

## HIES SIXTH GRADE: SUMMER READING 2022

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

*Martin Tupper, 1838*

Students must read **TWO** books this summer. **All** students are required to read *When You Reach Me*. In addition, you and your parents should review the “choice” reading selections below, and select a second book that you will enjoy reading. You will create a project on your chosen book that is due the second day of school. You will also complete an assignment on *When You Reach Me* when school begins. The instructions for the summer project are below the Summer Reading List.

### **The required novel:**

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 that seem to defy the laws of time and space that she receives from an anonymous source.

### **Read one additional novel from the Summer Reading List. This will be your “project” novel:**

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, 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 Adaptation).

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.

DiCamillo, Kate. **THE BEATRYCE PROPHECY.**

A collaboration between two-time Newbery Award winner, Kate DiCamillo and two-time Caldecott winner, Sophie Blackall, this beautifully written and illustrated book is a play on a medieval epic complete with a courageous girl amend Beatryce, a cantankerous goat, a young monk, and the agents of the king who will seemingly stop at nothing to capture Beatryce. This is an exciting and memorable book for all readers.

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, is determined to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius.

Gratz, Alan. **GROUND ZERO.**

September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive -- and escape?

September 11, 2019, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz -- and put herself and her family in mortal danger? Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same. Amazon recommended reading age-11 and up.

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 divided her small village into 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.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **HOW I BECAME A SPY: A MYSTERY OF WORLD WAR II**

**LONDON.** Bertie is on his first night as a volunteer in the youth air-raid patrol in war-time London. He is patrolling the darkened streets of wartime London by bicycle with his small search and rescue dog, Little Roo, in his bicycle basket when he accidentally crashes into an American girl. When she runs off into the night, she leaves behind a mysterious notebook full of ciphers and codes that will help Bertie and his friends save an innocent girl and capture a double agent. This fast-paced historical mystery is a celebration of friendship, courage, and kids' ingenuity. A bonus: This book contains lots of information and fun practice to help the reader learn to decipher secret codes and ciphers.

Kelly, Lynne. **SONG FOR A WHALE.**

If you liked *Fish in a Tree*, you will love this book. The only deaf student in her school, 12 year Iris desperately wants to fit in and find good friends. In her science class, she learns about a whale that communicates at a different frequency. She becomes obsessed with this whale whose song is so off-pitch he's become unrecognizable to other whales. She feels compelled to communicate with this whale and to let him know that he's not alone. In fact, she's willing to break family and school rules to reach him. Partially based on the story of a real whale—this book is amazing.

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.

Mass, Wendy. **CANDY MAKERS.**

In the town of Spring Haven, four children have been selected to compete in the national candy making 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.

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 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.

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.

Warga, Jasmine. **OTHER WORDS FOR HOME**

Jude is an 11 year old Syrian refugee who has been sent by her father to live in America in order to escape the violence in her own country. In this novel, told in verse, Jude is initially overwhelmed by all the changes she is experiencing, but eventually finds friends and a voice of her own as she takes part in the school musical.

Choose one of the following projects to complete on the novel you chose from the Summer Reading List. *This project is due the second day of school.*

**Choice #1: Booklet**

**Assignment:**

- Create a mini book all about your additional choice novel.
- 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 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!
- Write legibly. All pencil marks should be gone over with a pen.

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS of Booklet:**

<b>Element for Booklet</b>	<b>Where to place it in Booklet</b>
Create a cover design for the selected book, original art different from published cover. Include the <b>title, author’s name, and YOUR name!</b>	cover
Leave blank	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?	Page 1: (opposite the inside cover)
Create a picture of your favorite part of the book and include a brief explanation about why it’s your favorite part.	Pages 2-3: (center spread)
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 <b>original</b> sentence not found in the book.	Page 4
Leave blank	Inside Back Cover
Write an original “teaser” to entice others to read the book. Put your first and last name and write <i>I honor the pledge.</i>	Back Cover

**Choice #2: “One-Pager”**

**Assignment:**

- Use this template [Summer One Pager Template](#)
- Create a One-Pager on your additional choice novel.
- Include all the required elements below in each section of the template.
- Be creative. Draw pictures, shade with colored pencils.
- Write legibly. All pencil marks should be gone over with a pen.
- Your final product should be neat and colorful. This needs to be your own original work: **no outside help.**

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS of One-Pager:**

<b>Element for One Pager</b>	<b>Where to place it on Template</b>
Your first and last name	In the center rectangle
List five vocabulary words that are new to you and important in the book. Write their definitions in your own words	On the border surrounding the template
Summary of the plot	In top left square
Create a picture of your favorite part of the book and include a brief explanation about why it's your favorite part.	In top right square
Cover design: create a cover design for the selected book, original art different from published cover. <u>Include the title of the novel and the author.</u>	In bottom left rectangle
Most important message of the novel	In bottom center rectangle
Description of one of the main characters	In bottom right rectangle
Write: I honor <i>the pledge</i> and sign your name	On the back of the page