



# Riverside Presbyterian Day School

## Summer Reading and Activities

Dear Sixth Grade Parents and Students,

Reading provides access to information, knowledge, pleasure and comfort. Because of the value Riverside Presbyterian Day School places on reading and its importance in all subject areas, I have implemented a summer reading requirement for upcoming sixth grade students.

Students are required to read a minimum of three books from the Sixth Grade Summer Reading List. Please choose books that are new to you from different categories. When you have finished a book, complete one of the attached report forms. Upon finishing all three books, you will have used all three report forms. This assignment is due the first day of school. I also encourage all students to participate in the library's "Wild About Reading" program. Let's see if you can read more pages than the fifth graders.

Parents, thank you for your continued support. One of our greatest challenges is making certain that reading is valued and enjoyed by our children.

Congratulations sixth graders! What a special year lies ahead for you! Required summer reading is the jump-start to your final year at R.P.D.S. Have a wonderful summer and get ready for an exciting and memorable sixth grade year.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Wood*

Ellen Wood



## **Sixth Grade Summer Reading List**

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### **Rules to Follow:**

1. All books should be listed by title and number of pages on the reading list.
2. Additional titles may be listed on a separate sheet of paper.
3. Students should choose summer reading, which is appropriate in length and reading level for their grade.
4. Please be sure to complete the assigned reading for Mrs. Wood. You may use the page amounts of those assigned books in your page totals.
5. Students who participate will receive an achievement certificate.
6. Students who read 1000 pages or more will receive a safari gift bag.
7. Sixth graders who read 1400 or more pages will be invited to a special pizza party in Kissling Hall. This will be a reward for those students whose participation in this program has been outstanding.
8. Parents should sign the lists.
9. Students should be sure that their first and last names are clearly written on their reading list.
10. Students should turn in reading lists to your teacher only during the first week of school (not the Media Center, Office, or Extended Day, please).



## **Sixth Grade Summer Reading List**

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Fill out a report form after reading each of the three required books. A different form must be used for each book. You will hand in this form for a grade the first week of school. Don't forget to get it signed by your parent/guardian.

*\*Indicates a more challenging choice*

### **REAL LIFE AND HISTORICAL FICTION**

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*\*Avi - True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Charlotte, a 13 year old passenger on the Seahawk in 1932, has been accused of murder and found guilty. This is her account of that terrifying voyage.

*Avi - Fighting Ground*

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

*Creech, Sharon - Ruby Holler*

Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

*\*Creech, Sharon - Absolutely Normal Chaos*

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up quickly during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

*Cushman, Karen - Catherine Called Birdy*

The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

*Eckert, A.- Incident at Hawk's Hill*

A six-year old boy wanders away from home and is nurtured and protected by a badger.

*Fox, P.- One-Eyed Cat*

Ned is forbidden to shoot his air rifle, but after disobeying this rule, he wounds a cat and the results gnaw at his conscience.

*Gantos, Jack - Jack's New Power*

When his father moves the family to Barbados, thirteen-year-old Jack learns that life is not always idyllic on an island paradise.

*Giff, Patricia Reilly - Pictures of Hollis Woods*

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

*\*Hamilton, V.- M.C. Higgins the Great*

As a slag heap creeps closer to his house, fifteen-year-old M.C. is torn between trying to get his family away and fighting for the home they love.

Henry, Marguerite – *Misty of Chincoteague*

The determination of two youngsters to win a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

Hobbs, W.- *The Maze*

13 year old Rick Walker discovers a lot about himself, the environment, and how to survive while living in Utah's Canyonland National Park.

Konigsburg, E.L. – *View from Saturday*

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Peck, Richard – *A Year Down Yonder*

A long way from Chicago. During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

Philbrick, Rodman- *Freak the Mighty*

Incredible union of a large boy with a small brain, and a small boy with a brilliant brain.

Robinson, Barbara – *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

Sachar, Louis – *Holes*

Contains the story about an unlucky boy who goes from loser to hero when he beats the odds (and solves a mystery) at Camp Green Lake, a detention center where he is made to dig holes everyday.

Spinelli, Jerry - *Wringer*

The perils and nuances of peer pressure in a town where turning ten means becoming a wringer.

Wolff, Virginia – *Bat 6*

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Yep, L. - *Dragonwings*

Moon Shadow leaves his Chinese village in 1903 and goes to live with his father in San Francisco where the two work toward their dream of creating a dragon-like flying machine

## **MYSTERY**

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Colfer, Eoin – *Half Moon Investigations*

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.

Fletcher, S.- *Shadow Spinner*

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.

\*Funke, C.- *The Thief Lord*

Escaping the aunt who wants to adopt only one of them, two orphaned brothers run away from Hamburg to Venice, finding shelter with a gang of street children and their leader, the thirteen-year-old "Thief Lord," while also eluding the detective hired to return them to Germany.

\*Raskin, Ellen - *The Westing Game*

The will of an eccentric multimillionaire stipulates that the sixteen heirs will inherit his fortune only if they can use the clues to solve a mystery.

Springer, Nancy – *The Case of the Missing Marquis*

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.

## **FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION**

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\*Alexander, L.- *The Book of Three, The Black Cauldron, The Castle of Llyr, Taran the Wanderer, The High King*

Tales of Taran, a series set in the mythical land of Prydain, as Taran journeys from boyhood to manhood

Avi- *Perloo the Bold*

Animal fantasy with theatrical dialogue and a high-minded theme.

Brittain, B.- *The Wish Giver*

This suspenseful story tells what happens when wishes are granted to three young adults.

\*Cooper, Susan- *Over Sea, Under Stone, Dark is Rising, Greenwitch, The Grey King, Silver on the Tree*  
Thrilling fantasy series where the conflict of good and evil reaches new levels.

\*Farmer, Nancy- *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*

Science fiction odyssey set in Zimbabwe in the year 2194.

\*Hale, S.- *Goose Girl*

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

Hunter, R.- *The Warriors Series*

The plight of the four cat Clans is explained in this fantasy series.

\*L'Engle, M.- *A Wrinkle in Time*

A provocative, imaginative tale of a brother and sister in search of their father who is lost in the fifth dimension.

Nimmo, J.- *Charlie Bone Series*

Spellbinding series with Charlie Bone leading the reader on amazing adventures.

Pierce, T.- *The Circle Opens Series; Song of the Lioness Series; Protector of the Small Series*

Fantasy adventure series

Rowling, J.K.- *Harry Potter Series*

Harry Potter's adventures at the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Waugh, S.- *Space Race*

When he learns that he and his father must soon leave Earth, eleven-year-old Thomas Derwent is upset, but a terrible accident that separates the two of them makes Thomas's situation much worse.

## **NON-FICTION**

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Dendy, Leslie & Mel Boring – *Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self Experimenters in Science & Medicine*

From hundreds of examples gathered during a decade of research, the authors offer 10 enthralling case studies of scientists from the past several centuries who became their own test subjects--with occasionally fatal results.

\*Fleischman, J. - *Phineas Gage: The Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science*

The incredible story of the railroad worker who, in 1848, survived the piercing blast of a 13-pound iron rod as it entered below his cheekbone and exited the front of his skull.

Freedman, Russell. - *Freedom Walkers*

Presents the story of the Montgomery bus boycott and the key persons and events that contributed to the year-long struggle for equal rights on Montgomery's city buses.

Freedman, Russell. - *Voice that Challenged a Nation*

Tells the life story of singer Marian Anderson, describing her famous 1939 Lincoln Memorial performance and explaining how she helped end segregation in the American arts after being refused the right to perform at Washington's Constitution Hall because of the color of her skin.

\*Krull, Kathleen – *Isaac Newton*

Contains a look at the life and times of Isaac Newton, the seventeenth century scientist who provided an explanation of gravity, from his childhood through his accomplishments in science.

Freedman, Russell – *Kids at Work*

Text and accompanying photographs show the use of children as industrial workers, interwoven with the story of Lewis W. Hine who took these photographs and whose life work made significant difference in the lives of others.

Partridge, Elizabeth – *This Land was Made for You and Me*

An illustrated biography of Woody Guthrie, composer of "This Land Is Your Land," and over three thousand other folk songs and ballads, telling about his travels throughout the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century, and discussing how his experiences influenced his music.

\*Thimmesh, Catherine - *Team Moon : How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon.*

Chronicles the Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.





## **Sixth Grade Summer Websites**

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### **Websites**

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<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/cathymath.html>

[http://www.theteacherscafe.com/Grammar/Grammar\\_Games.php](http://www.theteacherscafe.com/Grammar/Grammar_Games.php)

[www.Ilike2learn.com](http://www.Ilike2learn.com)

[www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)

[www.harcourtschool.com](http://www.harcourtschool.com) (password Jones)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Summer Reading Report 1

## CREATE YOUR OWN TEST

On this sheet, you are to make a test for one of the novels you have read. It may be true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank, short answer or a combination of questions. Be sure that the questions are about important information that covers the entire story. You must have a minimum of 12 questions. The back of this sheet may be used if necessary. Make an answer sheet for the test. Be sure that your test has a title and your name as creator.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Report 2

Retell the story of one of the summer reading novels that you read. It needs to be completed in twelve sentences. It must be written on this page using black or blue pen. Be sure that you have included the entire story. Then on the back of this page write a paragraph reviewing the book and another paragraph that gives us information about the author.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Report 3

Title of Book \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Setting:

Main Characters:

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

Summarize the story:

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?