

PEARL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

SUMMER READING

2021



GRADE 6

NAME _____

June 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

The enjoyment of reading is the central goal of the Pearl River Middle School Summer Reading Program. However, making recreational reading a top priority at home can only be successful with your cooperation.

Along these lines, parents, teachers, and students are in a partnership regarding the success of student education. For students to maximize their progress in this area, reading should continue throughout the summer. Research states that children who engage in recreational summer reading achieve higher academic success in the following school year. With this in mind, there are many ways to incorporate this into your summer schedule through audiobooks, beach reading, reading as you travel, etc.

Students should read various genres; therefore, the summer reading list is categorized by genres to assist you with your book selections. The books listed include a variety of genres with in-demand, high interest, and award-winning titles.

Students should read **three** books; one book from the recommended summer reading list and two books of their choice (they can be from the list). Students should keep a list of the three books they read this summer on the attached summer reading log. We recommend students complete **one activity** based upon the chosen book from the recommended summer reading list from the choices listed.

Does your child have a Pearl River Public Library Card? If so, many of these titles are available. In addition, library cardholders can use the online website *hoopla* to access the public library and borrow eBooks, audiobooks, and more. Go to www.pearlriverlibrary.org to learn more.

Sincerely,

Sixth Grade ELA teachers

Ms. Paese, Principal

Ms. Jacobs, Librarian

SUMMER READING LIST

For Students Entering Sixth Grade

Directions:

1. Read **three** books; **one book from the recommended summer reading list** and two books of choice (they can be from the list too). All three books should be enjoyable and a **minimum** of 100 pages.
2. Keep a list of the three books read this summer on the **attached summer reading log**.
3. We recommend students complete **one activity** based upon the book from the summer reading list from the choices listed below:
 - Create a fictional interview video with the protagonist or antagonist where you play the character. Write a complete script and include specific details about the character based upon information from the novel. The video should be at least 2 minutes long. Please note: once school begins, students may submit the video on the due date.
 - Create a new paper book jacket for the novel. The front cover should include the title, author, and an eye-catching, colorful image. The back cover should consist of a summary written in your own words and include: main characters, setting, plot events, problem, or conflict (but don't give anything away).
 - Create a comic strip retelling the story in your own words. Make sure to include all of the important events, including characters, setting, plot events, problem/conflict, and resolution.
 - Complete one graphic organizer; organizers are in the packet.

SUMMER READING LIST

For Students Entering Sixth Grade

Have you heard the old saying, don't judge a book by its cover?

Well, don't judge a book by its genre. Instead, read the blurb and see what interests you.

REALISTIC FICTION	HISTORICAL FICTION
<p><i>Ms. Bixby's Last Day</i> by John David Anderson</p> <p>Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard, the ones who stopped trying long ago. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is somehow worthwhile. Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a risky plan—more of a quest, really—to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves.</p>	<p><i>Night of the Howling Dogs</i> by Graham Salisbury</p> <p>Dylan's Camp Group goes camping in Halape, a remote spot below the volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. The only thing wrong with the weekend on a beautiful, peaceful beach is Louie, a tough older boy. That night, an earthquake rocks the camp, and then a wave rushes in, sweeping everyone and everything before it. Dylan and Louie must team up on a dangerous rescue mission.</p>
<p><i>Save Me a Seat</i> by Sarah Weeks</p> <p>Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems—but when their lives intersect in the first week of school, they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.</p>	<p><i>The War That Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley</p> <p>A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their difficult, not-so-caring mother. <i>*This is also an Award Winning book.</i></p>
<p><i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i> by Ali Benjamin</p> <p>After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting. Things don't just happen for no reason.</p>	<p><i>Full of Beans</i> by Jennifer Holm</p> <p>Meet Turtle's cousin, Beans! Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the Keepsies, the best marble-playing gang in Depression-era Key West, Florida, engages in various schemes to earn money.</p>

EMBRACING DIFFERENCES	FANTASY
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt</p> <hr/> <p>"Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid."</p> <p>Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read. A novel for anyone who has ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.</p> <p><i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crenshaw</i> by Katherine Applegate</p> <hr/> <p>Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rain, Reign</i> by Ann M. Martin</p> <hr/> <p>Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms, which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. When a storm hits their town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search.</p> <p><i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coraline</i> by Neil Gaiman</p> <hr/> <p>In Coraline's family's new flat, there are twenty-one windows and fourteen doors. Thirteen of the doors open and close. The fourteenth is locked, and on the other side is only a brick wall, until the day Coraline unlocks the door to find a passage to another flat in another house just like her own. Only it's different.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon Draper</p> <hr/> <p>The story of a brilliant girl who cannot speak or write. Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.</p> <p><i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i> by Norton Juster</p> <hr/> <p>For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams.</p>

EMBRACING DIFFERENCES (continued)	FANTASY(continued)
<p><i>Millicent Min, Girl Genius</i> by Lisa Yee</p> <hr/> <p>Millicent Min is having a bad summer. Her fellow high school students hate her for setting the curve. Her fellow 11-year-olds hate her for going to high school. And her mother has arranged for her to tutor Stanford Wong, the poster boy for Chinese geekdom. But then Millie meets Emily. Emily doesn't know Millicent's IQ score. She actually thinks Millie is cool. And if Millie can hide her awards, ignore her grandmother's advice, swear her parents to silence, blackmail Stanford, and keep all her lies straight, she just might make her first friend. What's it going to take? Sheer genius. <i>*This is also realistic fiction and part of a series.</i></p>	<p><i>Gregor the Overlander</i> by Suzanne Collins</p> <hr/> <p>When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where spiders, rats, cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. This world is on the brink of war, and Gregor's arrival is no accident. A prophecy foretells that Gregor has a role to play in the Underland's uncertain future. Gregor wants no part of it -- until he realizes it's the only way to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance. Reluctantly, Gregor embarks on a dangerous adventure that will change both him and the Underland forever. <i>*This is part of a series.</i></p>

SPORTS	GRAPHIC NOVEL
<p><i>Touchdown Kid</i> by Tim Green</p> <hr/> <p>Cory has always been passionate about football. But life for him and his single mom has been hard. And though Cory is a good kid, he's constantly surrounded by negative influences. But when the coach from an elite private school with one of the best football programs in the country recognizes his talents on the field, Cory is presented with an unbelievable opportunity. Cory knows that football could be his ticket out. But leaving to attend private school also means struggling to fit into a new world. <i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p><i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell</p> <hr/> <p>Starting at a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here she is different. She is sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends. Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear, she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in school! This is power. Maybe even superpower! <i>*This is also an autobiography.</i></p>
<p><i>The Girl Who Threw Butterflies</i> by Mick Cochrane</p> <hr/> <p>For an eighth-grader, Molly Williams has more than her fair share of problems. Her father has just died in a car accident, and her mother has become a withdrawn, quiet version of herself. Molly doesn't want to be seen as "Miss Difficulty Overcome"; she wants to make herself known to the kids at school for something other than her father's death. So she decides to join the boys' baseball team. <i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p><i>Real Friends</i> by Shannon Hale</p> <hr/> <p>Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others. Now every day is like a roller coaster for Shannon. <i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>

SPORTS (continued)	GRAPHIC NOVEL (continued)
<p data-bbox="334 163 552 239"><i>Heat</i> by Mike Lupica</p> <hr data-bbox="87 247 797 256"/> <p data-bbox="87 273 786 911">Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.</p> <p data-bbox="87 915 431 949"><i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1070 163 1284 239"><i>Mighty Jack</i> by Ben Hatke</p> <hr data-bbox="823 247 1533 256"/> <p data-bbox="823 273 1533 800">In this series, Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk—to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. What starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night, that changes everything.</p> <p data-bbox="823 804 1073 837"><i>*This is also fantasy.</i></p>

BOOKS WRITTEN IN VERSE	SERIES
<p data-bbox="219 1098 665 1173"><i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai</p> <hr data-bbox="87 1182 797 1190"/> <p data-bbox="87 1207 792 1493">For all the ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee Saigon, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, Hà discovers Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food . . . and the strength of her very own family.</p> <p data-bbox="87 1497 797 1530"><i>*This is also realistic fiction and an Award Winning book.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1047 1098 1307 1173"><i>The Wild Robot</i> by Peter Brown</p> <hr data-bbox="823 1182 1533 1190"/> <p data-bbox="823 1207 1533 1455">When Robot Roz opens her eyes she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's animal inhabitants.</p> <p data-bbox="823 1459 1161 1493"><i>*This is also science fiction.</i></p>
<p data-bbox="292 1558 592 1633"><i>Booked</i> (continued) by Kwame Alexander</p> <hr data-bbox="87 1642 797 1650"/> <p data-bbox="87 1667 764 1806">Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.</p> <p data-bbox="87 1810 431 1843"><i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1037 1558 1317 1633"><i>Ghost</i> by Jason Alexander</p> <hr data-bbox="823 1642 1533 1650"/> <p data-bbox="823 1667 1533 1877">Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics.</p> <p data-bbox="823 1881 1533 1915"><i>*This is also realistic fiction and an Award Winning book.</i></p>

AWARD WINNERS	NON-FICTION
<p data-bbox="272 212 613 281"><i>One Crazy Summer</i> by Rita Williams-Garcia</p> <hr data-bbox="87 331 799 336"/> <p data-bbox="87 352 799 653">In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive at a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet, and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. <i>*This is also historical fiction.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="847 212 1513 323"><i>Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March</i> by Lynda Lowery</p> <hr data-bbox="824 331 1542 336"/> <p data-bbox="824 352 1529 653">Lynda Lowery recounts her experiences as the youngest marcher on the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. <i>*This is a biography.</i></p>
<p data-bbox="201 726 685 795"><i>Merci Suárez Changes Gears</i> by Meg Medina</p> <hr data-bbox="87 804 799 808"/> <p data-bbox="87 825 799 1503">Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately — forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school. <i>*This is also realistic fiction.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="977 726 1383 795"><i>Lincoln's Grave Robbers</i> by Steve Sheinkin</p> <hr data-bbox="824 804 1542 808"/> <p data-bbox="824 825 1529 1430">A true-crime thriller -- the first book for teens to tell the nearly unknown tale of the brazen attempt to steal Abraham Lincoln's body! The action begins in October of 1875, as Secret Service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois, workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. Soon after Boyd is hauled off to prison, members of his counterfeiting ring gather in the back room of a smoky Chicago saloon to discuss how to spring their ringleader. Their plan: grab Lincoln's body from its Springfield tomb, stash it in the sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and demand, as a ransom, the release of Ben Boyd --and \$200,000 in cash. From here, the action alternates between the conspirators, the Secret Service agents on their trail, and the undercover agent moving back and forth between the two groups.</p>

source: <https://www.goodreads.com/>

Name: _____

Summer Reading Log

Directions: Complete the reading log with information about the three books you read over the summer.

<u>Title of Book</u>	Author	Genre (refer back to the reading list)	Comment Leave a thoughtful comment about the book in a complete sentence.	Rating 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 5 - highest and 1-lowest
<u>Esperanza Rising</u>	Pam Munoz Ryan	historical fiction	This book is lovely because it shows how a character can change.	5
			_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
			_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
			_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

Name: _____

Directions: Fill in the boxes to show how the story developed. You may use the note-taking form. Please write neatly.

Story Map Organizer for Works of Fiction

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Setting (geographical location) _____ _____ _____ _____ Time period (when): _____ _____ _____ _____	Main Characters/Main Protagonists (who): _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Conflict (main problem): _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	How did the characters try to solve the problem?: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Solution (How is the main problem finally solved?): _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Would you recommend this book? Why or Why not? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Name: _____

An Organizer for Nonfiction Books: My Super Six!

Title: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Choose **6** interesting things that you have discovered from reading this nonfiction book. Record **one** interesting fact in each of the **6** boxes. Describe your learning in detail. On the other side of this organizer, you may also include a diagram or illustration that captures something important you learned from reading this book. Make sure you include a caption if you provide a diagram or illustration. Please write neatly.

1 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	2 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	3 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
4 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	5 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	6 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____