



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2020: 6th Grade Literature

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches the educational experience
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy

General Instructions

- Choose 4 books that are interesting to you. Research tells us that we are more invested as readers when we read about topics of high-interest.
- During the first weeks of school, there will be in-class assignments for each of the books.
- Read: *Wonder* and a biography. Then choose 2 additional books. They can be fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction, or a graphic novel.
- If you choose a book that is interesting to you, but the reading level is too difficult, please be sure to read along with an audio book.
- If you would like to choose your own books, you are welcome to!
- If you would like to have guidance, suggestions are listed below. In addition, we will host two days this summer in the library to help you select books. Jane-Ann Myers will be present to help your child select a biography or fiction book from B.A.'s library one of these dates: June 24 (5-6:30 PM), or July 8 (5-6:30 PM).

Required Text (EACH student will read this text over the summer.)

- *Wonder* RJ Palacio ISBN 978-0-375-86902-0
August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. This story begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Choice Text (Select ONE text that you have not read previously.)

- *The Bad Beginning* Lemony Snicket and Brett Helquist
After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.
- *Black Beauty* Anna Sewell
This is the tale of a horse a hundred years ago when horses were a part of daily life. Although his colthood is happy, Black Beauty discovers the ups and downs of life as he passes through the hands of different owners.
- *Bridge to Terabithia* Katherine Paterson
Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia.

- *The Giver* Lois Lowry

Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control: no war, no pain, no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community, and Jonas has been chosen for something special. When his selection leads him to the Giver, he begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.

• *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter's life is miserable. His parents are dead and he's stuck with his heartless relatives, who force him to live in a tiny closet under the stairs. But his fortune changes when he receives a letter that tells him the truth about himself: he's a wizard. A mysterious visitor rescues him from his relatives and takes him to his new home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

• *Holes*

Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is a kid who is under a curse, a curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now at Camp Green Lake, a detention center for boys, he spends all day digging holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize that the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this darkly humorous tale of crime, punishment, and redemption.

• *The Incurable Children of Ashton Place: Book I:*

The Mysterious Howling

Maryrose Wood

Discovered in the forest of Ashton Place, the Incurables are no ordinary children. Luckily, Miss Penelope Lumley is no ordinary governess. A recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, Penelope embraces the challenge of her new position. Though she is eager to instruct the children in Latin verbs and the proper use of globes, first she must eliminate their canine tendencies

• *Tuck Everlasting*

Natalie Babbitt

Time drags by for Winnie Foster, an eleven-year-old girl who lives in a house bordering a forest. But one morning she sneaks away into the woods and there she sees a young man drinking from a mysterious spring of water. This spring harbors a powerful secret that transforms Winnie's world.

• *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Wilson Rawls

Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. But tragedy awaits, and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.

• *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*

Betty G. Birney

Life in Sassafras Springs has always been predictable, boring even, but one afternoon that changes when Eben McAllister's pa challenges him to find the Seven Wonders in Sassafras that rival the real Seven Wonders of the World. The reward? An adventure that Eben's been craving – a trip to Colorado.

• *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*

Jules Verne

This exciting story features the unforgettable Captain Nemo, and it chronicles the voyages within his submarine from the lost continent of Atlantis to the South Pole.

• *Redwall*

Brian Jacques

Redwall Abbey, tranquil home to a community of peace-loving mice, is threatened by Cluny the Scourge, a savage bilge rat warlord and his battle-hardened horde. But the Redwall mice and their loyal woodland friends combing their courage and strength to fight back.

• *The Book Thief*

Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel – a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents to help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

• *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*

Jeanne Birdsall

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

• *Watership Down*

Richard Adams

Set in England's Downs, this tale of adventure, courage, and survival follows a band of bunnies on their flight from man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a pair of brothers, they journey from their home of Sandleford Warren through trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land.

Please remember the BA English Department policy: Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or movies; read the texts themselves.