



May 2025

Dear Rising 6th Grade Students and Parents,

I am so excited to work with you in the coming 2025-26 school year. I hope you have a restful summer and also get to spend your time with a few good books. Your required assignment for summer reading is to choose 1 book from the list that starts on the next page (all books come from either the [Texas Lone Star](#) or [Texas Bluebonnet Award](#) book lists). Each book has a corresponding project you will complete. **You can find the selected books and their corresponding project on the following pages.**

We will discuss these books and share our projects during the first week of school. The purpose of these activities is to:

1. encourage you to think critically about what you are reading,
2. allow you to share your understanding in creative ways, and
3. foster robust discussion when the school year begins in August.

Your summer reading project will be due the Friday of the first week of school, on **Friday, August 22, 2025**. We will spend the first week of school using these books and projects. Use the included Summer Reading Project Rubric to further guide your work. One special aspect of being a 6th grader is your eligibility to participate in both the Bluebonnet Reading Challenge (must read at least 10 books from the [Texas Bluebonnet Award List](#)) and the Lone Star Reading Challenge (must read at least 5 books from the [Texas Lone Star List](#)) during the school year. Students who complete the Bluebonnet Reading Challenge get invited to a special breakfast in the library, and students who complete the Lone Star Reading Challenge get invited to an ice cream social!

Please don't hesitate to email over the summer if you have any questions. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith
6th Grade Language Arts
ssmith@stmes.org



6th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Options

Choose 1 of the following books to read and its corresponding project to complete.

Title & Author of Book	Project Description
<p><i>Dogtown</i> by Katherine Applegate & Jennifer Choldenko (2025-26 Bluebonnet Award List)</p>	<p>This is a story about unexpected friendships that also raises awareness of shelters. At the end of the novel are 7 ideas you can try to help shelter dogs in your own area. Choose 1 to complete while keeping a photo journal of your activities and experiences. Take photos and write at least 5 journal entries that document your work from start to finish and how it relates to the novel <i>Dogtown</i>. Display your work in a visually appealing way. (This is one you'll want to start earlier in the summer.)</p>
<p><i>A Game of Noctis</i> by Deva Fagan (2025-26 Lone Star List) (2025-26 Bluebonnet Award List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note every time the game of Lesser Noctis is mentioned. Pay attention to any details about how the game is played, the pieces used, and the goal. After reading, create rules and a game board for Lesser Noctis. While the novel gives a lot of detail, there will be space for your own creativity to fill in the blanks with specifics. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>It Came from the Trees</i> by Ally Russell (2025-26 Bluebonnet Award List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note how each character fights back against "it." Create a Fear Defense Strategy by designing a plan to help the characters and the town effectively fight back against "it." Your strategy might include elements such as an analysis of the characters' strengths and weaknesses when facing "it"; a plan for how the town can overcome its shared fear; both realistic and fictional ways to weaken the entity; or how the town can support new residents to prevent "it" from gaining power. Use quotes from the novel to support your thinking. This can look any way you want it to. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>The Liars Society</i> by Alyson Gerber (2025-26 Bluebonnet Award List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note any descriptions of the setting. Once done, create a detailed map using examples from the story and at least 8 places and a key. Display your map in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>The Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines</i> by Mo Netz (2025-26 Bluebonnet Award List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note ways that Jerry grows throughout. This might be shown through her actions, her thoughts, or her conversations with others. After reading, compile at least 5 quotes from the story to support your thinking of how she grows. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>



<p><i>Nimbus</i> by Jan Eldredge (2025-26 Bluebonnet Award List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note elements of the world of Nimbus. Create an informational guide that includes elements such as a basic map of the Cloud Cities, a description of the cloud technology and airships, and a note about how the Cloud Cities affect the environment. Use quotes from the novel to help explain your ideas. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>The Bletchley Riddle</i> by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin (2025-26 Lone Star List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note where you learn about Lizzie and Jakob's experiences at Bletchley Park. When you're done, create a dual timeline of the true events that take place at Bletchley Park during WWII and insert the elements you learn from the novel. This is a mixture of fiction and history, so be sure to create a key or color system to show what happened in real life and what happened in this historical fiction novel. Display your timeline in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>Deer Run Home</i> by Ann Claire LeZotte (2025-26 Lone Star List) *Book in verse</p>	<p>Effie finds her voice through poetry in this novel written in verse. Write at least 5 poems back to her (which mirrors her assignment) that are thoughtful responses of your reading. You could write her words of encouragement, a time you've struggled with something and needed help, a positive note to keep her afloat, etc. Present your anthology of poems in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>It Happened to Anna</i> by Tehlor Kay Mejia (2025-26 Lone Star List)</p>	<p>There are several acts of kindness AND malice shown by friends in this novel. These might be times when a person goes out of their way to show kindness or does something above and beyond for another. There are also times when the opposite is true. As you read this novel, notice and note these instances. Find quotes to support each act of kindness and malice. Then display your findings with a brief explanation of what happened. There is no set way this must look, so long as you've answered the questions and can explain! Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>The Last Dragon on Mars: The Dragonships Book 1</i> by Scott Reintgen (2025-26 Lone Star List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note details in the story about each dragon, their corresponding planet/moon, and their human crew. From the evidence in the novel, create a diagram or map of the dragons and their homes/crews. Use specifics from the story to make it as accurate to the author's descriptions as possible. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>Mystery of Locked Rooms</i> by Lindsay Currie (2025-2026 Lone Star List)</p>	<p>Each of the three main characters (Hannah, Sarah, and West) are faced with what seem like personalized challenges requiring them to "beat their fears" in the Fun House. As you read this novel, notice and note these elements as they come up for each</p>



	<p>member of The Deltas. Create a graphic organizer (chart) that allows you to reflect on each character's personal struggles, the challenges that apply to them, and how they use the story to overcome their own fears and worries. Use quotes from the novel to support your thinking. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>Medusa: The Myth of Monsters</i> by Katherine Marsh (2025-26 Lone Star List)</p>	<p>As you read this novel, notice and note details about the myth of Medusa and of Ava. Make a visual collage that mixes the old myth of Medusa with the new story about Ava. Think of it as showing two worlds side-by-side. Find or draw pictures of important characters, like Medusa, Percy, Theo, and Bisti, and places, like ancient temples and the school island, from both stories. Then, add short sentences or quotes from the novel to explain how the pictures connect. This will help you show how the ancient myth and the modern story fit together. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>
<p><i>The Partition Project</i> by Saadia Faruqi (2025-26 Lone Star List)</p>	<p>This novel, about a modern girl who learns about the Partition of India in 1947 through her grandmother's stories, is an insight into history. As you read, notice and note times when we learn about Dadi's childhood and about The Partition. Then create a timeline that has both historical events from Partition AND uses quotes from the novel as support. Display your work in a visually appealing way.</p>



Reading Project Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Understanding of the Novel	The project shows evidence of an understanding of the novel. Through the student's work, they have captured major themes, or ideas, in the novel.	The project shows some evidence of an understanding of the novel.	It is unclear that the student understands the bigger themes asked of the project.	The student does not demonstrate understanding of the novel through their project.
Creativity, Individuality, Neatness	The student's project demonstrates creativity and individual thought in presentation. They have taken time to present your work in a visually appealing way. (Examples of ways to do this include: using a straight-edge to draw lines, tracing over pencil in a fine-tipped marker, backing any printed and cut paper to give it a border and "finished" look, centering titles/words, etc.)	The project meets most of the expectations set out.	The project doesn't meet several of the expectations set.	The project meets few of the expectations set.
Evidence of Information and Organization	The student followed the specific instructions in the novel project assignment and has included all aspects.	The project includes some aspects of the project instructions, but not all.	The project includes a few of the required elements, but not most.	The student completed a different project or did not follow the project instructions.
Writing Conventions: - Capitalization - Usage - Punctuation - Spelling	Punctuation is correct, spelling is accurate, and there are no major errors in grammar.	The project includes some errors in writing conventions — a few punctuation, spelling, and/or grammar issues — but not enough to cause difficulty in reading and understanding the text.	Several punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors stand out in the writing.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors are very common and stand out.

Total: _____/16