

ENGLISH 6 Summer Reading Information 2023-2024

Summer reading is your first taste of what to expect from English class! Through summer reading, your English teachers would like to:

- encourage thoughtful book selection
- help you grow your reading and critical thinking skills
- encourage you to enjoy the experience of reading
- introduce our course theme: *transition*

English 6 focuses on the theme of transition. How do we navigate change? How do we grow to become more comfortable and confident moving forward and taking on new challenges? Your teachers have put together a list of books to get you thinking about these questions.

PART A: Select and read ONE of the books from the English list below.

You should select a title that you have NOT already read.

<i>The Candymakers</i> by Wendy Mass	<i>Hatchet</i> by Gary Paulsen
<i>Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander	<i>Maniac Magee</i> by Jerry Spinelli
<i>The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</i> by Jacqueline Kelly	<i>The Night Diary</i> by Veera Hiranandani
<i>The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora</i> by Pablo Cartaya	<i>Not if I Can Help It</i> by Carolyn Mackler
<i>The 47 People You'll Meet in Middle School</i> by Kristin Mahoney	<i>The Only Black Girls in Town</i> by Brandy Colbert
<i>Ghost</i> by Jason Reynolds	<i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett
<i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i> by Kelly Barnhill	<i>The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade</i> by Jordan Sonnenblick
<i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman	<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning</i> by Lemony Snicket
<i>Half a Chance</i> by Cynthia Lord	<i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio

If you'd like a quick overview of many of the books, you can watch an introductory video by Mrs. Bulman [here](#) (6 min).

PART B: Record a short, informal video of you responding to your book.

Think of this as a casual reading conference with your teacher that just happens to be recorded! You should respond to each of the prompts listed below. You may read over them ahead of time, but you should NOT rehearse or write out responses. This video will not be posted or shared anywhere, and it's okay if you mis-speak or have some long pauses.

You **MUST** address the numbered prompts:

1. Introduce yourself with your first and last name.
2. What did you choose to read, and how did you select it?
3. Tell me about one or two characters. Who are they, and what do you think of them?
4. Tell me about a favorite part. Why do you like it?
5. What was your overall reaction to the book? What was your reaction to the ending?

You **MAY** also address the starred prompts.

- * Was this an easy or a hard read for you? How do you know?
- * How well did you relate to this story? Did you make any personal connections with it?
- * To whom would you recommend this book, and why?

You can use an iPhone, iPad, or computer to make your video, and having a parent or older sibling ask you the questions can make it feel more natural. Save your video to your computer or Google Drive and share it with Mrs. Bulman at kbulman@mamail.net. If you are unable to complete this part due to technology issues, then you may conference in person with your teacher when we return to school instead.

PART C: Write short answer responses to the following questions.

Your responses should be 2-4 complete sentences each and may be typed or handwritten. Please include specific examples when possible.

1. What book did you read?
2. Which parts of your book deal with transition, or change?
3. What changes, transitions, or growth does the main character (or other characters) experience?
4. What do the characters learn about themselves, others, or their world as a result of having to transition, change, or grow?

Submission and Grading:

You should complete your work over the summer and are encouraged to turn it in as soon as you finish. All work is due by TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5. You should share your completed work with Mrs. Bulman (kbulman@mamail.net).

- Remember, you can access your school Google account online on other devices.
- Your video can be sent as an attachment or as a link to your Google Drive.
- If you typed your written responses in a Google Doc, you can share the document or email it as an attachment. If you choose to handwrite your written responses, you should take a photo and email it.

In summer reading, we want to see *your* best work and hear *your* best ideas. Your writing needs to be in your own words, and ideas should be based on your own reading. Outside sources (including AI-assisted writing such as ChatGPT) are not appropriate for this assignment. This work will count toward the first trimester and be worth the same as a large quiz grade.

NOTE TO FAMILIES:

We understand that students have a variety of interests and strengths when it comes to reading, and sixth graders also have varying maturity and sensitivity levels. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the book selection process and to read alongside their student(s). If you would like help selecting from the list or if you feel your child needs an accommodation, please contact Mrs. Bulman at kbulman@mamail.net.

Additional Reading:

If you are looking for additional reading material, please feel free to browse the [recommended middle school resource lists](#).