

6th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to 6th Grade! For your summer reading assignment, please select one of the following novels below to read. You will find a brief synopsis of each book to assist you in making a choice. You will have an assignment to complete on the novel of your choosing. Please make sure to read over the directions on the last page to understand how to complete your assignment. All assignments will be due the first day of school. Please make sure you have a copy of the novel with you as well, on the first day of school. We will be working on an in-class project during the first week of school.

Happy Reading!

Book Choices (Select Only One)

1. Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance by Jennifer Armstrong
The harrowing story of the ill-fated Endurance, now in paperback.

In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and 27 men sailed from England in an attempt to become the first team of explorers to cross Antarctica from one side to the other. Five months later and still 100 miles from land, their ship, Endurance, became trapped in ice. The expedition survived another five months camping on ice floes, followed by a perilous journey through stormy seas to remote and unvisited Elephant Island. In a dramatic climax to this amazing survival story, Shackleton and five others navigated 800 miles of treacherous open ocean in a 20-foot boat to fetch a rescue ship.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World vividly re-creates one of the most extraordinary adventure stories in history. Jennifer Armstrong narrates this unbelievable story with vigor, an eye for detail, and an appreciation of the marvelous leadership of Shackleton, who brought home every one of his men alive.

2. Abel's Island by William Steig
Abel's place in his familiar, mouse world has always been secure; he had an allowance from his mother, a comfortable home, and a lovely wife, Amanda. But one stormy August day, furious flood water carry him off and dump him on an uninhabited island. Despite his determination and stubborn resourcefulness--he tried crossing the river with boats and ropes and even on stepping-stones--Abel can't find a way to get back home.

Days, then weeks and months, pass. Slowly, his soft habits disappear as he forages for food, fashions a warm nest in a hollow log, models clay statues of his family for company, and continues to brood on the problem of how to get across the river--and home.

Abel's time on the island brings him a new understanding of the world he's separated from. Faced with the daily adventure of survival in his solitary, somewhat hostile domain, he is moved to reexamine the easy way of life he had always accepted and discovers skills and talents in himself that hold promise of a more meaningful life, if and when he should finally return to Mossville and his dear Amanda again.

3. Five on Treasure Island (Famous Five) by Enid Blyton
In their first adventure, the Famous Five find a shipwreck off Kirrin Island. But where is the treasure? The Famous Five are on the trail, looking for clues, but they're not alone. Someone else has got the same idea!

Time is running out for the Famous Five - who will follow the clues and get to the treasure first?

4. Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Basil by Wiley Miller

Talented and well-known syndicated comic strip artist Wiley Miller presents a stunningly illustrated tale of a boy who is bored by his life and ready to break free from the lighthouse he calls home. Led off by a wonderfully eccentric professor in a hot-air-balloon ship, Basil travels to another dimension where he and a new friend save the fantasy city of Helios from destruction.

5. Mr. Tucket by Gary Paulsen

It is 1848, and Francis Tucket is heading west on the Oregon Trail with his family. Yesterday he celebrated his 14th birthday on the tailgate of a Conestoga wagon in the foothills of the Rockies. Today, he is going to practice with his new birthday present, a Lancaster rifle. Falling far behind the wagon train, Francis loses sight of his family and is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians. Saved by a one-armed mountain man named Mr. Grimes, Francis takes off with his rescuer on a wild adventure peopled by actual historical characters, including Jim Bowie, and set against a historically-accurate background of the Old West.

6. Case Closed #1: Mystery in the Mansion by Lauren Magaziner

Pick-your-own-path and puzzle-packed mystery collide in the first book in Lauren Magaziner's hilarious and high-stakes four-book middle grade series in which the reader must help Carlos and his friends put together the clues to save his mom's detective agency.

In this wildly entertaining and interactive adventure, YOU pick which suspects to interview, which questions to ask, and which clues to follow. You pick the path—you crack the case!

Carlos Serrano has never solved a mystery in his life. But when Carlos's mom gets sick with a flu on the morning of an investigation that could save her failing detective agency, Carlos takes on the case.

With the help of his best friend, Eliza, and her wild little brother, Frank, Carlos must uncover a mystery involving an eccentric local millionaire, anonymous death threats, and a buried treasure. But with tricky riddles, cagey suspects, hidden secrets, and dozens of impossible choices, they need your help!

Can you help Carlos and his friends find the culprit and save Las Pistas Detective Agency? Or will it be case closed?

Assignment Directions:

1. Please complete **3** chapter summaries on your novel. Sheet is included. You will need to print out three copies. You will select three random chapters from your book to write your chapter summaries about. Please do not do three chapters in consecutive order (example Ch. 1, 2 & 3). You must write your answers in complete sentences.

2. Pick **5** new vocabulary words you have learned in the novel. Write a definition for each vocabulary word and quote the exact sentence from the book where the vocabulary word was used. Please include the page number in the novel where the word was used. You may use a dictionary or the internet to look up the definitions for each word. You may write or type your words on one sheet of paper or you may write each word on an index card.

Example:

Courageous – not deterred by danger or pain; brave

“Pi was courageous as he climbed into the boat with the wild animals.” Pg. 143

Name: _____ Title of Book: _____

Chapter: _____

<p>What was the most important event in this chapter?</p>	<p>Pick one character from the chapter. Explain if the character is brave, fearful, angry, etc. and give a quote from the chapter to support your answer. Include pg. # (Example: Despereaux was brave and valiant. "I will try to be brave like a knight in shining armor." Pg. 74)</p>
<p>Make a prediction. Tell me in 3-5 sentences, what do you believe will happen next? Give me at least one quote from the chapter that supports your prediction. Include pg. # (Example: I believe that Despereaux will be a prisoner for quite some time. That he will eventually become fearful because of how the rats treat him. I believe he wants to be brave but will fail. "A booming voice in the darkness responded, what does a mouse know of such things about being brave?" Pg. 75)</p>	<p>Draw a picture of what you feel represents the chapter the best.</p>