

Converse Middle School
Students Entering Grade 6
2009 Summer Reading List
Guidelines



What do I need to do?



- (1) Read one book from the attached “Theme” List, complete “Story Map” worksheet and be prepared to discuss the book in class.
- (2) Read one book from the attached “Reading for Fun” List and write a friendly letter to your 6th Grade Reading Teacher.

When do the worksheet and letter need to be turned in?

Both assignments are due on the first day of school, **Tuesday, August 25th**.



Where can I get a copy of the books I want?

Books are available at the Palmer Public Library, local booksellers or online.



What if I don't find a book that I like on the list?

Talk to one of the librarians at the Palmer Public Library. They might have other great books in mind to spark your interest!

What if I lose my reading list?



Extra copies of the reading list will be available at the Palmer Public Library the Converse Middle School office, or online at www.palmerschools.org throughout the summer.

Reading Bonuses!

Read 15 minutes a day and qualify for prizes at the Palmer Public Library, as well as our Summer Reading T-Shirt Celebration at Converse in September.



Read 5 or more MCBA's by the first week of school and qualify for a special drawing in next year's MCBA Challenge.

Impress your friends (and your 6th Grade Reading Teacher) by being able to talk about all of the great books you've been reading!

Converse Middle School
Students Entering Grade 6
Summer Reading List 2009

Dear Sixth Grade Reader,

In September you will begin the new school year with the theme of Survival stories. In order to be prepared to take part in this unit, you must read at least one book from the following “Theme” list.

“Theme List”

Bruchac, Joseph – *The Winter People*

14-year-old Saxso, an Abenaki Indian in 1759, confronts the harsh elements of winter and the cold, hard truths about life, as he pushes himself to rescue his family.

Fama, Elizabeth – *Overboard*

14-year-old Emily is “sort of” running away – at least, she plans to take the ferry to see her uncle on a neighboring island – but soon finds herself fighting for survival when the ferry sinks and she is plunged into the water. Will her strong will to live conquer the overwhelming fear and exhaustion she experiences during the struggle of a lifetime?

Farmer, Nancy – *A Girl Named Disaster*

11-year-old Nhamo faces the horrifying realities of the African wilderness and her own demons as she searches for family and acceptance.

George, Jean Craighead – *My Side of the Mountain*

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

or On the Far Side of the Mountain

Hobbs, Will – *Far North*

Two boys struggle to survive the perils of the Canadian Northwest after their plane crashes.

Korman, Gordon – *Island* (any of the books in the series)

London, Jack – *White Fang or Call of the Wild*

Morpurgo, Michael – *Kensuke’s Kingdom*

When Michael is swept off his family’s yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive--until he finds he is not alone.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds – *The Fear Place*

When he and his older brother Gordon are left camping alone in the Rocky Mountains, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fear of heights and his feelings about Gordon--with the help of a cougar.

Paterson, Katherine – *Bread and Roses, Too*

Twelve-year-old Rosa and thirteen-year-old Jake form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Speare, Elizabeth George – *The Sign of the Beaver*

Left alone to guard the family’s wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

Steig, William – *Abel’s Island*

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Wyss, Johann David – *The Swiss Family Robinson*

The enchanting story of a shipwrecked family --a minister, his wife, and four sons-- who are cast up on a desert island, build a wonderful house in a tree, and survive so cleverly and happily apart from the world that they never want to be rescued.

While reading, fill out the Story Map worksheet. Remember the Story Map counts as your first quiz grade for Reading, in the fall, so make sure you complete the assignment.

In addition to reading at least one book from the “Theme” list, you must choose at least one book from the “Reading for Fun” list:

“Reading for Fun List”

Alcott, Louisa May – *Eight Cousins*
Babbit, Natalie – *Tuck Everlasting*
Birdsall, Jeanne – *The Penderwicks or The Penderwicks on Gardam Street*
Burnett, Frances Hodgson – *The Secret Garden*
Duprau, Jeanne – *City of Ember (and its sequels, People of Sparks, and Prophet of Yonwood)*
Grahame, Kenneth – *Wind in the Willows*
Konigsburg, E.L. – *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Lewis, C.S. – *Chronicles of Narnia Series*
Nesbit, Edith – *The Railway Children or The Magic City*
Norton, Mary – *The Borrowers*
Riordan, Rick – *The Lightning Thief (and any of the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series)*
Scieszka, Jon – *Summer Reading is Killing Me (Time Warp Trio)*

or any of the 25 nominees for the 2009-2010 Massachusetts Children’s Book Award

Creech, Sharon. *The Castle Corona*.
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton*.
Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War*.
Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*.
Frederick, Heather Vogel. *Spy Mice: Goldwhiskers*.
Gormley, Beatrice. *Barack Obama: Our 44th President*.
Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found (The Missing, Book 1)*.
Helgerson, Joseph. *Horns and Wrinkles*.
James, Charlie. *Billy the Fish*.
Jonell, Lynne. *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*.
Kadohata, Cynthia. *Weedflower*.
Klages, Ellen. *The Green Glass Sea*.
Korman, Gordon. *Swindle*.
Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*.
Lupica, Mike. *The Big Field*.
McKissack, Patricia. *Abby Takes a Stand*.
Meehl, Brian. *Out of Patience*.
O’Connor, Barbara. *How to Steal a Dog*.
Paterson, Katherine. *Bread and Roses, Too*.
Prelutsky, Jack. *Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem*.
Reisman, Michael. *Simon Bloom, The Gravity Keeper*.
Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Paint the Wind*.
Sage, Angie. *Araminta Spookie 1: My Haunted House*. (Harper Collins).
Tolan, Stephanie S. *Listen!*
Woodson, Jacqueline. *Feathers*.

After reading a book from this list, you will write a friendly letter to your Reading teacher, indicating that you have read the book. This letter will be handed in to your Reading Teacher on the first day of school, August 25th.

Your friendly letter should include the following:

- Your address, date, and greeting in a friendly letter format
- 1st paragraph: A short introduction, including your name, a few facts about yourself, and the date you completed the book
- 2nd paragraph: The title and author of the book, a description of one or two of the main characters, the setting, and a summary of the story
- 3rd paragraph: Your personal rating of the book, from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, plus your reasons for the rating
- Be sure to say enough. Letters should be about one and a half pages handwritten, one page typed. If handwritten, please use blue or black pen.

Remember, you are expected to read at least two books, but hopefully you will take the opportunity this summer to explore many different books. Adventure awaits!

