

PELHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL



Lynn M. Sabia, Principal
Sean A. Llewellyn, Assistant Principal

June, 2019

Dear Parents,

Attached, you will find the supply list and summer reading list for incoming sixth grade students.

J.K. Rowling once stated, "I think it's the books that you read when you're young that live with you forever." Reading is not only a medium for transmitting information but also a way to travel to worlds beyond our own, nurturing our imaginations, our minds, and our spirits. While reading, we can explore other cultures, new ideas, and unfamiliar people facing challenges similar to ours. Whether it is a story of a struggle for civil rights in America or a struggle for virtue in a Tolkien novel like *Lord of the Rings*, books have the power to capture our curiosity and help us see the world with new eyes.

To encourage these journeys, we are providing reading lists of suggested titles to guide students in their reading choices. Please refer to the appropriate list for your child by grade level. These lists were compiled by the classroom teachers, the library media specialist, and the Pelham Public Library. Our goal is for students to read during the summer as a recreational and pleasurable activity. A 2001 Report of the National Reading Panel by J.W. Cunningham states that "the more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension." We believe that summer reading is critical to our students' overall development and should be a joint responsibility of the school and home.

All middle school students should read a minimum of **three** books. These books may, but do not have to, come from the suggested reading list. We encourage you to assist your child in fulfilling this requirement. Browsing titles at the Pelham Public Library or at a local bookstore is an opportunity to support good reading choices. Please keep in mind that many young adult books deal with sensitive or more mature themes or content. Therefore, previewing the books before your child begins to read is suggested. **At the end of the summer, each student should complete the form on the last page of the reading list. This form asks for a list of the three books that your child chose to read along with a parent or guardian signature. These forms will be collected during the first week of school in September.**

Some of the titles may also be available on audio and would make for wonderful listening on long trips. You may also want to read the books your child selects so that you can talk about them together. We would like Pelham Middle School to be a community of readers, and need your support in achieving this goal.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn M. Sabia".

Lynn Sabia
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Maria H. Thompson".

Maria Thompson, Ed.D.
Director of Humanities, K-12

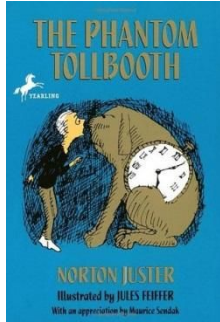
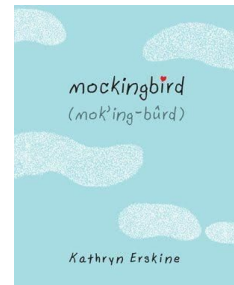
"An IB World School Offering the Middle Years Programme"

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6th Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

Mockingbird- Kathryn Erskine

Ten year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. (Fiction, Mature)

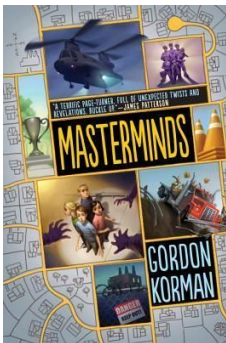
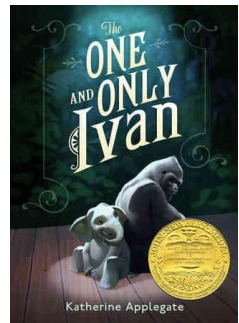


The Phantom Tollbooth – Norton Juster

Milo, a bored ten-year old, comes home to find a toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth's gates and begins a memorable journey. (Fiction)

The One and Only Ivan- Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. (A Newbery Award winner, Fiction)

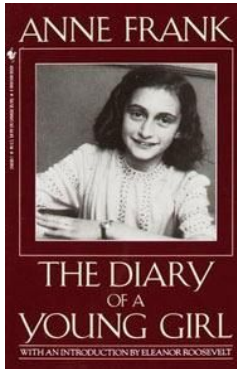
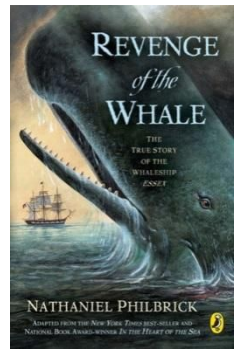


Masterminds- Gordon Korman

From bestselling author Gordon Korman comes a thrilling new middle grade trilogy of kids living in a Pleasantville-type town who discover a dark secret that connects them to some of the greatest criminal masterminds of their time. (Fiction)

Revenge of the Whale – Nathaniel Philbrick

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship “Essex” by an enraged whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. (Non-fiction)

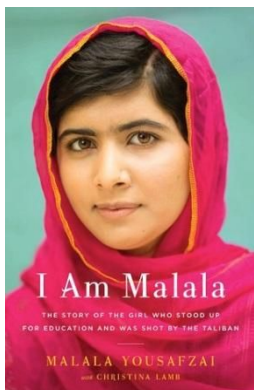


The Diary of a Young Girl- Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. (Non-fiction)

The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue – Michael Tougias

In the winter of 1952, New England was battered by the most brutal nor'easter in years. As the weather wreaked havoc on land, the freezing Atlantic became a wind-whipped zone of peril. (Non-fiction)



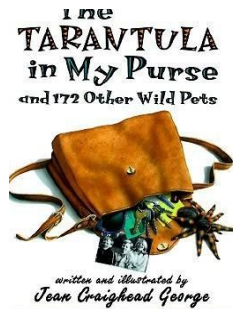
I am Malala - The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban - Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. (Non-fiction, Mature)

The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets – Jean Craighead George

Humorous, heart-warming, and just plain entertaining, these stories by Newbery Medalist Jean Craighead George recall what life was like as she raised three children and 173 wild pets.

(Non-fiction)



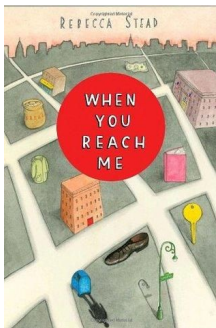
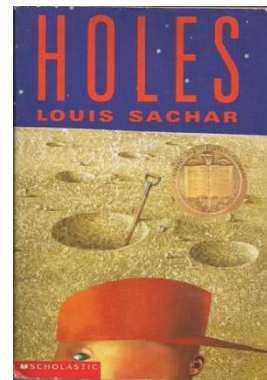
6th Grade Top Picks

Holes- Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats, a boy who has bad luck due to a curse placed on his great- great-grandfather, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, for a crime he did not commit.

Stanley and the other boys at the camp are forced to dig large holes in the dirt every day.

(Fiction)



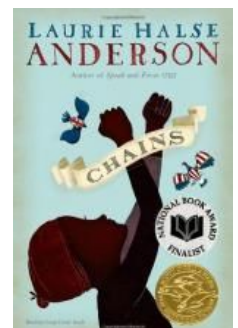
When You Reach Me- Rebecca Stead

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for an emergency is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note and the notes keep coming. Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet.

(Fiction)

Chains- Laurie Halse Anderson

The story of a thirteen-year-old slave named Isabel and her journey to discover her inner strength and fight for her freedom amidst the depravity of slavery and the upheaval of the Revolutionary War that divided America. (Fiction, Mature)



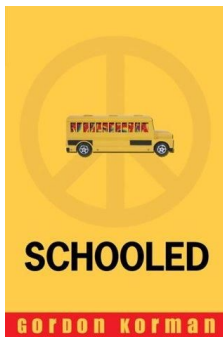


Everything for a Dog- Ann. M Martin

In this companion to her acclaimed 2005 novel, *A Dog's Life*, Ann M. Martin tells the parallel stories of a stray dog (the brother of the dog featured in *A Dog's Life*), a boy dealing with unspeakable loss, and a boy whose most ardent wish is to own a dog—and everything for a dog. (Fiction, Mature)

One for the Murphys – Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Twelve-year-old Carley Connors can take a lot. Growing up in Las Vegas with her fun-loving mother, she's learned to be tough. But she never expected a betrayal that would land her in a foster care. When she's placed with the Murphys, a lively family with three boys, she's blindsided. Do happy families really exist? Carley knows she could never belong in their world, so she keeps her distance. (Fiction, Mature)



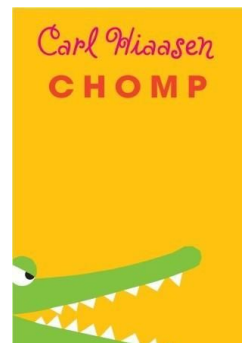
Schooled – Gordon Korman

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school. (Fiction)

Chomp – Carl Hiaasen

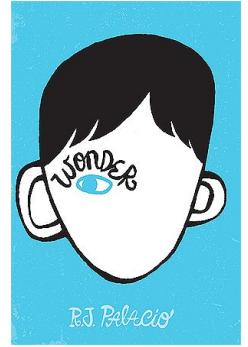
A combination of wild animals and reality TV is mixed with a dose of humor, adventure and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Florida Everglades and Wahoo Cray, the young animal wrangler, and his new friend Tuna are the only ones who can find him. (Fiction)

Also: Hoot, Flush, Scat



Wonder - RJ Palacio

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Augie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life, in an attempt to protect him from the cruelty of the outside world. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. (Fiction)



6th Grade Book Series Recommendations

Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene

Divergent by Veronica Roth (Mature)

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

Hardy Boys by Franklin W. Dixon

Kingdom Keeper by Ridley Pearson

Mr. Terrupt by Rob Buyea (Mature)

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Steward

I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore (Mature)

The Doll People by Ann. M Martin

Michael Vey by Richard Paul Evans

The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer

I Funny by James Patterson

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (Mature)

Alex Rider by Anthony Horowitz

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Mature)

****PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Please be reminded that some young adult titles may contain more mature content or deal with sensitive matters. Please consider previewing your child's selections.



**TOWN OF PELHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Get a jump start on this fall's
Pelham Reads! with
***Hidden Figures*, by Margot Lee Shetterly.**

A VARIETY OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WEB SITES

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu> is the homepage for the BCCB, one of the best sites for information on quality literature for children.

American Library Association

<https://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading/children> is a collection of ALA's literature award winners and various notable reading lists for children.

Newbery Award Winners

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal> allows you to browse the many years of Newbery Award winners. Dozens of extraordinary books are included for your consideration as you search for books to enjoy over the summer.

Read Kiddo Read

<http://www.readkiddoread.com> is a successful and popular site for a variety of readers. Try it out, and be sure to share its great suggestions with your friends!

PMS SUMMER READING LOG

Please complete this form as legibly as possible. Your English teacher will collect it during the first week of school.

Student Name: _____

Book Title #1 _____

Author _____

Book Title #2 _____

Author _____

Book Title #3 _____

Author _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian
Signature: _____