

Entering 6th Grade Required Reading

Incoming 6th grade students are required to read **two** books over the summer. The first book (with an asterisk) is required for all students. The second book should be chosen from the list below. Students may not substitute a book on the reading list with those of their own choosing.

****The Hero Next Door***. In this anthology of short stories, edited by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, not all heroes wear capes; in fact, some heroes might be, in some ways, quite ordinary. Some heroes teach martial arts. Others talk to ghosts. A few are inventors or soccer players. Heroes come in many shapes and sizes, but they all have one thing in common: they make the world a better place. (Realistic Fiction)

Entering 6th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions

Ghost—Jason Reynolds. After his dad tried to kill him and his mom, Castle Cranshaw (aka Ghost) has been running. His running was always for himself, until he joined an elite track team. With a new mentor at his side, Coach, will Ghost be able to make good choices, or will his own bad decisions ruin his chances on the team? (Realistic Fiction)

The Lightning Thief—Rick Riordan. Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. He must catch a thief who has stolen Zeus’s lightning bolt, and along the way, battle a host of mythological enemies trying to stop him. (Fantasy)

Lucky Broken Girl—Ruth Behar. In this coming of age story, Ruthie Mizrahi, a 10- year- old girl of Cuban- Jewish heritage, comes to live in New York City. Just when she feels she is making progress socially and culturally, a traumatic injury changes everything. (Historical Fiction)

Merci Suárez Changes Gears—Meg Medina. As scholarship students at their Florida private school, Merci and her brother Roli have always felt a little different. When her grandfather starts to forget things, life at home and in sixth grade seem almost impossible to manage. Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award! (Realistic Fiction)

New Kid—Jerry Craft. Jordan Banks dreams of going to art school as he enters seventh grade, however his parents would rather send him back to the prestigious prep school he attends where he is among the only black students. With humor and sadness, this graphic novel gives a glimpse into the world of a middle school student who just doesn’t quite fit in. (Graphic Novel)

One Crazy Summer—Rita Williams Garcia. In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. (Historical Fiction)

Refugee—Alan Gratz. Follows the lives of three young people, Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, as each goes on a harrowing journey in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end. (Historical Fiction / Young Adult)

The Misfits—James Howe. Skeezie, Addie, Joe, and Bobby -- they've been friends forever. They laugh together, have lunch together, and get together once a week at the Candy Kitchen to eat ice cream and talk about important issues. Life isn't always fair, but at least they have each other -- and all they really want to do is survive the seventh grade. This funny coming of age novel explores what it means to fit in, and just how cool it can be to be a misfit. (Young Adult)

The Night Diary—Veera Hiranandani. Our 2019-2020 BWL Middle School Reads book! Follow Nisha as she flees Pakistan after partition in search for a safe place for her family. Told through letters to her deceased mother, Nisha tells a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home and her own identity. (Historical Fiction)