

# SHMS Rising Sixth Grade

## Summer Reading Book Choices

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**Reading Directions:** Rising sixth graders should maintain their reading lives over the summer months. We offer a list of books organized alphabetically by title with genre and level information. We recommend students explore and read with consideration of both interest and reading level. With parent guidance, students may choose any book from the list to use for their summer reading work.

*This project will be one of your first graded assignments as a middle school student. Follow directions carefully for full credit.*

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### **Suggestions for choosing a summer reading book that is perfect for you!**

- ★ **Consider Genre** - Think about books you have enjoyed in the past. Is there a certain genre you enjoy reading the most? Would you like to read more books of that style? If so, start by looking at books offered in that genre.
- ★ **Consider Author** - Is there a certain author whose writing you have enjoyed? Are any of their other books on the list?
- ★ **Stay Open-Minded** - Is there a book that you might not usually select, but that someone has recommended or that has caught your attention? Try it! You may always switch if the book does not work for you.
- ★ **Be Mindful of Reading Level** - As you move to middle school, we encourage readers to choose books by **interest**, because if you are interested in a text, you will be more likely to do the work to understand the story and its meaning. However, be mindful if a text is too difficult for you to understand. Be willing to put it down and say, "I'll try this one again in a few months!" Your teachers will support you with this work throughout sixth grade.



**Due Date:** Teachers will collect all completed work during the first week of class.



*To Our Rising Sixth Grade Students,*

Happy reading and writing! We absolutely cannot wait to meet you in sixth grade!

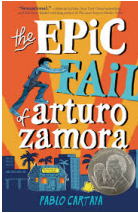
*With enthusiasm,*

Your Sixth Grade Language Arts Teachers




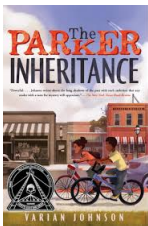
## Books with titles beginning with A-C

<p><b><i>Amina's Voice</i></b> Hena Kahn</p> 	<p>Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except, now that she's in middle school, everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? But even as Amina grapples with these questions, an act of hatred against her local mosque raises the stakes of being a proud Muslim girl in America.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level S</p>
<p><b><i>Becoming Naomi Leon</i></b> Pam Munoz Ryan</p> 	<p>Naomi Leon has much to contend with in her young life: her name, her clothes, and her status at school as "nobody special." But with Gram and her little brother, life at Avocado Acres Trailer Ranch in California is happy and peaceful...until their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to proclaim who she really is.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level V</p>
<p><b><i>Better Nate Than Ever</i></b> Tim Federle</p> 	<p>Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for *seeing* a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for E.T.: The Musical, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level Z</p>
<p><b><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i></b> Jacqueline Woodson</p> 	<p>Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world.</p>	<p><b>Nonfiction (Memoir)</b> Level V</p>
<p><b><i>Chomp</i></b> Carl Hiaasen</p> 	<p>When the difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival" disappears while filming an episode in the Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo and classmate, Tuna Gordon, set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's vengeful father.</p>	<p><b>ADVENTURE</b> Level W</p>
<p><b><i>The Crossover</i></b> Kwame Alexander</p> 	<p>Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize that breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> <b>Series Book!</b> Written in Verse! Level Y</p>

## Books with titles beginning with D-M

<p><b><i>Dancing Home</i></b> Alma Flor Ada &amp; Gabriel Zubizarreta</p> 	<p>Mexico may be her parents' home, but it's certainly not Margie's. She has convinced the other kids at school she is one-hundred percent American. But when her Mexican cousin Lupe visits, the image she's created for herself crumbles. Things aren't easy for Lupe, either. Mexico hadn't felt like home since her father left to find work, and learning a new language in a new school is tough. In time, the girls' individual steps find the rhythm of one shared dance, and they learn what "home" really means.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level S</p>
<p><b><i>The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora</i></b> Pablo Cartaya</p> 	<p>Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FAIL? 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, 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, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level W</p>
<p><b><i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i></b> Kelly Barnhill</p> 	<p>Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. But the witch in the Forest, 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. Xan decides she must raise this girl as her own. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch, creating trouble that touches the whole forest.</p>	<p><i>Fantasy</i> Level X</p>
<p><b><i>Hatchet</i></b> Gary Paulsen</p> 	<p>Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is traveling by single-engine plane to visit his father for the first time since his parents' divorce. When the plane crashes, killing the pilot, the sole survivor is Brian. He is alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered windbreaker and a hatchet. Fearful, Brian must fight for survival until he can find a way home.</p>	<p><b>ADVENTURE</b> Series Book! Level R</p>

## Books with titles beginning with N-P

<p><b><i>Niagara Falls, Or Does It?</i></b> Henry Winkler &amp; Lin Oliver</p> 	<p>For Hank, fourth grade does not start out on the right foot. First of all, he gets called to the principal's office on the very first day of school. Then the first assignment his teacher gives him is to write five paragraphs on "What You Did This Summer." Hank is terrified; writing one good sentence is hard for him, so how in the world is he going to write five whole paragraphs? Hank comes up with a plan: instead of writing what he did on vacation, he'll show what he did. But when Hank's "living essay" becomes a disaster, he finds himself in detention. Strangely enough, however, detention ends up becoming a turning point in his life.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> <b>Series Book!</b> Level Q/R</p>
<p><b><i>A Night Divided</i></b> Jennifer Nielsen</p> 	<p>With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. One day on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Gerta concludes that her father wants her and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?</p>	<p><b>Historical Fiction/Drama</b> Level Y</p>
<p><b><i>The One and Only Ivan</i></b> Katherine Applegate</p> 	<p>Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it is up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.</p>	<p><b>Fantasy</b> Level S</p>
<p><b><i>One for the Murphys</i></b> Linda Mullaly Hunt</p> 	<p>Twelve year old Carley Connors can take a lot. Growing up in Las Vegas with her fun-loving mother, she has learned to be tough. But she never expected a betrayal that would land her in foster care. When she is placed with the Murphys, she is blindsided. Do happy families really exist?</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level Y</p>
<p><b><i>The Parker Inheritance</i></b> Varian Johnson</p> 	<p>When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle. So with the help of Brandon, the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues. The challenge will lead them deep into Lambert's history, full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love; and deeper into their own families, with their own unspoken secrets. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise?</p>	<p><b>ADVENTURE</b> No Level Listed</p>

## Books with titles beginning with Q-Z

<p><b>Save Me a Seat</b> Gita Varadarajan &amp; Sarah Weeks</p> 	<p>Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common, but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> Level S</p>
<p><b>The Season of Styx Malone</b> Kekla Magoon</p> 	<p>Meet Caleb and Bobby Gene, two brothers embarking on a madcap, heartwarming, one-thing-leads-to-another adventure in which friendships are forged, loyalties are tested . . . and miracles just might happen. Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene are excited to have adventures in the woods behind their house. But Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town. Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade—exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But as the trades get bigger, the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads. Styx has secrets—secrets so big they could ruin everything.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i> No Level Listed</p>
<p><b>Storm Runners</b> Roland Smith</p> 	<p>Twelve-year-old Chase Masters travels the country with his father, a “storm runner,” but he is tested in ways he never could have imagined when he and a new friend are caught in a hurricane near St. Petersburg, Florida.</p>	<p><b>ADVENTURE</b> Level U</p>
<p><b>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</b> Grace Lin</p> 	<p>Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon that 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.</p>	<p><i>Fantasy &amp; Adventure</i> Level T</p>
<p><b>Where the Red Fern Grows</b> Wilson Rawls</p> 	<p>Billy has long dreamt of owning two dogs, so when he's finally able to save enough money for two pups to call his own--Old Dan and Little Ann--he's ecstatic. Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, but Billy eventually learns that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.</p>	<p><b>ADVENTURE</b> Level X</p>

# Strath Haven Middle School Rising 6th Grade

## Summer Reading Assignment

**Assignment Directions:** All students must complete **both parts 1 and 2**. Part 3 is optional enrichment.

	<b>General Directions</b> <i>* Please see each assignment sheet for specific instructions. *</i>
<b>Part 1: Graphic Organizer</b>	The graphic organizer gives you space to provide direct quotes about specific literary elements in the text and space to analyze those quotes. You may either write your responses by hand, or you may type your work.
<b>Part 2: Paragraph</b>	Select a quote from your graphic organizer in part one and construct a one paragraph response. The quote may focus on any literary element, including character, setting, conflict, style/figurative language, or theme. You may either write your response by hand, or you may type your work.
<b>Optional Enrichment Work: One Pager</b>	A one pager is a one-page document that allows you to express your understanding of the text through writing, drawing, and other forms of written expression. You will think about various elements of the text and complete the assignment following the directions for each box on the page. You may either create your one pager by hand, or you may create your work digitally.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 1: Graphic Organizer

**Directions:** As you read, identify 1 quote from the text that shows each listed literary element. You should collect **4 different quotes** in total. Write the direct quotes and then analyze each quote by responding to the guided prompts on the left. You may either write your responses by hand, or you may type your work.

<b>Literary Element &amp; Guided Prompts</b>	<b>Direct Text Evidence</b>	<b>Analysis</b>
<p><b>Character:</b> What character (personality) trait(s) are revealed in the direct quote? Explain your answer.</p>		
<p><b>Setting:</b> What details in the quote help you visualize the setting? How does the setting affect the events of the story? Explain your answer.</p>		
<p><b>Conflict:</b> What problem is revealed in the quote? How does it affect the main character? How does the character respond? Explain your answer.</p>		
<p><b>Theme:</b> What life lesson does the author reveal in this quote? What does the author want you (the reader) to learn at the end of the story? Explain your answer.</p>		





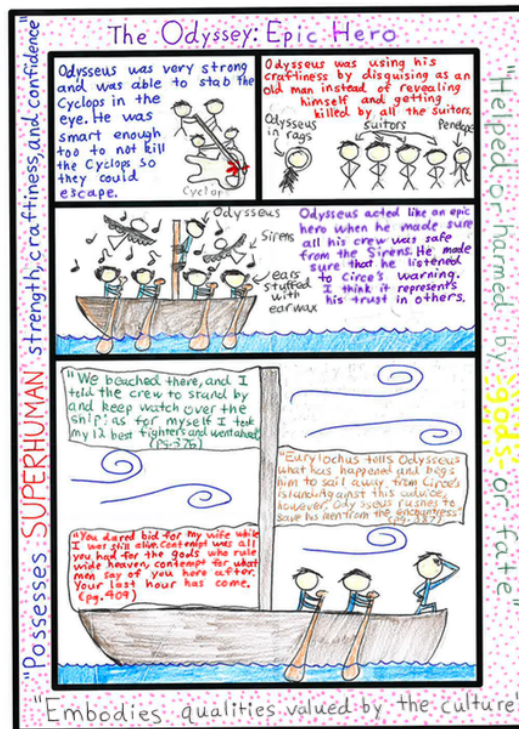
## OPTIONAL WORK : One Pager

**Directions:** Following the guidelines below, complete the one-page diagram with the assigned content for each box. Choose visual and written ways to express meaning from the text, along with your understanding of the author's work. You may either create your one pager by hand, or you may create your work digitally.

Your one pager should include:

- **Border: Character**  
Include words, quotes, and/or images that represent the characters. You could focus on their traits, emotions, relationships, inner thoughts, or other elements of character.
- **Box 1: Setting**  
Include words, quotes, and/or images that represent the setting of the story.
- **Box 2: Conflict**  
Include words, quotes, and/or images that represent the main conflict in the text.
- **Box 3: Theme**  
Include words, quotes, and/or images that represent the theme of the text.
- **Box 4: Style/Figurative Language**  
Include words, quotes, and/or images that represent the style of the writing. This could include your interpretation of the author's style or examples of figurative language in the text.

### Example:



1

2

3

4

## READING LOG (optional)

*We encourage you to read all summer, and we provide recommendations of such selections. If you would like, you may use this log and share it with your teacher at the beginning of the school year. You may attach more paper if needed.*

TITLE	AUTHOR