



## **Middle School Humanities Summer Reading 2017**

**English 6  
Ms. Ryan**

### **ENTERING SIXTH GRADE**

Summer reading is an opportunity for you to relax and enjoy yourself. When you get to pick your books, you are more likely to spend more time reading, not because you have to, but because you want to read. You can read any books you want this summer, but if you want some suggestions, look at the *Suggestions for Summer Reading list*.

**“There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a good book.”**

**--Marcel Proust**

- You are required to read a **minimum of 3 books** of your choice, however, I am encouraging you to read more!
- You are required to fill out a reading log, which will be collected on the first day of school (see below).
- You will conduct a book talk on one of the books when you return to school. I will select which book you will “talk” about and you will prepare for the talk during class.
- Book talks will be conducted during the first few weeks of school.
- Below are guidelines for you to follow as you prepare for your book talk.

### **Book Talk Guidelines:**

- Plan to speak for about 3-5 minutes
- Briefly summarize the plot of the book and identify the genre, but do not give away the ending. Think about what you would and would not have wanted to know before reading the book.
- Prepare what you are going to say. You don’t need to memorize, but you need to know the points you are going to make. Practice until you are comfortable with your material.
- Optional topics to focus on:
  - The theme of the book
  - The major conflict
  - A brief description of the main characters and their relationships
  - Setting and how it relates to the plot and characters
  - Mention if the book reminds you of another book you have read or a movie that you have seen
  - Identify what you think the author would have wanted readers to take from the experience of reading the book
  - Tell the audience if you recommend the book and why or why not. It’s okay if you did not enjoy the book, someone else may.

- If you come across a significant or powerful passage, you may read it aloud. This should be short and leave the listener wanting more.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!  
Ms. Ryan

***Suggestions for Summer Reading:***  
**Books marked with an (\*) can be checked out from the Wooster library for the summer.**

### **Realistic Fiction**

**Erskine, Kathryn**

**\*Mockingbird**

In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white—the world is full of colors—messy and beautiful.

**Clements, Andrew**

**A Week in the Woods**

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.

**Green, Tim**

**Football Genius (Any book in the series)**

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

**Lupica, Mike**

**\*Summer Ball / The Big Field**

Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

### **Historical Fiction**

**Senzai, N.H**

**\*Saving Kabul Corner**

A rough and tumble tomboy, twelve-year-old Ariana couldn't be more different from her cousin Laila, who just arrived from Afghanistan with her family. Laila is a proper, ladylike Afghan girl, one who can cook, sew, sing, and who is well versed in Pukhtun culture and manners. Arianna hates her. Laila not only invades Ariana's bedroom in their cramped Fremont townhouse, but she also becomes close with Mariam Nurzai, Ariana's best friend.

**Stead, Rebecca****\*When You Reach Me**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

**Williams-Garcia, Rita****\*One Crazy Summer**

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 sisters 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.

**Adventure/Science Fiction/Mystery****Haddix, Margaret Peterson****\*Among the Hidden (The Shadow Children Series: Any book in the series)**

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.

**Harris, Lewis****A Taste for Red**

A sixth-grade Goth girl who thinks she's a vampire encounters her greatest nemesis when she enrolls at Sunny Hill Middle School in this hilarious and entirely original take on the vampire genre for middle graders.

**Lin, Grace****\*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

**Nielsen, Jennifer A.****\*The False Prince**

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

**Stewart, Trent Lee****\*The Mysterious Benedict Society**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

## **Nonfiction**

### **Adamson, Heather**

#### **Ancient Egypt- Interactive**

Readers learn about three periods in Ancient Egypt: the age of the pyramid builders, the mummy makers, and Queen Cleopatra's reign. By choosing the path that interests them, readers learn about the lives of people who actually lived in Ancient Egypt.

### **Caper, William**

#### **Ancient Greece-Interactive**

Ancient Greece is an age of amazing achievements in art, literature, and science. Its people enjoy a rich culture and experience times of both peaceful democracy and violent war. Will you: • Explore a career in government, art, or philosophy as a citizen of Athens? • Experience the hardworking, disciplined life of a resident of Sparta?

### **Cunningham, Darryl**

#### **How to fake a moon landing: exposing the myths of science denial**

Author-illustrator Darryl Cunningham looks at hot-button science topics and presents a fact-based, visual assessment of current thinking and research on eight different issues everybody's arguing about.

### **Sid Fleischman**

#### **\*Escape!**

The Story of the Great Houdini Who was this man who could walk through brick walls and, with a snap of his fingers, make elephants vanish? In these pages you will meet the astonishing Houdini—magician, ghost chaser, daredevil, pioneer aviator, and king of escape artists. No jail cell or straitjacket could hold him! He shucked off handcuffs as easily as gloves.

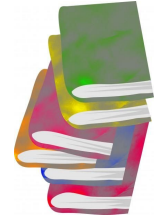
### **Ford, Gabriella**

#### **Gabe & Izzy: Standing Up for America's Bullied**

In middle school, Gabrielle “Gabe” Ford developed a degenerative muscle disease, and was harassed by bullies as a result. She did her best to keep her head high, but it wasn’t easy. Then Gabe got a dog, Izzy, who developed an uncannily similar disorder. They were invited to appear on Animal Planet to talk about their bond, which in turn led, to her ongoing mission to put an end to bullying, one school at a time.



# Summer Reading Log



<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Grade:</b>
<b>Title of the Book</b>	<b>Author</b>