**SIXTH GRADE Summer Reading List**

Directions: You will read at least **four** books this summer for summer reading. Choose **three** or more books from different genres on the list. Then read Front Desk toward the end of the summer so that it is fresh in your mind when school starts.

**All-form book, required for all incoming sixth graders**

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| Yang, Kelly  **Front Desk** |
| Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason. |

**Hot off the Press!**

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| Holm, Jennifer L.  **The Lion of Mars** |
| Bell has spent his whole life on Mars, but he's still just a regular kid curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why don't have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell to uncover the truth. |
| Patterson, James and Kwame Alexander  **Becoming Muhammed Ali** |
| Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. The book depicts his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. |
| Sloan, Holly Goldberg  **The Elephant in the Room** |
| Sila meets a grandfatherly man who only months before won the state lottery. Their new alliance leads to the rescue of a circus elephant named Veda, and then to a friendship with an unusual boy named Mateo, proving that comfort and hope come in the most unlikely of places. |

**Classics**

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| Aiken, Joan  **Wolves of Willoughby Chase** |
| Wicked wolves and a grim governess threaten Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia when Bonnie's parents leave Willoughby Chase for a sea voyage. Left in the care of the cruel Miss Slighcarp, the girls can hardly believe what is happening to their once happy home. |
| Cooper, Susan  **The Dark is Rising** |
| On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark. |
| Curtis, Christopher Paul  **Bud Not Buddy** |
| Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. |
| Montgomery, L.M.  **Anne of Green Gables** or any in the series |
| Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. |
| Paulsen, Gary  **Hatchet** |
| After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. |
| Rawls, Wilson  **Where the Red Fern Grows** |
| A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. |

**Fantasy**

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| Cervantes, J.C.  **Storm Runner** or any in the series |
| To prevent the Mayan gods from battling each other and destroying the world, thirteen-year-old Zane must unravel an ancient prophecy, stop an evil god, and discover how the physical disability that makes him reliant on a cane also connects him to his father and his ancestry. |
| Chainani, Soman  **The School for Good and Evil** or any in the series |
| Best friends Sophie (princess wannabe) and Agatha (witchy loner) are headed (via kidnapping) to the School for Good and Evil, but their assumed destinies are reversed. |
| Chokshi, Roshani  **Aru Shah and the End of Time** or any in the series |
| Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon. |
| Kelly, Erin Entrada  **Lalani of the Distant Sea** |
| Twelve-year-old Lalani Sarita takes on the impossible task of traveling to the legendary Mount Isa, towering on an island to the north. Generations of men and boys have died on the same quest--how can a timid young girl in a tiny boat survive the epic tests of the archipelago? |
| McMann, Lisa  **The Unwanteds** or any in the series |
| In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic. |
| Nielsen, Jennifer  **The False Prince** or its sequels |
| In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war. |

**General Fiction**

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| Draper, Sharon  **Blended** |
| Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police. |
| Gemeinhart, Dan  **The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise** |
| Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished. |
| Key, Watt  **Deep Water** |
| When a dive off the coast of Alabama goes horribly wrong, twelve-year-old Julie and one of her father's scuba clients struggle to survive after reaching an abandoned oil rig. |
| Kim, Jessica  **Stand Up, Yumi Chung!** |
| When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part. |
| Korman, Gordon  **Restart** |
| Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed. Can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life? |
| Reynolds, Jason  **Ghost** or its sequels |
| Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential |

**Historical Fiction**

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| Auxier, Jonathan  **Sweep** |
| In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem. |
| Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  **The War That Saved My Life** or sequel |
| 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. |
| Lai, Thanhha  **Inside Out and Back Again** |
| Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. |
| Philbrick, Rodman  **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg** |
| Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. |
| Senzai, N.H.  **Shooting Kabul** |
| Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind. |
| Whelan, Gloria  **Small Acts of Amazing Courage** |
| In 1919, independent-minded fifteen-year-old Rosalind lives in India with her English parents, and when they fear she has fallen in with some rebellious types who believe in Indian self-government, she is sent "home" to London, where she has never been before and where her older brother died, to stay with her two aunts. |

**Memoir and Nonfiction**

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| Acevedo, Sylvia  **Path to the Stars** |
| The inspiring memoir for young readers about a Latina rocket scientist whose early life was transformed by joining the Girl Scouts and who currently serves as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA. |
| Brosgol, Vera  **Be Prepared** |
| Fitting in isn’t easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range--Russian summer camp. Nothing could prepare her for all the 'cool girl' drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares. |
| Cox, Lynne  **Grayson** |
| The author describes how, while training for a long-distance swim off the coast of California, she encountered a baby gray whale that had become separated from its mother and had been following her instead, and her efforts to find the baby's mother. |
| Paulsen, Gary  **My Life in Dog Years** |
| The author describes how dogs have impacted his life from childhood through the present day, recounting the stories of his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life. |
| Rinaldi, Tom  **The Red Bandana** (Young Readers Edition) |
| On September 11, 2001, Welles was at his job on the 104th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center when the Twin Towers were attacked. What he did next would alter the course of many lives. |
| Walker, Paul Robert  **Pride of Puerto Rico: The Life of Roberto Clemente** |
| A biography of the baseball superstar from Puerto Rico who, before his untimely death in a 1972 airplane crash, was noted for his achievements on and off the baseball field. |

**Mystery**

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| Black, Holly  **Doll Bones** |
| Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. |
| Haddix, Margaret Peterson  **Greystone Secrets #1: The Strangers** or its sequel |
| What makes you *you*? The Greystone kids thought they knew. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach the Greystone kids, and they’re shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these complete strangers. Who, exactly, are these strangers? |
| Korman, Gordon  **Masterminds** or any in the series |
| A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment. |
| Stead, Rebecca  **Liar & Spy** |
| Seventh-grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. |
| Stroud, Jonathan  **The Screaming Staircase** or any in the series |
| Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London. |
| Westerfeld, Scott  **Horizon** or its sequels |
| When Aero Horizon 16 crashes in the Arctic, eight children emerge from the wreckage to find themselves alone and surrounded, not by ice, but by a mysterious and deadly jungle full of carnivorous plants and predatory birds--the other five hundred people from the plane are gone, not necessarily dead, but taken by something that lives in the jungle. |

**Science Fiction**

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| DuPrau, Jeanne  **City of Ember** or any in the series |
| Ember, built as a last refuge for the human race, is running out of power two hundred years later, but twelve-year-old Lina thinks there may yet be hope when she finds part of an ancient message that may hold a key to getting out of the city. |
| Haddix, Margaret Peterson  **Among the Hidden** or any in the series |
| In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. |
| Hernandez, Carlos  **Sal & Gabi Break the Universe** |
| In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. |
| L’Engle, Madeleine  **A Wrinkle in Time** or any in the series |
| Meg and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. |
| Oppel, Kenneth  **Bloom** or its sequels |
| The invasion begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. |
| Shusterman, Neal  **Tesla’s Attic** |
| With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla. |