

Jefferson Middle School

Summer 2017 Reading Program

Incoming Sixth Graders are to select two of the following titles to read over the summer and be prepared to discuss and speak to the books read in their English class:

The Bubble Wrap Boy Earle, Phil	The Courage Test Preller, James
Dark Water Rising Hale, Marian	Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Brown, Don
Every Soul a Star Mass, Wendy	Flash Fire Cooney, Caroline
Lost in the Labyrinth Kindl, Patrice	Medusa Hirschmann, Kris
Quicksilver Spinner, Stephanie	Wild Girl Giff, Patricia Reilly

Sixth Grade 2017 Reading List Summary of Books

The Bubble Wrap Boy By: Earle, Phil

Fourteen-year-old social outcast Charlie Han, known as "the short Chinese kid" at school, searches for a talent to improve his popularity, but when he discovers skateboarding, much to the disapproval of his overprotective mother, he also uncovers a huge family secret.

The Courage Test By: Preller, James

Will has no choice. His father drags him along on a wilderness adventure in the footsteps of legendary explorers Lewis and Clark--whether he likes it or not. All the while, Will senses that something about this trip isn't quite right. Along the journey, Will meets fascinating strangers and experiences new thrills, including mountain cliffs, whitewater rapids, and a heart-hammering bear encounter. It is a journey into the soul of America's past, and the meaning of family in the future. In the end, Will must face his own, life-changing test of courage. A father-and-son journey along the Lewis and Clark Trail--from Fort Mandan to the shining sea--offers readers a genre-bending blend of American history, thrilling action, and personal discovery.

Dark Water Rising By: Hale, Marian

While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could, but he still must face his father man-to-man.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans By: Brown, Don

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage - and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history.

Every Soul a Star By: Mass, Wendy

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at the one place the Great Eclipse can be seen in totality, each carrying the burden of different personal problems, which become dim when compared to the task they embark upon and the friendship they find.

Flash Fire By: Cooney, Caroline

As fire sweeps through a canyon near Los Angeles, teenagers Danna and Hall Press and other children whose parents are not around must work together to save themselves.

Lost in the Labyrinth By: Kindl, Patrice

Fourteen-year-old Princess Xenodice tries to prevent the death of her half-brother, the Minotaur, at the hands of the Athenian prince, Theseus, who is aided by Icarus, Daedalus and her sister Ariadne.

Medusa By: Hirschmann, Kris

Describes the history of the legend of Medusa, including the ancient Greek myth of Perseus and the Gorgons, representations of Medusa in art, and modern versions of the monster in popular culture.

Quicksilver By: Spinner, Stephanie

Hermes, Prince of Thieves and son of Zeus, relates why the seasonal change, the history of the Trojan War, his friendship with Pegasus, and many more adventures.

Wild Girl By: Giff, Patricia Reilly

When twelve-year-old Lidie leaves Brazil to join her father and brother on a horse ranch in New York, she has a hard time adjusting to her changed circumstances, as does a new horse that has come to the ranch.