

# PEARL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING

2019



## GRADE 6

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

June 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

The enjoyment of reading is the major goal of the Pearl River Middle School Summer Reading Program. However, making recreational reading a top priority at home can only be successful with your cooperation,

Along these lines, parents, teachers, and students are in a partnership regarding the success of student education. In fact, in order for students to maximize their progress in this area, reading should continue throughout the summer. Research states that children who engage in recreational, summer reading achieve higher academic success in the following school year. With this in mind, there are many ways to incorporate this into your summer schedule through audio books, beach reading, reading as you travel, etc.

Students should read a variety of genres; therefore, the summer reading list has been categorized by genres to assist you with your book selections.

1. Students should read **three** books; **one book from the recommended summer reading list** and two books of their choice (they can be from the list too). All three books should be enjoyable and a minimum of 100 pages.
2. Students should keep a list of the three books they read this summer on the summer reading log (in the packet).
3. We recommend students complete **one activity** based upon the book chosen from the recommended summer reading list from the choices listed below:
  - Create a fictional interview video with the protagonist or antagonist where you play the character. Write a complete script and be sure to include specific details about the character based upon information from the novel. The video should be at least 2 minutes long. Please note: once school begins, students may submit the video on the due date.
  - Create a new paper book jacket for the novel. The front cover should include the title, author, and an eye-catching, colorful image. The back cover should include a summary written in your own words that include: main characters, setting, plot events including the problem/conflict, (but don't give anything away).
  - Create a comic strip retelling the story in your own words. Be sure to include all of the important events including characters, setting, plot events including problem/conflict, and resolution.
  - Complete one graphic organizer; organizers have been provided in the packet.

Students should be prepared to discuss the major details of the main story elements for the required book in mid-September.

Sincerely,

Sixth Grade ELA teachers  
Ms. Paese, Principal  
Ms. Jacobs, Librarian

# SUMMER READING LIST

## For Students Entering Sixth Grade

Students should read a variety of genres; therefore, the summer reading list has been categorized by genres to assist you with your book selections. Students should read **three** books; one book from the recommended summer reading list and two books of their choice (they can be from the list too). The books listed include a variety of genres with popular, high interest, diverse, and award-winning titles. Have you heard the old saying, don't judge a book by its cover? Well, don't judge a book by its genre, instead, read the blurbs and see what interests you.

Do you have a Pearl River Public Library Card? If so, many of these titles are available at the library and on audio too, so you can listen to them while you read along. In addition, library cardholders can use the online website *hoopla* to access the public library and borrow eBooks, audiobooks, and more. Go to [www.pearlriverlibrary.org](http://www.pearlriverlibrary.org) to learn more.

REALISTIC FICTION	HISTORICAL FICTION
<p><b><i>Ms. Bixby's Last Day</i></b> by John David Anderson</p> <p>Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard, the ones who stopped trying long ago. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is somehow worthwhile. Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a risky plan—more of a quest, really—to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves.</p>	<p><b><i>Night of the Howling Dogs</i></b> by Graham Salisbury</p> <p>Dylan's Camp Group goes camping in Halape, a remote spot below the volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. The only thing wrong with the weekend on a beautiful, peaceful beach is Louie, a tough older boy. That night, an earthquake rocks the camp, and then a wave rushes in, sweeping everyone and everything before it. Dylan and Louie must team up on a dangerous rescue mission.</p>
<p><b><i>Save Me a Seat</i></b> by Sarah Weeks</p> <p>Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems—but when their lives intersect in the first week of school they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.</p>	<p><b><i>The War That Saved My Life</i></b> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley</p> <p>A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their difficult, not-so-caring mother.</p>

REALISTIC FICTION (continued)	HISTORICAL FICTION (continued)
<p><b><i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i></b> by Ali Benjamin</p> <p>After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting. Things don't just happen for no reason.</p>	<p><b><i>Full of Beans</i></b> by Jennifer Holm</p> <p>Meet Turtle's cousin, Beans! Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the Keepsies, the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, Florida, engages in various schemes to earn money.</p>

DIVERSE LEARNERS	FANTASY
<p><b><i>Fish in a Tree</i></b> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt</p> <p>Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read. A novel for anyone who has ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in. Everybody is smart in different ways.</p>	<p><b><i>Crenshaw</i></b> by Katherine Applegate</p> <p>Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?</p>
<p><b><i>Rain, Reign</i></b> by Ann M. Martin</p> <p>Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms, which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. When a storm hits their town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search.</p>	<p><b><i>Coraline</i></b> by Neil Gaiman</p> <p>In Coraline's family's new flat there are twenty-one windows and fourteen doors. Thirteen of the doors open and close. The fourteenth is locked, and on the other side is only a brick wall, until the day Coraline unlocks the door to find a passage to another flat in another house just like her own.</p> <p>Only it's different.</p>
<p><b><i>Out of My Mind</i></b> by Sharon Draper</p> <p>The story of a brilliant girl who cannot speak or write. Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.</p>	<p><b><i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i></b> by Norton Juster</p> <p>For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams.</p>

SPORTS	GRAPHIC NOVEL
<p><b><i>Touchdown Kid</i></b> by Tim Green</p> <p>Cory has always been passionate about football. But life for him and his single mom has been hard, making it difficult for Cory to play. And though Cory is a good kid, he's constantly surrounded by negative influences. But when the coach from an elite private school with one of the best football programs in the country recognizes his talents on the field, Cory is presented with an unbelievable opportunity. Cory knows that football could be his ticket out. But leaving to attend private school also means struggling to fit into a world where most people look at him and just see a scholarship kid.</p>	<p><b><i>Real Friends</i></b> by Shannon Hale</p> <p>Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others. Now every day is like a roller coaster for Shannon. Will she and Adrienne stay friends? Can she stand up for herself? And is she in The Group—or out?</p>
<p><b><i>Heat</i></b> by Mike Lupica</p> <p>Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system--or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.</p>	<p><b><i>Mighty Jack</i></b> by Ben Hatke</p> <p>In this series, Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk—to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. What starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everything...a dragon.</p>
<p><b><i>The Girl Who Threw Butterflies</i></b> by Mick Cochrane</p> <p>For an eighth grader, Molly Williams has more than her fair share of problems. Her father has just died in a car accident, and her mother has become a withdrawn, quiet version of herself. Molly doesn't want to be seen as "Miss Difficulty Overcome"; she wants to make herself known to the kids at school for something other than her father's death. So she decides to join the baseball team. The <i>boys'</i> baseball team. Her father taught her how to throw a knuckleball, and Molly hopes it's enough to impress her coaches as well as her new teammates.</p>	<p><b><i>El Deafo</i></b> by Cece Bell</p> <p>Starting at a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here she is different. She is sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends. Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear, she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in school — in the hallway... in the teacher's lounge... in the bathroom! This is power. Maybe even superpower!</p>

BOOKS WRITTEN IN VERSE	SERIES
<p><b><i>Crossover</i></b> by Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars, Josh and Jordan, wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court. Both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart.</p>	<p><b><i>Ghost</i></b> by Jason Alexander</p> <p>Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together.</p>
<p><b><i>Booked</i></b> by Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.</p>	<p><b><i>The Wild Robot</i></b> by Peter Brown</p> <p>Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home—until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.</p>

AWARD WINNERS	NON-FICTION
<p><b><i>One Crazy Summer</i></b> by Rita Williams-Garcia</p> <p>In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet, and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.</p>	<p><b><i>Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March</i></b> by Lynda Lowery</p> <p>Lynda Lowery recounts her experiences as the youngest marcher on the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans.</p>
<p><b><i>Merci Suárez Changes Gears</i></b> by Meg Medina</p> <p>Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately — forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school.</p>	<p><b><i>Lincoln's Grave Robbers</i></b> by Steve Sheinkin</p> <p>A true crime thriller -- the first book for teens to tell the nearly unknown tale of the brazen attempt to steal Abraham Lincoln's body! The action begins in October of 1875, as Secret Service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois, workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. Soon after Boyd is hauled off to prison, members of his counterfeiting ring gather in the back room of a smoky Chicago saloon to discuss how to spring their ringleader. Their plan: grab Lincoln's body from its Springfield tomb, stash it in the sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and demand, as a ransom, the release of Ben Boyd --and \$200,000 in cash. From here, the action alternates between the conspirators, the Secret Service agents on their trail, and the undercover agent moving back and forth between the two groups.</p>

source: <https://www.goodreads.com/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Log

**Directions:** Complete the reading log with information about the three books you read over the summer.

<b>Title of Book</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Comment</b> Leave a thoughtful comment about the book.	<b>Rating</b> 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 5 - highest and 1-lowest



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Fill in the boxes to show how the story developed. You may use the note-taking form. Please write neatly.

## Story Map Organizer for Works of Fiction

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Setting (time period and location)</b></p> <p><b>Time period (when):</b></p>  <p><b>Location (where):</b></p>	<p><b><u>Main Characters/Protagonists (who):</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Conflict (main problem):</u></b></p>	<p><b>How the Characters Tried to Solve the Problem:</b></p>
<p><b><u>Solution (How is the main problem finally solved?):</u></b></p>	<p><b>Would you recommend this book? Why or Why not?</b></p>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Super Six! (An Organizer for Nonfiction Books)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Choose **6** interesting things that you have discovered from reading this nonfiction book. Record **one** interesting fact in each of the **6** boxes. Describe your learning with detail. On the other side of this organizer, you may also include a diagram or illustration that captures something important that you learned from reading this book. Make sure you include a caption, if you provide a diagram or illustration. Please write neatly.

<b>1</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>2</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>3</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>4</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>5</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>6</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____