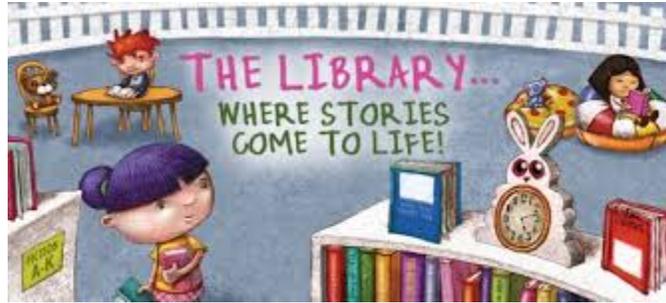


# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading



Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

For the summer, we are going to focus on two of the most wonderful children's authors that I have discovered since I began teaching. The first one is the extremely talented Chris Grabenstein who wrote Escape from Mr. Lemocello's Library. The other one is the equally talented E.L. Konigsburg who wrote From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.

I would read From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler first. It's a little tougher to comprehend, and it may take a little time to work through some of the more difficult details. We will be working with the two books in the first month of school. I suggest that students keep a notebook while they are reading the book, detailing concepts that they find confusing, as well as noting vocabulary that they think may be a little challenging.

We are also going to be reading ONE biography. It takes the form of a picture book but I think that getting to grips with biographies is difficult, and learning to work with them is a skill that we will practice throughout the year. The biography is entitled On a Beam of Light: The Story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne. It's probably a good idea that the kids read the book numerous times during the summer because we will be looking at the picture book format and how different media are put together to create a story.

In addition to these books, I think it is reasonable to expect the students to read at least two other books over the summer. Some will read many more, but those who have issues with reading should find 5 [in total] books adequate.

I will be providing a book list from which the students can choose their additional two books. If they have already read those books, then books of their choosing are fine, as long as they are age appropriate. They need to do a book report on ONE of the books that THEY choose to read. The books reports are going to be a little more creative. I am

attaching a list of options for the book report. They are NOT to do a report on Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library or From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler or the biography. The report will be handed in on the first day of school.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. F

## Book Report Ideas

Pick ONE of these and use it to report on ONE of the extra two books that you chose to read over the summer.

1. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
2. Give a sales talk, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push this book.
3. Construct a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, buildings, plants, and animals) of one of the main events of the book. Include a written description of the scene.
4. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found or drawn.
5. Create a mini-comic book relating a chapter of the book.
6. Use magazine photos to make a collage about the story
7. Choose birthday gifts for one of the characters involved. Tell why you chose them
8. Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What things will you need to pack? Think carefully, for you will be there for a week, and there is no going back home to get something!
9. Invite one of the characters to dinner, and plan an imaginary conversation with the person who will fix the meal. What will you serve, and why?
10. Add another character to the book. Why would he be put there? What part would he serve?

### Adventure

Kit's Wilderness	David Almond
I am the Ice Worm	MaryAnn Easley
The Warm Place	Nancy Farmer
The White Darkness	Geraldine McCaughrean
The River	Gary Paulsen
Peak	Roland Smith

### Animal Stories

The Fast and the Furriest	Andy Behrens
Ghost Dog Secrets	Peg Kehret
The Guardians of Ga'Hoole Series	Katherine Lasky
Wolves of the Beyond Series	Katherine Lasky
Everything for a Dog	Ann M. Martin
Shiloh	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Rascal	Sterling North
The Leanin' Dog	K.A. Nuzum
Fire Pony	Rodman Philbrick

### Dramatic Fiction

The Birchbark House	Louise Erdrich
Eleven	Patricia Reilly Giff
Umbrella Summer	Lisa Graff
The View from Saturday	E.L. Konigsburg
The Great Gilly Hopkins	Katherine Paterson
The Winter Room	Gary Paulsen
The Kneebone Boy	Ellen Potter

## Fantasy

The Sisters Grimm Series	Michael Buckley
Children of the Lamp Series	P.B. Kerr
The Two Princesses of Bamarre	Gail Carson Levine
The False Prince	Jennifer Nielsen
The Magician Trilogy	Jenny Nimmo
The Percy Jackson Series	Rick O’Riordan
The Key to Rondo	Emily Rodda

## Historical Fiction

Steal Away	Jennifer Armstrong
Two Tickets to Freedom	Florence B. Freedman
Weedflower	Cynthia Kadohata
Darkness Over Denmark	Ellen Levine
Miss Spitfire	Sarah Miller
The Storm Before Atlanta	Karen Schwabach

## Horror

Goosebumps Series	Various Authors
Haunted Campers	Allan Zullo

## Humor

The Genius Files	Dan Gutman
Wart	Anna Myers
Sixth-Grade Glommers, Norks, and Me	Lisa Papademetriou
How Do You Spell G-E-E-K?	Julia Ann Peters
Smells like Dog	Suzanne Selfors
Picklemania	Jerry Spinelli

101 Ways to Bug Your Parents

Lee Wardlaw

Mystery

The 39 Clues Series

Various Authors

Sport

Heat

Mike Lupica

[He has written a lot of sport related books that are worth reading]

Slam Dunk!

Sharon Robinson

Suitcase

Mildred Pitts Walter

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Language

Nothing ever comes to one that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.

Booker T. Washington

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

To prevent the inevitable summer slide that occurs as a result of all the time off school, I am some writing tasks for the kids to do before school begins in September. These activities should not be viewed as punishment, but rather as a way to reinforce grammatical and writing skills that they learned during the year. These are NOT optional. They need to be completed by the first day of the school year. The students can present the writing prompts in a writing journal, or in a three-ring notebook, or on loose leaf paper that is stapled together.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer.

Happy Writing!

Mrs. F



Primitive spelling bees

## Summer Writing Prompts

**It is not my aim to trap you with these writing prompts. We need to practice writing all the time. Otherwise, the skills grow stale and we start to lose our abilities.**

1. Have you ever felt different or left out? How did it make you feel?
2. Do you prefer giving or getting gifts? Why?
3. What do your friends think of you? How would they describe you? Do you think it's accurate?
4. Imagine you have been trapped in a lift with your favorite movie (or pop) star for four hours. Finally you are free and tell your best friend what it was like, what you talked about etc. Describe what you would say.
5. Do you think you would like to be a teacher? Imagine what it would be like, think of the good and bad aspects.
6. Describe the inside of a house belonging to this person: A mysterious old lady, with a black cloak, ancient white dog, who lives right at the end of the village.
7. Tell me about one thing that children are not allowed to do, which they should be able to. Explain to me your reasoning.
8. I know it is very unlikely, but if the US president telephoned you, what might he want?
9. Describe the most difficult thing about being your age.
10. Is the school year too long? Too short? Why?
11. Who should be paid more, professional athletes or teachers? Why or why not?
12. Have you ever wished you were either older or younger? What would you consider to be the benefits? The problems?
13. Imagine that you are an animal in the zoo. What type of animal are you? How do you feel about being caged? How do you feel about people that visit and watch you?
14. If you had to escort a visitor from outer space for a 30-minute tour of your community, where would you begin and end?
15. When do you feel happiest? Why?