

Summer Reading Assignments 6th Grade

Read **two** books from the appropriate grade level book list, as well as **one** freely-chosen book which does not have to be on the list. Complete one of these assignments for each book you read. Remember to include your name and grade on all assignments. Use any of the following assignments only once.

1. Design a book jacket. Remember to include title and author. See book jackets at your library for ideas.
2. Write a radio or television commercial advertising the book you've read. This should be short—remember, commercial spots are usually thirty seconds or less.
3. Create a collage showing scenes, characters or ideas from the book.
4. Write a book review. Write no more than two paragraphs about the story or content of the book, and one paragraph about what you liked best—or least—about the book.

Interested in other books to read over the summer?

Help finding extra books to read, as well as more summer reading activities, may be found at your local public library. For information and book lists, see <http://www.njsummerreading.org>.

6th Grade

Balielt, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer*.

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, twelve-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Barry, Dave. *Peter and the Starcatchers*.

The young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They set sail aboard the Never Land, a ship carrying a precious and mysterious trunk in its cargo hold. Their journey quickly becomes fraught with excitement and danger.

Cooper, Susan. *Over Sea, Under Stone*.

Three children find an ancient manuscript from the days of King Arthur and battle the forces of darkness and evil.

Creech, Sharon. *Ruby Holler*.

Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

Freedman, Russell. *The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights*.

This insightful account of the great African-American vocalist considers her life and musical career in the context of the history of civil rights in America. Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other contemporary accounts, Freedman shows how she came to stand for all black artists—and for all Americans of color.

Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline*.

In this chilling tale, Coraline ventures into a mysterious corridor that leads to an alternate reality where her “other” parents are nicer to her than her real parents. But as they gaze at her with their black button eyes, Coraline finds that they want to keep her forever. When they kidnap her real parents, Coraline sets out on a desperate and dangerous journey to set them free.

Ibbotson, Eva. *Journey to the River Sea*.

Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.

Janeczko, Paul B. *Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing*.

A wonderful guide to secret writing. Janeczko relates how different codes came to be and why they were needed, and gives some historical examples. The book also contains information and exercises (with answers) on deciphering codes and provides readers with the tools to make their own field kit.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*.

Lucinda, a foolish fairy, bestows on Eleanor the gift of obedience. Consequently, all her life Ella is compelled to do everything she is told to do. In an attempt to break the spell, Ella ventures out on her own and encounters dwarfs, giants, wicked stepsisters and her prince charming.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud. *Anne of Green Gables*.

Anne, a mischievous, red-haired, eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Murphy, Jim. *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*.

It's 1793, and there's an invisible killer roaming the streets of Philadelphia. The city's residents are fleeing in fear. This killer has a name -- yellow fever -- but everything else about it is a mystery. Its cause is unknown, and there is no cure.

Pearsall, Shelley. *Trouble Don't Last*.

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Sachar, Louis. *Sixth Grade Secrets*.

When Laura Sibbie starts a club called Pig City, she incites a near-war among her sixth-grade classmates and generates the creation of a rival club that has designs on Pig City's precious box of secrets.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash*.

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Hush*.

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

Yolen, Jane. *Odysseus in the Serpent Maze*.

Thirteen-year-old Odysseus, who longs to be a hero, tries to prove himself during an adventure which involves pirates, a trip to Crete's labyrinth (maze), and the two young girls, Penelope and Helen, who play a major role in his future life.