

## Assessment

All students are required to complete their reading **prior to the start of the school year**. In addition to reading one book, students are expected to respond to TWO of the topics listed below. Each response should be at least one (1) paragraph in length (5-8 complete sentences).

Responses should be typed or recorded on a sheet of lined paper.

### Response Topics:

- ◆ Describe one problem or conflict in this book. How was it resolved?
- ◆ What connections to your own life did you make while reading this book?
- ◆ Does the character remind you of yourself or of people you know? Does the problem in the story remind you of something that happened in your life?
- ◆ What do the main character's actions show you about his/her personality and interests?
- ◆ Describe the similarities and differences between the main character and you?

**Please be prepared to have your written response for your ELA teacher on the 1st day of school.**

Your book selection should be of interest to you.

Book summaries from:  
[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com), [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com),  
[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

### **Chasing Vermeer** (770L) Blue Balliett

When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay together, strange things start to happen. The two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal. The pair are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, and they must use their powers of intuition, problem solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has left even the FBI baffled?

### **The Thief Lord** (640L) Cornelia Funke

Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious 13-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord". Brilliant and charismatic, the Thief Lord leads a ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo delight in being part of this colorful new family, but the Thief Lord has secrets of his own. Soon the boys are thrust into circumstances that will lead them to a fantastic, spellbinding conclusion.

### **War Horse** (1090L) Michael Morpurgo

Joey is a warhorse, but he wasn't always. Once, he was a farm horse and a 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 chart the enemy, drag heavy artillery, and carry wounded soldiers. Amongst the clamoring of guys and slogging through the cold mud, Joey wonders if the war will ever end. And if it does, will he ever find Albert again?

### **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key** (970L) Jack Gantos

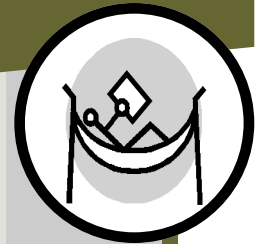
Joey Pigza's got heart, he's got a mom who loves him, and he's got 'dud meds', the pills that are supposed to even out his wild mood swings. Sometimes Joey makes bad choices. Joey ends up bouncing around a lot – and eventually bounces himself into the district Special-Ed program, which could be the end of the line. As Joey knows, if he keeps making bad choices, he could just fall between the cracks for good. He is determined not to let that happen.

### **Maze of Bones** (39 Clues Book 1) (610L) Rick Riordan

Minutes before she died Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: one million dollars or a clue. Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahill's, the world's most powerful family. Everyone from Napoleon to Houdini is related to the Cahill's, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents.

Emerson J. Dillon  
Middle School  
Phoenix, NY

**Incoming Sixth  
Grade**



**2019 Summer  
Reading List**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

SRI Lexile \_\_\_\_\_

This summer you have the opportunity to engage in leisure reading. Your teachers have compiled a list of some of their favorite books. Readers of all levels should find something interesting. Incoming sixth graders are required to read **ONE book from this list**. Happy Reading!

**A Year Down Yonder** (610L)

Richard Peck

Grandma Dowdel's back! This time, Mary Alice regales us with the tales of life with Grandma during a long year spent in her "hick town" where no one is as modern, sophisticated or clever as Mary Alice is.

From the first moment when she arrives at the depot clutching her Philco portable radio and her cat, Bootsie, Mary Alice knows it won't be easy. She becomes an accomplice in Grandma's outrageous schemes to run the town her own way - and do good while nobody's looking. Being

Grandma's sidekick is always interesting, and by the end of the year, Mary Alice has grown to see the formidable love in the heart of her Grandma.



**Stella by Starlight** (740) (Battle of the Books)

Sharon Draper

Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

**Silverwing** (660L) Kenneth Oppel

A small bat's curiosity touches off a war of extermination against all his kind in this action-packed Odyssey.

**Dogsong** (930L) Gary Paulson

As John Borne closes in on the doe he's been tracking for two days, he comes to believe she has the mysterious power to cheat death and save the life of his beloved grandfather, who is dying of cancer.

**The White Giraffe** (940L) Lauren St. John

Losing parents in a tragic fire and restarting life with an unwelcoming grandmother would be overwhelming for most 11-year olds, and Martine is no exception. What's worse, Martine has never met her grandmother, who presides over a large game preserve in faraway South Africa. Even so, from the moment Martine steps off the plane, she senses that her new home holds a special destiny, one that begins to unfold when she learns about a legendary white giraffe. The beautiful creature appears one day, and Martine, who is just becoming aware of her own mystical gifts begins a heroic journey that teaches her to explore and prevent the destructive work of poachers.

**Midnight for Charlie Bone** (630L) Jenny Nimmo

The fabulous powers of the Red King were passed down through his descendants, after turning up quite unexpectedly in someone who had no idea where they came from. This is what happened to Charlie Bone, and to some of the children he met behind the grim, gray walls of Bloor's Academy. Charlie Bone has discovered an unusual gift—he can hear people in photographs talking! His scheming aunts decide to send him to Bloor Academy, a school for geniuses where he uses his gifts to discover the truth despite all the dangers that lie ahead.

**The Wanderer** (830L) Sharon Creech

13-year-old Sophie hears the sea calling her. She decides to join her uncles and male cousins on a sailing voyage from Connecticut to England on a 45-foot sailboat. Along the way, Sophie proves her bravery and competence to the grumpy all-male crew, intrigues and captivates her cousin Cody with her odd stories of Bompie that always somehow end in underwater disaster and apple pie, and spills her heart into a daily journal. Sophie's adventures take her not only into perilous waves higher than buildings, but deep into her hidden past.

**The Adirondack Kids** series (250-350L) Gary VanRiper

Justin Robert is ten years old and likes computers, biking and peanut butter cups. But his passion is animals. When an uncommon pair of Common Loons takes up residence on Fourth Lake in the Adirondacks near the family camp, he will do anything he can to protect them.

**Zoobreak** (700L) Gordon Korman

When Griffin Bing's class goes to a floating zoo, they don't expect to see animals being treated so badly. They don't expect to find Cleo, Dog Whisperer Savannah's pet monkey who's been missing for weeks, and they don't expect to have to hide the animals once they've rescued them! Hilarity ensues as Griffin's team pulls off a heist...trying to break the animals back into a zoo!

**Among the Hidden** (800L) Margaret Peterson Haddix  
Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development next to his family's farm, he is no longer allowed to go outside. Then, one day, Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows. Does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan?

**Tuck Everlasting** (770L) Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family discovers a spring which grants eternal life, decides to protect it for the sake of humanity, and finally meets challenges to their goals in the form of a 10-year olds inquisitive mind and a greedy stranger who suspects their secret.

**Varjak Paw** (500L) SF Said

Mesopotamian Blue cat, Varjak Paw, has never been outside before; he and his family have always lived in the isolated house at the top of the hill. But Varjak is forced out into the city when a sinister gentleman and his 2 cats take over his home. With the help from his mystical ancestor, Jalal, Varjak manages to overcome challenges and ultimately discovers the terrifying secrets behind the Vanishings.

**The Secret City** (500L) Chris Archer

George is fascinated by his family's legacy, the stories that link his ancestors to the infamous pirate Captain Kidd. But for 12 years, everyone has told him the stories are rumors. Now George has discovered the truth. And the truth is hidden in the web of tunnels mysteriously dug underneath his house in Manhattan. There are secrets to be revealed, friendships to be tested, and ancient injustices to be set right. George and his friends will sink deep underground to a secret city in search of treasure, but they'll find they aren't the only ones looking for it—and there's much more at stake.

**The False Prince** (710L) Jennifer Nielson

In a medieval kingdom, civil war is brewing, but a devious nobleman named Conner has a plan to gain control. He's going to put an impersonator of the king's long-lost son on the throne, and then he himself will rule from behind the scenes. After scouring the land, Conner finds Sage and three other orphans and forces them to compete for the role—or face certain death. Sage doesn't trust Conner one bit, but he's determined to win the competition. And he's got a few tricks up his sleeve.