

Maret Summer Reading 2025: Rising 6th grade

Best Practices:

- Read to relax and explore new things over the summer.
- Read or listen to print books, eBooks, and audiobooks for at least **20 minutes** per day.
- Read beyond the requirements this summer to discover more books to enjoy.

Sora:

- Use [Sora](#) to access Maret's digital book collection
- Link your Maret Sora account to DC Public Library to access more books
- Visit the [library website](#) to learn more



Format:

- *Starred titles are available for checkout online from Maret's Sora collection
- +The plus sign indicates that the book is the first in a series or has a sequel

Section 1:

Humanities Department (History) Required Reading: Please select **one** title from the list of historical books for your required reading.

Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson*

It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeeshouse. But fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate.

Jefferson's Sons by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley*

Beverly, Harriet, Madison, and Eston are Thomas Jefferson's children, but their mother is a slave, so they must keep their father's identity secret. They get special treatment—better work, better shoes, even violin lessons—but they are still slaves. Their father has promised to set them all free when each turns twenty-one. So just what did their father mean when he wrote all men are created equal?

The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis*

Twelve-year-old Charlie is down on his luck: His dad just died, the share crops are dry, and Cap'n Buck—the most fearsome man in Possum Moan, South Carolina—has come to collect a debt. Fearing for his life, Charlie strikes a deal with Cap'n Buck and agrees to track down some thieves. It's not too bad of a bargain for Charlie...until he comes face-to-face with the fugitives and discovers that they escaped slavery years ago and have been living free in Detroit.

Annie, Between the States by Laura Elliot*

Annie Sinclair's Virginia home is in the battle path of the Civil War. Her brothers, Laurence and Jamie, fight to defend the South, while Annie and her mother tend to wounded soldiers. When she develops a romantic connection with a Union Army lieutenant, Annie's view of the war broadens. Then an accusation calls her loyalty into question. A nation and a heart divided force Annie to choose her own course.

Sugar by Jewell Parker Rhodes* Sugar has always yearned to learn more about the world, and she sees her chance when Chinese workers are brought in to help harvest the cane. The older River Road folks feel threatened, but Sugar is fascinated. As she befriends young Beau and elder Master Liu, they introduce her to the traditions of their culture, and she, in turn, shares the ways of plantation life.

Some Kind of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart* Joseph Johnson has lost just about everyone he's ever loved. He lost his pa in an accident. He lost his ma and his little sister to sickness. And now, he's lost his pony—fast, fierce, beautiful Sarah, taken away by a man who had no right to take her. Joseph can surely get her back, though. The odds are stacked against him, but he isn't about to give up..

Crow by Barbara Wright* The summer of 1898 is filled with ups and downs for 11-year-old Moses. He's growing apart from his best friend, his superstitious Boo-Nanny butts heads constantly with his pragmatic, educated father, and his mother is reeling from the discovery of a family secret. Yet there are good times, too. He's teaching his grandmother how to read. For the first time she's sharing stories about her life as a slave. And his father and his friends are finally getting the respect and positions of power they've earned in the Wilmington, North Carolina, community.

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk* Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town.

Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and though her bullying seems isolated at first, it quickly escalates.

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin* In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents.

Flygirl by Sherri Smith* All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II, and the Army forms the WASP-Women Airforce Service Pilots. Ida has a chance to fulfill her dream if she's willing to use her light skin to pass as a white girl.

Countdown by Deborah Wiles+* Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba.

<i>The Rock and the River</i> by Kekla Magoon+*	Sam wants to believe that his father is right: You can effect change without using violence. But as time goes on, Sam grows weary of standing by and watching as his friends and family suffer at the hands of racism in their own community. Sam begins to explore the Panthers with Stick, but soon he's involved in something far more serious—and more dangerous—than he could have ever predicted.
<i>Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story</i> by Nora Raleigh Baskin*	Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day—until a plane struck the World Trade Center. But right now, it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. These four don't know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined.

Section 2:

Humanities Department (English) Required Reading: Please select **two** books for your required reading.

Genre: Fantasy & Science fiction

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier* Molly, a spunky storyteller, and younger brother Kip, whose crippled leg doesn't slow him down, seek servants' work in a ramshackle English manor house where they uncover a creepy curse.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill* After becoming "enmagicked" when she is accidentally fed moonlight as an infant, Luna is raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon.

False Prince by Jennifer Nielsen+* Sage is plucked from an orphanage in order to impersonate a long-lost prince. But he's not the only one—four boys are chosen to compete for the role, and only one can live.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld+* World War I is breaking out, but this version is a battle between war machines and animal-like "beasties," and Aleksander and Deryn are right in the middle of it in the start of this epic trilogy.

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin* Now that she's dead, Lizzie will never grow up, which is incredibly aggravating as she tries to make a new life for herself in the afterlife, where everyone ages backward.

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake* Ivy Aberdeen's life is turned upside down when her mother has twins, their house is destroyed in a tornado, and she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

<i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon Draper*	Melody has cerebral palsy—even though she is incredibly smart, she cannot speak, walk, or care for herself and has to constantly deal with people who think she is mentally challenged.
<i>The Season of Styx Malone</i> by Kekla Magoon*	Brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene meet Styx Malone one summer and get roped into a scheme to try to create an “escalator trade” to turn a bag of fireworks into a motor bike.
<i>Gracefully Grayson</i> by Ami Polonsky*	Grayson has always felt that “he” is a girl on the inside. An unexpected friendship, a caring teacher, and a lead role in the school play might finally allow Grayson’s inner light to shine.
<i>As Brave as You</i> by Jason Reynolds*	Genie and Ernie travel from Brooklyn to spend summer in rural Virginia with their grandparents. The pair make mischief, survive without wifi, learn family history, and meet new friends.

<i>Counting by 7s</i> by Holly Goldberg Sloan*	Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.
<i>Front Desk</i> by Kelly Yang*	Mia Tang’s family—recent immigrants from China—take a job managing a motel in California where Mia works the front desk, dealing with customers and helping other immigrants.

Genre: Mystery

<i>The Parker Inheritance</i> by Varian Johnson*	Candice and Brandon find an old letter indicating that if they solve a series of puzzles and uncover a history of dark secrets and injustices in their town, it could lead to buried treasure.
<i>Under the Egg</i> by Laura Marx Fitzgerald*	After her grandfather dies, Theo has only a spacy mom, some chickens, and \$463. Soon she has a new friend and an art mystery to solve—one that might be the answer to her problems.
<i>The Blackthorn Key</i> by Kevin Sands+*	Christopher, an apothecary’s apprentice, and his best friend Tom uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult in 1665 London, following a dangerous trail of puzzles, codes, and pranks.
<i>When You Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead*	Miranda begins receiving mysterious notes that seem to predict the future and hint that a friend’s life, as well as the note writer’s life, may be in danger.

Genre: Historical Fiction

<i>Chains</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson+*	After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, an enslaved girl named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.
<i>The War That Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley+*	Ada, who has a clubfoot, and her little brother Jamie, are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II where life is very different away from their abusive mother.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by
Genifer Choldenko+*

Moose finds himself in all kinds of trouble when his father gets a job as a prison guard at Alcatraz and his family has to go live on the island with the country's most notorious gangsters.

90 Miles to Havana by Enrique
Flores- Galbis*

When the revolution comes to Cuba, Julian's parents send him and his brothers away on a boat to Miami, Florida with 14,000 other children as part of Operation Pedro Pan.

Genre: Nonfiction

The Boy on the Wooden Box by
Leon Leyson*

Leon Leyson tells his incredible, true story of surviving the Holocaust on Schindler's List. He was only 10 when the Nazis invaded Poland, and he survived with luck, grit, and perseverance.

