

6th Grade Summer Reading – Summer 2019

Directions: In addition to reading *The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose & Me* by Sara Nickerson, 6th graders are encouraged to read a variety of books from the suggestions below as they complete the summer reading bingo board attached.

Required Read

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

To make some extra money, twelve-year-old Missy and her older brother Patrick get summer jobs picking blueberries at a local farm. For Missy, though, it's about more than just money-- 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'd love for everything to stay the way it is, but 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 leaving her behind; the secrets of a local farm's blood feud; and most importantly, the secrets of blueberries.

Fiction Suggestions

The First Rule of Punk by Celia Pérez (2017)

Twelve-year-old Marâia Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malâu) 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 called synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. But because she has kept it a secret from everyone, she appears to be the most normal kid. When trouble in school finally convinces Mia to reveal her secret, she feels like a freak; and as she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, her family and friends have trouble relating to her. Mia has to lose something very special in order to understand and appreciate her special gift.

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate (2017)

Red, an oak tree, is the neighborhood "wishtree"--people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all, until a new family moves in. Red's experience as a wishtree is now more important than ever.

Wish by Barbara O'Connor (2017)

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. But when she 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.

Refugee by Alan Gratz (2017)

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All 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, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

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. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. 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's capital city. Parvana's father -- a history teacher until his school was bombed and his health destroyed -- 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, and the family is left without someone who can earn money or even shop for food. 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. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his 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.

Nonfiction Suggestions

Outcasts United: the story of a refugee soccer team that changed a town by Warren St. John (2012)

Luma Mufleh, a young Jordanian woman educated in the United States and working as a coach for private youth soccer teams in Atlanta, was out for a drive one day and ended up in Clarkston, Georgia, where she was amazed to see young boys, black and brown and white, some barefoot, playing soccer on every flat surface they could find. Luma decided to quit her job, move to Clarkston, and start a soccer team that would soon defy the odds. 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.

Be a Changemaker: How to Start Something that Matters by Laurie Ann Thompson (2014)

Do you wish you could make a difference in your community or even the world? Are you one of the millions of high school teens with a service-learning requirement? Either way, *Be a Changemaker* will empower you with the confidence and knowledge you need to affect real change.

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 race to figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (2011)

In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

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. Others think she's different--they fear her. Only Dari, her best friend, isn't afraid of her. But then something begins to happen--something that definitely 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, until Dari's life is on the line. Only Zahrah can save him, but to do so she'll 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. She's skipped multiple grades and doesn't really connect with the older kids at school, but she's not comfortable with her family, either. And Sophie has a secret--she's a Telepath, someone who can read minds. But the day Sophie meets Fitz, a mysterious (and adorable) boy, 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 to leave behind her family for 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 by Jerry Craft (2019)

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, 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

***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary Schmidt (2004)**

No one in Phippsburg, Maine will let Turner Buckminster forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. Then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. Despite his father's -- and the town's -- disapproval of their friendship, Turner spends time with Lizzie. The two soon discover that the town elders want to force the people to leave Lizzie's island so that Phippsburg can start a lucrative tourist trade there. Turner gets caught up in a spiral of disasters that alter his life-but also lead him to new levels of acceptance and maturity.

***In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord (2003)**

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle - baseball - happens. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie Robinson is proving that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America. And for Shirley as well, on the ball field and off, America becomes the land of opportunity.

***Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell (1960)**

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Summer Reading BINGO

Every incoming 6th grader should read *The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose & Me* by Sara Nickerson this summer so that we can begin the school year with a class discussion of the book. In addition, aim to read at least four other books. The attached list is a collection of favorites recommended by Forest Ridge faculty and students. 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! Bring this page with you to class during the first week of school. Any students who have a “BINGO” (five in a row, any direction) will receive a reward. Students who take on the challenge of “blackout bingo”- all squares filled- receive a special prize! Have fun!

Biography/Non-Fiction Title: Author: 	Folklore/Fantasy Title: Author: 	Fiction Title: Author: 	*FREE* Title: Author: 	Biography/Non-Fiction Title: Author: 
Folklore/Fantasy Title: Author: 	Fiction Title: Author: 	*FREE* Title: Author: 	Biography/Non-Fiction Title: Author: 	Graphic Novel Title: Author: 
Fiction Title: Author: 	*FREE* Title: Author: 	REQUIRED READING: The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose, and Me (Sara Nickerson) 	Graphic Novel Title: Author: 	Folklore/Fantasy Title: Author: 
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