



**Margarita Sanchez-
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K-12 Supervisor
Language Arts**

June 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation... and a great opportunity to read! According to research, students who read during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills. However, students who do not read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

We encourage students entering the **6th grade** to continue improving their reading skills by reading as much as possible over the summer months. All Millville sixth-grade students are **required to read one book** from the attached list. Many of these books are available to be borrowed from the Millville Public Library or purchased at a book store. Students will be **evaluated** on the book of their choice for summer reading by the language arts literacy teachers in September:

1. Complete the attached Sixth Grade Book Reflection and illustration sheets.
2. Take an Accelerated Reader test at school.

The graphic organizer is due the first day of school, but no later than **Friday, September 11, 2015**.

Students should take notes on the book they plan on using for the assessment that will be given in September. When they take the Accelerated Reader test for their book, they will be allowed to use their notes to help them complete the assessment!

The Accelerated Reader test will count as the **first language arts test grade** for the first marking period.

It is through practice that both the skills and love of reading will grow. At Millville Public Schools, readers are leaders! Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Margarita S. Colina

K-12 Language Arts and Title I Supervisor
Millville Public Schools

Summer Reading List for Students Entering Sixth Grade

Brink, Carol Ryrie. *Caddie Woodlawn*

American pioneer life and the everyday experiences of the Woodlawn family, members of a farming community at the edge of the western Wisconsin wilderness is described through the experiences of an eleven-year-old tomboy.

Castle, Jennifer. *The Beginning of After*

When her family is killed in an accident, Laurel must find a way to deal with the aftermath and begin her life anew.

Chow, Cara. *Bitter Melon*

Destined for an outstanding university and medical career, Frances rebels against her Chinese “tiger mom” by taking speech instead of calculus and discovers a talent for speaking up.

Fisher, Catherine. *The Dark City*

Relic Master Galen and his apprentice Raffi must travel to the ruined city of Tasceron to restore Galen’s powers and find a powerful object to bring back the Old Order, which is under siege.

Gardiner, John Reynolds. *Stone Fox*

Little Willy has a big job to do. When his grandfather falls ill, it is up to Willy alone to save their farm from the tax collector, but where can a ten-year-old get five hundred dollars in a hurry?

George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*

Miyax, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo whose mother is dead and whose father disappeared while hunting, has run away. She intends to use the survival skills her father taught her to eventually get to San Francisco to visit her pen pal and gets lost.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*

A contemporary black family buys a house in Ohio. A century earlier, Dies Drear, an abolitionist, and two slaves that he had been hiding in this same house were murdered. Now the family is in danger.

Hesse, Karen. *Letters from Rifka*

Rifka dreams of a life in America, but she may never get there. Rifka and her family have fled Russia’s brutal treatment of the Jews for a new life in America. The path to freedom is full of terrible obstacles.

Hesse, Karen. *Phoenix Rising*

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family’s wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Hobbs, Will. *Kokopelli’s Flute*

Tepary Jones, 13, sets out to view a total eclipse of the full moon from the ruins of a cliff dwelling near his family’s farm in New Mexico. Tep finds an eagle-bone flute and then the magic begins.

Hobbs, Will. *Wild Man Island*

The adventure of a lifetime begins when on the last day of a sea kayak trip in southeast Alaska, fourteen-year-old Andy Galloway paddles away from the group and his father, an archaeologist, dies.

Jacques, Brian. *Outcast of Redwall*

Abandoned as an infant by his father, Veil is raised by the kindhearted Bryony. Despite concerns from everyone at Redwall, Bryony is convinced that Veil’s goodness will prevail. When he commits a crime that is unforgivable, he is banished from the abbey forever. Veil must eventually make a choice between his father and the kindhearted Bryony.

Jester, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth*

A journey through a land where Milo learns that the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

Keatley, Zilpha. *The Egypt Game*

The story focuses on the experiences of its precocious female protagonist, April, as she encounters loneliness, prejudice, friendship, and murder. Sent to live with her dead father’s mother in California, April learns to adjust to her new environment, make friends, and care for her grandmother.

Lowry, Lois. *Gathering Blue*

Left orphaned and physically flawed, young Kira faces a frightening, uncertain future. Blessed with an almost magical talent that keeps her alive, she struggles with ever broadening responsibilities in her quest for truth, discovering things that will change her life forever.

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *Under the Mesquite*

When Lupita's mother is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family shifts, bringing big changes for this tight-knit Mexican-American family.

Okorafor, Nnedi. *Akata Witch*

American-born Sunny, who lives in Nigeria, is an athlete but, being albino, can only play at night. She is a misfit until she discovers soul mates, juju, and latent magical powers.

Paulson, Gary. *Nightjohn*

A female slave at the Waller plantation, first sees Nightjohn when he is brought there. He had escaped north to freedom, but he came back – came back to teach reading. Knowing there is punishment for reading, twelve-year-old Sarny is willing to take the risk to learn.

Paulson, Gary. *Woodsong*

Woodsong is a memoir which mostly teaches that people should "never give up, no matter how hard things may get."

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *I'll Be There*

Sam and Riddle Boarder move constantly with an unstable, criminal father, and all they have is each other until they meet Emily, a girl who recognizes their pain.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*

Although Stargirl is shunned by many at school for her unique presence, Leo Borlock, a fellow classmate, finds her inspiring and soon finds himself head-over-heels in love.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Wringer*

In Palmer LaRue's hometown of Waymer, turning ten is the biggest event of a boy's life. It marks the day when a boy is ready to take his place as a wringer at the annual Family Fest. It's an honor and a tradition, but for Palmer, it is something to dread. Although he can't admit this to anyone – Palmer does not want to be a wringer. He must learn how to stop being afraid and stand up for what he believes in.

Steig, William. *Abel's Island*

Abel's place in his familiar, mouse world has always been secure, but one stormy August day, furious flood water carry him off and dump him on an uninhabited island. Faced with the daily adventure of survival, he is moved to reexamine the easy way of life he had always accepted and discovers skills and talents in him.

Tolan, Stephanie S. *Surviving the Applewhites*

Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that is a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists.

Vieght, Cynthia. *Dacey's Song*

Momma had abandoned them and then later been traced to an asylum where she lay unrecognized, unknowing. So Dacey Tillerman, her brothers James and Sammy, and her sister Maybeth had spent the summer on their own, on a long and difficult journey to find a home and a new life with the grandmother they had never met before.

White, Ruth. *Belle Prater's Boy*

When Belle Prater disappears, her son, Woodrow, goes to live with his grandparents in Coal Station, Virginia. Woodrow's cousin, Gypsy, has hidden sorrows and secrets of her own. She wonders how Woodrow can accept his mother's disappearance when she's never gotten over her father's death. That is when Woodrow tells Gypsy the secret about his mother.

Sixth Grade Book Reflection

Name _____

Book Title _____ Author _____

1. List the main characters:

2. Choose five main events from the book and list them in the same order in which they took place:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. On the attached paper, choose one of the main events from above and draw a picture of it.

4. How is the character different at the end of the story than at the beginning?

5. Name a problem from the book and write how you would solve it had you been the character:

6. Write your personal opinion of this book.

