



CCA Summer Reading Miss Burke– Grade 6

Dear Student,

Attached, you will find the summer reading list for your class. Your list consists of 10 or more carefully selected books. Each book is accompanied by a brief review or description that should provide you with enough information about the plot to determine whether or not it may be of interest to you. Your summer assignment is as follows:

The Reading –

1. Select and read any two books (minimum) from the list **THAT YOU HAVE NOT READ BEFORE**.
2. Decide which book you found most interesting (and best understood).
3. Choose one of the book reporting written activities on the attached sheet (the labeled numbers are the ones available for you to choose from).
4. Complete the activity *with excellence*.
5. ***Please make sure to sign and return the attached summer reading sign-off form.***

The Book Report Activity –

1. Regardless of the activity you choose, each activity must be *typed, double spaced, and written in size 12 font*.
2. The activity should reflect careful thought and time spent. By its quality and creativity, it should show that you took the assignment seriously and gave your best effort.
3. Length: there is no set length. Follow the guidelines given in the activity description, and keep in mind that something short and hastily written will receive the grade it deserves.

Final Note –

This may not be the type of reading you're used to, or would necessarily choose for yourself, but pray that God would grant you an open mind as you tackle these books. They're called classics for a reason, and each has something to teach us about human nature and the nature of God. Don't feel limited to the required two – if you have time and the desire, read as many books as you possibly can! Extra reading expands your vocabulary, which leads to better thinking and writing skills. Those skills, in turn, lead to greater opportunities both within school and beyond!

SUMMER READING SIGN-OFF FORM

I have read at least two books from Miss Burke's summer reading list and have completed the book reporting activity to the best of my ability.

Student Signature: _____

My child has read at least two books from the summer reading list and I have seen a completed (typed) book reporting activity.

Parent Signature: _____

Book Reporting: 6th Grade Written Activities

These alternative assignments to the standard "book report" can be used for reporting on fiction.

1. Write a diary as if you were one of the main characters in the book. Tell not only what is happening to you and others, but how you feel about what is taking place. Make a minimum of ten sequential entries of at least five sentences each.
2. Write a letter to the author of the book. Emphasize the parts of the book you liked best, one part you would change (telling specifically how), and name your favorite character. Tell exactly why you found the character likable and/or, believable.
3. Choose a main character from the book. Write a letter to him or her, giving advice on what he or she should do to solve the conflicts that have been presented in the book. Be sure your advice is different from the way the author resolves the problems.
4. Write a one-page biography of a character from the story. Use any and all information given by the author throughout the book. Write the facts about the character in chronological order, even if they weren't presented that way during the story.
5. Write a one-page summary of the story. Be sure to include the main characters, setting, plot, climax, and resolution, but be brief and to the point. Put the title and author's name at the top of the page, and put your name at the bottom.
6. Write one page about one of the characters. In the first paragraph, tell how the character *is* like you. In the second, tell how the character differs from you.

6th Grade Summer Reading List

1. **Holes** – Louis Sachar

Book description: Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

2. **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** or **Through the Looking Glass** – Lewis Carroll

Book Description: A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

3. **The Westing Game** –Ellen Raskin

Amazon.com book description: A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game! This hilarious mystery novel will keep you guessing the whole way through!

4. **Old Yeller** – Fred Gipson

Book Description: At first, Travis couldn't stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene. Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

5. **Tuck Everlasting** – Natalie Babbitt

Book Description: When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles upon the Tuck family's disturbing secret, she is forced to come to terms with her conflicting emotions. She feels drawn to the loving, gentle and rather eccentric Tucks, but what they tell her is too incredible to be believed. Doomed to? or blessed with? eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family tries to make Winnie understand why the terrible magic of the forest spring can never be revealed. The consequences to the world could prove to be disastrous!

6. **Chains** – Laurie Halse Anderson

From Amazon.com: Set in New York City at the beginning of the American Revolution, *Chains* addresses the price of freedom both for a nation and for individuals. Isabel tells the story of her life as a slave. She was sold with her five-year-old sister to a cruel Loyalist family even though the girls were to be free upon the death of their former owner. She has hopes of finding a way to freedom and becomes a spy for the rebels, but soon realizes that it is difficult to trust anyone. She chooses to find someone to help her no matter which side he or she is on. With short chapters, each beginning with a historical quote, this fast-paced novel reveals the heartache and struggles of a country and slave fighting for freedom. The characters are well developed, and the situations are realistic. An author's note gives insight into issues surrounding the Revolutionary War and the fight for the nation's freedom even though 20 percent of its people were in chains. Well researched and affecting in its presentation, the story offers readers a fresh look at the conflict and struggle of a developing nation. —Denise Moore, *O'Gorman Junior High School, Sioux Falls, SD*

7. **Bridge to Terabithia** – Katherine Paterson

Amazon.com review: The story starts out simply enough: Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the fifth grade—he wants it so bad he can taste it. He's been practicing all summer, running in the fields around his farmhouse until he collapses in a sweat. Then a tomboy named Leslie Burke moves into the farmhouse next door and changes his life forever. Not only does Leslie not look or act like any girls Jess knows, but she also turns out to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. After getting over the shock and humiliation of being beaten by a girl, Jess begins to think Leslie might be okay. Despite their superficial differences, it's clear that Jess and Leslie are soul mates. The two create a secret kingdom in the woods named Terabithia, where the only way to get into the castle is by swinging out over a gully on an enchanted rope. Here they reign as king and queen, fighting off imaginary giants and the walking dead, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against the schoolmates who tease them. Jess and Leslie find solace in the sanctuary of Terabithia until a tragedy strikes and the two are separated forever. In a style that is both plain and powerful, Katherine Paterson's characters will stir your heart and put a lump in your throat.

8. **Little Women** – Louisa May Alcott

From the Publisher: *Little Women* is one of the best-loved books of all time. Lovely Meg, talented Jo, frail Beth, spoiled Amy: these are hard lessons of poverty and of growing up in New England during the Civil War. Through their dreams, plays, pranks, letters, illnesses, and courtships, women of all ages have become a part of this remarkable family and have felt the deep sadness when Meg leaves the circle of sisters to be married at the end of Part I. Part II, chronicles Meg's joys and mishaps as a young wife and mother, Jo's struggle to become a writer, Beth's tragedy, and Amy's artistic pursuits and unexpected romance. Based on Louise May Alcott's childhood, this lively portrait of nineteenth-century family life possesses a lasting vitality that has endeared it to generations of readers.

9. **Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women** – Catherine Thimmesch

From School Library Journal: Grade 5-8: An outstanding collective biography of women and girls who changed the world with their inventions. Thimmesch surveys unique and creative ideas that were both borne of necessity or were simply a product of ingenuity and hard work. Included are Bette Nesmith Graham, who invented Liquid Paper, known more commonly as "white-out," and Ann Moore, who emulated the way African mothers carried their babies to create the Snuggli. While working for NASA, Jeanne Lee Crews invented the "space bumper" that protects spacecraft and astronauts. The last few individuals highlighted utilized their creativity at a fairly young age. Becky Schroeder was 10 when she invented Glo-sheet paper, which enables people to write in the dark. She became the youngest female to receive a U.S. patent. The book also encourages young women to start inventing themselves and offers a list of organizations with postal and Internet addresses to help them get started. Colorful collage artwork shows the women and their creations and adds vibrancy and lightness to the text.

10. **Ginger Pye** – Eleanor Estes

From Amazon.com: Meet Ginger Pye, the smartest dog you'll ever know. Jerry Pye and his sister, Rachel, feel pretty smart themselves for buying Ginger. It was the best dollar they ever spent. Ginger steals everybody's heart . . . until someone steals *him!*

11. **Sign of the Beaver** - Elizabeth George Speare

From Amazon.com: Although he faces responsibility bravely, thirteen-year-old Matt is more than a little apprehensive when his father leaves him alone to guard their new cabin in the wilderness. When a renegade white stranger steals his gun, Matt realizes he has no way to shoot game or to protect himself. When Matt meets Attean, a boy in the Beaver clan, he begins to better understand their way of life and their growing problem in adapting to the white man and the changing frontier.