

Summer Reading

June 2019

Dear Families,

Reading for enjoyment during the summer is one of life's little pleasures for most of us. Our wish for your children is that they too, look forward to reading those books that they just didn't have time for this past school year. We hope to instill in our students a lifelong reading habit of stacking their nightstands and suitcases (or camp packs) and e-readers with books they *want* to read.

When preparing our summer reading lists, our primary goal was to include titles that middle school readers would want to read over the summer. On each of the lists, you will find suggested titles, genres, and authors.

All students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades are expected to read at least three books during the summer. However, there is no expectation that they write a response to what they have read. This will be an assignment they will have when they return to school in September. We do recommend that students use post-it notes or jot down notes in a response notebook as a way to record their thinking about what they have read.

The reading levels of the books on these lists may vary quite a bit because our readers also vary. If you feel that a book is not at an appropriate level for your child, please help them choose something else. You may want to choose to read the same books your child reads so that you will be able to have conversations about them throughout the summer. We are hoping that some students will choose to pair-up with friends and read the same book so that they can discuss them together.

As part of *Summer reading at New York Libraries* (<http://www.summerreadingnys.org/>), the State Education Department and myON, by Renaissance, are partnering to bring thousands of authentic, enhanced digital books to children all over the state. Unlimited, 24/7 access to the myON digital library will be available from May 1 through September 30. Children and families can read online using any web-based device and offline using free mobile apps.

- Go to: <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/myon/>
- Login: read
- Password: books

Here is to a wonderful summer awaiting us all...and to all those books waiting on our bedside tables or e-readers!

Best wishes,

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6th Grade Language and Literature

Rachael Lief, Denise Rivera, Jill Rosenblum
7th Grade Language and Literature

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Suggested Summer Reading for Sixth Grade

Summer 2019

Students are expected to read any three books this summer, although we hope you will choose to read all summer. Books may be chosen from the suggestions below, but are not limited to this list. *There is no expectation that you write a response to what you have read over the summer. This will be an assignment you will have when you return to school in September.* We do recommend that you use post-it notes or jot down notes in a response notebook as a way to record your thinking about what you have read.

SHORT STORY COLLECTION

Flying Lessons & Other Stories Edited by Ellen Oh

In a partnership with We Need Diverse Books, industry giants Kwame Alexander, Soman Chainani, Mat de la Pena, Tim Federle, Grace Lin, Meg Medina, Walter Dean Myers, Tim Tingle, Kelly J. Baptist, and Jacqueline Woodson have written a story collection that is humorous as it is heartfelt.

ADVENTURE

The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an extraordinary sixth-grader but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen. Soon she is swept into another dimension. Series starter.

The Copernicus Legacy #1: The Forbidden Stone by Tony Abbott

Wade, Lily, Darrell, and Becca fly from Texas to Germany for the funeral of an old family friend. But instead of just paying their respects, they wind up on a dangerous, mind-blowing quest to unlock an ancient, guarded secret that could destroy the fate of the world.

Other Books in the Series: The Copernicus Archives: Wade and the Scorpion's Claw, The Copernicus Legacy #2: The Serpent's Curse

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

Peter is determined to find his pet fox after his father forces him to leave him in the woods as war looms in the background. Dual narrative between Peter and his fox, Pax.

Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard Book One: The Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan

Magnus turns 16 and discovers he is a demi-god; his father is a Norse god. Now he must find his father's sword and do what he can to stop Ragnarok with the help of his new companions. Fun adventure in the same tone as Percy Jackson.

Other Books in the Series: The Hammer of Thor, The Ship of the Dead

When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin

The Tiger Emperor is conscripting all the men of the mountain villages to build the Vast Wall surrounding the kingdom. But when they reach Pinmei's village, they also take her grandmother, the Storyteller. In order to save her, Pinmei and her friend Yishan embark on a voyage to find the Luminous Stone That Lights the Night - the only thing the Emperor will trade for a prisoner's freedom. Companion novel to *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* and *Starry River of the Sky*

FANTASY

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

"Trees do talk to some folks, the ones we know we can trust." An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

The Magisterium Book Five: The Golden Tower by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

As Callum begins his final year at the Magisterium, he is estranged from most of his friends and a furtive darkness haunts him.

Other Books in the Series: The Iron Trial, The Copper Gauntlet, The Bronze, The Silver Mask

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhouse

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic.

Miles Morales: Spider-Man (A Marvel Novel) by Jason Reynolds

Brooklyn Visions Academy student Miles Morales may not always want to be a super hero, but he must come to terms with his identity - and deal with a villainous teacher - as the new Spider Man.

Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier

Cat's family moves to foggy Northern California to help her little sister who has cystic fibrosis. The town has a huge Day of the Dead festival which at first frightens her, but she finds Maya needs this reunion of family members and their dead relatives. Graphic novel.

HISTORICAL FICTION

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz and Renee Watson

In Detroit, 1945, eleven-year-old Betty's house doesn't quite feel like home. She believes her mother loves her, but she can't shake the feeling that her mother doesn't want her. Church helps those worries fade, if only for a little while. The singing, the preaching, the speeches from guest activists along with her volunteering for the Housewives League, help shape the American civil rights icon we know as Dr. Betty Shabazz.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Her parents help hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams of being a writer?

Rebound by Kwame Alexander

Prequel to *The Crossover*. In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ada and her little brother, neglected and abused by their mother, are evacuated to the country with other London children during WWII. Ada, after being ridiculed and kept a virtual prisoner because of her club foot, finds a life she never knew existed. However, learning to trust is nearly impossible.

Other Books in the Series: *The War I Finally Won*

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sister arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Other Books in the Series: *P.S. Be Eleven*

Louisiana's Way Home by Kate DiCamillo

Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her that the day of reckoning has arrived and they have to leave home immediately. Louisiana isn't too overly worried. After all, Granny has many middle-of-the-night ideas. But this time things are different. This time, Granny intends for them never to return.

Companion Read to: *Raymie Nightingale*

HORROR

The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle by Janet Fox

During WWII, to escape the London Blitz, Katherine and her siblings are sent to a crumbling Scottish estate that's been turned into a boarding house where mysterious things are happening.

Guys Read: Terrifying Tales by Jon Scieszka

Ten stories by a variety of well known scary story writers.

MYSTERY

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

The letter waits in a book, in a box, in an attic, in an old house in Lambert, South Carolina. It's waiting for Candace Miller. When Candace finds the letter that sent her grandmother on a treasure hunt that led to her grandmother's firing as city manager, Candace finds herself caught up in a mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm Brandon, she sets out to find the treasure, exonerate her grandmother, and expose and injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.

Curiosity House: The Shrunken Head by Lauren Oliver and H.C. Chester

This book is about, among other things: the strongest boy in the world, a talking cockatoo, a faulty mind reader, a beautiful bearded lady and a nervous magician, an old museum, and a shrunken head.

Other Books in the Series: *The Screaming Statue, The Fearsome Firebird*

Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Twelve year old Emily plays a game where books are hidden in cities all of the country and clues to find them are revealed online through puzzles. Emily thinks she has found a book starting a brand new game, but there are others who want to take it from her.

Theodore Boone: The Accomplice by John Grisham

Theo has been worried about his good friend Woody Lambert. Woody is struggling at school and making bad choices. But when Woody is arrested-an unwitting accomplice to armed robbery-Theo knows he is innocent. Racing against the clock while Woody sits in jail, Theo will do everything in his power to help his friend and save Woody from an unforgiving system where justice is not always equal for all.

Other Books in the Series: Kid Lawyer, The Abduction, The Accused, The Activist, The Fugitive, The Scandal

Tombquest Book 5: The Final Kingdom by Michael Northrop

Get ready for the battle that will shake the world -- and the afterworld. In the epic conclusion to Alex and Ren's quest, they must face off against the Death Walkers, The Order, and an army raised from the dead. Can Alex put an end to the chaos and send these evil spirits back where they belong -- without putting an end to his own life?

Other Books in the Series: Book of the Dead, Amulet Keepers, Valley of Kings, The Stone Warriors

Sting: A Loot Novel by Jude Watson

A cursed sapphire, a botched heist... Twins, March and Jules are in the sights of the FBI and Interpol and a gang of international jewel thieves.

Other Books in the Series: Loot: How to Steal a Fortune

REALISTIC FICTION

Blended by Sharon M Draper

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week. Being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black and her mom is white. What does it mean to be half white and half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you are only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

Merci Suarez knows sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. Also, things are not going well at home: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately - forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing.

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

Do you believe in fate? Introducing, in alternating chapters, four kids on the first day of summer vacation: Virgil Salinas, shy and unathletic; Valencia Somerset, who is deaf and reads lips; Kaori Tanaka, a "proud" Gemini who fancies herself a psychic; and Chet "the Bull" Bullins, a raging bully. When Virgil finds himself at the bottom of a well due to prank played by Chet, Valencia and Kaori must band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold

Bixby Alexander Tam is called Bat, partly because of his initials, but also because of his sensitive hearing and the way he flaps his hands when he is nervous or excited, like a bat flaps. One day his mom comes home with a baby skunk. Bat helps feed the skunk and is smitten, making himself a promise to figure out a way to keep it.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia

Clayton feels most alive when he is with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. When his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing the blues, he runs away to the subways to join a band.

Supergifted by Gordon Korman

Donovan Curtis has never been what anyone would call "gifted." But his genius friend Noah Youkillis is actually supergifted, with one of the highest IQs around. After years at the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, Noah finds himself at a regular school where he immediately ends up on the wrong side of a cheerleading captain and a jock.

All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted. Graphic novel.

The Best Man by Richard Peck

Archer Magill has three grown-up role models: his grandpa, his dad and his Uncle Paul. These are the three he wants to be. Then he finds a fourth – Mr. McLeod, a teacher. In fact, the first male teacher in the history of his school.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Told in verse. Twins and star basketball players, Josh and Jordan, must deal with basketball season, girls and the failing health of their father, a former ball player. Written in verse.

SCIENCE FICTION

Ahsoka by E.K. Johnston

Following her experiences with the Jedi and the devastation of Order 66, Ahsoka is unsure she can be part of a larger whole ever again. But her desire to fight the evils of the Empire and protect those who need it will lead her right to Bail Organa and the Rebel Alliance.

The Wild Robot Escapes by Peter Brown

The sequel to *The Wild Robot*, Robot Roz has to navigate around the challenges of the civilized world as she tries to find her way to Brightbill and the wild island.

Masterminds: Payback by Gordon Korman

The thrilling finale of the Masterminds trilogy. After a serious betrayal from one of their former friends, the clones of Project Osiris are on the run again. Now separated into pairs, Eli and Tori and Amber and Malik are fighting to survive in the real world.

Other Books in the Series: Masterminds, Criminal Destiny

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford

Arturo Schomburg's life's passion was to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora and bring to light the achievements of people of African descent through the ages. Free verse biography.

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Lisa Cline-Ransome

Six days a week they woke before the sun came up to practice their serves and returns. They were unstoppable. At the age of fourteen, Venus played her first professional match. Three years later, it was Serena's turn. It wasn't easy.

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science by Joyce Sidman

The life and scientific discoveries of Maria Merian, who discovered truth about metamorphosis and documented the science behind the mystery. This visual biography features many original paintings by Maria.

Itch!: Everything You Didn't Want to Know About What Makes You Scratch by Anita Sanchez

You can feel it coming on - that terrible, tortuous ITCH. As irritating as an itch is, it is also your body's way of sending you a message you can't miss, like you've brushed up against poison ivy or lice have taken up residence in your hair. Take a closer look at what makes people itch.

Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive by Ammi-Joan Paquette

Presents some of the crazy-but-true stories about the living world as well as a handful of stories that are too crazy to be true—and asks readers to separate facts from the fakes.

Super Woman: Six Scientists Who Changed the World by Laurie Lawlor

A brief biography of six women who have changed the world.