Sixth Grade Summer Reading

“The seeds of reading and school success are sown in the home, long before the child ever arrives at school.” Jim Trelease, The Read-Aloud Handbook

Summer reading is very important! Randolph’s curriculum works best when it builds upon what parents are doing at home. We want our children to return after the summer ready to read, write, and learn. Research shows that the child who does not read 20 minutes every day all summer loses reading and cognitive skills they developed in the previous school year. This “summer slide” is cumulative and children do not catch up in the fall.

Students who love to read will see success in school. This begins at home where students are encouraged to read, their parents set an example of reading in front of them, and their parents read aloud to them. Becoming a good reader takes practice. Offer your children quiet times and good places to enjoy reading. Read aloud to them on a regular basis - students whose parents do so perform better on standardized tests, have a decided advantage in terms of vocabulary and grammar development, and find more success in all subjects.

Summer Reading Requirements for rising sixth grade:

- **One non-fiction** book of your choice (including any from the Suggested Reading List)
- Any **three** books of your choice (including any from Suggested Reading List)

We believe students enjoy reading more when allowed to read books and articles of their choice. We would like them to read age-appropriate material, and realize that some families would appreciate a suggested reading list, which we have done.

By all means, if your child finds another book in the library, bookstore, or family bookshelf which you feel is appropriate, allow them to read it as part of their “summer reading requirement.”

For the **three books of your choice** (and for ALL books read over the summer, even ones that go above and beyond the Randolph requirement):

- You are asked to fill out a chart on a sheet of paper giving the name of the book, its author, and signed and pledged by *both* you and a parent that you finished the book and that you had not read it before. You will be able to include these three for your “40 Book Challenge” in 6th grade! This will be turned in on the first day of school.

For the **non-fiction book of your choice**:

- Fill out the thinking routine: **Circle-Square-Triangle**. You may print off the one provided with this document or create your own. After you read the non-fiction book fill out the shapes as follows: Square- “What are you square with? What did you learn that you understand well and could even teach it to someone else? Triangle- What are the three main points of the book? Circle- What questions do you still have swirling around in your mind? What does the book make you wonder about? (Include at least three questions.) This will also count toward the “40 Book Challenge.”
SIXTH GRADE SUGGESTED READING LIST

Historical Fiction
The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly
The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine
Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen
The Time-Traveling Fashionista by Bianca Turetskey
Counting on Grace by Elizabeth Winthrop

Realistic Fiction
Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs
Chomp by Carl Hiassen
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
The Candymakers by Wendy Mass
Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage
Football Genius by Tim Green
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Fantasy
Children of the Lamp (series) by Philip Kerr
The False Prince (series) by Jennifer Nielsen
The Emerald Atlas (series) by John Stephens
The Land of Stories (series) by Chris Colfer
The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp by Kathi Appelt

Science Fiction
The City of Ember (series) by Jeanne DuPrau
Among the Hidden (series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Dark Life (series) by Kat Falls
Heir Apparent by Vivian Vande Velde
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

Elephant Run by Roland Smith
The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True and Fictional Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West by Gary Paulsen
The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel by Deborah Hopkinson
The Big Field by Mike Lupica
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
The Red Blazer Girls (series) by Michael D. Beil
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Hold Fast by Blue Balliett
Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree by Lauren Tarshis
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
The Ranger’s Apprentice (series) by John Flanagan
The Red Pyramid (series) by Rick Riordan
The Unwanteds (series) by Lisa McMann
Jinx (series) by Sage Blackwood

The Mysterious Benedict Society (series) by Trenton Lee Stewart
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
Leviathan (series) by Scott Westerfeld
Pendragon (series) by D.J. MacHale
The Tomorrow Code (series) by Brian Falkner
The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel
Poetry
Poems to Learn by Heart edited by Caroline Kennedy
Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems by Kristine O'Connell George
19 varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East by Naomi Shihab Nye
Freedom Like Sunlight: Praisesongs for Black Americans by Patrick J. Lewis
The Dream Keeper and Other Poems: Including Seven Additional Poems by Langston Hughes
Black Stars in a White Night Sky by JonArno Lawson

Non-Fiction
Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin
The Journey that Saved Curious George: the True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey by Louise Borden
Titanic: Voices from the Disaster by Deborah Hopkinson
Journey into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures by Rebecca Johnson
Pharaoh's Boat by David Weitzman
Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio by Peg Kehret
Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw by Elaine Scott
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson
Beyond the solar system: exploring galaxies, black holes, alien planets, and more: a history with 21 activities by Mary Carson
Eruption!: volcanoes and the science of saving lives by Elizabeth Rusch
Curiosity's mission on Mars: exploring the red planet by Ron Miller
At home in her tomb: Lady Dai and the ancient Chinese treasures of Mawangdui by Christine Liu-Perkins
Fractions in disguise by Edward Einhorn
Manga math mysteries (series) by Melinda Thielbar

Graphic Novels
Smile by Raina Telgemeier
Sisters by Raina Telgemeier
Amulet (series) by Kazu Kibuishi
Bone (series) by Jeff Smith
El Deafo by CeCe Bell
To Dance: A Memoir by Siena Cherson Siegel