

6th Grade Summer Reading:

3 novels of your choice - must include fiction and non-fiction.

As students begin selecting summer reading titles, we wanted to explain the freedom of choice and provide some suggestions to use as a starting point. As avid readers who long to instill a lifelong passion for reading into our students, we made this decision in order to allow students to take ownership over their reading and maybe even uncover a passion they may not know they have, whether it be for a specific author, genre, theme, or even reading in general. Two of the greatest simple joys we have in life are sifting through books with a cup of coffee at Barnes and Noble and sharing personal reads with one another (as the students will learn next year!). We want students to find that same joy (sans the coffee, of course) as they walk into a bookstore or library and hopefully begin swapping and discussing books with their peers.

This decision, of course, did not come without some research into the power and benefits of choice reading. Students will spend the school year reading required texts, so while we hope that they will enjoy those, we find that giving them this opportunity through summer reading is a way to carry a passion for reading over into the school year during independent reading time at school and hopefully at home.

While we don't want students to feel they are beholden to a specific list of titles, here are some recommendations below that cover an array of interests and genres.

Recommended favorites found in our classroom libraries include:

The Track Series by Jason Reynolds
The Harry Potter series
The Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne
Out of my Mind by Sharon Draper
Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder
I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Any novel by some classroom favorite authors:

Jayson Reynolds
Kwame Alexander
Sharon Draper
Judy Blume
Laurie Halse Anderson
Jerry Spinelli

Some classics:

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
The Call of the Wild by Jack London

We hope that these titles can provide some guidance if need be and that this summer students will enjoy their summer reading selections. In September we look forward to listening to students' opinions and recommendations as to cultivate a master list of student-approved books for them to use throughout the year for independent reading and inspire us as we are always building our classroom libraries.

