

## Entering 6th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.” Christopher Reeve

Bravery can take many forms in literature and in life. We witness it in everyday heroes who stand up to the local bully, secret spies that save innocent lives, and those who fight for causes bigger than themselves. Reading stories with characters that persevere through adversity with bravery and determination can inspire us to embody these traits in our own lives. With this Summer Reading, as well as with reading and work throughout the upcoming school year, students entering **6th Grade** are to consider this essential question:

***EQ: What characteristics does a hero have and how do heroes make a difference to those around them?***

***All Students will read:***

***Wolf Hollow*** by Lauren Wolk (fiction, 304p)

Set in a small Pennsylvania town in the 1940s, this story highlights the impact that one person can have on an entire community. Twelve-year-old Annabelle demonstrates the power of kindness and bravery over bullying and hatred when she finds herself helping Toby, a reclusive war veteran who is down on his luck. This complex and beautifully-crafted piece of historical fiction mixes humor and sadness to take readers on an emotional journey.

***Students will then choose one additional book from the list below:***

**Fiction:**

***See You In The Cosmos*** by Jack Cheng (fiction, 315p)

Luminous and heartfelt, 11-year-old Alex Petroski’s dream is to launch a rocket into space with his iPod of recordings about life on earth. The story is a transcription of what he records on the iPod: his solo journey to the rocket convention, the interesting people he befriends on the way, and his side trip to Las Vegas to find information about his deceased father, all through his unique, innocent perspective trying to make sense of the world.

***All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*** by Leslie Connor (fiction, 400p)

This book hooked me from the first page, taking me on a coming of age story that was both heartbreaking and filled with hope. Perry is well-loved by his mother and her friends. . . in prison. That’s where Perry has lived since he was born eleven years ago. But in an unexpected and unpleasant turn of events, his best friend’s stepfather, the new District Attorney, forces Perry

to leave his prison home. Perry decides to research the inmates' life stories, hoping that somehow they'll be helpful in reuniting him with his mother.

***A Single Shard*** by Linda Sue Park (fiction, 160p)

Tree-ear, an orphan, lives under a bridge in Ch'ulp'o, a potters' village famed for delicate celadon ware. He has become fascinated with the potter's craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work, and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, Tree-ear is elated—until he finds obstacles in his path: the backbreaking labor of digging and hauling clay, Min's irascible temper, and his own ignorance. But Tree-ear is determined to prove himself—even if it means taking a long, solitary journey on foot to present Min's work in the hope of a royal commission . . . even if it means arriving at the royal court with nothing to show but a single celadon shard.

***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams Garcia (fiction, 218p)

In *One Crazy Summer*, 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.

### **Non-Fiction:**

***Bee Fearless: Dream Like a Kid*** by Mikaila Ulmer (non-fiction, 240p)

In this memoir, Mikaila Ulmer shares her real-life experiences as a lemonade entrepreneur. After being stung by a bee, she literally made lemonade out of the lemon that life threw her by raising awareness and money for bee conservation. Named one of Time magazine's 30 Most Influential Teens, Mikaila is an inspiring role model and proves that anyone — no matter their age — can be a force for good in the world.

### **Graphic Novel:**

***All's Faire in Middle School*** by Victoria Jamieson (graphic, 248p)

Growing up, Imogene (aka. Impy) always loved her family's part in the Renaissance Faire . . . that is, until middle school. Even though she gets her dream to work in the faire as a squire, she also just wants to be like the other girls at her school, too. Her journey is painful and honest as she figures out who she wants to be. It's narrated as a hero's journey which, with the faire background and middle school drama, feels perfect. Beyond being a terrific coming of age story, I'm sure this book will interest tween readers in Renaissance festivals themselves.