

# Reading

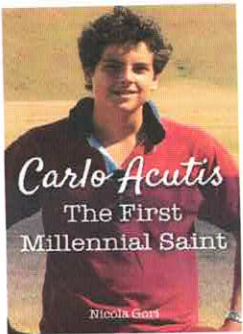
## 2025 6th Grade Summer Reading

Incoming 6th grade students are required to read a total of 3 books during summer break:

1. all-middle school read
2. 6th grade class read
3. One book from options list

In August, students will complete three in-class assignments, each covering one of their summer reading books. Each assignment will count as a test grade and cannot be taken home, so students must complete all required reading during the summer.

### Required: All Middle School Read



*Carlo Acutis: The First Millennial Saint* by Nicola Gori

**Genre:** Biography / Religious Nonfiction

**Lexile:** 1010L

A compelling and inspiring biography of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teen who used technology to spread devotion to the Eucharist and lived a deeply spiritual life before his death at age 15. This book highlights his faith, generosity, and impact as a modern Catholic role model.

### 6th Grade Class Read (Required for All 6th Grade Students)



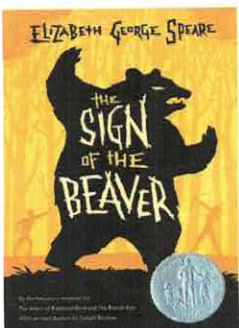
*The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket

**Genre:** Dark Humor / Adventure / Fiction

**Lexile:** 1010L

After their parents die in a mysterious fire, the unlucky Baudelaire orphans are sent to live with the evil Count Olaf, who is determined to steal their inheritance. The first book in *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

### Third Novel Option– Choose 1:

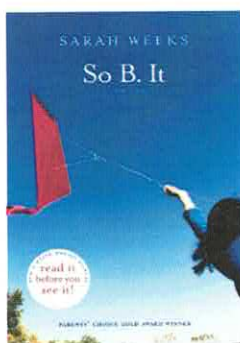


*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

**Genre:** Historical Fiction / Survival

**Lexile:** 770L

When Matt is left alone to guard his family's cabin in the Maine wilderness, he must rely on his wits—and the unexpected friendship of Attean, a Native American boy—to survive. Their growing bond becomes a powerful story of courage, trust, and cultural understanding.



*So B. It* by Sarah Weeks

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction / Mystery

**Lexile:** 860L

Heidi has always lived a quiet life with her mentally disabled mother and their caring neighbor, but unanswered questions about her past push her to take a brave cross-country journey. Along the way, she uncovers the truth about her identity, her family, and what it means to belong.

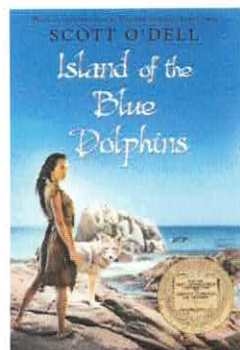


*Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz

**Genre:** Historical Fiction / WWII / Espionage

**Lexile:** 780L

Michael, the son of an Irish diplomat in Nazi Germany, leads a dangerous double life as a spy for the Allies while posing as a loyal member of the Hitler Youth. As the stakes rise, he must navigate intense pressure, deadly secrets, and impossible moral choices.



*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

**Genre:** Historical Fiction / Survival / Adventure

**Lexile:** 1000L

When her tribe is forced to leave their island, Karana is left behind and must learn to survive completely on her own. Based on a true story, this classic novel tells a powerful tale of courage, self-reliance, and resilience in the face of isolation.

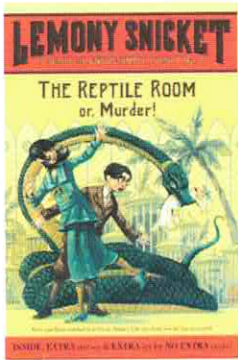
### Reading Challenge (Optional):

To challenge students to reach their full reading potential, there is a school-wide reading challenge in which qualifying students will be entered into a back-to-school drawing.

Read a minimum of 800 minutes (choosing books from a teacher-provided list) to be entered into a Back-to-School drawing. Students should log their reading minutes on their reading log, aiming for 20 minutes per day, 5 days per week.



## 6th grade Challenge options:

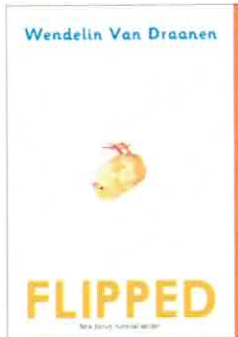


*The Reptile Room* by Lemony Snicket

**Lexile:** 1080L

**Genre:** Dark Humor / Fiction / Adventure

In the second book of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, the Baudelaire orphans are sent to live with a kind but eccentric herpetologist and his collection of reptiles. Just as things begin to feel safe, Count Olaf reappears in disguise—bringing more chaos, danger, and unfortunate twists.

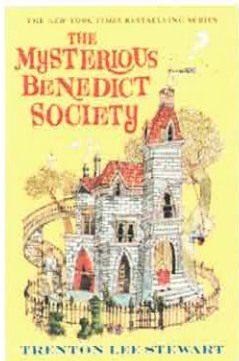


*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen

**Lexile:** 720L

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction / Coming of Age / Romance

Juli has been smitten with Bryce since second grade, but he's never felt the same—until everything begins to change in eighth grade. As their lives and perspectives shift, both must reevaluate what they value in others and in themselves in this thoughtful and often funny story about growing up, family, and first impressions.

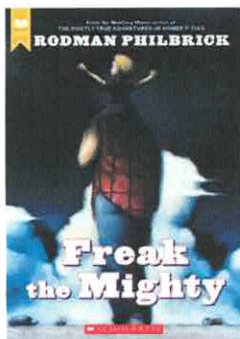


*The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Lexile:** 890L

**Genre:** Mystery / Adventure / Puzzle Fiction

When an unusual ad appears in the newspaper, a group of gifted children are selected for a secret mission to stop a mastermind threatening the world. Packed with clever puzzles, hidden messages, and quirky teamwork, this twist-filled adventure celebrates intelligence, bravery, and friendship.

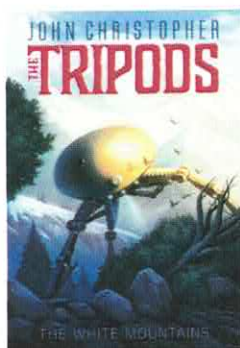


*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

**Lexile:** 1000L

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction / Friendship / Disability Awareness

Max, a large boy struggling with learning challenges, and Kevin, a brilliant boy with a physical disability, form a deep friendship that empowers both to face the world.

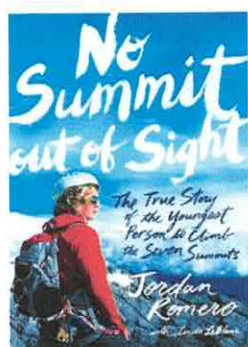


*The White Mountains* by John Christopher

**Lexile:** 750L

**Genre:** Science Fiction / Dystopian / Adventure

In a future ruled by alien machines that control human minds, a group of boys escape their controlled society and embark on a perilous journey in search of freedom. The first book in *The Tripods* series.

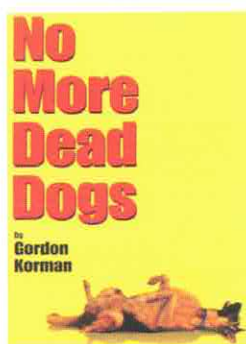


*No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the 7 Summits* by Jordan Romero

**Lexile:** 850L

**Genre:** Nonfiction / Biography / Adventure

Jordan Romero recounts how he became the youngest person to climb the highest mountains on each continent by age 15, sharing his determination, training, and experiences along the way.



*No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman

**Lexile:** 610L

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction / Humor / School Life

Eighth-grade football player Wallace Wallace refuses to lie about hating a classic book—and his punishment is helping with the school play based on it. As rehearsals unfold, Wallace's honesty, football fame, and unexpected creativity turn the play—and the school—upside down in this hilarious and satirical story



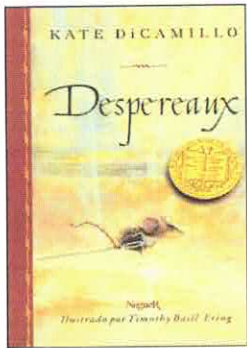
*Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke

**Lexile:** 780L

**Genre:** Fantasy / Adventure / Books About Books

When Meggie's father accidentally brings characters out of a book and into the real world, their lives are thrown into danger by a ruthless villain. Together, they must use courage and cleverness to set things right in this richly imagined fantasy celebrating the magic of storytelling.



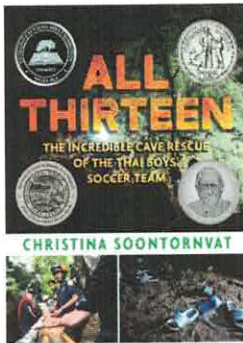


*The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo

**Lexile:** 670L

**Genre:** Fantasy / Fairy Tale / Adventure

Despereaux, a small mouse with big ears and an even bigger heart, is drawn to music, stories, and a human princess—breaking all the rules of his mouse world. Banished to the dungeon, he embarks on a daring quest to save the princess and bring light back to the kingdom in this beautifully written modern fairy tale.

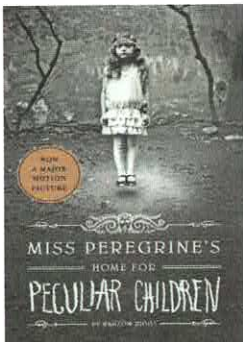


*All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat

**Lexile:** 1120L

**Genre:** Nonfiction / Survival / Current Events

A gripping and well-researched account of the 2018 rescue of 12 boys and their coach from a flooded cave in Thailand, featuring maps, timelines, photos, and real-world heroism.



*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

**Lexile:** 890L

**Genre:** Fantasy / Paranormal / Mystery

After a family tragedy, Jacob follows a trail of clues to a mysterious island orphanage, where he discovers children with strange abilities—and a dangerous secret hidden in time. Includes eerie vintage photographs that bring the story to life.

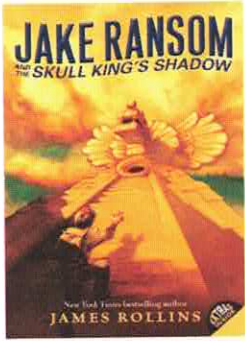


*The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan

**Lexile:** 650L

**Genre:** Fantasy / Mythology / Adventure

Siblings Carter and Sadie Kane are thrown into a world of ancient Egyptian magic after a magical accident unleashes powerful gods. To save their family—and the world—they must learn to channel their powers and survive dangerous enemies. The first book in *The Kane Chronicles* series.



*Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow* by James Rollins

**Lexile: 680L**

**Genre:** Fantasy / Adventure / Historical Elements

Siblings Jake and Kady are transported to a mysterious world where ancient civilizations collide. As they search for answers about their parents, they battle prehistoric creatures and a menacing villain known as the Skull King.

# STUDENT **READING** LOG

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Class : \_\_\_\_\_

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May 7, 2025

Hello, Incoming or Returning Middle Schooler.

It feels so good to look forward to summer. After months of hard work, it will be nice to enjoy a more relaxing schedule. I know you have worked hard all year, and I don't want your word skills and creative skills to slip. I encourage you to participate in my summer challenge. My hope is that completing this activity will help you stay sharp with your word skills.

Here is the challenge; complete the lists following these guidelines.

1. Unless you have an accommodation plan that allows you to use your computer, the lists must be hand-written.
2. Your answers need to come from your own brain. It's not okay to look them up on the computer or ask your family or friends what you should write (although it is okay for your mom or your friend to give you one or two suggestions).
3. Start each list on a separate sheet of paper. One list may extend over multiple pages.
4. Each time you add to one of your lists, add the date.
5. The longer your lists, the more points you earn.
6. **At the end of your work, add this statement: All of these answers came from my head. I did not use the internet, and I only got a few ideas from my parents or other people. Then sign it.**
6. Students who do a really good job will be rewarded with a bonus test grade for the first quarter of next year. Everyone who turns in any work will receive a couple of pieces of candy; I'd definitely aim for the test grade.
7. Start your lists while it's still May and add to them at least a few times each week. I think working for small chunks of time (5-10 minutes) often throughout the summer is the best strategy to follow.



6. Don't let this become burdensome. Look upon it as a challenge. Can you come up with a combined total of 100 answers? (Sure you can!) Can you get to 300 answers? (I bet you can.) How about 500 answers? (That will get you a good test grade.) Can you come up with 1000 answers? (That might get you bragging rights for your class, but we won't know for sure until we count everyone's responses.) 10,000 answers? (I'm speechless!!)

I hope everyone has a great summer. I'll be happy to see you again in August.

Ms. Duyka

Middle School English Teacher

1. Topics I'd Be Interested in Researching

2. Antonyms (early, late)

3. Synonyms for "Good"

4. Words With Three or More Syllables Which I Heard Today

5. Homophones (there, their)

6. Words You Like (Personally, I like "serendipity" and "serene.")

7. Alliteration (Sue sells seashells....)

8. Idioms (It's raining cats and dogs.)

9. Similes (as quiet as falling snow)

10. Personal Favorites (favorite hobby, vacation spot, color, etc.)

11. I Wonder Why....

12. I'd Like to Write About...