Maret Summer Reading 2026: Rising 6th grade
(See RED Spark Note highlighted books below)

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 Assignment:
For your summer assignment in History 6, please visit a historic site in the DMV (the District of Columbia, Maryland, or (northern) Virginia) and document it. The visit can take as much or as little time as you need. To document your visit, you will do two things: 1. Record the name of the historic site 2. Take a selfie or have someone take a photo of you at the site (the site should be clearly visible in the photo). Please note that you may not visit a site on the National Mall or in the Memorial Parks for this assignment.

Section 2:

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

Out of My Mind 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.
The Season of Styx Malone 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.
Gracefully Grayson 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.
As Brave as You 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.
Counting by 7s 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.
Front Desk 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: 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: Mystery	
The Parker Inheritance 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.
Under the Egg 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.
The Blackthorn Key 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.
When You Reach Me 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	
Chains 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.
The War That Saved My Life 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.