

## Reading suggestions for students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at HMS

Alvares, Julia. *How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay*. Although ten-year-old Miguel is at first embarrassed by his aunt's colorful behavior when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, he learns to love her.

Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

Creech, Sharon. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*. With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963 : a Novel*. The Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963 and their lives are drastically changed.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Tale of Despereaux : Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Ganatos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Haddix, Margaret. *Among the Hidden*. Book 1 of a series about the lives of the third child born in a society where only two children per family are allowed. The third child must remain hidden from the world.

Hesse, Karen. *Music of the Dolphins*. The thoughts of a young girl, who was raised by dolphins from 4 years old after a plane crash, are recorded by a scientist as she is reintroduced to a civilized way of life.

Jacques, Brian. *Redwall*. When the peaceful life in and around ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time*. The adventures of Meg, Charles, Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe as they search for Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. The children are transported through time and space in this science fiction/fantasy,

Lewis, C. S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Four English school children enter the magic land of Narnia through the back of a wardrobe and assist Aslan, the golden lion, in defeating the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Told through the eyes of 10 Year old Annamarie, this story, based on fact, tells of how the Danish people arranged the evacuation of 7000 to save them from Hitler's death camps. The family of 10-year-old Annemarie Johannesen harbors her best friend, Ellen Rosen, on the eve of the round-up and helps smuggle Ellen's family out of the country.

Lupica, Mike. *Two Minute Drill*. Scott, a great kicker who otherwise struggles with football but is very smart, and star quarterback Chris, who has dyslexia, team up to help each other succeed in both football and school.

Myracle, Lauren. *Twelve*. Winnie relates the events of her twelfth year and the many changes in her relationships and in her attitude toward growing up.

O'Dell, Kathleen. *Agnes Parker—Girl in Progress*. As she starts in the sixth grade, Agnes faces challenges with her old best friend, a longtime bully, a wonderful new classmate and neighbor, and herself.

Paratore, Coleen. *The Wedding Planner's Daughter*. A twelve-year-old girl, whose mother is a wedding planner, wishes for her mother to marry.

Patterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. The friendship between young Jess and Leslie grows as they meet in Terabithia, their secret hiding place.

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

Pfeiffer, Jules. *Phantom Tollbooth*. Bored with school and with life, Milo awakes from a nap to find a mysterious package in his room. Inside is a tollbooth; Milo's journey through the booth into another world brings him to warring kingdoms: one of numbers and the other of letters. Only Milo can bring peace.

Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty*. Max is big for his age. Burdened with a difficult past he is unable to do well in school. Kevin is brilliant, but trapped in a body that does not grow. Together they feel invincible. With Kevin on Max's shoulders, no quest seems too difficult for them, until they must face the issues that first brought them together.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising*. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*. After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee moves to the town of Two Mills, a town that is racially divided. There he becomes "Maniac Magee", legendary for his astonishing athletic feats. In his search for a place to belong, he eventually succeeds to some degree in uniting the town by forcing at least some of the Blacks and Whites to know each other.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Wringer*. During the annual pigeon shoot, it is a town tradition for 10-year-old boys to break the necks of wounded birds. As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Tolan, Stephanie. *Surviving the Applewhites*. Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.