

## Summer Reading Assignment for Grade 6

1. Choose two books from the attached list to read.
2. For each book, make a list of any new vocabulary words (i.e., words for which you do not know the meanings) and their definitions.
3. Write a two-paragraph summary of each book including the information below:  
Paragraph 1: characters, setting, plot  
Paragraph 2: the conflict or problem and its resolution

### BCA 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

*The Door in the Wall*, Marguerite DeAngeli

Robin's plans to become a knight are foiled when he is permanently crippled, but his chance comes as he seeks new ways of service.

*Misty of Chincoteague*, Marguerite Henry

Each year ponies from the island of Chincoteague in the Chesapeake Bay are sold for children's use. This is the story of one of these wild freedom-loving ponies.

***\*Other books by Marguerite Henry are also acceptable.***

*Heidi*, Johanna Spyri

This is a famous story of a Swiss girl and her experiences in the Swiss Alps.

*The Trumpet of the Swans*, E.B. White

Louis is a trumpeter swan who is born without a voice. His father helps him out by getting him a trumpet which he uses as he travels about as a professional musician.

*The Incredible Journey*, Sheila Burnford

The original adventure story of two dogs and a cat who are separated from their owners.

*The Bronze Bow*, Elizabeth George Speare

Daniel joins an outlaw band to seek revenge for the murder of his parents by the Romans. He meets someone who changes his life.

***\*Other historical fiction by this author is also acceptable.***

*Otto of the Silver Hand*, Howard Pyle

Story of a boy whose hand is cut off by his father's enemy and his resulting experiences.

*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*, Robert C. O'Brien

Mrs. Frisby seeks advice from the rats concerning her mouse son, Timothy, who is sick. The rats, who have been part of an experiment at NIMH, can read and write. They help her, and she helps them escape.

*A Little Princess*, Frances Hodgson Burnett

Sara Crewe leads a life of privilege until her father dies and she is suddenly a pauper, yet she uses her imagination and good nature to survive.

*The Horse and His Boy*, C. S. Lewis

A talking horse and a servant boy save Narnia from invasion. (Christian themes)

**\*Other books by C.S. Lewis are also acceptable.**

*Haunt-Fox*, Jim Kjelgaard

A boy and his dog go fox hunting and learn a lot about fairness.

*Black Stallion*, Walter Farley

Surviving a shipwreck and a stay on an isolated island, a boy and his Arabian horse arrive back in America and decide to race.

*Black Beauty*, Anna Sewell

Written from the point of view of the horse, this is the story of the horse's life and experiences in 19<sup>th</sup> century England.

*Mr. Popper's Penguins*, Richard and Florence Atwater

Mr. Popper is given a male penguin name Captain Hook. He gets Captain Hook a mate and begins a traveling penguin show.

*The Truthful Harp*, Lloyd Alexander [or other books by Lloyd Alexander]

Fflewddur Flam is given a harp that plays beautifully. He soon finds that sometimes the strings break when he is telling a story. Discover why.

*The Wheel on the School*, Meindert DeJong

Children from a Dutch village learn that storks once perched on the roofs of the people's house. They begin a campaign to get the storks to come back.

*Hans Brinker: or the Silver Skates*, Mary Mapes Dodge

Hans wishes to win the silver skates by winning a racing contest, but his chances are slim since he only has wooden skates to use.

*The Matchlock Gun*, Walter D. Edmonds

Edward finds it necessary to use his father's gun to protect his mother and siblings from Indians.

*Men of Iron*, Howard Pyle

A boy grows up and learns to become a knight.

## Summer Reading Assignment for Grade 7

1. Choose two books from the attached list to read.
2. As you read, complete the attached Characterization Sheets for each book. (You may copy this form as needed.) Note: “Direct Characterization” means the character traits that the author states directly. (e.g., “Peter was a quiet young man.”)
3. Write a Character Analysis of the main character in each book that is at least five (5) paragraphs in length.
  - (a) It should include:
    - What the character looks like
    - The character’s personality traits (ex., friendly, shy, brave)
    - How the character changed from the beginning of the book to the end and why that change occurred
  - (b) Support your statements with quotes or examples from the book such as:
    - What the character says
    - What the character does
    - What is said about the character
    - What happens to the character
4. Make a list of any new vocabulary words (i.e., words for which you do not know the meaning) and their definitions.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

*Old Yeller*, Fred Gipson  
*Banner in the Sky*, James Ramsey Ullman  
*The Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster  
*The Last of the Mohicans*, James Fenimore Cooper  
*The Call of the Wild*, Jack London  
*White Fang*, Jack London  
*Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott\*  
*Little Men*, Louisa May Alcott\*  
*Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen \*  
*The River*, Gary Paulsen\*  
*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*The Black Arrow*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Souder*, William H. Armstrong  
*Christy*, Catherine Marshall  
*North to Freedom*, Ann Holm  
*My Friend Flicka*, Mary O'Hara  
*Anne of Green Gables*, L. M. Montgomery \*  
*Redwall*, Brian Jacques \*  
*The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls  
*The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame  
*The Trumpeter of Krakow*, Eric Kelly  
*The Midwife's Apprentice*, Karen Cushman  
*The Whipping Boy*, Sid Fleischman  
*The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin  
*The Well: David's Story*, Mildred D. Taylor\*  
*The Friendship*, Mildred D. Taylor\*

\*Other books by these authors are acceptable

**Note: Please check with Mrs. Dant at Campus 1 during the summer at 301-725-4673 BEFORE choosing a book not on the list.**

## Summer Reading Assignments for Grade 8

### Assignment #1

1. Choose a book from the attached list to read.
2. As you read, complete the attached Characterization Sheet. Note: “Direct Characterization” means the character traits that the author states directly (e.g., “Peter was a quiet young man.”)
3. Write a book report that is to include the following:
  - An introduction
  - A 2-paragraph summary of the book including basic information about the characters, the plot, the setting, the conflict and the resolution.
  - A detailed character analysis of the main character in the book you chose.
    - (a) That section should address:
      - ✓ What the character looks like
      - ✓ The character’s personality traits (ex., friendly, shy, brave)
      - ✓ How the character changed from the beginning of the book to the end and why that change occurred
    - (b) You should support your statements with quotes or examples from the book such as:
      - ✓ What the character says
      - ✓ What the character does
      - ✓ What is said about the character
      - ✓ What happens to the character
  - A conclusion that includes some characteristics of the book as a whole and what you thought of the book.

### Assignment #2

1. Choose another book from the attached book list.

Write a detailed analysis of the theme and conflict(s) in the book.

- The theme of the book (What is the theme? Support your idea with quotes or examples.)
- The conflict in the book. (What type was it? How is it important to the story?)

Theme – An implicit or recurrent idea that runs through the book

Conflict – Opposition between characters or forces in a work of fiction, especially opposition that motivates or shapes the action of the plot (Examples of types of conflict include man vs. man, man vs. himself, man vs. nature, man vs. God.)

Your analysis should have an introductory and a concluding paragraph and you should be sure to include good support from the book in order to receive credit.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

*Around the World in 80 Days*, Jules Verne  
*The Cross and the Switchblade*, David Wilkerson  
*Calico Captive*, Elizabeth George Speare  
*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte  
*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain  
*Up From Slavery*, Booker T. Washington  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee  
*A Day No Pigs Would Die*, Robert Newton Peck  
*Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe  
*Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen  
*David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens  
*The Light Princess*, George MacDonald  
*After the Dancing Days*, Margaret Rostkowski  
*The Swiss Family Robinson*, Johann David Wyss  
*Up the Road Slowly*, Irene Hunt  
*The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Baroness Emmuska Orczy  
*Eagle of the Ninth*, Rosemary Sutcliff  
*Journey to the Center of the Earth*, Jules Verne  
*The Plain Princess*, Phyliss McGinley  
*Sherlock Holmes*, Arthur Conan Doyle  
*The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry  
*Watership Down*, Richard Adams  
*Summer of My German Soldier*, Bette Greene  
*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, J.R.R. Tolkein  
*The Three Musketeers*, Alexandre Dumas  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Jules Verne

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# Characterization Chart

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Novel: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>S</b> peech	What does the character say? How does the character speak?
<b>T</b> houghts	What is revealed through the character's private thoughts and feelings?
<b>E</b> ffect on others; their reaction to the character.	What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character?
<b>A</b> ctions	What does the character do? How does the character behave?
<b>L</b> ooks	What does the character look like? How does the character dress?

Type of Characterization	Examples	Explanation
<b>Speech</b>		
<b>Thoughts</b>		
<b>Effect on others</b>		
<b>Actions</b>		
<b>Looks</b>		

**Direct Characterization** *tells* the audience what the personality of the character is.

Example: "The patient boy and quiet girl were both well  
mannered and did not disobey their mother."

<b>Examples</b>	<b>Explanation</b>