

Summer Reading Choices for Grade 6

A Day No Pigs Would Die Semi-Autobiographical
Robert Newton Peck

This novel about a Vermont farm boyhood is a celebrated classic that has captivated readers year after year with its quiet humor and poignant drama. *A Day No Pigs Would Die* is a timeless story of a Shaker boy, his beloved pet pig, and the joys and hardships that mark his passage into manhood. The story is told in a unique and compelling voice, one with all the unadorned power of a Shaker hymn. Once heard, it is not forgotten.

Esperanza Rising Young-Adult Historical Fiction
Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza believed her life would be wonderful forever. She would always live on her family's ranch in Mexico. She would always have fancy dresses and a beautiful home filled with servants. Papa and Abuelita would always be with her.

But a sudden tragedy shatters her world and forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California, where they settle in a camp of Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for hard labor, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, and lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick, and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances – because Mama's life and her own depend on it.

Fire Girl Memoir-Like Fiction
Tony Abbott

From this moment on, life is never quite the same for Tom and his seventh-grade classmates. Despite Jessica's shocking appearance and the fear she evokes in him and most of the class, Tom slowly develops a tentative friendship with Jessica that changes his life. *Firegirl* is a powerful book that shows readers that even the smallest of gestures can have a powerful impact on someone's life.

Freak the Mighty Young-Adult Fiction
Rodman Philbrick

“I never had a brain until Freak came along...” That’s what Max thought. All his life he had been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn’t help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn’t help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along.

Freak was weird, too. He had a little body – and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together they were Freak the Mighty.

Old Yeller Historical Fiction
Fred Gipson

At first, Travis couldn’t stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.

Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis’s family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

The Call of the Wild Adventure Fiction
Jack London

“All the stirring of old instincts...the blood lust, the joy to kill-all this was Buck’s, only it was infinitely more intimate. He was at the head of the pack, running the wild thing down, the living meat, to kill with his own teeth and wash his muzzle to the eyes in warm blood.”

In *The Call of the Wild*, London deals with the theme which long fascinated him – the idea of a civilized animal returning to its primal neutral state. It is a story of Buck. Stolen from his California home, and introduced to the law of club and fang in the frozen wasteland of the Yukon where survival was all.

Tuck Everlasting Fantasy
Natalie Babbitt

After meeting the immortal Tuck family, Winnie Foster learns of a spring’s power to give people the opportunity never to die. Winnie is faced with the difficult decision to live forever, or let her life continue as planned.

The Hobbit Fantasy
J. R. R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins is a comfort-loving hobbit from the Shire. His peaceful life is upended when the wizard Gandalf and a group of thirteen dwarfs, led by Thorin Oakenshield, enlist him to join an adventure to reclaim their stolen homeland and treasure from the dragon Smaug. Along the way, Bilbo faces trolls, goblins, giant spiders, and wood elves. He gradually gains courage and resourcefulness along the way. A turning point comes when he acquires a magic ring that grants invisibility.

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6th Grade Summer Reading

Book Talk Assignment

Objective: Compose a Book Talk (an advertisement) for your assigned Summer Reading book for the purpose of persuading your classmates to read the book you read.

Book Talk Essentials:

- must be 1-2 minutes (give or take 30 seconds)
- must include all 3 methods of appeal
- must show your knowledge of your book
- must be free of grammar & spelling errors
- must create interest for your book (use of color, word choice, illustrations, artifacts, etc.)
- must be ready to present to the class on the 2nd day of school

Methods of Appeal:

- **Logical**=facts
- **Emotional**=emotions
- **Ethical**=experts, reputable institutions or famous people

Procedure You may choose any of the following ways to create your Book Talk:

- **Written**- compose a formal piece of writing that includes a brief summary of your book and leaves your reader with questions. NEVER TELL THE ENDING! Include some props (artifacts) from your book to peak your audience's interest. The use of quotes or selections from your book would also be advised. This type of Book Talk should be $\frac{3}{4}$ - one page, typed, double spaced.

- Dramatic-this type of Book Talk can be formally written in prose or done with a script to be acted out. It requires you to take on a persona. Perhaps you speak or write as a character from your book or as the author. Either way, NEVER TELL THE ENDING! Costumes, props, ect. work well with this type of Book Talk.
- Newspaper-this type of Book Talk requires you to compose a front page, newspaper article with an enticing headline. You should keep the 5Ws in mind when creating this Book Talk (who, what, where, when, why). This can be tricky because it is important NOT TO TELL THE ENDING! This Book Talk can be fun because additional headlines & much smaller articles & advertisements should also be front page news.
- Movie Poster-this type of Book Talk relies heavily on the visual. It must be presented on poster board, have interesting color, type/font, word choice & illustrations.
- Video Advertisement: this Book Talk is the most time consuming. A script must be submitted & followed. You don't need to be in the advertisement & may use other classmates, friends, family members, etc. The Book Talk must be in a format compatible with our school computer.
- News Reel: this Book Talk also requires a script. The video will feature an anchor newsperson showing his/her support for the book. This does not need to be you. Remember news shows are known for their urgency & interesting commentary.
- Podcast: this Book Talk creates a mock Podcast format with a written script. It could feature main characters who discuss the plot or other characters from your book, or could involve the author & a famous (or not) personality. Just remember NEVER REVEAL THE ENDING!

HELPFUL HINTS:

- **Catchy Beginning:** Begin your Book Talk Presentation in a creative way.
For example, you could begin with a thought provoking question, with a quote from the book, or surprise your audience by speaking through a persona such as the author or a character in the book. Perhaps you could use an artifact or artifacts to kick-off your Talk. A copy of your book works well as an artifact.
- **Author and Title:** Practice the pronunciation of unfamiliar names & words. Is this book part of a series? Is the author known for other books? How does the title relate to the book? What is the genre of the book?

Have FUN with this assignment! And have a safe & happy summer!

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6th Grade Summer Writing Journal Assignment

Objective: Beginning the first day of summer vacation (or sooner if you choose), you are required to keep a summer writing journal. Your journal is due the first day of school, Fall of 2020 & will count as your first writing grade of the 1st Trimester.

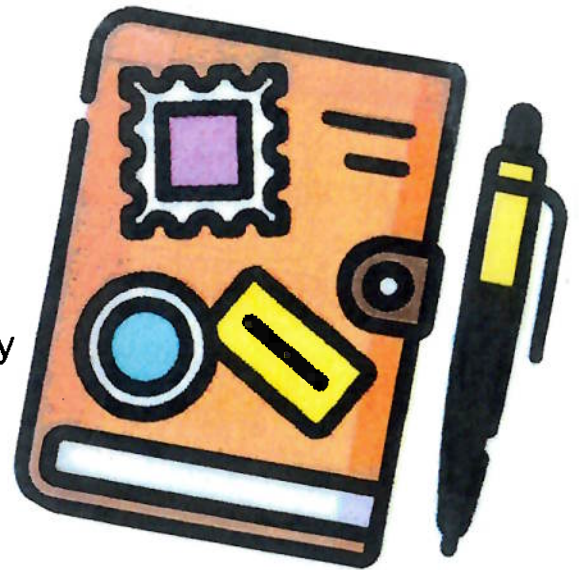
Requirements: Your journal must include:

- a minimum of 2 entries for each week of your summer vacation
- a legible date for each entry.
- must include thoughtful/detailed sentences
- writing that is neat & grammatically correct.

Purpose: to prepare you for disciplined writing & to provide an opportunity to journal your thoughts & ideas.

Writing Ideas:

- Meditations or Prayers
- Goals
- Blessings
- Description of Your Day or a Special Activity
- Poem or Song Lyric



Important Note: These journals are meant to share with me; please make your entries appropriate. Do not write anything so personal, you would not want me to read it.

HAPPY WRITING! HAVE A BLESSED SUMMER!

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General supplies needed for all students in grades 6-8.

- A pencil case/pouch used for all subjects that contains:
 - 6 pens / black or blue – no gels
 - 5 red pens
 - Scissors
 - Colored pencils
 - Pencils
 - Hi-Polymer white eraser (such as Pentel brand) or refillable click eraser
 - Assorted color highlighters
 - 2 glue sticks
 - 3 pkgs of Post-it Notes
- 5 pkgs 100-count lined notecards
- 1 pkg of multi-colored lined notecards with a ring attachment
- Loose-leaf paper / **wide ruled**
- Loose-leaf graph paper

***** Please note that supplies will need to be replaced when they run low. *****

- Binder or Binders – you know your child best – if you think that 2 binders work for your child, then use that, but if you think that 1 binder is better, then please do that. Our goal is to help your child be organized.
- 6 Pocket dividers – 1 pocket divider for each subject – Social Studies, Science, English, Literature, Math, and Religion – If color coding works for your child, then by all means do so.
- 32 GB USB Drive
- 1 Texas Instrument 34 Multi-View Scientific Calculator
- 3 composition notebooks
- 1 graph paper composition notebook
- 1 Spanish/English Dictionary
- 3 boxes of tissues (No Puffs or lotion tissues please)
- 1 large container of sanitizing wipes and 1 container of hand sanitizer
- 2 large rolls of paper towels

Thank you! 😊

