



2024 Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 6th Graders

Welcome to the 6th-grade! We can not wait to meet you! For the 2024-2025 school year in ELA, we will be starting the school year focusing on **characters and plot elements**.

Please complete the summer reading task below:

1. **Choose 1 book** from our attached suggested book list. Be sure to read each synopsis and view the Lexile level. *You may read more than one if you'd like.*
 - Make sure that your parents/ guardian approve of your book choice!
 - Email lea.margosiak@motsd.org if you want approval to read something not on list.
2. While you read, **keep in mind plot elements** [main characters, major setting (when & where), conflict, resolution, theme] and **significant story events**.
3. When you return to school in September, you will create a one-pager in order to highlight your text. This will count as your first graded assignment in ELA. You may want to take notes as you read or use post-it notes to mark important sections and use it/ them to help you in the fall. However, taking notes is not required.

Ways to Find a Book

1. Visit the local [MO Public Library](#).
2. Download the LIBBY app on your smart device to connect to numerous titles (audio and regular books) from your library or use this [link](#).
 - a. [Mount Olive Public Library Linky Libb](#)
 - b. [Libby Troubleshooting](#)

Happy reading! We hope you have a wonderful summer- we can't wait to meet you!

Your 6th Grade ELA Teachers

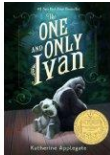
6th Grade Summer Reading List

FICTION:



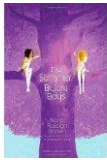
[Darth Paper Strikes Back](#) by Tom Angleberger (720L)

Harvey is upset when his Darth Paper finger puppet brings humiliation and gets Dwight suspended. Origami Yoda asks Tommy and Kellan, now in 7th grade, to make a new casefile to persuade the School Board to reinstate Dwight.



[The One and Only Ivan](#) by Katherine Applegate (570L)

Ivan is a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.



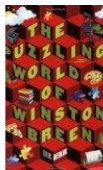
[The Summer Before Boys](#) by Nora Raleigh Baskin (720L)

Julia and Eliza are lifelong friends who have shared everything until one develops her first real crush. The girls find themselves drifting apart until Eliza does something drastic to win Julia back.



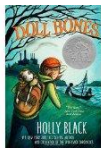
[Almost Home](#) by Joan Bauer (580L)

6th grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness.



[The Puzzling World of Winston Breen: The Potato Chip Puzzles](#) by Eric Berlin (670L)

Puzzle-crazy, twelve-year-old Winston and his ten-year-old sister Katie find themselves involved in a dangerous mystery involving a hidden ring.

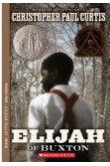


[Doll Bones](#) by Holly Black (840L)

Zach, Poppy and Alice have been friends forever. They loved playing with their action figure toys, imagining a magical world of adventure and heroism. Just when it looks like the three might be growing up and leaving the game behind, Poppy reveals she is being haunted.



[Freak the Mighty](#) by Rodman Philbrick (1000L) A moving story of an unlikely but powerful friendship between two boys who couldn't be more opposite. Max is unusually large for his age and is often teased by bullying classmates. Kevin, or Freak, as Max affectionately calls him, is extra tiny with various health issues but with a huge intellect.



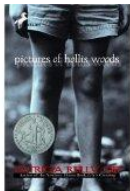
[Elijah of Buxton](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis (1070L)

Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border. He's the first child in town to be born free, and he ought to be famous just for that. Unfortunately, all that most people see is a "fra-gile" boy who's scared of snakes and talks too much. But everything changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Now it's up to Elijah to track down the thief--and his dangerous journey just might make a hero out of him, if only he can find the courage to get back home.



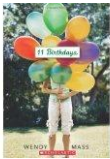
[About Average](#) by Andrew Clements (860L)

As the end of sixth grade nears, Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence, and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her central Illinois elementary school.



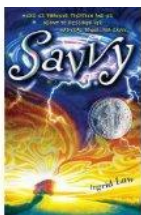
[Pictures of Hollis Woods](#) by Patricia Reilly Giff (650L)

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, she'll do everything in her power to make sure they stay together.



[11 Birthdays](#) by Wendy Mass (650L)

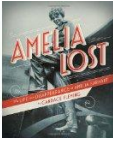
It's Amanda's 11th birthday and she is super excited---after all, 11 is so different from 10. But from the start, everything goes wrong. The worst part of it all is that she and her best friend, Leo, with whom she's shared every birthday, are on the outs and this will be the first birthday they haven't shared together. When Amanda turns in for the night, glad to have her birthday behind her, she wakes up happy for a new day. Or is it? Her birthday seems to be repeating itself. What is going on?! And how can she fix it? Only time, friendship, and a little luck will tell.



[Savvy](#) by Ingrid Law 1070

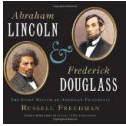
Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. And now all Mibs wants is a savvy that will save him. After this extraordinary adventure—full of talking tattoos and a kidnapping—not a soul on board will ever be the same.

NONFICTION:



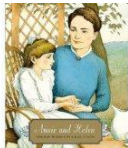
[Amelia Lost](#) by Candace Fleming (930L)

In alternating chapters, Fleming deftly moves readers back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup)—this unique nonfiction title is tailor-made for middle graders.



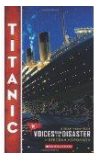
[Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass](#) by Russell Freedman (1110L)

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were both self-taught, both great readers and believers in the importance of literacy, both men born poor who by their own efforts reached positions of power and prominence—Lincoln as president of the United States and Douglass as the most famous and influential African American of his time. Though their meetings were few and brief, their exchange of ideas helped to end the Civil War, reunite the nation, and abolish slavery. Includes bibliography, source notes, and index.



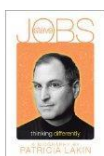
[Annie and Helen](#) by Deborah Hopkinson (940L)

Focusing on the relationship between Helen and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, the book is interspersed with excerpts of Annie's letters home, written as she struggled with her angry, wild pupil. But slowly, with devotion and determination, Annie teaches Helen finger spelling and braille, letters, and sentences. As Helen comes to understand language and starts to communicate, she connects for the first time with her family and the world around her. The lyrical text and exquisite art will make this fascinating story a favorite with young readers. Children will also enjoy learning the Braille alphabet, which is embossed on the back cover of the jacket.



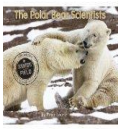
[Titanic: Voices From Disaster](#) by Deborah Hopkinson (1040L)

Packed with heart stopping action, devastating drama, fascinating historical details, loads of archival photographs on almost every page, quotes from primary sources, and painstaking back matter, this gripping story, which follows the TITANIC and its passengers from the ship's celebrated launch at Belfast to her cataclysmic icy end, is sure to thrill and move readers.



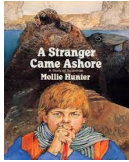
[Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently](#) by Patricia Lakin (1020L)

Visionary. Pioneer. Little terror. Entrepreneur. Inventor. College dropout. Creative genius. These are just a few of the words used to describe the late Steve Jobs, cofounder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Apple Inc.



[The Polar Bear Scientists](#) by Peter Lourie (1260L)

It is springtime in Alaska, and the U.S. Geological Survey team is gearing up for polar bear capturing. The scientists locate bears from a helicopter, tranquilize them, give them tattoo ID numbers and tags, and collect data such as height, weight, and body fat measurements and samples such as blood, hair, feces, and even teeth. For more than forty years, scientists have been capturing bears in order to get information. What has this information been telling scientists about polar bears and our changing global climate? Find out in this fascinating entry in the Scientists in the Field series!



[A Stranger Came Ashore](#) by Mollie Hunter (1060 L) A wild, stormy night . . . A shipwreck . . . The sudden appearance of a stranger . . . That is how it all begins. The stranger is Finn Learson, a young and handsome man who seems to be the only survivor of the wreck. Finn Learson is charming and generous, and the Henderson family gladly give him shelter. Only young Robbie Henderson does not trust Finn Learson and his oddly unsettling secret smile. Robbie is sure that he is hiding something--but what? The clues Robbie finds are mysterious: Finn Learson's love of dancing; an ancient gold coin that Finn gives to the family; strange omens in the ashes of a fire; and beautiful young Elspeth Henderson's increasingly odd behavior. Then, in one frightening moment, Robbie recalls his grandfather's warning and discovers at last the terrible, incredible truth about Finn Learson. And Robbie knows it's up to him to save his sister . . . before it's too late. Only 12-year-old Robbie knows that the mysterious Finn Learson is the evil Great Selkie, the seal-man of Shetland Islands legend.