

The Books We Will Be Reading

6th Grade Book Choices:

Rising sixth graders will be asked to read a minimum of 200 pages and complete at least one book from the following list of books:

Bronze Bow by Elizabeth Speare

Carry a Big Stick by George Grant

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery

The Horse and His Boy by C.S. Lewis

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

7th Grade Book Choices:

Rising seventh graders will be asked to read at least 250 pages and complete at least one book from the following list of books:

Call of Duty by Steve Wilkins

The Great Trouble by Deborah Hopkinson

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

The Silver Chair by C.S. Lewis

For Kirk and Covenant by Doug Wilson

8th Grade Book Choices:

Rising eighth graders will be asked to read at least 300 pages and complete at least one book from the following list of books:

Beyond Stateliest Marble by Doug Wilson

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank

My Friend Flicka by Mary O'Hara

The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss

Middle school students will be required to complete a reading assessment assignment in English class on the first day of school. This assignment requires students to answer questions about the theme, characters and plot of the book they chose to read.

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Middle School Summer Reading Summaries 6th

Grade:

The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth Speare - This gripping, action-packed novel tells the story of eighteen-year-old Daniel bar Jamin—a fierce, hotheaded young man bent on revenging his father’s death by forcing the Romans from his land of Israel. Daniel’s palpable hatred for Romans wanes only when he starts to hear the gentle lessons of the traveling carpenter, Jesus of Nazareth. A fast-paced, suspenseful, vividly wrought tale of friendship, loyalty, the idea of home, community . . . and ultimately, as Jesus says to Daniel on page 224: “Can’t you see, Daniel, it is hate that is the enemy? Not men. Hate does not die with killing. It only springs up a hundredfold. The only thing stronger than hate is love.” A powerful, relevant read in turbulent times.

Carry a Big Stick by George Grant - A giant among leaders, Theodore Roosevelt stands out as one of the most exceptional leaders in American history. He was a devoted husband and father, a politician, a soldier, a war journalist, an editor, a cattle rancher, a scientist, a writer, an athlete, a hunter, and a diplomat. While the list of his exploits seems imposing, it was his passionate commitment to what he believed was right and good and true that was dynamically compelling—even to those who opposed him. Theodore Roosevelt was a hero. In this thought provoking look at his leadership in action, we see why he not only earned the respect and admiration of his contemporaries, but why, even today, he continues to capture our imagination.

Anne of Greene Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery - the beloved classic story of an orphan girl, Anne Shirley, who is adopted by the Cuthberts, a family living on Prince Edward Island in Canada. With her wit, charm, and strong spirit, Anne quickly wins the hearts of everyone she meets and learns to navigate the world around her, eventually growing into an independent young woman. Along the way she experiences the joys and sorrows of growing up and develops meaningful relationships that last a lifetime.

The Horse and His Boy by C.S. Lewis - *The Horse and his Boy* is a stirring and dramatic fantasy story that finds a young boy named Shasta on the run from his homeland with the talking horse, Bree. When the pair discover a deadly plot by the Calormen people to conquer the land of

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Narnia, the race is on to warn the inhabitants of the impending danger and to rescue them all from certain death.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls - Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters—now friends—and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.

7th Grade:

Call of Duty by Steve Wilkins - Historian Samuel Eliot Morison noted, "There are but a handful of men who seem to stand above history. Robert E. Lee is preeminent among them. He was offered the command of both the Union and Confederate forces because the men of his day recognized that Lee was a man of impeccable character and unimpeachable courage."

The Great Trouble by Deborah Hopkinson - Eel has troubles of his own: As an orphan and a "mudlark," he spends his days in the filthy River Thames, searching for bits of things to sell. He's being hunted by Fisheye Bill Tyler, and a nastier man never walked the streets of London. And he's got a secret that costs him four precious shillings a week to keep safe. But even for Eel, things aren't so bad until that fateful August day in 1854—the day the deadly cholera ("blue death") comes to Broad Street. Everyone believes that cholera is spread through poisonous air. But one man, Dr. John Snow, has a different theory. As the epidemic surges, it's up to Eel and his best friend, Florrie, to gather evidence to prove Dr. Snow's theory—before the entire neighborhood is wiped out.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle - Late one night, three otherworldly creatures appear and sweep Meg Murry, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe away on a mission to save Mr. Murray, who has gone missing while doing top-secret work for the government. They travel via tesseract—a wrinkle that transports one across space and time—to the planet Camazotz, where Mr. Murray is being held captive. There they discover a dark force that threatens not only Mr. Murray but the safety of the whole universe.

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The Silver Chair by C.S. Lewis - Narnia...where owls are wise, where some of the giants like to snack on humans, where a prince is put under an evil spell...and where the adventure begins. Eustace and Jill escape from the bullies at school through a strange door in the wall, which, for once, is unlocked. It leads to the open moor...or does it? Once again Aslan has a task for the children, and Narnia needs them. Through dangers untold and caverns deep and dark, they pursue the quest that brings them face to face with the evil Witch. She must be defeated if Prince Rillian is to be saved.

For Kirk and Covenant: The Stalwart Courage of John Knox by Doug Wilson - This volume in the Leaders in Action Series looks at the leadership qualities of a man long known for his bold, courageous stand against political and religious tyranny and corruption in medieval Scotland.

8th Grade:

Beyond Stateliest Marble by Doug Wilson - Beyond Stateliest Marble is a look at the personal qualities of Anne Bradstreet, the vibrant poetry she created, and her contributions to the way of life of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Even to those who know something of her, Anne Bradstreet remains an enigmatic figure. To the modern mind she seems an odd combination -- a dedicated Puritan and a gifted poet.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien - Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank - The Diary of a Young Girl, often known as the Anne Frank Diary, is a collection of entries from Anne Frank's Dutch-language diary, which she recorded while a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family evacuated their house in Amsterdam and went into hiding in 1942, when Nazis occupied Holland. Anne Frank died of typhus at the Bergen-Belsen detention camp in 1945, after the family was captured in 1944. Anne Frank kept a diary throughout this time, recording vivid recollections of her events. Her

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tale is a fascinating commentary on human tenacity and weakness, as well as a riveting Self-Portrait of a sensitive and energetic young lady whose promise was sadly cut short.

My Friend Flicka by Mary O'Hara - The first time that Ken McLaughlin sees Flicka galloping past him on his family's Wyoming horse ranch, he knows she's the yearling he's been longing for. But Flicka comes from a long line of wild horses, and taming her will take more than Ken could ever have imagined. Soon, Ken is faced with an impossible choice: give up on his beautiful horse, or risk his life to fight for her.

The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss - From these dire opening lines, a timeless story of adventure begins. One family will emerge alive from this terrible storm: the Robinsons —a Swiss pastor, his wife, and four sons, plus two dogs and a shipload of livestock. Inspired by Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, this heartwarming tale portrays a family's struggle to create a new life on a strange and fantastic tropical island. There each boy must learn to utilize his own unique nature as their adventures lead to difficult challenges and amazing discoveries, including a puzzling message tied to an albatross's leg. But it is in the ingenuity and authenticity of the family itself, and the natural wonders of this exotic land that have made *The Swiss Family Robinson*, first published at the beginning of the nineteenth century, one of the most enduring and imitated stories of shipwreck and survival.