

Rising 6th Grade Summer Reading 2017

Welcome to Summer, dear readers! For your assigned Summer Reading:

○ ALL incoming 6th graders will read the same **Core Novel**, which will form the basis of the first unit of study for Trimester 1 in August. In addition to reading this **Core Novel**, all students must complete the **Annotation Assignment (see pages 4)** for the Core Novel.

PLUS

- All students will read one book from the **Choice List**.
- All students will choose and read one book by 2017 Newbery Honor winning author **Adam Gidwitz** from the list below, as he will be our visiting author in September!

****Note:** each middle schooler will read a total of at least three (3) books this summer.

Successfully reading (and ENJOYING) these books will translate into starting the year strong. Please return to school in August ready to discuss all aspects of the core novel, as well as your chosen book(s).

Most books are available in several formats, including paperback, audio (Overdrive, CD, Audible.com, iTunes) and eBook (Overdrive, Kindle, iTunes). Our NBPS Overdrive Collection can be accessed at <https://northbrowardfl.libraryreserve.com>. Sign in with your student id to check out and download ebooks and audiobooks.

No matter which versions you read or listen to, you must also own a print or digital copy of your core novel to bring to class in August.

Core Novel

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, who has a learning disability, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. Lexile: 1000

Adam Gidwitz List

A Tale Dark & Grimm (A Tale Dark & Grimm series, bk. 1) by Adam Gidwitz
Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. An awesome mash-up of a selection of other Grimms' Fairy Tales. Lexile: 690

So You Want to Be a Jedi (Star Wars Retelling series) by Adam Gidwitz
The story is a retelling of Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back, but with additional scenes, added comments and humor. Placed between chapters are lessons to the reader on how to be a Jedi, such as "how to meditate, how to meditate while standing on one foot, how to meditate while standing on one foot while people are throwing dirty socks at you." Fans old and new will love this wonderfully crafted book and the unexpected twists and turns. Lexile: 570

Choice List

Masterminds (Masterminds series, bk. 1) by Gordon Korman
Eli lives in the most perfect town in the world, Serenity, New Mexico. All is perfect until one day, when all the kids learn that as an experiment, they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history. Lexile: 730

Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka
Babysitting mishaps, lazy summer days by the lake, and silly childhood pranks are remembered in this amusing memoir of the life of an adventurous young boy growing up in a family with six brothers. Told by the children's author, Jon Scieszka, helping readers understand more about how he developed his unique sense of humor found in many of his books. Lexile: 750

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. Lexile: 770

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building. Lexile: 670

Six Innings: A Game in the Life by James Preller

Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game. Lexile: 690

Stung (Stung series, bk. 1) by Bethany Wiggins

When a vaccine to save endangered bees causes their sting to turn children into ferocious killer beasts, the uninfected build a wall to keep the beasts out, but Fiona wakes up on the wrong side of the wall. Lexile: 760

6th Grade English Annotation Assignment: *Freak the Mighty*
by Rodman Philbrick
Due: the first day of class

Annotating keeps the reader engaged with the text. If you prefer, use post-it notes OR if you have an e-copy, use the highlight/note function.

Requirements for annotations of *Freak the Mighty*:

1. At the end of each chapter (either on a post-it note or as a note in the text itself): Write 1 sentence that summarizes what happened in this chapter.

Here are two strategies to help you to summarize:

A) Strategy #1: Who-what-when-where-why-how

Example: One summer morning, Opal goes to the library and meets Miss Franny Block, a quirky older lady, and Miss Franny then proceeds to tell Opal about the Civil War.

B) Strategy #2: Somebody Wants...But....So

Example: Kevin doesn't want to be teased by others about being so short for his age, so he decides to call himself "Freak."

2. Circle or highlight at least 10 words from throughout the novel that are new/unfamiliar to you. Make a list of these words at the end of the novel, and then define them. If you know every single word in this book, circle 10 words that you find important or interesting for the plot and write why you think the author chose these words. (the definitions may be listed on the text itself, on an e-note, or on a piece of paper inserted at the end of the novel)