



City Honors School
Summer Reading 2021

Entering Grade 6



What our ELA faculty expects you to read this summer:

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution Ji Li Jiang

Choose ONE of the following:

Crossover

Before We Were Free

Great Medieval Projects: You Can Build Yourself

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths

Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems

Redwall

Color of My Words

Bloody Jack:

Being and Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky"

Eragon

Freak the Mighty

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hammer:

Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement

Dealing with Dragons:

The Enchanted Forest Chronicles, Book One

Wizard's Hall

I Am Malala:

How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World

The Book Thief

Kwame Alexander

Julia Alvarez

Kris Bordessa (module recommendation)

Bernard Evslin (module recommendation)

John Grandits (module recommendation)

Brian Jacques

Lynn Joseph

L.A. Meyer

Christopher Paolini (module recommendation)

Rodman Philbrick (module recommendation)

Carole Weatherford

Patricia C. Wrede (module recommendation)

Jane Yolen

Malala Yousafzai

Markus Zusak (module recommendation)

*Due to COVID-19 and school closures, some websites are offering PDF and/or audio versions of books for free. If available, they can be found using a Google search. Also, the following websites offer books at very discounted prices: www.bookoutlet.com, www.abebooks.com, www.thriftbooks.com, and www.amazon.com. Talking Leaves bookstore is a good, local option for affordable books. If you cannot find a free version, and purchasing books is not in the family budget this summer, please contact Ms. Serwon, who will work with Dr. Kresse to make the books available.

- YA literature often includes mature subject matter. The title chosen should be approved by a parent based on appropriateness and student maturity. This list includes a range of literary topics and voice in hopes of offering student choice and an enjoyable, educational reading experience for all.

Why we expect you to complete this reading?

We expect you to complete the summer reading to prepare yourself for sixth grade and the new ideas, concepts and perspectives you will explore throughout the year. In addition, as part of the International

Baccalaureate / Middle Years Program it is my goal to assist learners in becoming open-minded thinkers, who are able to make literary connections across time, texts, cultures and your own lives. By reading a variety of literature, you expose yourself to inquiry about diverse people and places of the world. So curl up, unplug, and set your imagination free!

What you should do before you read these texts:

Prepare yourself. Get post it notes, pencils, and paper. Write about what you know about the topic of the book. Make predictions. What do you think the book will be about? Why? What characters do you think might be in the story? What conflicts do you think they will face? Reflect on what you are reading. What do you hope to learn from reading the text?

What you should do while you are reading:

Annotate or keep notes on what you read in order to understand the text more thoroughly. Think and write about the following:

- Ways in which the character changes in some way, from the beginning, to the middle, and end of the story.
- Ways in which the relationship between two characters change.
- Ways in which the characters make an important realization.
- What personal connections can you make to the characters, experiences, and / or conflicts in the text?
- What connections can you make to other texts you have read or the world?
- What questions do you have about the text during and after reading?

How we will make use of the reading when we return to school:

In September, you will take a comprehension test on the Red Scarf Girl. You will also be expected to apply what you learned through reading these texts, to other texts assigned in class. Annotations, gists, and analyzing characters are all skills we will be focusing on throughout the year.

Additional things you need to succeed in English Language Arts for the upcoming school year:

Make reading a priority. Assignments and assessments are directly related to readings completed during class and for homework. It is highly beneficial for students to be prepared for those assignments by completing the readings as they are given.

Whom to contact for questions:

Mary Serwon

Webpage: <http://www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/mserwon/>

Email: mserwon@buffaloschools.org