

Summer Reading Assignment: Grade 6

Summer is here, and hopefully you'll all be enjoying the break from your hectic school year schedule. One thing you should make time for; however, is reading. It's because of our literacy that we are able to enjoy so many of the things that we do in the summer. With that in mind, we definitely do not want such an important skill like reading to be neglected. You read every day in some way. The more you read, the more you know, and acquiring knowledge is always exciting.

In order for you to get a head start in sixth grade, I would like to introduce you to a unique form of literature. It's called free verse. It is actually a form of poetry that reads just as easily as prose, yet carries with it so many amazing images that can spark your imagination.

I am assigning two books written in free verse for required summer reading. You may choose from the following:

Becoming Joe DiMaggio by Maria Testa

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

Witness by Karen Hesse,

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech

Read these books and then keep a Reader's notebook. In this notebook you should write about your personal connection to the main character or events in the story. If you're struggling for ideas, you might want to consider the following:

1. If you were friends with the main character, what advice would you give him/her?
2. Use eight words to describe the main character and write a brief characterization using those words.
3. Compare yourself to the main character.
4. Find five interesting words from the story and write a paragraph containing them.
5. Write four questions you might ask the author of this story.
6. Create a time line for organizing the main events of the story.

This assignment is due the first week we return to school in September. Each of these books will help prepare you for our first novel study upon your return to school.

If you're searching for other reading material during the summer months, I'd like to suggest this. In September we will begin reading historical fiction, which is fiction based on a specific era from the past. Our studies will focus on the Great Depression. Two other books that might interest you during your break from school are *A Long Way From Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*. These are books written by Newbery Award winning author, Richard Peck. Each will not only be enjoyable, but will also help prepare you for the sixth grade reading curriculum.

These books deal with The Great Depression, which was a period in our country's history from 1929-1941. These books by Richard Peck are about two children, who during the Depression, travel away from the big city of Chicago and visit their outlandish Grandma Dowdel. She lives on a farm and is surrounded by unusual characters, difficult times, and the strangest situations. Their lives reflect the events that happened long ago, way before even I was born! ;-)

Reading these books allows us a look back into our nation's history.

You may also chose another book from the titles below that takes place during the Great Depression.

The Truth About Sparrows by Marian Hale

Treasures in the Dust by Tracey Porter

Poor Is Just A Starting Place by Leslie J. Wyatt

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Spirit Catchers by Cathleen Kudlinski

The Secret River by Rawlings

Have a wonderful summer.
Mrs. Cabourg