

## Grades 5 & 6 Summer Reading List

Your summer reading has three parts. Please read carefully and make sure you complete each part.

- 1) First, everyone will have one required reading book, listed below. This book is different for 5th and 6th Grades.
- 2) Next, you will read one **choice book**. The options and descriptions are listed on the next page. Choose something that interests you!
- 3) Finally, you will answer the questions on the last page about your **choice book** from step two.

### **Required Reading:**

#### 5th Grade

**All rising 5th Grade students** will read *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen.

\*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

#### 6th Grade

**All rising 6th Grade students** will read *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

\*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

## Choice Book List

Please choose **ONE** book from this list **that you have not read before**. You may choose either fiction or nonfiction.

### **Fiction**

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter* series)

Lexile: 880

Harry receives a letter on his 11th Birthday inviting him to Hogwarts, School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry discovers he is not only a wizard but a famous one.

*Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz (*Alex Rider* series)

Lexile: 670

They said his uncle Ian died in a car accident. But Alex Rider knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in the windshield prove it. Yet he never suspected the truth: his uncle was really a spy for Britain's top secret intelligence agency. And now Alex has been recruited to find his uncle's killers...

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

Lexile: 790

Through the perspective of multiple narrators, R. J. Palacio shares the story of Auggie Pullman—a 10-year-old boy born with a genetic condition that causes facial differences—transitioning from a life of secluded homeschooling to the jarring experience of attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time. Primary themes of interest to middle school students: disability and difference, identity, bullying, coming of age, isolation and inclusion.

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis (*Chronicles of Narnia* series)

Lexile: 940

Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

*The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera

Lexile: 730

Relocating to a new planet after Earth is destroyed, 12-year-old Petra Peña's suspended animation fails during the 370-year journey, so when all the other children are mysteriously reprogrammed and the adults purged, Petra becomes the lone bringer of Earth's now forbidden stories and her grandmother's Mexican folklore to a changing humanity.

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London (A classic and one of Mr. Schettler's favorites!)

Lexile: 1120

*The Call of the Wild* tells the gripping tale of Buck, a domesticated dog who is thrust into the harsh and unforgiving world of the Alaskan wilderness during the Klondike Gold Rush. Throughout the novel, he faces trials of survival and encounters with both cruelty and kindness.

*Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne (A classic and one of Mr. Schettler's favorites!)

Lexile: 1090

This classic novel by Jules Verne, who is considered to be the father of the science fiction genre, chronicles the daring journey of Phileas Fogg, a wealthy Englishman who makes a wager that he can circumnavigate the globe in just eighty days. Accompanied by his loyal servant Passepartout, Fogg encounters various challenges and adventures, from navigating treacherous landscapes to escaping dangerous adversaries, all while racing against time.

## **Nonfiction**

*Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* by Candace Fleming

Lexile: 930

On May 21, 1937, the most famous female pilot of all time, Amelia Earhart, set out to do the impossible: circumnavigate the globe at its widest point—27,000 miles in all. Just six weeks later, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. Eighty years have passed since that fateful flight; and still, Amelia's plane has never been found. Discover the thrilling life and tragic end of America's most famous trailblazing flier with this impeccably researched and masterfully crafted book from acclaimed author Candace Fleming.

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

Lexile: 980

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* is 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. This book, based on Swanson's adult bestseller, "Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer," is a true account for young readers about John Wilkes Booth's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States.

*Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson* by Katherine Johnson

Lexile: 1040

The inspiring autobiography of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, who helped launch Apollo 11. Katherine Johnson's story was made famous in the bestselling book and Oscar-nominated film *Hidden Figures*. Now in *Reaching for the Moon* she tells her own story for the first time, in a lively autobiography that will inspire young readers everywhere.

### Summer Reading Questions

On a separate sheet of paper (either handwritten or on a Google doc), please answer each of the following questions below for your **choice book** only (**do not** answer based on the required reading). Write at least 2-3 sentences per question to turn in. Also be prepared to discuss your book choice. The following questions are meant to help you analyze and summarize your book. If you need help with the questions you may ask a parent or friend. You can email me at [bschettler@gastonday.org](mailto:bschettler@gastonday.org) if you have further questions or need help selecting a book.

1. What made you choose this book? Is it similar to other books you've read before?
2. From whose point of view is the story told, and how does this point of view shape the story?
3. Which character is most similar to you in this story? Why?
4. Who is your least favorite character in this story? Why?
5. What would you have changed about this story?

**Grades 7 & 8 Summer Reading List**

This assignment has three parts. Make sure you complete all parts.

1. Choose **ONE** book (that you have not read before) to read from the list below. You will need to annotate and prepare to take a comprehension quiz on one of these books. Notice there is a separate list for rising 7th Grade and 8th Grade.
2. After you have read your required reading book, you will choose **ONE** book on your reading level of your interest to read. I have attached a list of suggestions, however you are not limited to this list.
3. You will only need to answer the questions attached to this document for the book of your choice.

**Rising 7th Grade (Pick One)**

Science Fiction/Dystopian - *The Giver*, Louis Lowry

\*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

Realistic Fiction - *Out of My Mind*, Sharon Draper

**Rising 8th Grade (Pick One)**

Science Fiction/Dystopian - *The Hunger Games*, Susan Collins

Memoir/Non Fiction - *Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle

\*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

Book Recommendations for Book of Choice (not limited to this list)

These two links have great lists!

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/middle-school-nonfiction>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/best-biographies-for-teens/>

Historical Fiction: *Refugee*, Alan Gratz, *My Family for the War* by Anne C. Voorhoeve

Mystery: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen

Fantasy: *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness, *The Dark Endeavor* by Kenneth Oppel, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien(also a classic)

Sci-Fi: *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (also a classic)

Romance: *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Adventure: *Jackaroo* by Cynthia Voigt

Horror: *Jane/Emily* by Patricia Clapp, *Doll Bones* by Holly Black, *Wait Until Helen Comes* by Mary Downing Hahn

Comedy: *Last Day on Mars* by Kevin Emerson, *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman

Graphic novels: *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani

Sports related: *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, *A Matter of Heart* by Amy Fellner Dominy

Nonfiction: *Brown Girl Dreaming*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *I am Malala*, *The Hiding Place*, *Hidden Figures*

### Choice Book - Summer Reading Questions

The questions below will help us review literary devices and concepts during the first few weeks of school. On a separate sheet of paper, please answer each of the following questions below for **your CHOICE book** to turn in during the first week of school. Write at least 2-3 sentences per question. If you need help with the questions you may ask a parent or friend. You can also email me at [rhigh@gastonday.org](mailto:rhigh@gastonday.org)

1. What is a brief summary of your book?
2. What is the setting? Are there multiple settings?
3. Who is the protagonist? And why? What is his/her point of view?
4. Who is the antagonist? This is the rival or opponent. There can be more than one antagonist.
5. What is the main conflict in the story? Would you describe it as internal and external?
6. Does the story have a theme or lesson that can apply to everyone? Every story has a theme and there can be more than one.
7. What are two meaningful quotes in the story that support the theme including the page numbers?
8. What was the story's ending?
9. Write an alternate ending to your story.
10. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?