



# BayView ACADEMY

## St. Mary Academy - Bay View Sixth Grade Summer Reading List 2017

You will be required to read three books this summer. The summer reading requirement is designed to encourage you to become avid, life-long readers and learners by inviting you to take pleasure in reading substantial, thought-provoking books. We hope you will find reading a pleasure in itself and that reading more than the required number of self-selected reading choices is encouraged! Although the majority of these novels are recommended by the American Library Association, we encourage parents and students to investigate and discuss book options together in order to make appropriate choices.

Sign the reading contract at the end of this document and bring all documents to your first English class. You will need to print out **two copies** of the summer reading fiction notes and **one copy** of the biography pyramid.

### Book List Fiction and Biography

Choose **one book** from the biography list found at the end of this document and complete the biography pyramid, both posted under grade 6 summer learning.

Choose **two books** from the following fiction list and complete the summer reading notes, posted under grade 6 summer learning.

### READING CONTRACT

**I have read the following assigned and self-selected books this summer vacation:**

**BOOK 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

## FICTION LIST

- ***When You Reach Me*** by Rebecca Stead  
Shortly after sixth-grader Miranda and her best friend Sal part ways, for some Inexplicable reason her once familiar world turns upside down. Maybe it's because she's caught up in reading *A Wrinkle in Time* and trying to understand time travel, or perhaps it's because she's been receiving mysterious notes which accurately predict the future. Rebecca Stead's poignant novel, *When You Reach Me*, captures the interior monologue and observations of kids who are starting to recognize and negotiate the complexities of friendship and family, class and identity.
- ***The Thing About Jellyfish*** by Ali Benjamin  
After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.
- ***Absolutely Normal Chaos*** by Sharon Creech.  
Mary Louis is keeping a journal as an English class assignment. Through the entries, the events of her summer come alive.
- ***The Underneath*** by Kathi Appelt  
A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath.
- ***Scat*** by Carl Hiaasan  
While on a field trip in a Florida wildlife preserve, Nick and Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts and their unpopular teacher disappears. There's a lot more going on in Black Vine Swamp than any one player in this twisted tale can see. And Nick and Marta will have to reckon with an eccentric eco-avenger, a stuffed rat named Chelsea, a wannabe Texas oilman, a singing substitute teacher, and a ticked-off Florida panther before they *really* begin to see the big picture.
- ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*** by John Boyne  
Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. This novel tells the bystander story of the Holocaust from the viewpoint of an innocent nine-year-old boy.
- ***Firegirl*** by Tony Abbott  
A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment in a hospital. Tom exhibits empathy and understanding to a needy peer and finds a friendship that brings him out of his own shell.
- ***Project Mulberry*** by Linda Sue Park  
While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia Song, a Korean-American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more.

- ***Julie of the Wolves*** by Jean Craighead George  
Miyax runs away from home toward San Francisco, toward her pen pal, who calls her Julie. Miyax becomes lost in the Alaskan wilderness. She is accepted by a pack of Arctic wolves. She struggles to survive with help from the wolves and training from her father.
- ***Island of the Blue Dolphins*** by Scott O'Dell  
This is a story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. Here is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.
- ***The Misfits*** by Howard James  
Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.
- ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio  
After being home-schooled for years, Auggie Pullman is about to start fifth grade, but he's worried: How will he fit into middle school life when he looks so different from everyone else?
- ***The Door in the Wall*** by Marguerite De Angeli  
This Newbery Medal winning story, set in medieval times, is about a boy who learns his own strength when he saves the castle and discovers there is more than one way to serve his king.
- ***Chomp*** by Carl Hiaasen  
Carl Hiaasen takes on reality TV in his latest novel (Knopf, 2012). Wahoo Cray is the assistant to his wild animal wrangler father. Their property holds everything from alligators to Bobcats that appear in TV shows and films. However, after Wahoo's father suffers a serious injury, debts pile up and his mother takes a temporary job in China. It also forces Wahoo and his father to accept a lucrative but questionable gig with the reality show, "Expedition Survival." James Van Der Beek's narration captures the cast of colorful characters in this fast-paced, humorous story.
- ***Red Pyramid: The Kane Chronicles (Book One)*** by Rick Riordan  
Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them, Set, has his sights on the Kanes. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe - a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

## **BIOGRAPHY LIST (Reading Level/AR points)**

- ***Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth*** by James Cross Giblin (8.3/12pts)  
Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his actor brother John Wilkes Booth, describing the differences between the two men, chronicling John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and examining the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward.

- ***Charles and Emma: the Darwins' Leap of Faith*** by Deborah Heiligman (7.6/11pts)  
A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the impact of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife.
- ***Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy*** by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin (8.3/7pts)  
Presents a biography of Jane Addams, suffragist, civil rights activist, and founder of Hull House in the slums of Chicago that draws from hundreds of historical documents; and contains archival photographs of her life and activities. ***Steve Jobs: the Man who Thought Different*** by Karen Blumenthal (8.2/9pts) Chronicles the life and accomplishments of Apple mogul Steve Jobs, discussing his ideas, and describing how he has influenced life in the twenty-first century.
- ***Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice by Phillip Hoose*** (6.8/5pts)  
Presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case.
- ***Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty*** by Russell Freedman (8.4/4pts) A biography of Benjamin Franklin that follows him from his childhood in Boston, where he was the son of a poor soap and candle maker with seventeen children, to his death, describing how Franklin became a self-made man who died a renowned statesman, scientist, printer, author, and inventor.
- ***Marie Curie*** by Kathleen Krull (8.3/4pts)  
Presents a biography of Polish-French physicist and chemist Marie Curie, who was a pioneer in the field of radioactivity and won a Noble prize in both physics and in chemistry.
- ***Amelia Lost: the Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*** by Candace Fleming (6.6/5pts)  
Traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane, and includes photographs, maps, handwritten notes by Amelia, and sidebars.
- ***Temple Grandin: How the Girl who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*** by Sy Montgomery (7.0/4pts)  
Examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, whose childhood diagnosis of autism and love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry.
- ***She Touched the World: Laura Bridgeman, Deaf-blind Pioneer*** by Sally Hobart Alexander and Robert Alexander (6.9/2pts)  
Chronicles the life of Laura Bridgman, who, at the age of five, became both deaf and blind, and recounts how she learned to communicate with the world around her and became one of the most famous people in the world.

- ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer*** by James L. Swanson (7.5/6pts)  
Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.
- ***Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to get Back on the Board***  
by Bethany Hamilton (6/5pts)  
The amazing story of the thirteen-year-old surfer girl who lost her arm in a shark attack but never lost her faith -- and of her triumphant return to competitive surfing.