

June 2011



Dear Incoming 6th grade Students/Parents/Guardians,

This summer, incoming 6th grade students are required to read two books. In September, students will complete projects based on both books.

- Required book: *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli – copy provided; audio versions are available through the public library.

Please use the attached questions to help guide your reading and to consider important ideas from the text. Although I will not collect written answers, you should take notes about these questions and indicate page numbers where you found answers. This will help you in September.

- Required book: Choice book (fiction)
You should find a fiction book you absolutely cannot put down and would highly recommend to others your age. This book should be appropriate to your reading level. Use the attached guidelines to help you select a book. Visit the public library for great selections.

Please use the attached questions to help you prepare for a fun project in September.

In addition to these two books, students should read other materials for pleasure. Please visit the public library and participate in the summer reading programs (see enclosed flyers from the library). Extra credit is available for writing book reviews for the public library. Any student who submits an “acceptable” book review to the public library (even after the raffle deadline) will receive an extra credit grade of 100% for the first marking period. Students who choose to submit additional book reviews will receive additional credit to be determined in September. Please visit the public library and follow library guidelines for the procedures and due dates.

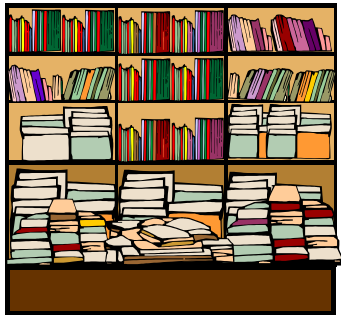
Reading can be a truly memorable experience; take advantage of all the remarkable literature available. Enjoy the summer. We look forward to seeing you in sixth-grade!



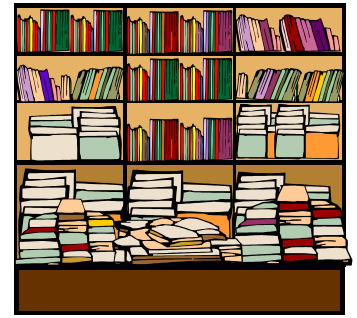
Sincerely,

Mrs. Alyssa Radomski
Grade 6 Language Arts Teachers





Choice Book Guidelines



Please follow these “off-limits” guidelines:

- Select a traditional fiction novel for the required choice book. NO graphic novels, “make your own endings,” comic books, short story collections, poems, or nonfiction (you may read these in addition to your choice book).
- Please read a novel you have never read before.
- Do not read a novel that has been made into a movie.
- Avoid novels read in class during middle school. Titles include:
 - *The Outsiders,*
 - *The Hobbit,*
 - *The Watson’s Go To Birmingham,*
 - *The Westing Game,*
 - *The Giver,*
 - *Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank),*
 - *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle,*
 - *Nothing But The Truth,*
 - *Friedrich,*
 - *Daniel’s Story,*
 - *Night,*
 - *To Kill a Mockingbird,*
 - *The Midwife’s Apprentice,*
 - *Flowers for Algernon.*

Use the **5 Finger Rule** to determine if a book is "just right"

1. Open a book to any page.
2. Start reading the page.
3. Hold up one finger for EVERY word that you don't know or have trouble pronouncing.

0-1 Fingers

The book is too EASY.

2-3 Fingers

The book probably a good fit.

4 Fingers

The book is at the Challenge level.
You can try it ~ be sure it makes sense.

5 Fingers

The book is at the Frustration level
and is not a good choice for now.