



## Sixth Grade Summer Reading - 2024

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders, Parents and/or Guardians,

Congratulations on your completion of elementary school! In preparation for the beginning of your middle school journey, you are required to read **ONE** book this summer from the list below. Of course, you are encouraged and welcome to read more than one. Your first Communication Arts assignment will be based on the book you select. Your choices are:

- *Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
- *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)* by Trevor Noah
- *Jacob's Rescue* by Malka Druker & Michael Halperin
- *Maniac McGee* by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman
- *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA* by Brenda Woods
- *The Young Landlords* by Walter Dean Myers

It is critical that you complete a thorough and careful reading of your chosen book. In addition to the reading, you are also required to complete the assignments listed on the attached page for **Part A** and **Part B**. This assignment will be counted as your first QUIZ grade. Please review the rubric.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to meeting all of you in the fall!

Sincerely,

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Communication Arts Teachers

## Summer Reading Assignment-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Directions: Please complete the activities listed for **Part A** and **Part B**. Carefully review the instructions for each assignment. Responses can be either typed or handwritten.

**Part A:** In September, we will be discussing the challenges and triumphs of growing up. In preparation for Unit 1, please answer the essential question that is based on the main character of the book that you have chosen to read. **Response MUST be at least 2 paragraphs.**

**Essential Question:** Children face challenges everyday, but learning how to deal with them is apart of growing up. What challenges did your characters face and HOW did he/she deal with them? Make sure to cite evidence from the text to support your response.

**Part B:** Choose **ONE** of the following activities to complete.

**Compare and Contrast:** Compare and contrast *your* life to any character in the book. **Response MUST be at least TWO paragraphs.** Write one paragraph explaining the similarities you have with the character and another paragraph explaining your differences. Make sure to cite evidence from the text to support your response.

**Picture It:** Create a picture book for the text read. Include at least FIVE pictures replicating different scenes from your book that you believe help summarize the important sections. **Write at least two sentences per picture explaining the image shown.** Any and all artistic mediums can be used (i.e. photographs, sketches, collages, comic book strips, etc.)

**Ask the Author:** Write a ONE-page letter to the author, discussing your thoughts, reactions, and questions about the text.

**Point of View:** Create a story “adaptation” piece from the point of view of the main character. Write an alternate (different) ending to the story from the character’s point of view. **Response MUST be at least TWO paragraphs.**

## Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

### Part A:

Content/Topic	Student provided a detailed response to essential question.	____/5 points
Sentence Structure/Format	Response is at least 2 paragraphs or more. Student uses complete sentences. Sentences flow and make sense for the task.	____/6 points
Textual Evidence	Student provides relevant evidence from text.	____/3 points
Spelling	It is evident that student edited work before handing it in. No spelling errors are present.	____/3 points
Punctuation	Student punctuated correctly with commas, quotation marks, and the correct ending punctuation at the end of every sentence.	_____/3 points

### Part B:

Follows Directions	All the requirements for the project are fulfilled. All components are included.	____/10 points
Story Connection	The project demonstrates a clear understanding of the story in connection to the chosen project.	____/5 points
Grammar/Mechanics:	The project is free of grammatical errors and is easy to follow and understand.	_____/5 points

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_/40 points

**Comments:**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Florence M. Gaudineer Summer Reading Book Option  
Descriptions  
2024

**Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis

Bud, Not Buddy is the story of 10-year-old orphan Bud Calloway trying to find his family in the Great Depression. Bud runs away from abusive foster parents, tries and fails to ride the rails, and walks for miles and miles to get to Grand Rapids, where he believes his father lives.

**Crash** by Jerry Spinelli

Crash Coogan, is a seventh grader who is good at sports and being aggressive. His best friend is Mike Deluca. The story opens with Crash, a bully, tormenting his neighbor, Penn, a vegetarian and pacifist. As Crash evolves into a more compassionate person, he realizes that friends can come in many forms and bullying hurts yourself as well as others.

**It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)** by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah, the funny guy who hosts *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child to exist. But he did exist--and from the beginning, the often-misbehaved Trevor used his keen smarts and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government.

**Jacob's Rescue** by Malka Druker & Michael Halperin

Based on a true story that takes place in Warsaw, Poland during the Holocaust, Jacob's Rescue is a tale of righteous courage during a dark time in history. A poor Polish family rescues Jacob and his brothers from the danger of the Nazis where they face the reality of life under the harshest conditions.

**Maniac McGee** by Jerry Spinelli

Jeffrey is an orphan whose parents died in a trolley accident when he was three. Without a home, he moves in with his aunt and uncle who dislike each other to the point of not communicating. While living with them in their sad, lonely house, Maniac runs away during a school musical never to return.

His adventures take him to a new town and some lovely and surprising discoveries about where he is from and that families come in all shapes and sizes.

**The Bridge Home** by Padma Venkatraman

This middle grade novel follows two sisters, Viji and Rukku, who are living on the streets of the Indian city of Chennai. They form a family with other street children and learn the pleasures and pitfalls of growing up without adult supervision.

**The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA** by Brenda Woods

Woods is a Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author and might be the perfect person to tell this emotional story of a young boy befriending an African American World War II veteran in the segregated American South.

**The Young Landlords** by Walter Dean Myers

In this story of a group of young friends who come into possession of a rundown apartment building. These devoted buddies try to make their Harlem neighborhood a better place to live.

**Better Nate Than Ever** by Tim Federle

Eighth-grader Nate Foster is a boy in love with Broadway but stuck in small-town western Pennsylvania, a misfit in a family that values sports and God. While his parents spend a weekend away to try to save their marriage, Nate's best friend Libby helps him execute a crazy plan: to sneak off to New York City to try out for [\*E.T.: The Musical\*](#) and return home before his parents notice. New York City is more amazing than he dreamed -- and the auditions more excruciating. Through heartache, joy, fear, and wild hope, Nate takes the biggest chance of his young life and has an adventure that changes his life in ways he didn't expect.