

June 2020

Dear Future 6th Grader,

Congratulations! In September you will begin your journey as a 6th grader. We know you've worked very hard to get to this point. Summer is filled with fun activities and time to spend with friends and family. It is also important to make time for reading.

As your future ELA teachers, we want you to understand the importance of continuing to read. Research shows that some students' reading ability can drop over the summertime. Therefore, if you want to go back to school refreshed and ready to begin the year, you need to keep reading!

Attached you will find a list of suggested reading material. You are required to read **two** books. This includes one fiction book and one nonfiction/informational book.

While reading your fiction book you will need to complete the **fiction graphic organizer**. In addition, while you read your nonfiction book you will need to complete the **informational text organizer**. This assignment will be due the first week of school (exact date will be announced by your ELA teachers).

We look forward to meeting you in September and wish you a safe and restful summer.

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Mr. Guzzetta (6th Grade ELA)

Mrs. Kibler (6th Grade ELA)

Mrs. Lindsley (6th Grade ELA)

Mr. Richards (6th Grade ELA)

Miss Schaper (6th Grade ELA)

Pioneer Middle Incoming Sixth Grade Fiction Summer Reading List

Realistic Fiction

Absolutely Almost

Lisa Graff

Reading level 4.7, 288 pages

Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him. Calista, Albie's new nanny, helps Albie to uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

A Week in the Woods

Andrew Clements

Reading level 5.5, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 190 pages

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

Because of Mr. Terupt

Rob Buyea

Reading level 3.7, 269 pages

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. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything.

Force Out

Tim Green

Reading level 4.7, 282 pages

Joey and Zach have always been best friends. They're also two of the best baseball players in their league. Their dream is to play together on the Center State select team, and they will do anything to help each other get there. Then the unthinkable happens: the boys learn there's only one open spot on the select team. Suddenly Joey and Zach go from being best friends to biggest rivals, and Joey has to decide his next move. He can play the biggest game of his life, or he can use their secret to force Zach out. How far should Joey go to win?

Heat

Mike Lupica

Reading level 5.3, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 220 pages

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old. Michael's parents cannot offer proof of his age.

Mick Harte Was Here

Barbara Park

Reading level 4.5, 89 pages

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls the death of her younger brother Mick in a bicycle accident and how she and her family reacted to the tragedy.

Rules

Cynthia Lord

Reading level 3.9, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 200 pages

Frustrated with a life that revolves around the needs of her autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a "normal" existence, but instead finds her world further complicated and enriched by friendship with a young paraplegic.

The Skin I'm In

Sharon Flake

Reading level 4.1, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 171 pages

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, insecure about her very dark skin, rejects the support of a new teacher, Miss Saunders, whose skin looks blotched because of a rare medical condition. Soon Maleeka learns to love herself and accept love from others.

Historical Fiction

Al Capone Does My Shirts

Gennifer Choldenko

Reading level 3.5, Fountas & Pinnell level X, 225 pages

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there. Moose has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Nory Ryan's Song

Patricia Reilly Giff

Reading level 4.3, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 148 pages

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors to survive.

Penny from Heaven

Jennifer L. Holm

Reading level 4.0, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 274 pages

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

The Watsons go to Birmingham, 1963

Christopher Paul Curtis

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 210 pages

The everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Weasel

Cynthia DeFelice

Reading level 5.0, 119 pages

Alone in the frontier wilderness in the winter of 1839, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as Weasel and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge.

Fantasy

11 Birthdays

Wendy Mass

Reading level 4.1, 267 pages

Peculiar things begin to happen when Amanda and Leo plan to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately after celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together.

Breadcrumbs

Anne Ursu

Reading level 4.8, 312 pages

Once upon a time, Hazel and Jack were best friends. But that was before he stopped talking to her and disappeared into a forest with a mysterious woman made of ice. Now it's up to Hazel to go in after him. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen."

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

Kate DiCamillo

Reading level 4.3, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 231 pages

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers.

The Fourteenth Goldfish

Jennifer L. Holm

Reading level 4.1, 195 pages

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager, which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother.

Gregor the Overlander

Suzanne Collins

Reading level 4.8, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 311 pages

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

The One and Only Ivan

Katherine Applegate

Reading level 3.6, 305 pages

Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

Mystery

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

Chris Grabenstein

Reading level 4.5, 291 pages

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students. He must work together with his friends to solve puzzles and escape the library.

Flush

Carl Hiaasen

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 263 pages

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of a floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Runaway Twin

Peg Kehret

Reading level 4.7, 197 pages

Thirteen-year-old Sunny, accompanied by a stray dog, takes advantage of a windfall to travel from her Nebraska foster home to Enumclaw, Washington, to find the twin sister from whom she was separated at age three.

Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story

Mary Downing Hahn

Reading level 4.6, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 186 pages

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Who Could That Be at This Hour?

Lemony Snicket

Reading level 5.5, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 258 pages

Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue.

Humor

The Best School Year Ever

Barbara Robinson

Reading level 5.4, Fountas & Pinnell level P, 117 pages

The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Roald Dahl

Reading level 4.8, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 155 pages

Each of the five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his or her own way.

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading

Tom Greenwald

Reading level 5.4, 220 pages

Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading, but eventually his schemes go too far.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

Jack Gantos

Reading level 4.9, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 154 pages

While Joey is really a good kid, he just can't sit still, pay attention or follow the rules, and he can't help it – especially when his meds aren't working.

Summer Reading is Killing Me!

Jon Scieszka

Reading level 3.9, Fountas & Pinnell level P, 73 pages

At the beginning of summer vacation, Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books.

Series Fiction

39 Clues series

Various authors – the author of book #1, *Maze of Bones*, is Rick Riordan

When their aunt dies, Dan and Amy—along with other Cahill descendants—are faced with an unusual choice: inherit one million dollars or participate in a perilous treasure hunt. The first book in this series is *Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan.

Dear America/My America/My Name is America series

Various authors

These series include historical fiction books inspired by letters and diaries written during different historical periods. The *Dear America* books are told from girls' perspectives and the *My America* books are from boys' perspectives.

Goddess Girls series

Joan Holub

This series puts a modern spin on Greek classics. Follow Athena, Persephone, Aphrodite, and Artemis as they negotiate the ins and outs of Mount Olympus Academy. The first book in this series is *Athena the Brain*.

Harry Potter series

J. K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. The first book in this series is *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

I Survived series

Lauren Tarshis

Each book in the series tells a terrifying and thrilling story from history through the eyes of a boy who has lived to tell the tale.

Origami Yoda series

Tom Angleberger

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. The first book in this series is *The Strage Case of Origami Yoda*.

Pioneer Middle Incoming Sixth Grade Nonfiction Summer Reading List

Baby Whale Rescue: The True Story of J. J.

Caroline Arnold and Richard Hewett

Fountas & Pinnell level P, 32 pages

Describes how J.J., a baby gray whale born off the California coast and separated from her mother, was rescued and returned to the open sea.

Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon

Steve Sheinkin

Reading level 6.9, 266 pages

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer’s Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors

Chris Barton

Reading level 6.0, 42 pages

Illustrations and easy-to-follow text describe how brothers Bob and Joe Switzer invented fluorescent paint and colors; and explains how fluorescence works.

Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story (Young Readers’ Edition)

Vicki Myron

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 214 pages

Follows the development of an endearing kitten abandoned in an Iowa library drop-box into an affable library mascot who made many friendships with the library staff and patrons of all ages.

Drawing from Memory

Allen Say

Reading level 4.1, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 63 pages

Drawing from Memory is Allen Say's own story of his path to becoming the renowned artist he is today. Shunned by his father, who didn't understand his son's artistic leanings, Allen was embraced by Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist and the man he came to love as his 'spiritual father'.

El Deafo

Cece Bell

Reading level 3.3, 233 pages

A graphic novel memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired.

For the Love of Chimps: The Jane Goodall Story

Martha E. Kendall

Reading level 6.1, 72 pages

Presents a study of Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees of Africa and chronicles her early fascination with animals and years in the jungles gathering data about the behavioral habits of chimps.

Horses

Seymour Simon

Reading level 5.2, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 36 pages

Provides a brief history of horses, including how they evolved and how they have been trained by man for work, sports, warfare, and companionship. Also includes information about different varieties of horses as well as their physical attributes and their eating and breeding habits.

Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka

Jon Scieszka

Reading level 4.6, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 106 pages

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

The Librarian Who Measured the Earth

Kathryn Lasky

Reading level 5.8, Fountas & Pinnell level S, 48 pages

Describes the life and work of Erathosthenes, the Greek geographer and astronomer who accurately measured the circumference of the Earth.

The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System

Joanna Cole

Reading level 3.7, Fountas & Pinnell level P, 40 pages

On a special field trip in the magic school bus, Ms. Frizzle's class goes into outer space and visits each planet in the solar system.

Math Appeal

Greg Tang

Reading level 3.5, 40 pages

Rhyming anecdotes present opportunities for simple math activities and hints for solving.

Mythology: Oh My! Gods and Goddesses

Mary Frances Budzik

Reading level 6.7, 128 pages

Introduces ancient Greek, Norse, Egyptian, and Roman mythologies, including Zeus, father of the Greek gods, Norse Freyja, goddess of love, beauty, war, and death, and Egyptian Bastet, goddess of cats.

Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin

Gene Barretta

Reading level 5.1, Fountas & Pinnell level O, 32 pages

Looks at some of the many things invented by Benjamin Franklin that are still in use in the twenty-first century.

Oh, Rats! – The Story of Rats and People

Albert Marrin

Reading level 6.2, 42 pages

Describes rat behavior and survival skills and aspects of their relationship with humans, including disease, rats as food, rats as pests, and the training of rats as rescuers.

Pirates: A Nonfiction Companion to “Pirates Past Noon”

Will and Mary Pope Osborne

Reading level 4.9, 117 pages

What were pirates really like? How did people become pirates? Where did pirates bury their treasure? Dig up the answers to these questions with Jack and Annie's very own guide to pirates.

The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo

Sy Montgomery

Reading level 5.3, 79 pages

Scientist Lisa Dabek goes to New Guinea to study a strange animal called the Matschie's tree kangaroo.

Rick Riordan

Adam Furgang

Reading level 7.5, 111 pages

Profiles the life and career of the famous writer, Rick Riordan.

Shake, Rattle, and Roll: The Founders of Rock and Roll

Holly George-Warren

Reading level 6.4, 32 pages

Collection of one-page biographies with accompanying illustrations of some of the more influential stars of rock music, such as Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Buddy Holly.

Sharks

Seymour Simon

Reading level 6.1, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 34 pages

Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and environment of a variety of sharks.

The Tarantula Scientist

Sy Montgomery

Reading level 5.8, 80 pages

Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird eating tarantula.

We Are the Ship: The Story of the Negro Baseball League

Kadir Nelson

Reading level 5.9, 88 pages

Describes the glory years of Negro league baseball in the early 1900s, profiling its star athletes and highlighting the challenges faced by the players and the sacrifices made to live out their dreams and play the game they loved.

Who Was Sally Ride?

Megan Stine

Reading level 5.9, 103 pages

An illustrated biography of Sally Ride, describing the life of the first American woman to travel in space.

Who Was Steve Jobs?

Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso

Reading level 5.0, 105 pages

A biography of Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, discussing his childhood, family, business sense, and more.

Name _____

Fiction Story Map

Title of Story: _____ Author: _____

CHARACTERS (Give names, descriptions, traits, feelings...)

SETTING (When and Where...be descriptive)

PROBLEM/CONFLICT (The main dilemma that led the characters to act the way they did)

PLOT (major sequence of events in order...the action)

Beginning

Middle

End

-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-

SOLUTION/RESOLUTION (How the problem was solved)

THEME/AUTHOR'S MESSAGE (What you can learn from the story)

MY CONNECTIONS

1. Which part of the book did you **enjoy the most** and why?

2. If you could **change a part of the book**, which part would it be and why?

3. Think about the main character and his or her traits. Complete the **Character Trait Chart** below.

Trait	Thought, Action, Dialogue from the story that supports the trait.
1.	
2.	
3.	

Name _____

Title and Author	
Text Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Description• Sequential• Cause/Effect• Compare/Contrast• Problem/Solution	
Author's Purpose What purpose does the author have in sharing this text?	
Vocabulary Select five words from the text that connect with the topic.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Central Idea Select a section of the text and write the central idea along with three supporting details.	Page (s)- Central Idea – <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••