

Summer Reading 2023

Grade 6



The purpose of the summer reading program is to encourage the enjoyment of reading and the development of independent reading skills. Summer is a time of fun, exploration and growth; it is a perfect time to read. It is our hope at St. Michael School that each of you will become lifelong readers. Students entering sixth grade are required to read **two** books during the summer. However, you may read more than two. One of the books should be chosen from the Summer Reading Book List.

1. Required: ***Walk Two Moons*** by Sharon Creech, complete the corresponding assignment
2. **Free Choice.** Choose one book from the *Suggested Titles* attached. Complete the corresponding assignment.

Several of the books on the Reading List are some of the students' favorites. Feel free to read more than one from the list. The assignment for each book can be done directly on the document. The reading and corresponding assignments will be collected on the first day of school. If you have questions or have other book ideas you may message me on Google Classroom Summer Reading, password: **kgmsknx**.

Common Sense Media is an excellent resource to help you understand the nature of the content in the novels: [commonsensemedia.org](https://www.commonsensemedia.org).

Enjoy your time reading this summer!



Grade 6 Summer Reading List

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt-Winnie Foster discovers a spring on her family's property that grants immortality, and she meets members of the Tuck family who have drunk from the stream. Winnie must decide whether she, herself, wants immortality.

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster, Jules Feiffer (illus.)- This ingenious fantasy centers around Milo, a bored ten-year old who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth gates and begins a memorable journey.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli- When Jeffrey Lionel Magee wanders into Two Mills, Pennsylvania, a legend is in the making. Before too long, stories begin to circulate about how fast and how far he can run and about feats so incredible they earn him the nickname "Maniac."

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt- Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb?

The Sisters Grimm Series (any book in the series)- by , Michael Buckley- When orphaned sisters Sabrina and Daphne are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother, Relda Grimm, who lives in a strange town in New York state, known for its extraordinary number of unexplained and unusual crimes, they begin to unravel a mystery that leads to their ancestors' magical beginnings.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett- This bewitching first novel is a puzzle, wrapped in a mystery, disguised as an adventure, and delivered as a work of art. When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen- Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter?

Escape Under the Forever Sky by Eve Yohalem- This suspenseful story is funny and touching. Lucy's mother is the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, so Lucy's life must be one big adventure, right? Wrong. Lucy's worrywart mother keeps her locked up inside the ambassador's residence. All Lucy can do is read about the exotic and exciting world that lies beyond the compound walls. Until one day Lucy gets kidnapped!

Travel Team by Mike Lupica- After he is cut from his travel basketball team—the very same team that his father once led to national prominence—twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne- Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. Their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein- Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech-A prequel to the Newbery Medal-winning *Walk Two Moons*, this book chronicles the daily life of 13-year-old Mary Lou Finney during her most chaotic and romantic summer ever. Mary Lou's summer journal -- which she begins grudgingly as a dreaded assignment for school becomes a hilarious chronicle of the circle of people and events that make her summer.

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli- As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds-The story of an African American middle school runner with the talent to qualify for the Junior Olympics—if he can learn to control his temper. Money is tight and his father is in jail, and Ghost has been having a lot of what he calls “altercations.”

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman- Catherine, the daughter of an impoverished knight, is in her fourteenth year when she begins a record of her daily life. Her diary of the year 1290 provides a revealing, amusing, and vivid picture of both Catherine's thoughts and Medieval life.

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm- Ellie is an 11-year-old girl who is having problems moving forward and finding her passion when her grandfather re-enters her life as a 13-year-old boy due to his discovery of an age reversing formula. With his help, she finally understands the cycle of life, finds that science is her passion and starts to live.

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai. *I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday.* When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick- This is a powerful story of a unique friendship between a troubled, oversized boy and the tiny, physically challenged genius who proves that courage comes in all sizes.

The City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau-The story of Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow, two teenage citizens of a subterranean city called Ember, which was established 241 years before the events of the book to allow the human race to survive an impending apocalyptic event.

Schooled by Gordon Korman- Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan- Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he goes to the one place he'll be safe.

The Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis- Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Momma and Dad decide it's time for a visit to Grandma, Dad comes home with the amazing Ultra-Glide, and the Watsons set out on a trip like no other.

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan- Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of *The Wizard of Oz*, she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. Bubbling over with humor and tenderness, this is an irresistible story of self-discovery and of the role models who forever change us.

The Big Field by Mike Lupica- When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis- Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit. They end up in Hooverville outside of Flint, Michigan, and her brother attempts to be a performer while Deza and her mother search for a home.

Football Genius by Tim Green-Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Out of Left Field by Ellen Klages-Katy Gordon isn't allowed to play Little League – even though she is undeniably the best pitcher – because she is a girl. So Katy sets out to prove that girls can – and have! – played baseball throughout history. This book is both Katy's story and an interesting history of women in baseball.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart-After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier- The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi-After moving to their ancestral home, Emily and Navin's mother is kidnapped by a tentacled creature in the basement that leads the children on a deadly chase into the magical world below their home.

FREE CHOICE:

Answer the following questions based on your free choice book.

1 Title of Book:

Author:

2. Pick three words to describe the protagonist (main character).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. In complete sentences describe the setting of the story.

4. Describe the major problem or conflict the main character had to overcome and describe how it was solved.

5. What lesson did you take away from this book? What mark has this book made on you?

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Salamanca “Sal” Tree Hiddle is traveling with her grandparents on a cross-country trip to Lewiston, Idaho, where Sal hopes to get to in time for her mother’s birthday. “Hope” is in fact, something present at the core of Sal’s narrative and at the core of this trip: Sal hopes more than anything, to be able to bring her mother – who had recently left Sal and her father – back home.

Please complete the following assignment while you read the novel. The questions do not require long answers, but they should be written in complete sentences. We will discuss this book when you return to school. I hope you enjoy it.

Walk Two Moons

By Sharon Creech

Chapters 1-6

1. Where did Sal move from? How does she **feel** about her new home? Why?
2. Sal lists three reasons she is traveling to Lewiston, Idaho. List them.

Chapters 7-9

1. What did Sal reveal about her mom in chapter seven?
2. In chapter 9, what does Phoebe mean when she says, “Mary Lou’s family is not nearly as civilized as ours.” What does this tell you about Phoebe?

Chapters 10-14

1. In chapter 10 Sal's father said she was as "gullible as a fish". What does that mean?
2. At the end of chapter 11, explain what happened between Sal and her dad.
3. In chapter 14 explain what you learn about Mrs. Winterbottom during her exchange with Prudence? What do you think she means by "living a tiny life"?

Chapters 16-20

1. In chapter 16, how does hearing the bird outside the hospital remind Sal of home? Why does Gram suggest it is a good sign?
2. At the end of chapter 17, what was the one thing that would matter to Sal in the course of a lifetime.
3. How does Sal describe her father in chapter 18? Cite one piece of evidence from the story.

Chapters 21-23

1. Why do you think Phoebe lied and told Megan that her mother was in London in chapter 22?
2. We learn in chapter 23 Sal's mom sent her two postcards from the Badlands. What did one of them say? What does it mean?

Chapters 24-27

1. What is the meaning of the new message: "*You can't keep the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair.*" ?
2. *In chapter 27*, who does Mr. Winterbottom get in touch with? Why do you think she does?

Chapters 28-32

1. When Sal sees the first signs of the Black Hills, the whispers change to *rush, hurry, rush*. Why do you think that happens?
2. What does Sal notice on Sergeant Bickle's desk when they return to the police station? (31)
3. What does Sal learn about Mr. Birkway in chapter 32?

Chapters 34-39

1. How does Phoebe and Sal find out where the "lunatic" lives?
2. What does Phoebe and Sal discover when they get to the University in chapter 36?
3. Describe how Mrs. Winterbottom looks in chapter 39. Why do you think she changed?