



# Grade 6 – Summer Work

**Students entering sixth grade in the fall are required to read at least FOUR books and are encouraged to work on math skills over the summer.** Students are expected to arrive at school in September ready to actively engage in discussions about these texts.

Unless noted, families must either purchase or borrow their own copies of books. Digital format (Kindle) is acceptable, as is audiobook accompaniment for readers who benefit from it. Many digital books are accessible through Park's Digital Library and *Hoopla* (Boston Public Library's digital resource, which all Massachusetts residents can access for free).

To strengthen the home-and-school connection, you are invited (but by no means required) to read these selections alongside your child. Most of all, please join us in promoting reading as a wonderful way to relax, and enjoy the summer.

---

## English

Our intention for summer reading is to promote a lifelong love of reading, enrich our students' understanding of the world, and prepare them for the Upper Division. These texts will introduce, reinforce, and focus on the theme of courage, an idea that will be woven through the English and Social Studies curriculum for the whole school year.

**1. ONE choice from this list of award-winning novels about courageous youths and the obstacles and the challenges they face.** Students are expected to select a book that they have NOT read before. If students have read all of these books, they are expected to re-read one. As students read, they should actively consider these questions:

- **What is courage?**
- **How is it demonstrated in these books?**

[\*So Far From the Bamboo Grove\*](#) by Yoko Kawashima Watkins

[\*Nowhere Boy\*](#) by Katherine March

[\*A Good Kind of Trouble\*](#) by Lisa Moore Ramée

[\*Bridge to Terabithia\*](#) by Katherine Paterson

[\*Maniac Magee\*](#) by Jerry Spinelli

[\*Locomotion\*](#) **and** [\*Peace, Locomotion\*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson (two books count as one choice)

**2. ONE free read from the [searchable library database](#).**

Please note that the Park Reads page is best viewed on a laptop or desktop.

If you have any questions about reading or obtaining these texts, contact [Susan Bogue Myslik](#).

## Social Studies

**3. *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*** by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton  
(Provided to all students by the social studies department.)

A contemporary, non-fiction account of a boy who grows up in Kenya and travels the world, but never abandons home. As you read, please consider these focus questions:

- How and why does the main character demonstrate courage?
- What is life like for a boy growing up in the Maasai world?

Questions? Please contact [Chris Beeson](#)

## Math

Just as students benefit from reading throughout the summer, regular practice with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematical gains made during the school year. We recommend students practice the following skills to a level of proficiency to start Grade VI math. For students who would benefit from targeted skill practice, we recommend that families purchase the [Spectrum Math Workbook](#). For students seeking more mixed skill review, we recommend [Summer Math Skill Sharpener](#) workbook. Please purchase the grade level your child just completed. Questions? Please contact [Christy Keblusek](#).

### Stretch and Challenge

For additional stretch and challenge, we recommend [Problems of the Week](#) on the MathCounts website, [previous AMC8 contest](#) competitions and [previous Purple Comet competitions](#).