



Incoming Sixth Graders



LA PLUS
SUMMER READING 2018

REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR SIXTH GRADE LA+ STUDENTS:

During the summer, you are expected to read **at least three books**. **One required book**, *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor, and **two books from different genres**. One of your choice books must be from the provided list. The other book you read may be from the list provided or your own choice from off the list with parent/guardian approval.

Assignments:

***Tangerine** -- Please complete the attached plot line graphic organizer, the character analysis form and explain the theme for the book. This will help you prepare for our class discussions and activities in early September.

***Two choice books** – Please complete one journal entry from the provided list, as well as a summary of the book.

Required:

Tangerine – Edward Bloor

Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some *very* unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day? The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football-star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. And he also gains the courage to face up to some secrets his family has been keeping from him for far too long. In *Tangerine*, it seems, *anything* is possible.

Suggested Book List:

Historical Fiction:

Fever 1793 – Laurie Halse Anderson

Set in Philadelphia, this is a novel about 16-year-old Mattie Cook. Mattie's life is torn apart by a yellow fever epidemic. She loses friends and family members and is forced to leave her home. When she is able to return, Mattie forms unexpected friendships and grows up very quickly under challenging circumstances.

ASHES - LASKY, KATHRYN.

In 1932 Berlin, thirteen-year-old Gaby Schramm witnesses the beginning of Hitler's rise to power, as soldiers become ubiquitous, her beloved literature teacher starts wearing a jeweled swastika pin, and the family's dear friend, Albert Einstein, leaves the country while Gaby's parents secretly bury his books and papers in their small yard.

Esperanza Rising – Pam Muñoz Ryan

This depression-era novel tells the story of Esperanza, a twelve-year-old girl from an affluent Mexican family. Esperanza's family is forced to leave the ancestral home and make a dangerous journey to a very different life in the United States. This is a rich historical fiction read with contemporary implications.

Forge- Laurie Halse Anderson

This compelling sequel to *Chains*, shifts perspective from Isabel to Curzon and brings to the page the tale of what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in a world of obstacles—and in the midst of the American Revolution.

Classics:

Little Women – Louisa M. Alcott

The March family endures trials and tribulations while their father is involved in the Civil War. A lively portrait of four girls growing up in the 19th century with lasting vitality and enduring charm.

Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson

An innkeeper and his son find a map on the body of a deceased guest. The map promises a pirate's fortune and many adventures follow.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn -Smith, Betty

Francie Nolan, avid reader, penny-candy connoisseur, and adroit observer of human nature, has much to ponder in colorful, turn-of-the-century Brooklyn. She is her father's child--romantic and hungry for beauty; she is her mother's child, too-- deeply practical and in constant need of truth.

Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls

This classic coming-of-age novel tells the story of Billy, a young boy growing up in the Ozarks. Billy works and saves to buy two hound puppies, Little Ann and Old Dan. This is a heartrending tale of love and loss, loved by children and adults for years.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

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?

Non-Fiction:

Chasing Lincoln's Killer – James L. Swanson

A biographical account of John Wilkes Booth's plot to kill the president and Booth's twelve days on the run following Lincoln's assassination.

Through My Eyes – Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges tells the moving story of her year in first grade at the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans in 1960.

***Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Russell Freedman**

Written by an acclaimed author of nonfiction for young readers, this well-researched account of the Montgomery bus boycott is a must-read for students in the upper elementary grades and middle school. The account sets the stage for the boycott by reviewing what life was like for blacks living in the South in the 1950s. The author uses personal accounts of various citizen participants as well as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., providing powerful words and experiences for readers

Fiction:

***Found* – Margaret Peterson Addix**

Thirteen years after a plane mysteriously lands in an airport with thirty-six baby passengers and no adults on board, the children from the flight begin to receive strange, unexplained letters. Jonah and Chip must work quickly to uncover the secrets of their past. The first in the series: *The Missing*.

***Alex Rider: Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz**

Nothing can prepare fourteen-year-old Alex for the news that the uncle he always thought he knew was really a spy for MI6— Britain's top-secret intelligence agency. Recruited to find his uncle's killers and complete his final mission, Alex suddenly finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* by John Feinstein**

Danny Jordan is one of two lucky winners of the US Basketball Writer's Association's contest for aspiring journalists. His prize? A trip to New Orleans and a coveted press pass for the Final Four. It's a basketball lover's dream come true! But the games going on behind the scenes between the coaches, the players, the media, the money-men, and the fans turn out to be even more fiercely competitive than those on the court. Danny and his fellow winner, Brigid-Ann Robinson, are nosing around the Superdome and overhear what sounds like a threat to throw the championship game. Now they have just 48 hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of MSU's star players . . . and why.

***THE SKIN I'M IN* - Flake, Sharon.**

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, an excellent student who is choosing the wrong friends, meets a new teacher who helps her discover who she is and what she believes.

***OUT OF MY MIND* - DRAPER, SHARON.**

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people—her teachers and doctors included—don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind—that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

***Because of Mr. Terupt* – Rob Buyea**

It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's . . . Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school.

***The Misfits* - Howe, James**

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

The View from Saturday, E.L. Konigsburg

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

When fifteen year old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents, and his blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

ERAGON by Christopher Paolini

Ancient swords, an aging mentor with secrets, a poor farm boy who unknowingly finds and hatches a dragon, reclusive elves, stubborn dwarves, and more -- Christopher Paolini began writing this story at the age of fifteen, but the vocabulary and nuances of the tale will pleasantly surprise you.

AMONG THE HIDDEN by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Luke lives in the future when it is illegal for families to have more than two children. He is a hidden third child. The government buys the woods behind his family's property, and his limited freedom ends as new neighborhoods creep up. One day, cooped up in the attic and looking through the vent slats, he sees another pair of eyes. Could it be another hidden child?

Redwall – Brian Jacques

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determined to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

Maximum Ride – James Patterson

ANY NOVEL FROM THIS SERIES-- science fiction

Hunger Games –Suzanne Collins

ANY NOVEL FROM THIS SERIES-- A 2010 Blue Spruce winner; science fiction.

The Lightning Thief –Rick Riordan

ANY NOVEL FROM THIS SERIES—Page-turner adventures/fantasy that incorporates mythology into the stories.

Journal Topics

****Be sure to complete ONE journal entry and one book summary for each book choice.** Please complete a different journal entry for each book – do not repeat the same topic.

1. Write a paragraph of advice to one of your characters to help them solve a problem or **dilemma** they have encountered.
2. Describe the setting of your book – where and when your story takes place. Explain its importance to the story, and draw a detailed picture of one scene as it is described in your book to go with your written description.
3. 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?
4. 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.
5. 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. How did this help make the story more interesting? Explain.
6. What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain.
7. Did anyone in the book do something you did not like? Why?
8. Write a different ending to the book. Tell why you changed it.
9. Would you recommend this book to someone? Explain why or why not.
10. Tell about the most exciting part of the book. Be sure to give at least three reasons why.

Parental Permission Slip for Summer Reading Choice Book
E.T. Richardson Middle School
Sixth Grade

Date _____

I hereby give permission for my son / daughter to read . . .

Title of Book

Author

*which is not on the Recommended List as one of his / her choice books
for the Summer Reading Requirements.*

Parent / Guardian Signature

Student Signature

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Name _____

Character Analysis & Theme: *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

Select any five characters from the book that you felt played a significant role in the story and complete the chart below.

Character	Describe this characters personality and significance to the story.	Quote and/or details from the text that support your description of the character.	Page(s)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

*****On the back of this paper or typed and attached, explain the theme of the story*****