

During the summertime students entering 6th grade are required to read and respond to two books from the list below. Students may choose to respond in the following ways:

- Fill in the attached "Story Tree"
- Fill in the attached characterization web for the main character
- Fill in the attached story map
- In a well developed essay make a connection to the book -
 - text to self - explain any connections between the book and events in your own life
 - text to text - explain any connections between this book and other books you've read
 - text to world - explain any connections between this book and experiences that people you know, or know about, have had

With each response, be sure to include the title and author of the book to which you are responding. Have fun reading and enjoy the summer! See you in 6th grade!

Fiction

- **Little Women** Louisa May Alcott
The classic novel about the March family and their four daughters, talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.
- **Fever—1793** Laurie Halse Anderson
Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic in 1790 Philadelphia.
- **Al Capone Does my Shirts** Gennifer Choldenko
A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
- **The Watsons Go to Birmingham** Christopher Paul Curtis
The everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.
- **City of Ember** Jeanne Duprau
For 200 years, the residents of Ember have lost all knowledge of anything beyond the area illuminated by flood lamps on their buildings—until two young people discover clues to a way out.

- **My Side of the Mountain** Jean Craighead George
 A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.
- **The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story** Mary Downing Hahn
 Tired of the rules that have bound them ever since "the bad things happened," twelve-year-old Diana ignores her brother's warnings and befriends the daughter of the new caretaker, setting in motion events that lead to the release of the spirit of an old crazy woman who once ruled the old Willis place.
- **The View from Saturday** E. L. Konigsburg
 Four students develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their 6th grade class in the Academic bowl competition.
- **Rules** Cynthia Lord
 Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by friendship with a young paraplegic.
- **Surviving the Applewhites** Stephanie Tolan
 Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Non- Fiction

- **Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii** James Deem
 Referred to only as legend, it was not until the 18th century that workers began to uncover the remains of the city of Pompeii, covered within 24 hours with ash, pumice and volcanic rubble when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D.
- **An American Plague: The True & Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever** Jim Murphy
 The fear and drama of the yellow fever epidemic that swept Philadelphia in 1793, skillfully drawn out from many historical records in a work both rigorous and inviting to modern readers.