

Sixth Grade Summer Reading [1/3]

June 15, 2009

Dear Students (and Parents),

Although the school year has just finished, it is time to start thinking about summer reading. This letter outlines expectations as you enter the sixth grade.

Our shared read will be the first nineteen chapters of *A Little History of the World* by E. H. Gombrich. We will read the rest of the book together in the fall. By reading the first portion over the summer, the class will be able to jump straight to the portion of the book that covers the Middle Ages and the Renaissance which will be the focus of many of our history discussions.

In addition to *A Little History of the World*, you should also read the rough equivalent of 200 more pages of material that genuinely interests you, but that also has content which is unfamiliar to you and that is of an appropriate reading level. Your preference may be newspapers, magazines, comic books, non-fiction, audio books, biographies, novels, short stories, blogs, game guides, etc. Whatever your choice, keep a record of what you consume. The record might be a reading log, sketches of the ideas they contain, a series of digital photographs of book covers, a list of links to the Wikipedia or Amazon pages for the books, or something else that you invent.

For those of you interested in fiction, the attached list might be helpful, but do not feel compelled to choose only books it contains. If you do not find anything of interest in the list or if you are looking for works of non-fiction, you may also want to consult with staff at a bookstore and/or the librarians at a public library for additional recommendations. Many libraries also host reading activities during the summer.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, for clarification, or if you would like a more personalized recommendation. Enjoy your reading and your summer.

Sincerely,

Rob Greco
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Sixth Grade Summer Reading [2/3]

To get you started, here is a list of authors whose books are worth reading with the names of one or few of their books.

Lloyd Alexander (*The Book of Three* and *The Black Cauldron*)
Blue Balliett (*Chasing Vermeer*, *The Wright Three*, and *The Calder Game*)
Edward Bloor (*Tangerine*)
Elise Broach (*Shakespeare's Secret*)
Gennifer Choldenko (*Al Capone Does My Shirts*)
Andrew Clements (*Frindle*, *Things Not Seen*, and *The Landry News*)
Sharon Creech (*Ruby Holler* and *Walk Two Moons*)
Christopher Paul Curtis (*The Watsons Go to Birmingham*)
Kate DiCamillo (*The Tale of Despereaux* and *Because of Winn-Dixie*)
William Pene du Bois (*The Twenty-One Balloons*)
Edward Eager (*Half Magic*)
Eleanor Estes (*The Moffats* and *Ginger Pye*)
Jean Ferris (*Once Upon a Marigold*)
Paul Fleischman (*Bull Run* and *Whirligig*)
Cornelia Funke (*The Thief Lord* and *Dragon Rider*)
Jack Gantos (*Joey Pigza* and *Jack Henry* books)
Dan Gutman (*Honus and Me*)
Margaret Peterson Haddix (*Running Out of Time*)
Carl Hiaasen (*Hoot*)
Norton Juster (*The Phantom Tollbooth*)
Kate Klise (*Regarding the Fountain*)
Gordon Korman (*No More Dead Dogs*)
E.L. Konigsburg (*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*)
Walter Dean Meyers (*Monster*)
Gary Paulsen (*Hatchet* and *Brian's Winter*)
Richard Peck (*A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*)
Philip Pullman (*I Was a Rat!* and *Count Karlstein*)
Ellen Raskin (*The Westing Game*)
Philip Reeve (*Larklight* and *Starcross*)
John Ritter (*The Boy Who Saved Baseball*)
Louis Sachar (*Holes*)
Neal Shusterman (*The Dark Side of Nowhere* and *Scorpion Shards*)
Zilpha Keatley Snyder (*The Egypt Game*)
Jerry Spinelli (*Loser*, *The Library Card*, *Wringer*, and *Maniac Magee*)
Theodore Taylor (*The Cay*)
Wendelin Van Draanen (*Flipped*)
Deborah Wiles (*Each Little Bird That Sings*)

Sixth Grade Summer Reading [3/3]

If you are interested in reading books from a series, here are some to consider including several that you are likely familiar with already. Wikipedia has an entry for each of these series – just search for the series title.

The Lord of the Rings (3 books + *The Hobbit*) by J.R.R. Tolkein
The Chronicles of Narnia (7 books) by C.S. Lewis
Harry Potter (7 books) by J.K. Rowling
A Series of Unfortunate Events (13 books) by Lemony Snicket
The Spiderwick Chronicles (5 books, spin-offs as well) by Tony DiTerlizzi
Artemis Fowl Series (6 books) by Eoin Colfer
Dark Is Rising Sequence (5 books) by Susan Cooper
The Time Quartet (4 books starting with *A Wrinkle in Time*) by Madeleine L'Engle
His Dark Materials (3 books) by Philip Pullman
Shadow Children Sequence / Among the ___ (7 books) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Underland Chronicles / Gregor the Overlander (5 books) by Suzanne Collins
The Inkworld Trilogy (3 books) by Cornelia Funke
Septimus Heap (5th book due September 29) by Angie Sage
Percy Jackson and the Olympians (5 books so far) by Rick Riordan
Books of Ember (4 books) by Jeanne Du Prau
Charlie Bone / Children of the Red King (8th book due in September) by Jenny Nimmo
The Inheritance Cycle / Eragon (3 books) by Christopher Paolini
Redwall (21st book due next year) by Brian Jacques

You may also enjoy some classic science fiction and adventure. Many of these books can be found for free from Project Gutenberg [gutenberg.org] and many are also available to download as free audio books from Librivox [librivox.org]. Other sites that host free e-books are ManyBooks [manybooks.net], Bookyards [bookyards.com], Wowio [wowio.com], and SchoolLibrary [schoollibrary.com].

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells
The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne
The Mysterious Island by Jules Verne
Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle