

MPMS Summer Reading List

" W H E R E G R E A T M I N D S C O M E T O G E T H E R "

REALISTIC FICTION

Welcome to the 6th Grade!

Over the summer, you are required to **read a minimum of 2 books**. We have composed a list of suggestions. **At least ONE book MUST come from this list:** you may either use the list or choose independently for your second choice. It is recommended you purchase the books. We can't wait to discuss the books with you in September! *Happy Reading!!*

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- **Zack De La Cruz series by Jeff Anderson** Zack Delacruz is unnoticed at his middle school—and that's just the way he likes it. But a school assembly and an uncharacteristic moment of bravery are all it takes to change everything. Suddenly Zack is in charge of the class fundraiser. Worse, his partner is the school's biggest bully! Zack never wanted to be a hero, but can he save the day?
- **The Cat Who Went to Heaven** by Elizabeth Coatsworth. *In ancient Japan, a struggling artist is mad when his housekeeper brings home a tiny white cat he can barely afford to feed. But when the village's head priest commissions a painting of Buddha the artist softens toward the animal he believes has brought him luck*
- **President of the Sixth Grade** by Sherri Winston. *Brianna Justice is determined to raise enough money for the big class trip to Washington, D.C., but she's up against a lot: classmates who all pretend to be something they're not, a new nemesis determined to run her out of office, and the sinking feeling she's about to lose her two best friends*
- **The Crossover** by Kwame Alexander. *Thanks to their retired pro dad, Twins Josh and Jordan Bell have more than hoops in their blood.*
- **Godless** by Pete Hautman. *Fed up with his parents' boring old religion, Jason Bock invents a new god – the town's water tower. He recruits an unlikely group of worshippers: his snail-farming best friend, Shin, his crush Magda Price, and the violent and unpredictable Henry Stagg.*
- **Adam Canfield of The Slash** by Michael Winerip. *Adam Canfield has to be the most overprogrammed middle-school student in America. So when Jennifer coaxes him to be coeditor of their school newspaper, he wonders if he's made a big mistake. But when a third-grader's article leads to a big scoop, Adam and his fellow junior journalists rise to the challenge of receiving their principal's wrath to uncover some scandalous secrets.*
- **Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom** by Booki Vivat. *Abbie Wu is starting middle school and is freaking out. Her family is not helping, not at all!*
- **The Thing About Jellyfish** by Ali Benjamin. *Everyone says that it was an accident... that sometimes things "just happen". But Suzy won't believe it. Ever. After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy was a rare jellyfish sting.*
- **Swindle** by Gordon Korman. *Sixth grader Griffin Bing gets conned out of a valuable baseball card. He and a group of misfits steal the card back.*
- **Touch Blue** by Cynthia Lord. *The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland—and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children.*
- **One for the Murphys** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. *Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family.*

SPORTS STORIES

- **Heat** by Mike Lupica *The story centers on two Cuban brothers living in New York and trying to avoid being sent to foster care, or even back to Cuba, after their father dies.*
- **Vanishing Act** by John Feinstein. *A young Tennis phenom, , disappears right before her second-round match. Everyone is looking for Natalia—including Stevie and Susan Carol. The rumors don't even come close to the shocking truth.*
- **Go for the Goal** by Fred Bowen. *13 year old Josh joins an elite soccer team where the players don't know the meaning of the word team.*
- **Peak**, by Roland Smith *A fourteen year old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Everest.*
- **Hot Hand. Comeback Kids series** by Mike Lupica. *All Billy Raynor wants to do is shoot. .But with his dad as his coach, everything's*
- become complicated. When Ben's piano recital falls on the day of the championship game, it's Billy who teaches his dad the meaning of being a team player.
- **Keeping Score** by Linda Sue Park. *Nine-year-old Maggie hangs out at the fire station, where she listens to the Dodger games. The new guy, Jim, teaches Maggie how to score a game but is drafted and sent to Korea. Upon his return, Maggie works on a plan to bring Jim back to himself.*
- **Dunk** by David Lubar. *While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore the summer, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away.*
- **Pinned** by Sharon Flake. *Autumn wants to wrestle for the school team...badly.*

HISTORICAL FICTION

"The good news is research shows that children who read at least four books over the summer maintain or increase their skills." — Instructor Magazine,

- **I Survived! Series** *In many of the darkest periods in history, the narrator struggles to survive...*
- **Echo** by Pam Munoz Ryan. *Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica*
- lands in their lives*
- **A Night Divided** by Jennifer Nielsen. *With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family divided overnight!*
- **Tusla Burning** by Anna Myers. *The day he buried his pa, Nobe Chase lost everything—his father, his home, and his dog, Rex. Worst of all, he had to move into town to live with Sheriff Leonard—dog killer, wife stealer, and secret law-breaker of all sorts.*
- **Crossing the Wire**, by Will Hobbs. *A young boy and his friend escape the perils of Mexico and find new dangers in the U.S.*
- **Chasing Lincoln's Killer** by James Swanson. *A fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.*

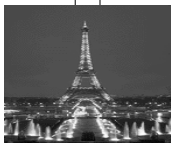
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BIOGRAPHY / NON-FICTION

- **Boys Who Rocked the World: Heroes from King Tut to Bruce Lee and Girls Who Rocked the World: Heroines from Joan of Arc to Mother Teresa** By Michelle McCann *It's never too soon to start making a difference and these collections of influential stories show strong role models, whom impacted the world as teenagers or younger.*
- **My Life in Dog Years**, by Gary Paulson. *This children's author and participant in the Alaskan Iditarod describes his relationship with special dogs in his life.*
- **Yellow Star**, by Jennifer Roy *This novel in verse relates the true story of one of the twelve surviving children of the Lodz ghetto in Poland..*
- **Small Steps**, by Peg Kehret. *In 1949, at the age of twelve, Peg Kehret (then Schulze) became the only child in Austin, Minnesota to contract polio. She details the intense fear and horror the disease evoked in her and others.*
- **Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories About Growing Up**, by Jon Scieszka. *The author of the Stinky Cheeseman and Math Curse writes about growing up one of six boys and the trouble that goes with it.*

M Y S T E R I E S

- **Among the Hidden: Shadow Children Series**, by Margaret Peterson Haddix. *Luke has never been to school and does not have any friends. When he meets Jen, a child like himself, will he risk everything to come out of the shadows?*
- **Missing Series** by Margaret Peterson Haddix. *One night a plane appeared out of nowhere, the only passengers aboard: thirty-six babies. As soon as they were taken off the plane, it disappeared.*



- **Tunes for Bears to Dance to** by Robert Cormier. Henry works for Mr. Hairston, a miserable old man. He tries to find moments of peace until his boss asks him to do the unthinkable.
- **Eddie Red Undercover** by Marcia Wells. *Not many sixth-graders work undercover for the NYPD, but Edmund Xavier Lonnrot, code name Eddie Red, is not just any sixth-grade*

- **On the Run Series**, by Gordon Korman. *Aidan and Meg Falconer are their parents' only hope. The Falconers are facing life in prison – unless Aidan and Meg can follow a trail of clues to prove their innocence.*
- **Hidden Talents**, by David Lubar. *When thirteen-year-old Martin arrives at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, he falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.*

G R A P H I C N O V E L S / N O V E L S I N V E R S E / P O E T R Y

- **Julian Rodrigues**, by Alexander Stadler. *Julian Rodrigues must survive the indignities of being a schoolboy in addition to saving the world.*
- **The Bones Series**, by Jeff Smith. *The forces of evil are growing stronger. But could our heroes' worst enemy be Bone himself?*
- **To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel**, by Siena Cherson Siegel. *A girl from Puerto Rico moves to New York to*

study at the School of American Ballet in this graphic novel memoir.

- **Amulet** by Kazu Kibuishi
Book One: Stonekeeper *On a family's first night in a mysterious house, the mom is kidnapped and the kids have to save her life.*
- **Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson. *Raised in South Carolina and New York, she shares what it was like to grow*

up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living during segregation and the Civil Rights movement.

- **Shakespeare Bats Clean up** by Ron Koretage. *When MVP Kevin Boland gets mono and won't be seeing a baseball field for a while, he suddenly finds himself scrawling a poem down the middle of a page in his journal. and before Kevin knows it, he's writing in verse*

- **Poems in the Attic** by Nikki Grimes. *A girl finds a box of poems written by her mother during her childhood in which she moves around the world with her Air Force family.*
- **Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park. *Two stories bridge the survival gap in this cross continent saga.*

D Y S T O P I A N

- **Life as we Know It series** by Susan Beth Pfeffer. *Miranda's high school world takes a turn for the worse when the moon is knocked out of orbit and she must depend on her survival skills.*
- **The Testing** by Joelle Charbonneau. *It's graduation day for sixteen-year-old Malencia Vale, and the entire Five Lakes Colony is celebrating. All Cia can*

think about—hope for—is whether she'll be chosen for The Testing, a United Commonwealth program that selects the best and brightest new graduates as leaders of post-war civilization

- **The Limit** by Kirsten Landon. *In a world not too far removed from our own, kids are being taken away to special workhouses if their families exceed the*

monthly debt limit imposed by the government. But all it takes is one fatal visit to the store to push Matt's family over their limit—and to change his reality forever.

- **Monument 14** by Emmy Labourne. *Six high school kids, two eighth graders, and six little kids trapped in a chain superstore build a refuge, while outside, disaster strikes.*

“Reading is to
the mind what
exercise is to
the body.”
~Sir Richard
Steele

FANTASY / SCI-FI

- **The Red Pyramid (Kane Chronicles series)** by Rick Riordan. *Carter and Sadie accompany their dad to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone in summoning an Egyptian god. Unleashed, the vengeful god overpowers and entombs him, but Sadie and Carter escape*
- **The Lightning Thief**, by Rick Riordan. *Percy Jackson discovers he is the son of Poseidon. When the god is accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt, Percy must discover the real thief or face doom.*
- **The Selection** by Kiera Cass. *For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks.*

- **The Warrior Heir Series**, by Cinda Williams Chima. *You see Jack Swift was born with a heart failure, and would have died without surgery. His life was saved, but was it worth it? Having to take medicine every day? We all find out when one day he forgets to take his medicine sending his life into turmoil.*
- **The Graveyard Book**, by Neil Gaiman. *Nobody Owens is a typical boy except he has been raised by ghosts and other creatures of the graveyard.*
- **Illuminae (The Illuminae Files)** by Amie Kaufman. *This morning, Kady thought breaking up with Ezra was the hardest thing she'd have to do. This afternoon, her planet was invaded. The year is 2575, and two rival megacorporations are at war over a planet. Now with enemy fire raining down on them, Kady and Ezra—who are barely even talking to each other—are forced to evacuate with a hostile warship in hot pursuit.*

- **Elsewhere**, by Gabrielle Zevin. *After a deadly accident, 15-year-old Liz finds herself in Elsewhere and has to learn the rules.*
- **The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart. *When this peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. (And you, dear reader, can test your wits right alongside them.) But in the end just four very special children will succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and resourceful children could complete. ** mystery*

