

5th and 6th Grade Summer Reading 2016

5th and 6th grade students are asked to read **at last 3 books** this summer. **At least 1 of those books should be chosen from the following list.** At the start of the 2016-2017 school year, the students will choose one of their books to complete a project with.

Title	Author	Description	Genre
<i>A Medal for Leroy</i>	Morpurgo, Michael	When Michael's aunt passes away, she leaves behind a letter that will change everything. It starts with Michael's grandfather Leroy, a black officer in World War I who charged into a battle zone not once but three times to save wounded men. His fellow soldiers insisted he deserved special commendations for his bravery but because of the racial barriers, he would go unacknowledged. Now it's up to Michael to change that. Inspired by the true story of Walter Tull, the first black officer in the British army, award-winning author Michael Morpurgo delivers a richly layered and memorable story of identity, history, and family.	Historical Fiction
<i>A Nest for Celeste</i>	Cole, Henry	Celeste is a mouse who is looking for a home. Is it nestled in the toe of a warm boot? In the shirt pocket of Celeste's new friend Joseph, who is Audubon's apprentice? Or is home the place deep inside Celeste's heart, where friendships live?	Animal / Fantasy
<i>An Elephant in the Garden</i>	Morpurgo, Michael	Lizzie and Karl's mother is a zoo keeper; the family has become attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene, who will be destroyed as a precautionary measure so she and the other animals don't run wild should the zoo be hit by bombs. The family persuades the zoo director to let Marlene stay in their garden instead. When the city is bombed, the family flees with thousands of others, but how can they walk the same route when they have an elephant in tow, and keep themselves safe? Along the way, they meet Peter, a Canadian navigator who risks his own capture to save the family.	Historical Fiction
<i>Crenshaw</i>	Applegate, Katherine	An unforgettable and magical story about family, friendship, and resilience. Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?	Animal / Fantasy

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<i>Eleven Birthdays (or any in this series..)</i>	Mass, Wendy	Amanda and Leo, best friends with the same birthday, had a falling out on their tenth birthday and have not spoken since, but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their eleventh birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.	Realistic Fiction
<i>Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library or Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics</i>	Grabenstein, Chris	The world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has just designed a brand new, state of the art library in his hometown, and he's invited 12 lucky seventh graders to stay the night. Avid gamer Kyle Keeley jumps at the chance. Kyle is elated when his essay is chosen, and he gets to be among the first to wander the halls of one of the most interactive libraries ever. Kyle and the other contestants have 24 hours to find a secret exit out of the building and win a spectacular prize	Realistic Fiction
<i>First Flight Around the World: The Adventures of the American Fliers Who Won the Race</i>	Grove, Tim	In 1924 the U.S. Army sent eight young men on a bold attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the globe by flight. Men from five other countries—Great Britain, France, Portugal, Italy, and Argentina—had the same goal. The race was on! The journey began on April 6, 1924 in Seattle and concluded on September 9, 1924, when the Chicago, the only one of the four American planes that made the entire trip, landed back in Seattle. This volume recounts the story of the Americans' adventures, detailing hardships, such as harsh weather and mechanical breakdowns.	Non-fiction
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	O'Dell, Scott	The story of a 12-year old girl who lives alone on a Pacific island after she leaps from a rescue ship. Isolated on the island for eighteen years, Karana forages for food, builds weapons to fight predators, clothes herself in a cormorant feathered skirt, and finds strength and peace in her seclusion.	Classic (Newbery winner)
<i>Kate Walden Directs: Night of the Zombie Chickens (or Kate Walden Directs:</i>	Mata, Julie	Kate Walden's making her breakout film. But her supporting actresses, her mother's prize organic hens, are high maintenance, to say the least. Thank goodness Kate's best friend Alyssa is the star. She's great at screaming and even better at killing zombies in creative ways.	Realistic Fiction

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<i>Loser</i>	Spinelli, Jerry	Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."	Realistic Fiction
<i>Masterpiece</i>	Broach, Elise	Marvin lives with his family under the kitchen sink in the Pompadays' apartment. He is very much a beetle. James Pompaday lives with his family in New York City. He is very much an eleven-year-old boy. After James gets a pen-and-ink set for his birthday, Marvin surprises him by creating an elaborate miniature drawing. James gets all the credit for the picture and before these unlikely friends know it they are caught up in a staged art heist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that could help recover a famous drawing by Albrecht Dürer.	Mystery
<i>Soar</i>	Bauer, Joan	Sports, friendship, and tragedy are all wrapped up in one heartwarming, page-turning story. Jeremiah lives and breathes baseball and wants nothing more than to be a professional player, but when he learns that he suffers from a severe heart condition, his dreams are put on hold. Soon after he and his single father move to a town that is something of a baseball capital, the entire community is shaken by the death of a beloved school baseball player—and a town scandal that is revealed in the aftermath.	Realistic Fiction
<i>Splendors and Glooms</i>	Schlitz, Laura Amy	Victorian London could be a magical place: horse drawn carriages, puppet shows, elaborate houses. Of course it could also be miserable: fog, filthy streets, and shabby hovels. Then someone disappears, and a search begins: with the sinister and mysterious help of an old witch. Rich with supernatural elements and suspense	Historical Fiction
<i>The Blackthorn Key</i>	Sands, Kevin	Following a series of murders, an apothecary's apprentice must solve puzzles and decipher codes in pursuit of a secret that could destroy the world	Mystery

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<i>The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics</i>	Brown	An irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.	Non-fiction
<i>The Fourteenth Goldfish</i>	Holm, Jennifer	The Fourteenth Goldfish. Eleven-year-old Ellie Cruz's life changes dramatically when her mother brings a teenage boy home one night and she learns it is her estranged grandfather. Melvin is a scientist who has figured out how to reverse aging and is now 13 again. Tensions are high between Melvin and his adult daughter, Ellie's mother, but Ellie feels like she now has the opportunity to really get to know her grandfather. Her interest in science blossoms, and she is eager to help Melvin retrieve the jellyfish specimen he used in his experiments so he can publish his discovery. Fascinated, Ellie learns about the work of Jonas Salk, Robert Oppenheimer, and Marie Curie. .	Fantasy
<i>The Mark of the Dragonfly</i>	Johnson, Jaleigh	For fans of <i>The City of Ember</i> and <i>The School of Good and Evil</i> , <i>The Mark of the Dragonfly</i> is a fast-paced adventure story about a mysterious girl and a fearless boy, set in a magical world that is both exciting and dangerous	Fantasy
<i>The Marvels</i>	Selznick, Brian	The journey begins at sea in 1766, with a boy named Billy Marvel. After surviving a shipwreck, he finds work in a London theatre. There, his family flourishes for generations as brilliant actors until 1900, when young Leontes Marvel is banished from the stage. Nearly a century later, runaway Joseph Jervis seeks refuge with an uncle in London. Albert Nightingale's strange, beautiful house, with its mysterious portraits and ghostly presences, captivates Joseph and leads him on a search for clues about the house, his family, and the past.	Historical Fiction
<i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i>	Cushman, Karen	The girl known only as Brat has no family, no home, and no future until she meets Jane the Midwife and becomes her apprentice. As she helps the sharp-tempered Jane deliver babies, Brat—who renames herself Alyce—gains knowledge, confidence, and the courage to want something from life:	Historical Fiction (Newbery winner)

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<i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i>	DiCamillo, Kate	Edward Tulane is a china rabbit with an extensive wardrobe. He belongs to 10-year-old Abilene, who thinks almost as highly of Edward as Edward does of himself. He falls into the sea after mean boys rip him from Abilene's hands during an ocean voyage. Thus begins Edward's journey from watery grave to the gentle embrace of a fisherman's wife, to the care of a hobo and his dog, and into the hands of a dying girl.	Animal / Fantasy
<i>The Tale of Despereaux</i>	DiCamillo, Kate	Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.	Animal / Fantasy
<i>The War That Saved My Life</i>	Bradley, Kimberley	Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's disability to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.	Historical Fiction (Newbery honor book)
<i>Three Times Lucky (or any of the Mo and Dale mysteries)</i>	Turnage, Sheila	Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. When a lawman comes to town asking about a murder, Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth in hopes of saving the only family Mo has ever known	Mystery
<i>The Underneath</i>	Appelt, Katherine	A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them.	Animal (National Book Award)