



## **Summer Reading: Students Entering 6th Grade**

### **Summer Reading Assignment for 2009-2010 School Year**

You need to choose one book from the reading list for the grade you are getting ready to enter. You may, of course, read more than one on the list, but you will need to complete the following assignment on one of the books. The assignment will be turned in to your next year's English teacher during the first or second week of school (to be determined by individual teachers). Students may also choose a book that is not on the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website [arbookfind.com](http://arbookfind.com), is 150 pages long for students grades 4-5, or is two hundred pages long students grades 6-12.

### **Reading Response Journal**

Writing in response to literature can be a great way for students to organize their thoughts, explore what they think, and even to generate ideas. Writing in journals allows students to capture their ideas and to better understand and relate to work of fiction. For your chosen book, you will be completing reading response journal. Use one page per item or question. Answer the following items/questions about your book:

- Summarize what you just read in three to five paragraphs.
- Create a plot diagram.
- Describe the setting's time and place. Create a new setting that you think would be better for the story and describe it.
- Describe the most important event. Give at least three reasons why you think it is the most important event.
- List at least three problems the characters faced? Which problem was the most life changing? Explain
- List three new vocabulary words from your reading. What can you tell about them from their structure? What can you tell about them from their context?
- Select a quote from your reading that you liked. What made you pick it? How does it make you pause and think?
- What object is important? Draw it. Write an explanation for why you feel it is important.
- Compare what is happening to a character in the book with your own or a friend's life.
- What are some things you do when you don't understand what you're reading?

- Feel free to decorate your pages and to make your journal interesting.
- Then, create a cover for your journal. It needs to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and a picture of a scene from the book (you may either draw it or make a collage using magazine pictures).

**Directions: You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer, but, of course, you may read more! You will complete an assignment over the book that you have selected. This assignment will be turned in during the first week of the school year.**

***Fever, 1793* - Laurie Halse Anderson**

In 1793, Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

***Gregor the Overlander* – Suzanne Collins**

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by an ancient prophecy.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham* – Christopher Paul Curtis**

Byron's family leaves Flint, Michigan, to live with Grandma Sands in Birmingham where they experience the realities of race relations in the South.

Newbery Honor

***Inkheart* – Cornelia Caroline Funke**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel *Inkheart* years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

***Flush* – Carl Hiaasen**

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

***Kira-Kira* – Cynthia Kadohata**

The story of the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair experienced when one sister becomes terminally ill.

***Eldest* – Christopher Paolini**

In this sequel to *Eragon*, our hero successfully evades an Urgals ambush and is adopted into the Ingeitum clan, then sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

***The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts* – Richard Peck**

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies" and Russell's older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse.

***Becoming Naomi Leon* – Pam Munoz Ryan**

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

***The Unseen* – Zilpha Keatly Snyder**

Feeling angry and out of place in her large family, twelve-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghostly, sometimes frightening, phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly.