Summer Reading BINGO

Every incoming 6th grader should read *I Can Make This Promise*, by Christine Day this summer. In addition, aim to read **at least four other books**. As you read, please fill out this BINGO card. Each square is for a particular book genre and there are free spaces for books of any genre that you choose to read. For each square, please include the title, author, and a rating for the book – the more stars you color, the more you liked the book!

Go for "BINGO!" (five in a row, any direction), or for a bigger challenge, "Blackout Bingo!" (All squares filled!) Happy Reading!

Biography/Non-	Folklore/Fantasy	Fiction	*FREE*	Biography/
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# 6th Grade Summer Reading - Summer 2022

Directions: In addition to reading *I Can Make this Promise* by Christine Day, 6th graders are encouraged to read a variety of books. Need ideas? The list below is a collection of favorites recommended by Forest Ridge faculty and students.

#### **Required Read**

# I Can Make this Promise by Christine Day (2019)

All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers. Until the day when she and her friends discover a box hidden in the attic of her Seattle home—a box full of letters signed "Love, Edith," and photos of a woman who looks just like her. Could she belong to the Native family that Edie never knew about? Can she trust her parents to tell her the truth?

#### **Fiction Suggestions**

# The First Rule of Punk by Celia Pérez (2017)

Twelve-year-old Malú reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

#### A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass (2005)

Thirteen-year-old Mia Winchell suffers from a rare condition she has kept hidden from everyone called synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. When trouble in the school finally convinces Mia to reveal her secret, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery in order to understand and appreciate her special gift.

#### The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose & Me by Sara Nickerson (2016)

12-year-old Missy and her older brother Patrick get summer jobs picking blueberries at a local farm. For Missy, it's the perfect distraction from the fact that her two best friends have gone off to summer camp without her and that her dad is getting remarried. She soon discovers that the summer is full of secrets: the secrets to making her family feel whole again; the secrets to keeping her two best friends from changing; and most importantly, the secrets of blueberries.

#### **From the Desk of Zoe Washington**, by Janae Marks, (2020)

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth.

#### Wish by Barbara O'Connor (2017)

When 11-year-old Charlie Reese is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is, until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.

# The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor (2018)

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief for his best friend, Benny Kilmartin, who recently died in the Buttle family's orchard. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin

goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?

# The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (2000)

Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. Parvana's father -- a former history teacher -- works from a blanket on the ground in the marketplace, reading letters for people who cannot read or write. One day, he is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education. As conditions for the family grow desperate, only one solution emerges. Forbidden to earn money as a girl, Parvana must transform herself into a boy, and become the breadwinner.

# *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson (2018)

It all starts when six kids meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. They discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from deportation to incarceration to racial profiling to changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

# **Great Wall of Lucy Wu, Wendy Wan-Long Shang (2011)**

Lucy Wu, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is on the verge of having the best year of her life. She's ready to rule the school as a sixth grader and take over the bedroom she has always shared with her sister. In an instant, though, her plans are shattered when she finds out that Yi Po, her beloved grandmother's sister, is coming to visit for several months.

#### **Nonfiction Suggestions**

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You, by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi (2020)

Stamped traces the history of racism and the many stories that have been used to justify slavery, oppression, and genocide. This book demonstrates that the idea of "race has always been used to gain and keep power, whether financially or politically," and that this power has been used to systemically and systematically oppress Black people in the United States for more than four hundred years.

# Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town by Warren St. John (2012) Young Reader's Edition

Luma Mufleh, coach for private youth soccer teams in Atlanta, noticed a group of young boys, black, brown, and white in Clarkston, Georgia, playing soccer on every flat surface they could find, some barefoot! Luma decided to quit her job, move to Clarkston, and start a soccer team. Despite challenges to locate a practice field, minimal funding for uniforms and equipment, and zero fans on the sidelines, the Fugees practiced hard and demonstrated a team spirit that drew admiration from referees and competitors alike.

#### **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio** by Peg Kehret (1996)

In a riveting story of courage and hope, children's book author Peg Kehret tells of months spent in a hospital when she was 12, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again. Her powerful account is also full of the humor that she and four spunky roommates found in daily hospital life.

# **Fantasy/Folklore Suggestions**

#### **The City of Ember** by Jeanne DuPrau (2003)

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret

that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!

# Zahrah the Windseeker by Nnedi Okorafor (2005)

In the Ooni Kingdom, children born dada--with vines growing in their hair--are rumored to have special powers. Zahrah Tsami doesn't know anything about that. She feels normal. Only Dari, her best friend, isn't afraid of her. But then something begins to happen that marks Zahrah as different--and the only person she can tell is Dari. He pushes her to investigate, edging them both closer and closer to danger Zahrah will have to face her worst fears alone, including the very thing that makes her different.

# **Keeper of the Lost Cities** series by Shannon Messenger (2013)

Twelve-year-old Sophie has never quite fit into her life. And Sophie has a secret--she's a Telepath, someone who can read minds. But the day Sophie meets a mysterious boy, Fitz, she learns she's not alone. He's a Telepath too, and it turns out the reason she has never felt at home is that, well...she isn't. Fitz opens Sophie's eyes to a shocking truth, and almost instantly she is forced into a new life in a place that is vastly different from what she has ever known.

# **Graphic Novel Suggestions**

# Ghosts, and other titles by Raina Telgemeier (2016)

Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. As the girls explore their new home, a neighbor lets them in on a secret: There are ghosts in Bahía de la Luna. At the time of year when ghosts reunite with their loved ones, Cat must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister's sake - and her own.

# El Deafo by Cece Bell (2014)

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid.

#### **New Kid** and **Class Act** by Jerry Craft (2019)

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons, but instead of sending him to art school, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

#### **Historical Fiction Suggestions**

# Ahimsa by Supriya Kelkar (2018)

In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi asks Indians to give one family member to the freedom movement, ten-year-old Anjali is devastated to think of her father risking his life for the freedom struggle. But it turns out he isn't the one joining. Anjali's mother is. Inspired by her great-grandmother's experience working with Gandhi, New Visions Award winner Supriya Kelkar shines a light on the Indian freedom movement in this poignant debut.

# Refugee by Alan Gratz (2017)

Three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers - from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, including modern day Syria, 1994 Cuba, and Nazi Germany, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

#### Wolf Hollow, Lauren Wolk (2018)

Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class and makes reclusive World War I veteran Toby a target of her cruel attacks. Can Annabelle find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount?

# The Inquisitor's Tale, or Three Magical Children and their Holy Dog, Adam Gidwitz (2016)

The year is 1242. Join William, an oblate on a mission from his monastery, Jacob, a Jewish boy who has fled his burning village, and Jeanne, a peasant girl who hides her prophetic visions. They are accompanied by Jeanne's loyal greyhound, Gwenforte, recently brought back from the dead. Told in multiple voices, in a style reminiscent of The Canterbury Tales, our narrator collects their stories and the saga of these three unlikely allies begins to come together.

Book summaries courtesy of Goodreads.com