



GRADE 6 REQUIRED READING

Because of Mr. Terupt Rob Buyea

Mr. Terupt's fifth grade class loves their new teacher because he makes learning fun. Instead of ordinary assignments, he gives them the power to choose tasks and learn to solve problems. The story is told from the points of view of seven students over the course of the school year. Peter is the trickster who loves to test the limits at all times. Jessica is the new girl who has trouble fitting in with the others. Luke loves school and is brilliant at math. Alexia enjoys causing trouble for other students. Shy Danielle has a controlling mother and grandmother. Anna's home life makes her a social outcast. Jeffery simply hates school. A tragic accident brings the seven narrators together in support of their teacher. They all learn valuable lessons in this entertaining yet thought provoking novel that addresses serious issues and accepting responsibility for one's actions.

Writing Assignment: Over the course of Buyea's book, each of Mr. Terupt's students changes considerably. In a double spaced paper, trace the growth of one student as he or she changes and learns important life lessons. Be sure to refer to examples from the text for support. However, do not include page numbers for this assignment. Your typed response, using a size 12 font, should be one to one and a half pages in length.

ADDITIONAL READING

You will also read two (2) additional books as part of your summer reading. You should choose one of the books from the following list. For your second book, you are free to choose any other book, although you may choose another book from the list below. There are links at the end of this list that may help as well.

FICTION

Trash Andy Mulligan

In an unnamed undeveloped country, three "dumpsite boys" make a living picking through the mountains of garbage on the outskirts of a large city. One unlucky-lucky day, Raphael finds something very special and very mysterious. So mysterious that he decides to keep it, even when the city police offer a handsome reward for its return. That decision brings with it terrifying consequences, and soon the dumpsite boys must use all of their cunning and courage to stay ahead of their pursuers. It's up to Raphael, Gardo, and Rat—boys who have no education, no parents, no homes, and no money—to solve the mystery and right a terrible wrong.



The Lions of Little Rock Kristin Levine

Quiet and withdrawn, twelve-year-old Marlee doesn't have many friends until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is everything Marlee isn't. She always seems to know the right thing to say, especially to the most popular girl at school who has bossed Marlee around in the past. Liz even helps Marlee to overcome her greatest fear – speaking, which Marlee never does outside of her family circle. Then suddenly, Liz is gone, replaced by the rumor that she was a black girl passing as white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter and wants Liz as a friend no matter the color of her skin. This is a powerful story of friendship and determination set in Little Rock, Arkansas during 1958.

Scorpio Races Maggie Stiefvater

It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. At age nineteen, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition — the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen.

Peak Roland Smith

When Peak Marcello is caught climbing the side of a New York City skyscraper, the judge is determined to throw the book at him. His mother, stepfather, and father devise a plan that will keep him out of jail and away from the press. He is to leave the United States with his father, a famous mountain climber. Peak thinks he is on his way to Thailand and is thrilled when his father takes him to climb Mount Everest. Peak is hoping to bond with the father he hardly knows. However, it is not long before he learns the real reason his father has brought him there. He wants his son to have the distinction of being the youngest climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest. The story is full of action, mystery, and suspense. The harshness of climbing Mount Everest offers Peak lessons on life and death and helps him to grasp the true importance of family and friends.

The Grimm Legacy Polly Shulman

Elizabeth has just started working as a page at the New York Circulating Material Repository - a lending library of objects, contemporary and historical, common and obscure. And secret, too - for in the repository's basement lies the Grimm Collection, a room of magical items straight from the Grimm Brother's fairy tales. But the magic mirrors and seven-league boots and other items are starting to disappear. And before she knows it, she and her fellow pages - handsome Marc, perfect Anjali, and brooding Aaron - are suddenly caught up in an exciting, and dangerous, magical adventure.

Everlost Neal Shusterman

Nick and Allie don't survive the car accident, but their souls don't exactly get where they're



supposed to go either. Instead, they're caught halfway between life and death, in a sort of limbo known as Everlost: a shadow of the living world, filled with all the things and places that no longer exist. It's a magical, yet dangerous place where bands of lost kids run wild and anyone who stands in the same place too long sinks to the center of the Earth. In this imaginative novel, Neal Shusterman explores questions of life, death, and what just might lie in between.

The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge M.T. Anderson and Eugene Yelchin

Uptight elfin historian Brangwain Spurge is on a mission: survive being catapulted across the mountains into goblin territory, deliver a priceless peace offering to their mysterious dark lord, and spy on the goblin kingdom — from which no elf has returned alive in more than a hundred years. Brangwain's host, the goblin archivist Werfel, is delighted to show Brangwain around. They should be the best of friends, but a series of extraordinary double crosses, blunders, and cultural misunderstandings throws these two bumbling scholars into the middle of an international crisis that may spell death for them — and war for their nations. Witty mixed media illustrations show Brangwain's furtive missives back to the elf kingdom, while Werfel's determinedly unbiased narrative tells an entirely different story. A hilarious and biting social commentary, this tale is rife with thrilling action and visual humor...and a comic disparity that suggests the ultimate victor in a war is perhaps not who won the battles, but who gets to write the history.

First Test Tamora Pierce

Ten years after knighthood training was opened to both males and females, no girl has been brave enough to try. But knighthood is Keladry's one true desire, so she steps forward to put herself to the test. Up against the traditional hazing of pages and a grueling schedule, Kel faces one roadblock that seems insurmountable: Lord Wyldon, the training master. He is absolutely against girls becoming knights. So while he is forced to train her, Wyldon puts her on a probationary trial period that no male page has ever had to endure. But Kel is determined to try, and she's making friends in the most unlikely places. One thing is for sure; Kel is not a girl to underestimate.

Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth Frank Cottrell

Boyce Prez Mellows lives with his increasingly forgetful grandfather until an incident that results in Granddad being sent away to be "sorted out." Prez, electively mute, is taken in by the Blythes, a raucous farm family on Scotland's southern border. Boyce's story is kick-started by the arrival of Sputnik, a being visible to Prez as a "wee alien in a kilt and goggles," and to everyone else as an adorable and exceedingly clever dog. Sputnik's mission is to save Earth from impending doom by finding 10 worthy things about the planet to update a guidebook, originally written by Laika, the Russian space dog. His advanced knowledge of scientific principles combines with a penchant for mischief to produce an avalanche of kooky mayhem (working lightsabers are involved). It's a funny and touching story about a boy who, through a transformative summer, learns to expand his definitions of family and home.



A Face Like Glass Frances Hardinge

In the underground city of Caverna, the world's most skilled craftsmen toil in the darkness to create delicacies beyond compare: wines that remove memories, cheeses that make you hallucinate, and perfumes that convince you to trust the wearer, even as they slit your throat. On the surface, the people of Caverna seem ordinary, except for one thing: their faces are as blank as untouched snow. Expressions must be learned, and only the famous Facesmiths can teach a person to express (or fake) joy, despair, or fear at a steep price. Into this dark and distrustful world comes Neverfell, a girl with no memory of her past and a face so terrifying to those around her that she must wear a mask at all times. Neverfell's expressions are as varied and dynamic as those of the most skilled Facesmiths, except hers are entirely genuine. And that makes her very dangerous indeed.

Space Case Stuart Gibbs

It's 2041, and 12-year-old Dash Gibson lives with his family on Moon Base Alpha, the first lunar outpost. Life is mostly dull (watching TV, going to the gym to keep fit, and playing video games) until Ronald Holtz, the beloved base physician, dies under suspicious circumstances. Despite warnings from the base's commander, Dash continues to investigate the incident as a possible murder. Gibbs's passion for science is obvious, and his portrayal of what life might be like for a middle schooler in space is credible and insightful. The difficulty of learning to run in reduced gravity, the dreary food, and recycled water (urine is purified and returned to the reservoir) all are treated evenhandedly with reference to relevant science. The prospect of contact with a distant race of super-intelligent beings provides an intriguing "what if" element.

The Crossover Kwame Alexander

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a hot new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. An accomplished author and poet, Alexander eloquently mashes up concrete poetry, hip-hop, a love of jazz, and a thriving family bond. The effect is poetry in motion. Consider also: *Rebound* and/or *Booked* in The Crossover Series

One Crazy Summer Rita Williams-Garcia

Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.



NONFICTION

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America Sharon Robinson

The daughter of the man who integrated Major League Baseball has given America a beautiful gift in the form of an annotated scrapbook. This book has many surprises and impressive details about the man who was a champion on and off the field.

Motor Girls Sue Macy

Come along for a joy ride in this enthralling tribute to the daring women - Motor Girls, as they were called at the turn of the century - who got behind the wheel of the first cars and paved the way for change. The automobile has always symbolized freedom, and in this book readers meet the first generation of female motorists who drove cars for fun, profit, and to make a statement about the evolving role of women. From the advent of the auto in the 1890s to the 1920s when the breaking down of barriers for women was in full swing, readers will be delighted to see historical photos, art, and artifacts and to discover the many ways these progressive females influenced fashion, the economy, politics, and the world around them.

Bound by Ice Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace

In the years following the Civil War, "Arctic fever" gripped the American public, fueled by myths of a fertile, tropical sea at the top of the world. Several explorers attempted to find a route to the North Pole, but none succeeded. *Bound by Ice* follows the journey of George Washington De Long and the crew of the USS Jeannette, who departed San Francisco in the summer of 1879 hoping to find a route to the North Pole. However, in mid-September the ship became locked in ice north of Siberia and drifted for nearly two years before it was crushed by ice and sank. De Long and his men escaped the ship and began a treacherous journey in extreme polar conditions. A riveting true-life adventure, *Bound by Ice* includes excerpts from De Long's extensive journals and from newspapers of the time, as well as photos and sketches by the men on the expedition.

Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food Eric Schlosser

Aimed to arm them with the facts they should--but probably don't—know about the fast food industry of which they are such an integral part, this book speaks to kids. There are no lectures here about why they shouldn't be ordering extra value meals or considering French fries as a food group. Schlosser and Wilson provide information in an engaging way, a way in which the readers can't help but critically think about the choices they make on a regular basis when it comes to fast food.

High Exposure David Brashears

David Brashears has climbed Mt. Everest four times and for this, he is recognized as a world-class mountaineer. A talented writer, Brashears biography reads like an exciting and suspenseful novel.



Please read one (1) book of your own choosing. The sites below include possibilities if you are looking for ideas.

<https://www.nutmegaward.org/intermediate-4-6>

<https://www.nutmegaward.org/middle-school-7-8>