



Doane Academy 2019 6th Grade Summer Reading



Dear Students:

Let's start by addressing your most pressing question: **Why have summer reading?**

Reading is vital. As we read, we test our own values and experiences with those of others. By the end of a book, we have encountered new experiences, ideas, and people. Hopefully, we know our world and ourselves a little better.

In addition, nothing develops your verbal skills like reading for pleasure! We teach grammar, usage, vocabulary, and spelling in our classes. Yet these efforts pale by comparison with what you can absorb naturally and painlessly if you read frequently on your own. Year in and year out, the students who read with the greatest understanding, write with the greatest clarity and purpose, and excel in national testing tend to be those who read widely. Reading confers tangible benefits as well as a variety of pleasures.

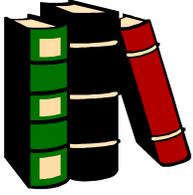
In compiling the list below, we have done our best to provide you with reading experiences of true quality. We have also sought to include a variety of books to ensure that each of you will find something of personal interest.

A Note on Outside Sources and Plagiarism:

While working on the summer reading, it is important for students to remember that all work must be their own. This means that students are to complete the work *without* consulting the internet or other outside sources. In addition, students are to complete work by themselves, without collaborating with peers. All English courses will begin the academic year with a discussion about plagiarism, and students will sign an academic honesty pledge in which they assert that they 1) understand the concept of plagiarism and 2) are aware of the consequences that come with it. As a school dedicated to the development of strong, ethical leaders, we take plagiarism very seriously.

Before beginning your summer reading assignments, please [click here](#) to view a video by the English Department Chair, Kath Brandwood; in it, Ms. Brandwood defines plagiarism and specifies how you can avoid it as you complete your summer reading assignment.

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Brandwood at kbrandwood@doaneacademy.org.



Doane Academy 2019 6th Grade Summer Reading



Assignment:

You are required to read **two** books over the summer: the one listed as **required** for your grade level and any one from the **secondary** list.

1. There will be an in-class writing assignment on your **required** book in September. It is recommended you read this text in August and take detailed notes. It is also recommended that you purchase a copy of this text to use in class at the start of the year.
2. Complete one of the two writing assignments below for your selected **secondary** text. Your final product should include references to specific character actions, narrative events, and textual passages.
 - a. Choose a character from your selected book whom you like or dislike. Explain why. Your response should be a minimum of 400 words and contain at least two paragraphs.
 - b. Write a letter to the author in which you express your opinion of their work and ask them to answer at least two questions you have about the text. Your letter should be a minimum of 400 words and contain at least two paragraphs.

*Rising Middle School students are strongly encouraged to take notes on their summer reading texts. [Click here](#) to print a **reading guide** that will help you capture the key characters, settings, events, and conflicts in each story. Completion of this reading guide is **optional**, but it may be very helpful to you in completing your summer reading report and follow-up assignments in the fall. Alternatively, you may choose to take notes in the format of your choice.*

Texts:

Required:

[*Fish in a Tree*](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Secondary (pick one):

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

Counting by Sevens by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin

Listen, Slowly by Thanhha Lai

The Unforgotten Coat by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Tortilla Sun by Jennifer Cervantes