

Summer Reading List 2019 6th Grade Language Arts- JSMS

Requirements:

1. Students must choose **one** book from the reading list. Summaries and reading levels have been provided to help students find a book that suits them.
2. Students must read the book over summer break!
3. Students will complete an approved summer reading project over it.

Summer Reading Project Choices:

To receive full credit, students *must* complete *all* requirements of the project:

1. You must write a complete **summary** of the book. This summary should include details about the setting, main characters, and complete plot of the story.
2. **Poster**- This is to be designed as a movie poster. Keep in mind the elements used in developing such a poster: director (author), actors (main characters), producer (you), etc. Some other creative elements to include are a release date and rating. You must come up with an original depiction of the novel; you are not allowed to copy the cover of the book for your poster.

*Choose **one** from any list*

If you like Fantasies...

Savvy- by Ingrid Law (Grade Level 8.5, 1070L)

For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy"-a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day. As if waiting weren't hard enough, the family gets scary news two days before Mibs's birthday: Poppa has been in a terrible accident. Mibs develops the singular mission to get to the hospital and prove that her new power can save her dad. So she sneaks onto a salesman's bus . . . only to find the bus heading in the opposite direction. Suddenly Mibs finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up-and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin.

No Such Thing as Dragons- by Philip Reeve (Grade Level 6.4, 920L)

Ansel's new master slays dragons for a living. He says he's hunted the monstrous worms all over Christendom-and he has the scars to prove it! But is Brock just a clever trickster in shining armor? Ansel is sure there are no such things as dragons. So what is the man-eating creature that lives in the crags of Dragon Mountain? As he and Brock climb the perilous ice-face to its lair, Ansel is about to discover the horrifying truth. A heart-pounding new fantasy with a brilliant twist from Philip Reeve, one of the world's greatest writers.

Story Thieves (Book One) - by James Riley (Grade Level 5, 750L)

Life is boring when you live in the real world, instead of starring in your own book series. Owen knows that better than anyone, what with the real world's homework and chores. But everything changes the day Owen sees the impossible happen—his classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the library. It turns out Bethany's half-fictional and has been searching every book she can find for her missing father, a fictional character. Bethany can't let anyone else learn her secret, so Owen makes her a deal: All she has to do is take him into a book in Owen's favorite Kiel Gnomefoot series, and he'll never say a word. Besides, visiting the book might help Bethany find her father...Or it might just destroy the Kiel Gnomefoot series, reveal Bethany's secret to the entire world, and force Owen to live out Kiel Gnomefoot's final (*very* final) adventure.

Echo- by Pam Munoz Ryan (Grade Level 6, 680L)

Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives, binding them by an invisible thread of destiny. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. How their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck. Richly imagined and structurally innovative, *Echo* pushes the boundaries of form and shows us what is possible in how we tell stories.

If you like Mysteries...

A Northern Light- by Jennifer Donnelly (Grade Level 7.1, 700L)

Sixteen-year-old Mattie Gokey has big dreams but little hope of seeing them come true. Desperate for money, she takes a job at the Glenmore, where hotel guest Grace Brown entrusts her with the task of burning a secret bundle of letters. But when Grace's drowned body is fished from the lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder.

The Mysterious Benedict Society- by Trenton Lee Stewart (Grade Level 6.3, 890L)

"*ARE YOU A GIFTED CHILD looking for special opportunities?*" When this peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. (And you, dear reader, can test your wits right alongside them.) But in the end just four very special children — two boys and two girls — will succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the

most intelligent and resourceful children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. As our heroes face physical and mental trials beyond their wildest imaginations, they have no choice but to turn to each other for support. But with their newfound friendship at stake, will they be able to pass the most important test of all? Welcome to the Mysterious Benedict Society. If you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help.

The Egypt Game-by Zilpha Keatley Snyder (Grade Level 5-7, 1010L)

The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians, and they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game until strange things start happening. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?

If you like Animals...

Big Red- by Jim Kjelgaard (Grade Level 5.4, 910L)

From the moment Danny sees the beautiful Irish setter, he knows Red is the dog for him. Fast and smart, strong and noble, Red is the only dog Danny wants by his side. Soon, neither boy nor dog can stand to be apart. Together Danny and Red face many dangers in the harsh Wintapi wilderness that they call home. But the greatest test of their courage and friendship will come from an enemy more cunning than any they've known before--a bear who is the undisputed king of the wilderness, a savage killer called Old Majesty.

Pax- by Sara Pennypacker (Grade Level 5, 760L)

Pax was only a kit when his family was killed and "his boy" Peter rescued him from abandonment and certain death. Now the war front approaches, and when Peter's father enlists, Peter has to move in with his grandpa. Far worse than being forced to leave home is the fact that Pax can't go. Peter listens to his stern father—as he usually does—and throws Pax's favorite toy soldier into the woods. When the fox runs to retrieve it, Peter and his dad get back in the car and leave him there—alone. But before Peter makes it through even one night under his grandfather's roof, regret and duty spur him to action; he packs for a trek to get his best friend back and sneaks into the night. This is the story of Peter, Pax, and their independent struggles to return to one another against all odds. Told from the alternating viewpoints of Peter and Pax.

Hoot- by Carl Hiaasen (Grade Level 5.8, 760L)

Roy Eberhardt is the new kid--again. This time around it's Trace Middle School in humid Coconut Grove, Florida. But it's still the same old routine: table by himself at lunch, no real friends, and thick-headed bullies like Dana Matherson pushing him around. But if it wasn't for Dana Matherson mashing his face against the school bus window that one day, he might never have seen the tow-headed running boy. And if he had never seen the running boy, he might never have met tall, tough, bully-beating Beatrice. And if he had never met Beatrice, he might never have discovered the burrowing owls living in the lot on the corner of East Oriole Avenue. And if he had never discovered the owls, he probably would have missed out on the adventure of a lifetime. Apparently, bullies do serve a greater purpose in the scope of the universe. Because if it wasn't for Dana Matherson...

If you like Nature Adventures...

Island of the Blue Dolphins- by Scott O'Dell (Grade Level 5.4, 1000L)

In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind. — This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. It is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.

Hatchet- by Gary Paulsen (Grade Level 5.7, 1020L)

Winner of the 1988 Newbery Honor Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. Brian had been distraught over his parents' impending divorce and the secret he carries about his mother, but now he is truly desolate and alone. Exhausted, terrified, and hungry, Brian struggles to find food and make a shelter for himself. He has no special knowledge of the woods, and he must find a new kind of awareness and patience as he meets each day's challenges. Is the water safe to drink? Are the berries he finds poisonous? Slowly, Brian learns to turn adversity to his advantage; an invading porcupine unexpectedly shows him how to make fire, a devastating tornado shows him how to retrieve supplies from the submerged airplane. Most of all, Brian leaves behind the self-pity he has felt about his predicament as he summons the courage to stay alive. A story of survival and of transformation, this riveting book has sparked many a reader's interest in venturing into the wild.

The Call of the Wild- by Jack London (Grade Level 7.3, 1120L)

This classic wilderness adventure explores the thin line that separates tame from wild — within animals and humans alike. Buck is an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, and part Scotch shepherd, with wolf blood in his ancestry. He is enjoying his comfortable life as a family pet in California when dog traffickers, who are meeting the demand for sled dogs in the Alaskan gold rush, steal him. The harsh winter is like nothing he has ever experienced, and each day with the sled dog team is a very real struggle for survival. Pushed to the limit, Buck finds instincts he didn't know he had. Buck is passed from owner to owner, but eventually he returns to the wild, becoming leader of a wolf pack and the legendary "Ghost Dog" of the Klondike. In re-creating the world of the frontier, Jack London drew from his own experiences in the Klondike during the gold rush of 1897, and he vividly depicts the harsh conditions in which man and beast were forced to survive. Considered his masterpiece, *The Call of the Wild* is a gripping story that will resonate as strongly with today's readers as it did when it was first published nearly 100 years ago.

If you like Fairy Tales...

The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell- by Chris Colfer (Grade Level 5, 720L)

Goldilocks: wanted dead or alive for burglary, thievery, and running from the law. Little Red Riding Hood: a queen with her own kingdom. Cinderella: pregnant with her and Prince Charming's first child. Ever after is here, and Alex and Conner are smack dab in the middle of it. It all began when their grandmother visited them on their 12th birthday with a special gift: the book of fairy tales she used to read to them when they were little. But this is no ordinary book — it's a portal! Suddenly Alex and Conner are transported to the Land of Stories, where fairy tales are more than real — they're out of control. Soon the twins are caught in a web of intrigue involving everyone from Jack (of beanstalk fame) to the Little Mermaid to the Big Bad Wolf, with Snow White's evil stepmother pulling the strings. And getting back home may require the greatest magic of all. Come along for the breathless ride in this entertaining fairy-tale mash-up written by award-winning actor Chris Colfer.

Half Upon a Time- by James Riley (Grade Level 5, 820L)

Jack lives in a fantasy world. Really. He's the son of the infamous Jack who stole the magic beans from the giant, and he's working hard to restore his family's reputation. He finds the perfect opportunity when a "princess" lands in front of him, apparently from the land of Punk, as her Punk Princess sweatshirt implies. May is from our world, and she's utterly confused to find herself in the midst of the fairy tale characters she has read about. But Jack and May have more in common than they realize, and together they embark on a hilarious and wild adventure in this highly accessible, modern middle grade fantasy novel.

Woven- by David Powers King and Michael Jensen (Grade Level 7, 630L)

Two unlikely allies must journey across a kingdom in the hopes of thwarting death itself. All his life, Nels has wanted to be a knight of the kingdom of Avërand. Tall and strong, and with a knack for helping those in need, the people of his sleepy little village have even taken to calling him the Knight

of Cobblestown. But that was before Nels died, murdered outside his home by a mysterious figure. Now the young hero has awoken as a ghost, invisible to all around him save one person — his only hope for understanding what happened to him — the kingdom's heir, Princess Tyra. At first the spoiled royal wants nothing to do with Nels, but as the mystery of his death unravels, the two find themselves linked by a secret, and an enemy who could be hiding behind any face. Nels and Tyra have no choice but to abscond from the castle, charting a hidden world of tangled magic and forlorn phantoms. They must seek out an ancient needle with the power to mend what has been torn, and they have to move fast. Because soon Nels will disappear forever.

Red Queen (Young Adult) - by Victoria Aveyard (Grade Level 9, 740L)

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood; those with common Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard, a growing Red rebellion, even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, and in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.

If you like Sports...

The Boy Who Saved Baseball- by John H. Ritter (Grade Level 5.6, 660L)

Twelve-year-old Tom Gallagher loves baseball. He also loves the old ballpark in his hometown, which is about to be destroyed. Tom finds himself in a tight spot. The fate of Dillontown, his small California town, rests on the outcome of one baseball game, winner take all. Tom hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato. Maybe Tom has one hope: Cruz de la Cruz, the mysterious boy who just rode into town on horseback claiming to know the secret of hitting.

The Underdogs- by Mike Lupica (Grade Level 5.5, 840L)

Will Tyler may not be the biggest running back around, but no one can touch him when it comes to hitting the hole and finding the end zone. And no one can match his love of the game. When Will has a football in his hand, life can't touch him--his dad isn't so defeated, his town isn't so poor, and everyone has something to cheer for. All of which does him no good if the football season is canceled. With no funding for things like uniforms and a well-maintained playing field, with every other family moving to find jobs, there just isn't enough money or players for a season. It's up to Will to rally the town and give everyone a reason to believe . . .

Summer Ball- by Mike Lupica (Grade Level 7.2, 910L)

When you're the smallest kid playing a big man's game, the challenges never stop, especially when your name is Danny Walker. Leading your travel team to the national championship may seem like a dream come true, but for Danny, being at the top just means the competition tries that much

harder to knock him off. Now Danny's leaving Middletown for the summer and heading to Right Way basketball camp, where he's out of his element and maybe out of his league. The country's best ballers are in attendance, and Danny will need to raise his game if he wants to match up. But it won't be easy. Old rivals and new battles leave Danny wondering if he really has what it takes to stand tall.

If you like Historical Fiction...

Chains- by Laurie Halse Anderson (Grade Level 4.7, 780L)

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

The War That Saved my Life- by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Grade Level 6, 580L)

An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II, from the acclaimed author of *Jefferson's Sons* and for fans of *Number the Stars*. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute; she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother? This masterful work of historical fiction is equal parts adventure and a moving tale of family and identity a classic in the making. 2016 Newbery Honor Book.

War Horse- by Michael Morpurgo (Grade Level 7.9, 1090L)

Joey is a warhorse, but he wasn't always. Once, he was a farm horse and a gentle boy named Albert was his master. Then World War I came storming through and everything changed. Albert's father sells Joey to the army where the beautiful, red-bay horse is trained to charge the enemy, drag heavy artillery, and carry wounded soldiers not much older than Albert off of battlefields. Amongst the clamoring of guns and slogging through the cold mud, Joey wonders if the war will ever end. And if it does, will he ever find Albert again?

If you like Nonfiction...

***Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays-* by Peg Kehret (Grade Level 5, 940L)**

A collection of true stories about the amazing lives of eight shelter dogs. Many of these dogs were unwanted because of their size, behavior, or medical condition. All of the dogs found owners who loved and cared for them.

***Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board-* by Bethany Hamilton (Grade Level 7.5, 960L)**

They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing—not even the loss of her arm—could come between her and the waves? That Halloween morning in Kauai, Hawaii, Bethany responded to the shark’s stealth attack with the calm of a girl with God on her side. Pushing pain and panic aside, she began to paddle with one arm, focusing on a single thought: “Get to the beach....” And when the first thing Bethany wanted to know after surgery was “When can I surf again?” it became clear that her spirit and determination were part of a greater story—a tale of courage and faith that this soft-spoken girl would come to share with the world.

***Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl-* by Anne Frank (Grade Level 5.9, 1080L)**

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.

***Rascal-* by Sterling North (Grade Level 7.1, 1140L)**

Sterling keeps many unusual pets at the home he shares with his father, but the tiny baby raccoon he brings home one night becomes his most memorable pet. Even though Rascal provides endless hours of fun and interesting companionship for him, Sterling knows that the situation cannot last. This is the true story of the author's boyhood.