



**E.T. RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

2018

**FOR INCOMING
6TH GRADERS**

LOOK Inside, you'll find
MYSTERY
SUSPENSE
DRAMA
HISTORY
FANTASY
AND MORE...

Springfield School District
Springfield, PA



Incoming Sixth Graders

SUMMER READING 2018



REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS:

You need to read **three** books during summer 2018. Each book needs to be from a different genre*.

*genre: a category based on form, style, or subject matter

GREAT NEWS!! You may select your three books from the suggested list below – **these titles are simply suggestions**. You may also prefer visiting the library or book store to find other books. Either way, make sure each book is from a different genre. **YOU** get to choose your books this summer!

*Parents, please encourage your child to read books they have **not** read before.

RESPONSE LOG ENTRIES:

Please write **two** Response Log entries **per book**. Your response choices are in this packet, along with space for your written response. We ask that you limit your written response to one paragraph. **A paragraph should be 5 – 7 sentences**. Be sure your response says what you want it to say in that one paragraph.

*Parents, please sign the bottom of each Response Log page, letting us know you've read over your child's response. Thank you!

BOOK TALK AT SCHOOL:

Students, you will be participating in a Book Talk discussion when you return to school in September. The Book Talk will be in small groups and will be graded. All you need to do to prepare is read the books (REALLY read the books, with your brain in the "On" position – we know it's Summer ☺) and bring your completed Response Log entries with you. We will be referring to your written entries during the Book Talk as discussion topics.



BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Look through the list carefully. There's bound to be a book that peaks your interest. There are some excellent choices ...

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE/ADVENTURE

What Could Go Wrong? by Willo Davis Roberts

Three cousins unwittingly become involved in a mystery when they pick up a piece of paper that holds the key to a dastardly crime.

Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island by Eve Bunting

Danny Sullivan has to get away from a gang who is threatening him after he reports one of them to the police; but just when he thinks he's escaped from them on a boat to Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, he is horrified to find that they have followed him, and now they have him trapped.

Artemis Fowl **and series** by Eoin Colfer

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg; RL 9-12, 176 pgs.

Claudia and her brother run away from home and take up residence in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Weekend was Murder by Joan Lowery Nixon; RL YA, 208 pgs.

A young girl gets a summer job at a hotel where they perform murder mysteries. However, a real murder takes place and she must help solve the mystery.

Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, 13-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew Series by Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene; RL 9-12, 177 pgs.

The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew spent their days solving mysteries of all varieties.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Under the Blood Red Sun by Graham Salisbury

After the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 13-year-old Tomizu, the American-born son of Japanese immigrants, suddenly becomes the man of the house after his father is arrested and discovers the true meaning of friendship and loyalty.

Weasel by Cynthia DeFelice; RL 7, 128 pgs.

Alone in the frontier wilderness in the winter of 1839 while his father is recovering from an injury, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as "Weasel" and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge.

Save Queen of Sheba by Louise Moeri; RL 5.6, 128 pgs.

After miraculously surviving a Sioux Indian raid on the trail to Oregon, a brother and sister set out with few provisions to find the rest of the settlers.

BIOGRAPHIES

Babe Didrikson Zaharias: the making of a champion by Russell Freedman; RL 7.1, 192 pgs.

A biography of Babe Didrikson, who broke records in golf, track and field, and other sports.

The Life and Death of Crazy Horse by Russell Freedman; RL 6.2, 166 pgs.

A biography of the Oglala leader who relentlessly resisted the white man's attempt to take over Indian lands.

My family shall be free! : The life of Peter Still by Dennis Brindell Fradin; RL 5.6, 190 pgs.

Shares the story of Peter Still, a boy left behind in slavery when his mother decided to flee north with her baby daughters in 1806.

A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson by Michelle Green; RL 4.7, 111 pgs.

Tells the story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, a woman who had to overcome the obstacles of gender and race to pursue her dream of playing baseball.

CLASSIC LITERATURE

The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pene DuBois

William Waterman Sherman is a dedicated traveler, daring to fly across the Pacific Ocean in a giant air balloon. Marooned, in a sense, on the island of Krakatoa, our intrepid traveler plots new ways to get where he is going in this inventive, funny story.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett; RL 6.5, 288 pgs.

Mary Lennox discovers a secret garden, walled and locked. It has been completely forgotten for years and years. Is everything in the garden dead, or can Mary bring it back to life?

Call of the Wild by Jack London; RL 5.1, 201 pgs.

Rugged outdoor story of the sled dog, Buck, who is mistreated by his master, and breaks free to roam the Alaskan

Robin Hood by Roger Lancelyn Green; RL 6.2, 128 pgs.

Tells the story of Robin Hood, who, with his band of followers, lived as an outlaw in Sherwood Forest dedicated to fighting tyranny.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell; RL 5.0, 210 pgs.

All-time favorite classic about a wise and courageous horse. For everyone who loves a good horse story.

FAMILY/DRAMA/HUMOR

Millicent Min: Girl Genius by Lisa Yee

In a series of journal entries, 11-year-old child prodigy Millicent records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto

Eleven tales about everyday problems of growing up: the main characters try out for Little League, take karate lessons, and get embarrassed by their grandparents' behavior...

Stand Tall, Harry **or sequel Harry Scores a Hat Trick** by Mary Mahony

The story of Harry Jones who loves hockey, lives in the city and rides the bus to a predominantly white school.

The Man in the Ceiling by Jules Feiffer

Jimmy Jibbett tries - against his own better judgment - to excel as an artist, a cartoonist to be specific. His workaholic dad would rather he were good at sports; his mom is pretty much too involved in her work to notice. Feiffer's humor will appeal to Roald Dahl fans.

PS Longer Letter Later or Snail Mail No More

by Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin

Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing and humor after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state. The friendship continues in the sequel, *Snail Mail No More*.

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle; RL 5.8, 240 pgs.

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

Twelve-year-old Prosper and 5-year-old Bo run away when their aunt decides she wants to adopt Bo but not his brother. Refusing to split up, the pair escape to Venice where they befriend Hornet, another runaway. Together with the Thief Lord they are asked to carry out a special mission involving a magical merry-go-round.

The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson

Odge Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their Island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son who had been stolen as an infant. Fans of Harry Potter will enjoy this one!

The Duplicate by William Sleator

Sixteen-year-old David, finding a strange machine that creates replicas of living organisms, duplicates himself and suffers the horrible consequences when the duplicate turns against him.

Midnight Magic by Avi; Ages RL 9-12, 256 pgs.

Mangus the magician must free a princess from a terrifying ghost. However, he doesn't believe in ghosts.

RESPONSE LOG TOPIC CHOICES

Be sure to complete two entries per book. Try to choose different entry topics for each book – just so you don't get bored. There are enough entry topics to complete six different topics. BUT, if you really want to choose a repeat an entry topic for two different books, that's fine too.

1. Write a paragraph of advice to one of your characters to help them solve a problem or **dilemma** they have encountered.
2. Connect something that happened to one of your characters to something in your own life. Explain your connection in detail.
3. Write about one of your predictions. Were you correct?
4. Explain a situation that may have occurred while reading your book in which you did not understand (**comprehend**) something – either a word, a sentence, a paragraph, a page/a few pages, etc.
 - 1.) How did you realize you were confused?
 - 2.) What did you do to help yourself understand/make sense of what you were reading?
5. Make a compare/contrast chart or Venn diagram comparing/contrasting two characters in your book.
6. Choose a scene from the book and rewrite it as a film script.
7. Describe the setting of your book – where and when your story takes place. Draw a detailed picture of one scene as it is described in your book to go with your written description.
8. Write a news bulletin about a major event in your book. Be sure to include all of the necessary details – Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
9. Write a **detailed** summary of your favorite part of the book so far.
10. Imagine you are the main character 50 years later – after this story takes place. Where are you now? What have you accomplished in your life? Write this as a letter between the main character and a friend from the book **or** as an interview.
11. Select your favorite part of the book. Reread it. Now, rewrite the scene but change something about it – the characters involved, the setting, the problem, the outcome. Or rewrite the scene from the point of view of another character in the story.
12. Write a poem about an event or feeling you have experienced that relates to the book. Start by making a list.
13. Write a letter **from** the main character **to** yourself as if you are friends. The letter can ask for advice or tell about a problem or experience.
14. Authors often use **vivid** (colorful; brilliant; distinct; heard, seen or felt as real) words to turn an ordinary description into a more interesting one. For example, a writer might say a character was "choking back tears" instead of just saying they were "sad." Return to a part in your book where the author uses a lot of details to describe a person, place, or event. Make a list of the words/phrases the author uses to make the story more interesting (vivid language).
15. A story's **plot** is the central problem or idea that the story is based on. The **subplot** is made up of smaller events within the story that help move the plot forward and may help solve the problem. Write several sentences describing the plot and subplot of your book.

