**6th Grade**

**Summer 2019 Reading Program**

**Incoming Sixth Graders select two of the following titles:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Brown Girl Dreaming**  **Woodson, Jacqueline** | **Counting By 7s**  **Sloan, Holly Goldberg** |
| **Finding Someplace**  **Patrick, Denise Lewis** | **The Immortal Fire**  **Ursu, Anne** |
| **Ninth Ward**  **Rhodes, Jewell Parker** | **Nobody’s Princess**  **Friesner, Esther** |
| **Schooled**  **Korman, Gordon** | **Standing for Socks**  **Weissman, Elissa Brent** |
| **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March**  **Lowery, Lynda** | **Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961**  **Brimner, Larry Dane** |

**Brown Girl Dreaming**

**Woodson, Jacqueline**  
Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

**Counting by 7s**

**Sloan, Holly Goldberg**

In the tradition of *Out of My Mind*, *Wonder,*and *Mockingbird,* this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.   
  
Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn’t kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.  
  
Suddenly Willow’s world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

**Finding Someplace**

**Patrick, Denise Lewis**

Reesie Boone just knows that thirteen is going to be her best year yet - this will be the year she makes her very first fashion design on her Ma Maw's sewing machine. She'll skip down the streets of New Orleans with her best friends, Ayanna and Orlando, and everyone will look at her in admiration.

But on Reesie's birthday, everything changes. Hurricane Katrina hits her city. Stranded at home alone, Reesie takes refuge with her elderly neighbor, Miss Martine. The waters rise. They escape in a boat. And soon Reesie is reunited with her family. But her journey back home has only begun.

This is a story of a family putting itself back together, and a young girl learning to find herself.

**The Immortal Fire**

###### **Ursu, Anne**

After their near-fatal battle with Poseidon, Charlotte and Zee would love nothing more than to relax and forget all over again that the Greek gods are real. But with the world in peril and no one else to save it, that just isn't an option. Charlotte and Zee meet the Prometheans, an ancient brotherhood trying to protect mankind from the whims of the gods, who think they might have finally found a weapon capable of bringing Zeus to his knees. But using this weapon will come at a great cost, one Charlotte and Zee are not willing to pay. They strike out on their own for Mount Olympus, with the Prometheans, an angry Chimera, and all sorts of mythological beings on their tail.

**Ninth Ward**

**Rhodes, Jewell Parker**

New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina is the setting for this tense novel that blends the drama of the catastrophic storm with magic realism. Twelve-year-old Lanesha’s teenage mother died while giving birth to her, and, because her mother’s wealthy uptown family won’t have anything to do with her, she is raised in the Ninth Ward by loving Mama Ya-Ya, 82, who feels like her “mother and grandmother both.” Born with a caul over her eyes, Lanesha is teased at school, but she is strengthened by her fierce caretaker’s devotion and by a teacher who inspires Lanesha to become an engineer and build bridges. Lanesha also has “second sight,” which includes an ability to see her mother’s ghost. As the storm nears and the call comes for mandatory evacuation, Mama Ya-Ya envisions that she will not survive, but Lanesha escapes the rising water in a small rowboat and even rescues others along the way. The dynamics of the diverse community enrich the survival story, and the contemporary struggle of one brave child humanizes the history.

**Nobody’s Princess**

**Friesner, Esther**

Determined to fend for herself in a world where only men have real freedom, headstrong Helen, who will be called queen of Sparta and Helen of Troy one day, learns to fight, hunt, and ride horses while disguised as a boy, and goes on an adventure throughout the Mediterranean world.

**Schooled**

**Korman. Gordon**

Homeschooled on an isolated “alternate farm commune” that has dwindled since the 1960s to two members, 13-year-old Cap has always lived with his grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent – like a lamb to slaughter – to middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced, long-haired Cap soon becomes the butt of pranks. He reacts in unexpected ways and, in the end, elevates those around him to higher ground.

**Standing for Socks**

**Weissman, Elissa Brent**

When Fara Ross accidentally wears mismatched socks to school one day, everybody talks. But, she realizes, continuing to mismatch is a fun way to promote her ideals: freedom of expression, originality, and celebrating differences. However, as her sock fame spreads from the classroom to the community, she worries that the novelty is overtaking her purpose. When she runs for sixth-grade president, the attention backfires and impacts both the election and her friendships, and Fara wonders if she’ll ever be known as more than “sock girl”.

**Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March**

**Lowery, Lynda**

Lynda Blackmon Lowery recounts her experiences as the youngest marcher on the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

**Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961**

**Brimner, Larry Dane**

On May 4, 1961, thirteen Freedom Riders board two buses in Washington, D.C., hoping to reach New Orleans and planning to practice nonviolent resistance of illegal Jim Crow practices along the way. These black and white men and women of varied ages shared a commitment to ending segregation and had the courage to put themselves in harm’s way. While their first encounters are minor, as they travel south, arrests and intimidation increase, culminating in mob violence and the firebombing of one bus. The 1961 Freedom Riders helped bring conditions in the South to national attention, increasing public support for stronger civil rights laws and enforcement.