the Merrimac** by Avi
Thirteen-year-old Tom Carroll takes his place as head of the family after his father dies fighting for the Union; but his job at the local ironworks, where he helps build an iron ship for the Union army, and his loyalty come into question when he is approached by Confederate spies to sell secrets about the ship to the South.

**Midnight Magic** by Avi
In Italy in 1491, Magnus the Magician and his apprentice are summoned to the castle of King Claudio to determine if his daughter is indeed being haunted by a ghost.

**The Lost Years of Merlin** by T.A. Barron
A young boy who has no identity or memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

**Heartlight** by T.A. Barron
Kate and her grandfather use one of his inventions to travel faster than the speed of light on a mission to save the sun from a premature death.

**Nick of Time** by Ted Bell
Nick McIver is no ordinary boy, fighting pirates, beating Nazis at their own game, and traveling through time.
Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters by Lesley Blume
Cornelia, eleven-years-old and lonely, learns about language and life from an elderly new neighbor who has many stories to share about the fabulous adventures she and her sisters had while traveling around the world.

The Dark Hills Divide Land of Elyon series by Patrick Carman
When she finds the key to a secret passageway leading out of the walled city of Bridewell, twelve-year-old Alexa realizes her lifelong wish to explore the mysterious forests and mountains that lie beyond the wall.

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements
The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

The Runaway Princess by Kate Coombs
Fifteen-year-old Princess Meg uses magic and her wits to rescue a baby dragon and escape the unwanted attentions of princes hoping to gain her hand in marriage through a contest arranged by her father, the king.

12 Again by Sue Corbett
Bernadette, having wished on the eve of her fortieth birthday to be young again, wakes up the next morning as a twelve-year-old, and enrolls in her son Patrick's class in hopes of somehow enlisting his help in returning to her old self.

Lion Boy by Zizou Corder Corder
In the near future, a boy with the ability to speak the language of cats sets out from London to seek his kidnapped parents and finds himself on a Paris-bound circus ship learning to train lions.

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech
Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

The Ark, the Reed and the Fire Cloud by Jenny L. Cote
Max the dog and Liz the cat become the brave leaders of a group of animals called to journey to the Ark.
A Yellow Watermelon by Ted Dunagan
Growing up in poverty-stricken, racially segregated, rural Alabama in the late 1940s, a white boy named Ted and a black boy named Poudlum become secret friends, join forces to integrate the cotton field laborers, and try to stop evil forces from depriving Poudlum's family of their property and livelihood.

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman
This is a biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke
Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

Among the Hidden Shadow Children Series by Margaret Peterson Haddix
In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Found (any book in the series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale
While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse
In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others immigrate to America.

Jason's Gold by Will Hobbs
When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon Territory in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 10,000-mile journey to strike it rich.

Kokopelli's Flute by Will Hobbs
Thirteen-year-old Tepary discovers an old flute in a cliff dwelling in New Mexico, and through its power he learns about ancient Native American magic.
Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath
Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

The Sixth Grade Nickname Game by Gordon Korman
Eleven-year-old best friends Jeff and Wiley, who like to give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl Cassandra, while adjusting to the football coach who has become their new teacher.

The Thieves of Ostia Roman (series) by Caroline Lawrence
In Rome in the year 79 A.D., a group of children from very different backgrounds work together to discover who beheaded a pet dog -- and why.

The Good Liar by Gregory Maguire
Now an old man living in the United States, Marcel recalls his childhood in German-occupied France, especially the summer that he and his older brother Rene befriended a young German soldier.

Kavik: the Wolf Dog by Walt Morey
A wolf-dog instinctively travels 2000 miles from Washington to Alaska to return to the boy who once saved his life.

A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventure Series) by Joan Lowry Nixon
When their mother can no longer support them, six siblings are sent by the Children's Aid Society of New York City to live with farm families in Missouri in 1860.

How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor
Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell
A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.
Holes by Louis Sachar
As further evidence of his family’s bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to an awful correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Belle Prater’s Boy by Ruth White
When Woodrow’s mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents’ home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.

The Golden Hour (Golden Hour series) by Maiya Williams
Thirteen-year-old Rowan and his eleven-year-old sister Nina, still bereft by the death of their mother the year before, experience an unusual adventure through time when they come to stay with their two eccentric great-aunts in a small town on the Maine coast.

Child of the Owl by Laurence Yep
A twelve-year-old girl who knows little about her Chinese heritage is sent to live with her grandmother in San Francisco’s Chinatown.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
This is a story about some kids that need to stop the killing of some burrowing owls for the sake of progress. The pace of the book is very quick and young readers will find the characters to be irresistible.

The Landry News by Andrew Clements
Fifth-grader Cara Landry has a passion for journalism and publishes “The Landry News” in her new school. When Cara publishes a searing editorial about her teacher’s inability to teach, changes are inevitable.

Reading Bowl Books for 2018-2019 (Grades 6-8)

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cataya
For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn’t notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.
We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman
In his signature eloquent prose, backed up by thorough research, Russell Freedman tells the story of Austrian-born Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie. They belonged to Hitler Youth as young children, but began to doubt the Nazi regime. As older students, the Scholls and a few friends formed the White Rose, a campaign of active resistance to Hitler and the Nazis. Risking imprisonment or even execution, the White Rose members distributed leaflets urging Germans to defy the Nazi government. Their belief that freedom was worth dying for will inspire young readers to stand up for what they believe in.

Refugee by Alan Gratz
Three different kids.
One mission in common: ESCAPE.

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world…

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America…

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe…

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March by Lowery, Leacock, and Buckley
A 50th-anniversary tribute shares the story of the youngest person to complete the momentous Selma to Montgomery March, describing her frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations and how she felt about her involvement in historic Civil Rights events.
Click Here to Start by Denis Markell
What if playing video games was prepping you to solve an incredible real-world puzzle and locate a priceless treasure?
Twelve-year-old Ted Gerson has spent most of his summer playing video games. So when his great-uncle dies and bequeaths him the all so-called treasure in his overstuffed junk shop of an apartment, Ted explores it like it’s another level to beat. And to his shock, he finds that eccentric Great-Uncle Ted actually has set the place up like a real-life escape-the-room game!

Ghost by Jason Reynolds
Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from widely different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. However, they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin
When superstar athlete Jim Thorpe and football legend Pop Warner met in 1904 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called “the team that invented football,” they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools such as Harvard and the Army in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work.

Hoodoo by Ronald Smith
Twelve-year-old Hoodoo Hatcher was born into a family with a rich tradition of practicing folk magic: hoodoo, as most people call it. But even though his name is Hoodoo, he can't seem to cast a simple spell. Then a mysterious man called the Stranger comes to town, and Hoodoo starts dreaming of the dead rising from their graves. Even worse, he soon learns the Stranger is looking for a boy. Not just any boy. A boy named Hoodoo. The entire town is at risk from the Stranger’s black magic, and only Hoodoo can defeat him. He’ll just need to learn how to conjure first.

The Ethan I was Before by Ali Standish
Ethan had been many things. He was always ready for adventure and always willing to accept a dare, especially from his best friend, Kacey. But that was before. Before the accident that took Kacey from him. Before his family moved from Boston to the small town of Palm Knot, Georgia.

Palm Knot may be tiny, but it’s the home of possibility and second chances. It’s also home to Coralee, a girl with a big personality and even bigger stories. Coralee may be just the friend Ethan needs, except Ethan isn’t the only one with secrets. Coralee’s are catching up with her, and what she’s hiding might be putting both their lives at risk.
Karma Khullar's Mustache by Kristin Weintge
Debut author Kristi Wientge tackles the uncomfortable—but all too relatable—subject of female body hair and self-esteem with this sweet and charming novel in the tradition of Judy Blume.