



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2024: 6th Grade Literature

"Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man."
-Francis Bacon

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To improve reading fluency
- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches the educational experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics and expand cultural literacy

General Instructions

You will read a total of three books.

Make sure the books you choose are interesting to you. You can choose books that are fiction, non-fiction, biographies, historical fiction, or a graphic novel. Research tells us that we are more invested as readers when we read about topics of high-interest.

- During the first weeks of school, there will be in-class assignments for each of the books.
- Read along with an audio book if the reading level of one of the books you chose is too difficult.
- You are welcome to choose your own books.
- If you would like to have guidance, suggestions are listed below.

Required Text (EACH student will read this text over the summer.)

- *Wonder* RJ Palacio ISBN 978-0-375-86902-0
August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. This story begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Choice Text Suggestions (Please select two books.)

- *The Bad Beginning* Lemony Snicket and Brett Helquist
After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.
- *Black Beauty* Anna Sewell
This is the tale of a horse a hundred years ago when horses were a part of daily life. Although his colthood is happy, Black Beauty discovers the ups and downs of life as he passes through the hands of different owners.

• *Bridge to Terabithia*

Katherine Paterson

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia.

• *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter's life is miserable. His parents are dead and he's stuck with his heartless relatives, who force him to live in a tiny closet under the stairs. But his fortune changes when he receives a letter that tells him the truth about himself: he's a wizard. A mysterious visitor rescues him from his relatives and takes him to his new home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

• *Holes*

Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is a kid who is under a curse, a curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now at Camp Green Lake, a detention center for boys, he spends all day digging holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize that the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this darkly humorous tale of crime, punishment, and redemption.

• *The Incurable Children of Ashton Place: Book I:*

The Mysterious Howling

Maryrose Wood

Discovered in the forest of Ashton Place, the Incurables are no ordinary children. Luckily, Miss Penelope Lumley is no ordinary governess. A recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, Penelope embraces the challenge of her new position. Though she is eager to instruct the children in Latin verbs and the proper use of globes, first she must eliminate their canine tendencies

• *Tuck Everlasting*

Natalie Babbitt

Time drags by for Winnie Foster, an eleven-year-old girl who lives in a house bordering a forest. But one morning she sneaks away into the woods and there she sees a young man drinking from a mysterious spring of water. This spring harbors a powerful secret that transforms Winnie's world.

• *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Wilson Rawls

Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. But tragedy awaits, and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.

• *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*

Betty G. Birney

Life in Sassafras Springs has always been predictable, boring even, but one afternoon that changes when Eben McAllister's pa challenges him to find the Seven Wonders in Sassafras that rival the real Seven Wonders of the World. The reward? An adventure that Eben's been craving – a trip to Colorado.

• *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*

Jules Verne

This exciting story features the unforgettable Captain Nemo, and it chronicles the voyages within his submarine from the lost continent of Atlantis to the South Pole.

• *Redwall*

Brian Jacques

Redwall Abbey, tranquil home to a community of peace-loving mice, is threatened by Cluny the Scourge, a savage bilge rat warlord and his battle-hardened horde. But the Redwall mice and their loyal woodland friends combing their courage and strength to fight back.

• *The Book Thief*

Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel – a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents to help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

• *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*

Jeanne Birdsall

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

• *Watership Down*

Richard Adams

Set in England's Downs, this tale of adventure, courage, and survival follows a band of bunnies on their flight from man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a pair of brothers, they journey from their home of Sandleford Warren through trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land.

• *White Bird*

R.J. Palacio

In R. J. Palacio's collection of stories *Auggie & Me*, which expands on characters in *Wonder*, readers were introduced to Julian's grandmother, Grandmère. This is Grandmère's story as a young Jewish girl hidden away by a family in Nazi-occupied France during World War II told in graphic novel form.

• *The Notorious Benedict Arnold*

Steve Sheinkin

Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. This accessible biography introduces young readers to the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure tale.

The Notorious Benedict Arnold is the winner of the 2011 Boston Globe - Horn Book Award for Nonfiction.

• *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Avi

An ocean voyage of unimaginable consequences... Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. But I was just such a girl, and my story is worth relating even if it did happen years ago. Be warned, however: If strong ideas and action offend you, read no more. Find another companion to share your idle hours. For my part I intend to tell the truth as I lived it.

• *The War That Saved My Life*

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot 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. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

(from Goodreads.com)

Recommendations While Reading

1. Annotation (highlighting, margin notes, summaries) of the reading is a beneficial tool for comprehension, retention, and application.

***The BA English Department policy:
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or movies.
Read and mark the texts themselves.***