

Summer Reading

Book Suggestions and Activities for rising 6th grade students in District 196

This challenge encourages you to read “outside the box” and explore different genres, characters, settings and stories so that you venture outside your reading comfort zone and try something new! You can choose to just do the BOOKO challenge or Cohort Read, or you are welcome to do BOTH!



Reading Activity: BOOKO

B O O K O

A BOOK ABOUT A <u>CHARACTER</u> WHO DOESN'T LOOK OR LIVE LIKE YOU	A BOOK ABOUT A <u>TOPIC YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT</u>	A BOOK IN A <u>FORMAT YOU DON'T USUALLY READ FOR FUN</u> (chapter book, novel in verse, graphic novel, picture book, etc)	READ A BOOK <u>OUTSIDE</u> (Take a photo of your location)	A BOOK BY A <u>MINNESOTA AUTHOR</u>
A BOOK THAT <u>WON AN AWARD</u> (NEWBERY, KING, BELPRE, CALDECOTT, ADDAMS, ETC.)	READ ON A <u>RAINY DAY</u>	A <u>COOKBOOK, CRAFT OR MAKER BOOK</u> (Make something from the book and take a photo of yourself with the finished product and the book)	A <u>PAMPHLET FROM A STATE PARK OR PLAQUE AT A HISTORICAL SITE/MUSEUM.</u> (Take a photo of what you see)	A BOOK ABOUT <u>MINNESOTA OR AMERICAN HISTORY - FICTION OR HISTORICAL FICTION</u>
A BOOK THAT IS A <u>TEAR-JERKER</u> —A BOOK THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU CRY	VISIT A <u>LITTLE FREE LIBRARY</u> (Take a selfie, donate a book or take a book)	<u>FREE SPACE</u> READ <u>ANY BOOK, MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER YOU WANT!</u>	A <u>MYSTERY OR SUSPENSE THRILLER</u>	<u>READ AROUND THE WORLD</u> —A BOOK BY AN AUTHOR FROM OR SET IN ANOTHER COUNTRY
A <u>HUMOROUS BOOK</u>	GO DIGITAL! <u>READ AN EBOOK OR LISTEN TO AN AUDIOBOOK OR PODCAST</u>	READ IN A <u>PLACE THAT IS INTERESTING TO YOU AND TAKE A SELFIE</u> (Could be anything from a favorite place to a vacation spot)	AN <u>ACTION, ADVENTURE OR SURVIVAL BOOK</u>	<u>READ ALOUD TO SOMEONE</u> —YOUNGER SIBLINGS, ADULTS, PETS (Take a photo while reading with your person/pet)
READ IN A <u>CAR, BUS, TRAIN OR PLANE</u>	A BOOK THAT WAS MADE INTO A <u>MOVIE/TV SHOW</u> <i>Then watch the movie/show and compare</i>	A BOOK SET IN <u>ANOTHER WORLD</u> EITHER FANTASY OR SCI FI	READ A <u>MAUD SQUAD BOOK</u> (past or present MYRA nominees)	A <u>MIRROR BOOK</u> Has a character that is similar to you in culture, interests, experiences, etc.

Play BOOKO, just like BINGO!

You can approach the BOOKO card however you like: **beginners**, start by getting one line (horizontal, vertical or diagonal); if you're more **advanced**, try to finish all the boxes around the edge of the card; **experts**, do the entire card! Keep track of all your reading adventures this summer on the reading log on the next page! Bring this card to your ELA teacher during the first week of school. Schools may offer a social gathering and/or prizes for participation. More details will be shared by your school about this in the fall. This is optional and super fun! **Happy reading!**

NAME: _____

ADVISOR: _____

Reading Suggestions

Realistic Fiction

- *The Eyes And The Impossible* by Dave Eggers
- *Linked* by Gordon Korman*
- *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Wink* by Rob Harrell
- *Brave Like That* by Lindsey Stoddard
- *Ancestor Approved* edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly
- *King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender
- *Invisible* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez**



Historical Fiction

- *White Bird: A Wonder Story* by R.J. Palacio
- *The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker
- *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park
- *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander



Fantasy/Science Fiction

- *Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling
- *Unwanteds Series* by Lisa McMann
- *Winterborne Home Series* by Ally Carter
- *Daughter of the Deep* by Rick Riordan*
- *Tristan Strong Series* by Kwame Mbalia
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Ogress and the Orphans* by Kelly Barnhill*



Mystery/Adventure

- *City Spies Series* by James Ponti
- *Long Lost* by Jacqueline West
- *Alone* by Megan E. Freeman**
- *Charlie Thorne Series* by Stuart Gibbs
- *Bletchley Riddle* by Ruta Sepetys & Steven Sheinkin
- *The Girl in the Locked Room* by Mary Downing Hahn
- *96 Miles* by R. L. Esplin



Nonfiction

- *They Lost Their Heads* by Carlyn Beccia
- *All Thirteen* by Christina Soontornvat
- *Weird but True* by National Geographic
- *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip M. Hoose
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson



* Titles on the Maud Hart Lovelace Readers' Choice Award List Division II (6th-8th) for 2024-25

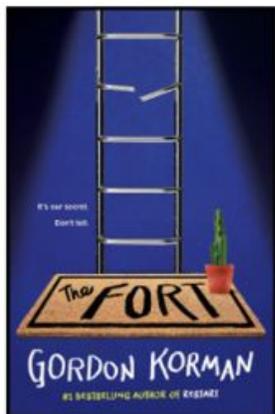
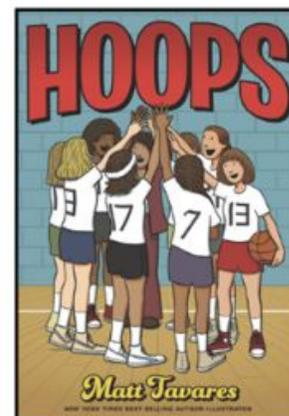
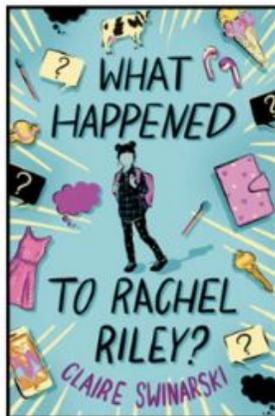
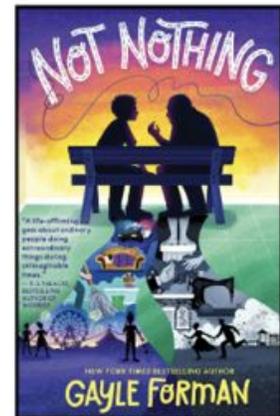
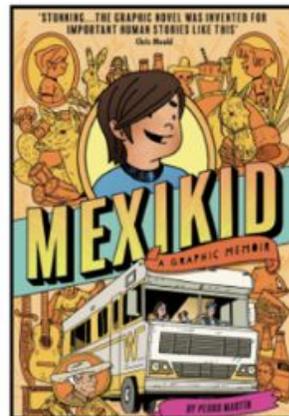
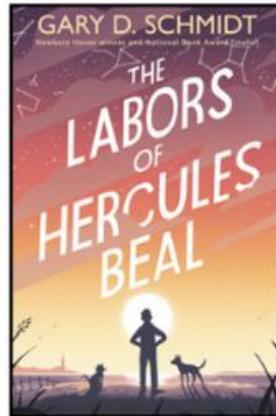
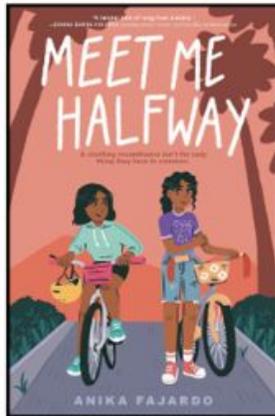
**2025 Maud Hart Lovelace Award Winner!

More Reading Suggestions

Maud Hart Lovelace Award Nominees 2026



Division 2: 6th, 7th, 8th Grade





Join Cohort Read!

Cohort Read is an extra summer challenge opportunity for avid readers. Here's how it works!

1. Read at least **three books** from the list below.
2. If you want to, you could also read the "Challenge Read" companions book to go even deeper into the books!
3. Do a **creative project** for one of the books. Here are some ideas:
 - An informative poster or slideshow
 - Create a piece of art related to the book (drawing, sculpture, poem, etc.)
 - Figure out which zodiac sign or Hogwarts house the characters would be in
 - Create costumes for characters
 - Make a video book trailer or 1-minute book review
 - Create a playlist based on a character
 - Adapt the book into a song, play, graphic novel, or video
4. In the fall you will have the chance to discuss the books and share your creative project with other avid readers at your new school!

[Sign up for Cohort Read in the Fall](#)



[Click Here for Ideas for Creative Projects](#)

Cohort Read Book List



Sweep by Jonathan Auxier

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance, Nan Sparrow works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

Challenge Read companion: *Songs of Innocence and Experience* by William Blake



King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callendar

A 2021 Coretta Scott King Honor Book!

Winner of the 2020 National Book Award for Young People's Literature!

Winner of the 2020 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction and Poetry!

In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself.

Challenge Read companion: *Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners* by Naomi Shihab Nye



A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic were in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

Challenge Read companion: *A Time of Fear: America in the Era of Red Scares and Cold War* by Albert Marrin

Cohort Read Book List Continued



***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia**

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

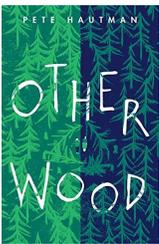
Challenge Read companion: *The Annotated African American Folktales* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



***Pippa Park Raises Her Game* by Erin Yun**

When Pippa gets a mysterious basketball scholarship to Lakeview Private, she jumps at the chance to reinvent herself as she juggles old and new friends, an unrequited crush, and the pressure to perform academically and athletically while keeping her past and her family's laundromat a secret from her elite new classmates. As things begin to spiral out of control, Pippa discovers the real reason she was admitted to Lakeview and wonders if she can keep her old and new lives separate.

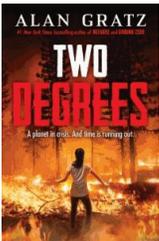
Challenge Read companion: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.



***Otherwood* by Pete Hautman**

Stuey never really knew what his grandpa meant when he used to talk about quantum physics or ghosts on their overgrown golf course. But then one day, when something totally unbelievable happens to Stuey and his best friend Elly Rose, all the things Grandpa Zach used to say start to make a lot more sense and they must struggle to come to grips with a reality-splitting mystery.

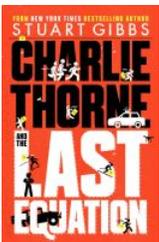
Challenge Read companion: *Something Deeply Hidden* by Sean Carroll



***Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz**

When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.

Challenge Read companion: *How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other* by Naomi Klein



***Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation* by Stuart Gibbs**

The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.

Challenge Read companion: *Einstein (Graphic Novel)* by Jim Ottaviani



White Bird: A Wonder Story* by R.J. Palacio

*2023 Maud Hart Lovelace Award Winner

From a character drawn from the author's collection of stories titled "Auggie & Me" comes Grandmère's tale of her childhood in German-occupied France. As a young Jewish girl, Grandmère, or Sara as she was then known, takes refuge with a boy that she and her classmates bully and ostracize, but whose family now becomes her salvation from the Nazis.

Challenge Read companion: *Hitler Youth* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti



***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor**

Mason is a sweet kid with learning disabilities and fifteen months ago, his best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. When Mason's new friend Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?

Challenge Read companion: *Dear Bully* edited by Megan Kelley Hall & Carrie Jones.