

6th Grade Summer Reading Project

Brown Summit Middle School 2022-2023

Due Date: September 9th, 2022

I am looking forward to having you in my 6th Grade ELA class for the upcoming school year. We will be working together to become better readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and thinkers. This summer reading project has been created to allow you to explore books that interest you and to give me a little idea about you as an ELA student.

You need to choose a book **you have not read before** and actively engage with it over the summer. Choose a book that you know will connect to one of the unit questions below, and **make sure it is appropriately challenging for 6th grade reading**, at least 100 pages, and either a work of fiction or a work of narrative nonfiction (one that tells a story, like a biography or memoir). See page 3 of this assignment for some suggested titles.

Your work should be typed in a readable 12 pt font like Times New Roman or Arial. I understand that typing it may be a challenge in some circumstances—in that case, please reach out to me.

Mr. B. Kirby Young
6th Grade ELA BSMS

Unit Topic	Unit Question Use this to guide your reading choice!
Childhood	What are some of the challenges and triumphs of growing up?
Animal Allies	How can people and animals relate to each other?
Modern Technology	How is modern technology helpful and harmful to society?
Imagination	Where can imagination lead?
Exploration	What drives people to explore?

There are five parts to complete for summer reading!

I.	As You Read Reflections	Complete two reflections to show your thinking and observations as you read.
II.	Unit Connections	Complete the chart to show how your reading connects to the unit question.
III.	Real World Connections	Make connections between your book and current events.
IV.	Open-ended Prompt	Choose <u>one</u> of the prompts and respond to it.
V.	Prepare a Book Minute (for class in August!)	Be ready to present the big take-aways, best part, and your opinion of your book when we get back to school.

Detailed Checklist

The below checklist is not required, but it is meant to help you keep track of what you need to do. You do not need to turn it in.

Remember, the “As You Read” reflections need to be completed while you’re reading the book, not once you’ve finished. After that, you can do the other parts of the assignment in the order below or one that makes sense to you.

Steps	Complete?
Choose your book—remember, there is a list of possible titles below.	
Read over the directions and rubric so you know the expectations.	
Read the book while completing “As You Read Reflections.”	
Complete “Unit Connections.”	
Read a current events article that connects to your reading.	
Complete “Bigger Connections.”	
Choose and complete one option from “Open-Ended Prompts.”	
Jot down your ideas for your book talk. Practice it by yourself.	
Revise and edit ALL of your work for expression and basic grammar.	
Check your work against the rubric.	
Practice your book talk with a trusted adult or a friend.	

Please consider your reading choice carefully.

Your book should be appropriate for middle school. Books oriented for elementary readers (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, for instance) or works only published online (such as fan-fic) can be interesting and enjoyable, but they are not appropriate for an academic assignment at Brown Summit.

Similarly, if you choose a nonfiction text, please make sure it has a narrative and is not simply informative. Memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, and informative works that tell a story or of an experience will work with the prompts.

Lastly, a collection of short stories will not work with these prompts. Choose something more like a novel if you are going in that direction.

Possible Reading Choices

Books with an asterisk (*) indicate that we recommend reading the Young Reader's Edition

Unit Topic	Title	Author
Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Schooled</i> ● <i>Doesn't Speak Spanish</i> ● <i>The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise</i> ● <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> ● <i>Counting by 7's</i> ● <i>Stargirl</i> 	Gordan Korman Pablo Cartaya Dan Gemeinhart Betty Smith Holly Goldberg Jerry Spinelli
Animal Allies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Julie of the Wolves</i> ● <i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> ● <i>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam</i> ● <i>White Fang</i> ● <i>Song for a Whale</i> ● <i>*Racing in the Rain: My Life as a Dog (A young reader's edition of <i>The Art of Racing in the Rain.</i>)</i> ● <i>Eragon</i> 	Jean Craighead George Edgar Rice Burroughs Cynthia Kadohata Jack London Lynne Kelly Garth Stein Christopher Paolini
Modern Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm</i> ● <i>Search for WondLa</i> ● <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> ● <i>The Fourteenth Goldfish</i> ● <i>*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (young reader's edition)</i> 	Nancy Farmer Tony DiTerlizzi Daniel Keyes Jennifer L. Holm William and Bryan Mealer
Imagination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i> ● <i>Inkheart</i> ● <i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> ● <i>Worlds of Ink and Shadow</i> ● <i>When You Trap a Tiger</i> ● <i>Pet</i> 	Norton Juster Cornelia Funke Katherine Patterson Lena Coakley Tae Keller Akwaeke Emezi
Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607</i> ● <i>Peak</i> ● <i>Crossing the Wire</i> ● <i>The Alchemist</i> ● <i>Beyond the Bright Sea</i> ● <i>Ground Zero</i> ● <i>Airman</i> ● <i>No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits</i> 	Elisa Carbone Roland Smith Will Hobbs Paulo Coelho Laurent Wold Alan Gratz Eoin Colfer Jordan Romero and Linda LeBlanc

You are free to choose a different book, but please choose carefully and review the note on page 2.

I) As You Read Reflections

As you read, choose two (2) of the following sentence starters and write a brief reflection for each. Each reflection should be about 100 words, so it will need to be developed thinking, not just a quick response.

I noticed...

I wonder...

I was reminded of...

I think...

I'm surprised that...

I'd like to know...

I realized...

If I were...

The central issue(s) is (are)...

One consequence of ____ could be...

If ____, then.... I'm not sure... Although it seems...

II) Unit Connections

Use the chart (or make a chart like the one below) and complete both parts.

In general, how does this book connect to or answer the unit question?	Give three pieces of text evidence to show the connections and explain that connection.

III) Real World Connections

Find two (2) current events articles that connect to your book. What would the authors of each piece agree on? What would they disagree on? How do the articles address the unit question, and how do they compare and contrast with the book? This should be about 125-175 words.

IV) Open-Ended Prompts

Choose one of the following prompts and respond to it in an essay-style response of about 200-250 words.

A) Analyze the character/person who changed the most from the beginning of the book until the end of the book. Explain the change and what caused it.

B) Evaluate the ending of the book. Considering how the book unfolded, was it an effective ending? Why? Why not? (Effective means “successful in producing a desired result.”)

C) Give the book a 1 to 10 rating. Explain in extended detail why you gave this book that score.

V) One-Minute Book Talk

Prepare for your book talk by gathering the following thoughts on your book. These will be shared within the first weeks of school. (Feel free to elaborate/modify this Book talk.)

“I read _____ by _____.”

“Some of the ideas that stuck with me were:

“My favorite part/the best part was when:

“Overall, I thought this book was _____ because of _____

and also because _____.

“I would recommend it to a person who _____

_____.”

6th Grade Summer Reading Rubric

Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Partially Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
<p><u>As You Read Reflections</u> Reflections show thoughtful interaction with the text as it was being read. Your ideas should demonstrate that you are focused in your reading comprehension.</p> <p>Reflections make connections and are analytical.</p>				
<p><u>Unit Connections</u> You have explored a thoughtful connection with the unit question thoroughly—not just rushed through an obvious link. Your ideas demonstrate you are focused in your reading comprehension.</p> <p>Carefully selected details and examples are connected to your ideas.</p>				
<p><u>Real World Connections</u> You have explained a meaningful connection between the articles.</p> <p>Your ideas show that you understand how your text connects to these current event articles either based on the topic or the shared themes.</p>				
<p><u>Open-Ended Response</u> Your essay demonstrates that you read the entire book and understood it.</p> <p>Your essay is analytical and talks about how the text works. <i>It does not summarize the text.</i></p> <p>Your essay has an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. It also has one central idea or thesis that it elaborates.</p> <p>Your voice is unique, with language and word choice used to powerful effect to support your ideas.</p>				
<p><u>Revision/Grammar</u> Your punctuation, capitalization, sentences, and basic grammar are consistently controlled. There are only occasional minor issues.</p>				
<p><u>Book Minute</u> The class could hear and understand you. You used the whole minute.</p> <p>You shared takeaways, the best part, and your opinion in a way that helped other readers know if the book was for them.</p>				