

HIES SIXTH GRADE: SUMMER READING 2021

“A great book is the best of friends, the same today and forever.”

Martin Tupper, 1838

Please note students must read **TWO** books this summer. **All** students are required to read *When You Reach Me*. You will create your own project from the **ADDITIONAL** book you select from the list below. The instructions for your project are at the end of the list.

1. REQUIRED:

Stead, Rebecca. **WHEN YOU REACH ME.**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1970's television game show “The \$20,000 Pyramid,” a 12 year old New York City student tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

2. SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Barnes, Derrick. **WE COULD BE BROTHERS.**

Three boys with seemingly nothing in common serve time in after-school detention and find themselves on a collision course that changes their lives forever.

Bauer, Joan. **CLOSE TO FAMOUS.**

When twelve-year-old Foster and her mother land in the tiny town of Culpepper, they don't know what to expect. But folks quickly warm to the woman with the great voice and the girl who can bake like nobody's business. Soon Foster - who dreams of having her own cooking show one day - lands herself a gig baking for the local coffee shop, and gets herself some much-needed help in overcoming her biggest challenge - learning to read . . . just as Foster and Mama start to feel at ease, their past catches up to them. Thanks to the folks in Culpepper, though Foster and her mama find the strength to put their troubles behind them for good.

Bauer, Joan. **HOPE WAS HERE.**

When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope's not sure what to expect. But what they find is that the owner, G.T., isn't quite ready to give up yet--in fact, he's decided to run for mayor against a corrupt candidate. And as Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds herself caught up in G.T.'s campaign--particularly his visions for the future. After all, as G.T. points out, everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times . . . even Hope herself. Filled with heart, charm, and good old-fashioned fun, this is Joan Bauer at her best.

Bowling, Dusti. **INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS.**

Thirteen-year-old Aven Green was born without arms. With her parents' support and encouragement, that has never stopped her from finding ways to do anything she sets her mind to do. She has lots of friends, loves school, and plays a great game of soccer. When her family moves for her parents' new jobs at a rundown theme park, Aven has to start over in a brand-new middle school where the other kids do not accept her because of her differences. Hiding out in the school library during lunch one day, Aven meets Connor who is also avoiding the cafeteria because of his Tourette's Syndrome. As their friendship blossoms, Aven and Connor solve a mystery, confront their fears, encourage each other, and eventually find a group of friends, as well as the answers to some puzzling questions. Laced with humor, this amazing novel teaches empathy, acceptance, and courage to be the person you were meant to be.

Brown, Daniel James. **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT.** (Young Readers Adaption).

The astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

Cooper, Susan. **OVER SEA, UNDER STONE.**

Three children on holiday in Cornwall find an ancient manuscript, which sends them on a dangerous quest for a grail that would reveal the true story of King Arthur.

Cooper, Susan. **THE DARK IS RISING.**

On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark.

Cushman, Karen. **THE MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE.**

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife and, in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in the world.

Feinstein, John. **CHANGE-UP: MYSTERY AT THE WORLD SERIES.**

Teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are covering baseball's World Series, and during the course of an interview with a new hot pitcher, they discover more than a few contradictions in his life story. What's he hiding? An embarrassing secret? A possible crime? Let the investigation begin!

Fenner, Carol. **YOLANDA'S GENIUS.**

After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader Yolanda, big and strong for her age, determines to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius.

Green, Tim. **BASEBALL GREAT.**

Twelve-year-old Josh LeBlanc has moved a lot in his life; his father is a minor league pitcher hoping to make it to the majors. After his dad is abruptly dumped by his Triple-A team, Josh realizes that he has a chance to stay in one town and play baseball on his school team. His father, however, has other plans, signing Josh up for a traveling team, led by an intense and sometimes brutal coach, whose formula for winning includes some dishonest, even illegal, components.

Green, Tim. **FOOTBALL GENIUS.**

Troy White has a lot of frustrations, but they are offset by his most unusual gift: the ability to predict coming football plays with uncanny accuracy.

Green, Tim. **FOOTBALL HERO.**

Ty Lewis can't believe it when Coach V recruits him for the football team, but Ty's guardian, won't let him play: Uncle Gus needs Ty to work for his cleaning business while he cooks up gambling schemes with the local mob boss, a man called "Lucy, who befriends Ty. Is Lucy asking Ty about fantasy football . . . or using Ty to get valuable insider info from his superstar brother?

Hale, Shannon. **PRINCESS ACADEMY.**

Miri lives on a mountain where, for generations, her ancestors have quarried stone and lived a simple life. Then word comes that the king's priests have divined her small village the home of the future princess. In a year's time, the prince himself will come and choose his bride from among the girls of the village. The king's ministers set up an academy on the mountain, and every teenage girl must attend and learn how to become a princess. But when bandits seek out the academy to kidnap the future princess, Miri must rally the girls together and use a power unique to the mountain dwellers to save herself and her classmates.

Hiaasen, Carl. **SCAT.**

Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, is missing. She disappeared after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp. And, to be honest, the kids in her class are relieved. But when the principal tries to tell the students that Mrs. Starch has been called away on a "family emergency," Nick and Marta just don't buy it. No, they figure the class delinquent, Smoke, has something to do with her disappearance.

Holt, Kim. **WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN.**

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much until this summer that's full of big changes. It's tough for him when his mother leaves home to become a country singer. And Toby takes it hard when his best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. Now their sleepy town is about to get an even bigger jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver, billed as the fattest boy in the world. Toby is in for a summer unlike any other, a summer sure to change his life.

Konigsburg, EL. **FROM THE MIXED UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER**

This is the story of two young children who run away from home to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art...and find themselves in the heart of a mystery.

Lore, Pittacus. **NUMBER 4.**

Nine of us came here. We look like you. We talk like you. We live among you. But we are not you. We can do things you dream of doing. We have powers you dream of having. We are stronger and faster than anything you have ever seen. We are the superheroes you worship in movies and comic books—but we are real. Our plan was to grow, and train, and become strong, and become one, and fight them. But they found us and started hunting us first. Now all of us are running. Spending our lives in shadows, in places where no one would look, blending in. we have lived among you without you knowing. But they know.

Lyons, Mary E. **LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL.**

In this fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written during her slavery in North Carolina, she prepares for her escape to the North in 1842.

Mass, Wendy. **CANDY MAKERS.**

In the town of Spring Haven, four children have been selected to compete in the national candymaking contest of a lifetime. Who will make a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Yellow Lightning Chew? Logan, the candymaker's son, who can detect the color of chocolate by feel alone? Miles, the boy allergic to rowboats and the color pink? Daisy, the cheerful girl who can lift a fifty-pound lump of taffy as if it were a feather?

Philip, the suit-and-tie-wearing boy who's always scribbling in a secret notebook? This sweet, charming, and cleverly crafted story, told from each contestant's perspective, is filled with mystery, friendship, and juicy revelations.

Mass, Wendy. **A MANGO-SHAPED SPACE.**

Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift in this coming-of-age novel.

Murphy, Jim. **THE JOURNAL OF JAMES EDMOND PEASE, A CIVIL WAR UNION SOLDIER.**

James Edmond Pease, a sixteen-year-old orphan, keeps a journal of his experiences and those of 'G' company, which he joined as a volunteer in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Myers, Walter Dean. **CRUISERS.**

Four 8th graders who have published an alternative newspaper, much to the dismay of their assistant principal, are challenged to negotiate peace between Union and Confederate mock sympathizers as a "last chance to shape up" at their gifted and talented school.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. **RESCUE.**

Jennifer A. Nielsen is a perennial favorite among middle school students who enjoy historical fiction of the World War II era. In her latest book, published in 2021, readers will meet Meg Kenyon, a young British girl who has been living in occupied France. Meg has secretly been helping the resistance movement, but when her father is arrested by the Nazis, the stakes become much higher. Can she use her code-breaking skills and a daring winter rescue mission through the mountains of France to save her family and her country? This is an exciting book—almost anyone who reads this will go looking to read Nielsen's other books about brave teens during World War II.

Oppel, Kenneth. **AIRBORN.**

In the style of the Harry Potter novels, *Airborn* presents an adventurous tale of a young crew member aboard a luxury airship. Matt Cruse longs to become a captain, but if he is to get there, he must face dangerous obstacles and help free-spirited Kate find her destiny as well.

Palacio, R.J. **WONDER.**

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.

Paterson, Katherine. **LYDDIE.**

In the 1840s, impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Rawls, Wilson. **WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS.**

Billy and his precious coonhound pups romp relentlessly through the Ozarks, 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. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves, but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern that grows over the graves of his dogs.

Rylant, Cynthia. **MISSING MAY.**

After the death of her Aunt May, twelve-year-old Summer and her Uncle Ob miss May so much that they accept the help of a friend of Summer's and search for a sign from her.

Schulman, Mark. **SCRAWL.**

When 8th grade school bully Tod and his friends are sentenced to staying after school and writing in a journal under the watchful eye of their guidance counselor, much is revealed that the kids would prefer to keep hidden.

Silverberg, Alan. **MILO: STICKY NOTES AND BRAIN FREEZE.**

Loveable geek Milo finds reasons for frustration at every turn. Ever since his mom died, nothing in life has been right, but his heart and humor will bring him hope.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **ZEN AND THE ART OF FAKING IT.**

When eighth-grader San Lee moves to a new town and a new school for the umpteenth time, he doesn't try to make new friends or be a loner or play cool. He instead devises a plan to be totally different. When he accidentally answers too many questions in World History on Zen (only because he just had Ancient Religions two schools ago) all heads turn and San has his answer: he's a Zen Master. And just when he thinks everyone (including the cute girl he can't stop thinking about) is on to him, everyone believes him . . . in a major Zen way.

Spinelli, Jerry. **STARGIRL.**

From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, hallways hum "Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. Until they are not. Leo urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her - normal.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY.**

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" When this peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. (And you, dear reader, can test your wits right alongside them.) But in the end just four very special children will succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and resourceful children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **TREASURE ISLAND.**

Pirates, buried treasure, and action aplenty--that's what's served up in this fine story, mates. After Jim Hawkins finds the map to a mysterious treasure, he sets sail in search of the fortune. Little does he realize he's boarded a pirate ship, and that surprises and danger await him...including a meeting with the unforgettable Long John Silver.

Verne, Jules. **FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON.**

After the Civil War, the Baltimore Gun Club, founded in 1833, decides to experiment with a projectile aimed at the moon.

Wells, H. G. **WAR OF THE WORLDS.**

In this early science fiction novel, first published in 1898, strange creatures from Mars invade England.

***REQUIRED PROJECT FOR YOUR
ADDITIONAL (2ND) BOOK IS ON NEXT
PAGE...!***

REQUIRED PROJECT: For the book you chose to read...not for WHEN YOU REACH ME!

You will need to create a mini book all about the book you have read. Your mini book must be

8 1/2 inches by 5 1/2 inches, which is the size of a piece of construction paper folded in half.

Please see rubric below so you will understand how you will be graded and know what is expected for success.

Please do not use any clip art or images from the Internet. This needs to be your own original work: **no outside help**. Be creative, put forth your best effort and have fun!

REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

-Cover: Create a cover design for the selected book, original art different from published cover. Include the title, author's name, and YOUR name!

-Inside Cover: Leave blank.

-Page 1: (opposite the inside cover): Include the title, author, and 4-6 sentences that give your overall impression of the book from your point of view. Did you like it? Why? Why not?

-Pages 2-3: (center spread): Create a picture of your favorite part of the book and include a brief explanation about why it's your favorite part.

-Page 4: List five vocabulary words that are new to you and important in the book. Write their definitions in your own words. Then use each word in an **original** sentence not found in the book.

-Inside Back Cover: Leave blank.

-Back Cover: Write an original "teaser" to entice others to read the book. Put your first and last name and write *I honor the pledge*.

*This project is **due Monday, August 16th, 2021!***

Project rubric is on the next page!

Project Rubric:

Category	4 –Exceeds expectations	3 – Very good	2 – Passably acceptable	1 – Needs serious improvement
Cover Design: Outside cover designs reflection of the book. NO downloaded images or clip art. MUST BE ORIGINAL!	Exceedingly creative and thoughtful. The student chose a very relevant scene or image to depict and did so with great care.	Creative and thoughtful. The student chose a relevant scene or image to depict and did so with some care.	Somewhat creative and slightly thoughtful. The student chose a fairly relevant scene or image to depict.	Not creative or thoughtful. The student chose an irrelevant scene or image to depict and executed the cover with little to no effort or thought.
Format: Inside front and inside back cover were left blank; page one contained the title, author, and 4-6 sentences that review the book; the pledge was included and signed.	Student followed directions perfectly.	Student followed directions very closely.	Student followed directions somewhat.	Student did not follow directions.
Center Spread: Illustration of favorite scene on pages two and three of the mini book and explanation of favorite part.	Student's illustration shows strong thought and effort. Explanation is very well written and uses vivid vocab.	Student's illustration shows some thought and effort. Explanation is somewhat well written.	Student's illustration shows a little thought and effort. Explanation is adequate and at least 4 sentences.	Student's illustration shows no thought and little effort. Explanation is very poorly written and is less than 4 sentences.
Vocabulary: Page four includes five vocabulary words from the book, definitions, and sentences using each.	Student selected challenging words that he or she would be unfamiliar with and followed directions perfectly.	Student selected all moderately challenging words and followed directions almost perfectly.	Student selected a few moderately challenging words and followed directions for the most part.	Student selected words that provided little to no challenge for the grade level and did not follow directions.
Teaser: Sentence or two that describes the plot and makes people want to read the book.	Exceedingly well written, original, and essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and spelling errors.	Well-written, original, and practically free of grammatical, mechanical, and spelling errors.	Acceptably written, original, and a few grammatical, mechanical, and spelling errors.	Poorly written, not original (from the Internet, book, etc.), and essentially filled with grammatical, mechanical, and spelling errors.