



The IB Middle Years Program at Deal Middle School



Summer Assignment 2017 for Rising 6th Grade Students

Reading is the best way to be prepared for the 6th grade. While we want you to read all the time for fun, you are **required to read two books** from the following list and complete one activity for each book. Students may select any two books from the list that interest them. Both activities are due on **Friday, August 25, 2017**.

Activity Descriptions

Book 1 Activity: For one book you choose to read, write a personal letter to the author (living or dead) explaining how reading his or her book changed you or your view of the world. How and why are you different now than you were before you read this book? Support your ideas with specific details from your life and the book. Be personal but also be persuasive! This is not a fan letter but rather a reflection on how an author influenced you.

Book 2 Activity: For the other book you choose to read, create a representation of the book with either a student-created image or poem about the text.

Each project should be on an 8.5" x 11" (regular printer-sized) sheet of paper, and may be typed or handwritten.

Make a strong first impression!

The following are the books students should select from:

- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith – An American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century.
- *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L'Engle – The story of Meg Murry, a high-school-aged girl who is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin O'Keefe to rescue her father.
- *Around the World in Eighty Days*, by Jules Verne – In the story, Phileas Fogg of London attempts to circumnavigate the world in 80 days.
- *Circus Mirandus*, by Cassie Beasley – When he realizes that his grandfather's stories of an enchanted circus are true, Micah Tuttle sets out to find the mysterious Circus Mirandus and to use its magic to save his grandfather's life.
- *Elijah of Buxton*, by Christopher Paul Curtis – Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known in his hometown as the boy who made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass when the great orator visited Buxton.
- *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan – Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico, but a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers.
- *Flora & Ulysses*, by Kate DiCamillo – Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.
- *Mockingbird*, by Kathy Erskine – Ten-year-old Caitlin Smith is doubly bereaved. Two years ago her mother died of cancer; now her beloved older brother Devon has been randomly murdered in a shooting at their American middle school.



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- *One Crazy Summer*, by Rita Williams-Garcia – In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
- *Paperboy*, by Vince Vawter – When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.
- *Rain Reign*, by Ann M. Martin – Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose Howard shares a bond with her dog, Rain, but when the dog goes missing, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels to search for her pet.
- *Rules*, by Cynthia Lord – Catherine is a 12-year-old girl who is on summer vacation. While she would like to be doing things like finding new friends, instead she has to take care of her younger brother, David.
- *Secret Coders*, by Gene Luen Yang – Attending an elite school where enterprising students are challenged to solve a variety of clues and puzzles using computer programming, Hopper and her friend, Eni, resolve to crack the school founder's most elusive mystery together.
- *Slacker*, by Gordon Korman – When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming-- but before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G., and involved in community service, so the boy who never cared about anything is now the center of everything, whether he likes it or not.
- *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, by Rodman Philbrick – The story of a young boy who runs away to find his brother, a young boy who has been sold into the army during the Civil War.
- *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett – The book tells the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled, contrary, solitary child raised in India but sent to live in her uncle's manor in Yorkshire after her parents' death.
- *The Sword of Summer*, by Rick Riordan – Magnus Chase, a homeless boy living in Boston, finds out he is the son of a Norse god.
- *The War That Saved My Life*, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley – A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.
- *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson – Jim Hawkins is a young boy who lives at his parents' inn, the Admiral Benbow, near Bristol, England, in the eighteenth century. An old sea captain named Billy Bones dies in the inn after being presented with a black spot, or official pirate verdict of guilt or judgment.
- *Wednesday Wars*, by Gary D. Schmidt – During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.
- *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio – Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.
- *Zita the Spacegirl*, by Ben Hatke – When young Zita discovers a device that opens a portal to another place, and her best friend is abducted, she is compelled to set out on a strange journey from star to star in order to get back home.