







Shady Side Academy

Summer Reading

2023

SIXTH GRADE Summer Reading List

Directions: You will read at least **four** books this summer for summer reading: the all-form book *Front Desk* and three other books.

-  Choose **three** or more books from different genres on the list.
-  Students may select sequels to any of the listed books.
-  Read *Front Desk* toward the end of the summer so that it is fresh in your mind when school starts.
-  Complete the [Plot Diagram](#) worksheet for *Front Desk* and the [Summer Reading Reflections](#) for the three books you select from the list.

All-Form Book – Required for all incoming 6th grade students

Yang, Kelly

Front Desk (ISBN 978-1338157826)

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California. Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese students in her fifth-grade class.

Hot Off the Press!

Cisneros, Ernesto

Falling Short

Best friends Isaac and Marco--one athletically gifted and one academically gifted--have more in common than they realize when their goals intersect, forcing them to find a way to support each other so they don't fall short.

Lloyd, Natalie

Hummingbird

When twelve-year-old Olive, who suffers from brittle bone disease and has been homeschooled all her life, finally attends school in person she soon discovers fitting in is not that easy, but if she can find the magical wish-granting hummingbird that supposedly lives nearby, and prove herself worthy, maybe her deepest wish will be granted.



Soontornvat, Christina

The Last Mapmaker

Joining an expedition to chart the southern seas, twelve-year-old mapmaker's assistant Sai, posing as a well-bred young lady with a glittering future, realizes she's not the only one on board harboring secrets when she discovers the ship's true destination.

Yee, Lisa

Maizy Chen's Last Chance

Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota; as her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself.

Classics

Cooper, Susan

The Dark is Rising

On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Bud Not Buddy

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

L'Engle, Madeleine

A Wrinkle in Time

Meg and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Montgomery, L.M.

Anne of Green Gables

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Paulsen, Gary

Hatchet

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Rawls, Wilson

Where the Red Fern Grows

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.



Fantasy

Alston, B.B.

Amari and the Night Brothers

Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. Not even when the police told her otherwise, or when she got in trouble for standing up to bullies who said he was gone for good. When she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, containing a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton

Barnhill, Kelly

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge—with dangerous consequences.

Chainani, Soman

The School for Good and Evil

Best friends Sophie (princess wannabe) and Agatha (witchy loner) are headed (via kidnapping) to the School for Good and Evil, but their assumed destinies are reversed.

Chokshi, Roshani

Aru Shah and the End of Time

Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

Hautman, Pete

Otherwood

"Hatred combined with lies and secrets can break the world." Grandpa Zach used to say that before he died, but Stuey never really knew what he meant. One day, something unbelievable happens, and all the things Grandpa Zach used to say start to make a lot more sense.

Nielsen, Jennifer

The False Prince

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.



General Fiction

Bajaj, Varsh

Count Me In

Karina Chopra would have never imagined becoming friends with the boy next door, but one afternoon something unimaginable happens--the three of them are assaulted by a stranger who targets Indian-American Karina and her grandfather because of how they look. Her grandfather is gravely injured and Karina and Chris vow not to let hate win.

Christmas, Johnnie

Swim Team

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees--until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help.

Harrell, Rob

Wink

Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh-grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table.

Kim, Jessica

Stand Up, Yumi Chung

When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part.

Korman, Gordon

Linked

Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing?

Magoon, Kekla

The Season of Styx Malone

Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone who promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade--exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads as the trades get bigger.



Paulsen, Gary

How to Train Your Dad

Twelve-year-old Carl is fed up with his father's single-minded pursuit of an off-the-grid existence. Increasingly worried about what schoolmates might think of his circumstances—and encouraged by his off-kilter best friend—Carl adopts the principles set forth in a randomly discovered puppy-training pamphlet to “retrain” his dad's mindset . . . a crackpot experiment that produces some very unintentional results.

Historical Fiction

Auxier, Jonathan

Sweep

Orphaned and alone, 11-year-old Nan Sparrow spends her days sweeping out chimneys. The job is dangerous and thankless, but with her wits and will, Nan has managed to beat the deadly odds time and time again. When Nan gets stuck in a chimney fire, she fears the end has come. Instead, she wakes to find herself unharmed in an abandoned attic. And she is not alone. Huddled in the corner is a mysterious creature—a golem—made from soot and ash.

Hiranandani, Veera

The Night Diary

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees.

Ireland, Justina

Ophie's Ghosts

Discovering her ability to see ghosts when a cruel act ends her father's life and forces her to move in with relatives in 1920s Pittsburgh, young Ophelia forges a helpful bond with a spirit whose own life ended suddenly and unjustly.

Marsh, Katherine

The Lost Year

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, thirteen-year-old Matthew discovers a shocking secret about his great-grandmother's past as he learns about her life during the Holodomor famine in Soviet Ukraine.

Patterson, James & Kwame Alexander

Becoming Muhammed Ali

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. The book depicts his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing.



Wolk, Lauren
Echo Mountain

When twelve-year-old Ellie and her family lose their livelihood and move to a mountain cabin in 1934, she quickly learns to be an outdoors woman and, when needed, a healer

Memoir and Nonfiction

Broskol, Vera
Be Prepared

All Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. There's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the "cool girl" drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!

Rinaldi, Tom
The Red Bandana (Young Readers' Edition)

On September 11, 2001, Welles was at his job on the 104th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center when the Twin Towers were attacked. What he did next would alter the course of many lives.

Shetterly, Margot Lee
Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Soontornvat, Christina
All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

On June 23, 2018, twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach enter a cave in northern Thailand seeking an afternoon's adventure. But when they turn to leave, rising floodwaters block their path out. The boys are trapped! Before long, news of the missing team spreads, launching a seventeen-day rescue operation involving thousands of rescuers from around the globe.

Walker, Robert Paul
Pride of Puerto Rico: The Life of Roberto Clemente

A biography of the baseball superstar from Puerto Rico who, before his untimely death in a 1972 airplane crash, was noted for his achievements on and off the baseball field.



Mystery

Black, Holly

Doll Bones

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Grabenstein, Chris

Super Puzzletastic Mysteries

A collection of mystery short stories, from tales of hapless superheroes and stolen squirrel monkeys to murderous triplets and haunted basements, these thrilling, puzzling, and hilarious cases that invite readers to try to unravel the riddles themselves.

Ponti, James

City Spies

Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. But then she gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of MI6 affiliated spies.

Springer, Nancy

The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery

When Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she knows she alone can find her. Disguising herself as a grieving widow, Enola sets out to the heart of London to uncover her mother's whereabouts, but not even the last name Holmes can prepare her for what awaits.

Westerfeld, Scott

Horizon

When Aero Horizon 16 crashes in the Arctic, eight children emerge from the wreckage to find themselves alone and surrounded, not by ice, but by a mysterious and deadly jungle full of carnivorous plants and predatory birds--the other five hundred people from the plane are gone, not necessarily dead, but taken by something that lives in the jungle.



Science Fiction

Emerson, Kevin

Last Day on Mars

Liam Saunders-Chang is one of the last humans left on Mars. Liam, along with his friend Phoebe, will be on the last starliner to depart before Mars, like Earth before it, is destroyed...Or so he thinks. Because before this day is over, Liam and Phoebe will make a series of profound discoveries about the nature of time and space and find out that the human race is just one of many in our universe locked in a dangerous struggle for survival.

Hernandez, Carlos

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes.

Higuera, Donna Barba

The Last Cuentista

Petra Peña wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita, but Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them Petra and her family – have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race.

Oppel, Kenneth

Bloom

The invasion begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people.

Shusterman, Neal

Tesla's Attic

With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla.

Stead, Rebecca

When You Reach Me

Shortly after a fall-out with her best friend, sixth grader Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes. The notes tell her that she must write a letter—a true story, and that she can't share her mission with anyone. It would be easy to ignore the strange messages, except that whoever is leaving them has an uncanny ability to predict the future.

Annotations adapted from publishers, Follett and Amazon.com

