



BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Safety & Well-Being Acceptance & Respect Communication & Collaboration Learning & Growth
To cultivate an exceptional, innovative learning community that enables all students to succeed in a changing world.

May 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and Prospective Grade 6 Students:

This summer, you are required to select a book for a summer reading requirement from a short, carefully chosen list of interesting and high-quality novels. The purpose of summer reading is to continue the development of your reading strategies and to support vocabulary enrichment as well as spark your interest in some great books.

This summer reading will prepare you for thoughtful discussion in your English/Language Arts 6 class as you begin your sixth-grade year. You are required to select one of the titles from the books described on the back of this letter. These are all popular books and are available in a variety of places. We have contacted the Boyertown Public Library as well as local booksellers to ask them to have these books in stock.

Although it is not necessary, we encourage you to buy the book that you select so that you can make notes in it and highlight interesting parts. It is important that you have a solid understanding of the characters, setting, conflict, and plot in the book you choose, since you will be using it in class discussions and activities. (So, if you were wondering, “Does this count?” It does!)

As you read your book, we also encourage you to complete the summer reading graphic organizer to write down your thinking. Click [here](#) for the link to the organizer.

When you return to school in the fall, remember to bring your book with you. We look forward to kicking off the year with great discussions about your summer reading!

From One Reader to Another,

Mike Stoudt
Assistant Superintendent

Andrew T. Maoury
Principal, MS East



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Book Descriptions for Prospective Grade 6 Students: Choose one of the following:

***Heat* — Mike Lupica** (Guided Reading Level: V, Lex: 940) Michael Arroyo’s pitching arm throws serious heat, but his firepower is nothing compared to the heat he faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned, Michael’s only family is his seventeen-year-old brother, Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system, or worse. Together, the boys carry on alone until someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with so much power. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael’s secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

***The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* —Dusti Bowling** (Guided Read Level T, Lex: 700) Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she’ll have to answer the question over and over again. Then unexpectedly she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It’s hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven’s about to discover she can do it all, even without arms.

***Eight Keys* — Suzanne LaFleur** (Guided Reading Level: V, Lexile: 590). Elise has always lived in a big house with her loving uncle and aunt because Elise’s parents died when she was very young. Elise is best friends with her neighbor Franklin, but as they start middle school, things seem all wrong. Elise struggles to keep up with school, has a locker partner who is a nightmare, and struggles to fit in. After her 12th birthday, Elise receives a mysterious key left for her by her father. There’s always been a barn behind the house with eight locked doors on the second floor. She’s never given much thought to the locked rooms above her uncle’s workshop in the barn, but now she is left wondering what is behind the doors.

***Finding Gobi: The True Story of One Little Dog’s Big Journey* – Dion Leonard** (Guided Reading Level: R, Lexile: 680). This incredible true story follows ultramarathon runner Dion Leonard and a tiny stray dog who refused to leave his side. Through blistering heat, endless miles, and unexpected challenges, their bond grows stronger, proving that friendship can overcome any obstacle. Packed with adventure, heart, and real-life excitement, this book is perfect for anyone who loves animals, thrilling journeys, and stories of determination.

***In Honor of Broken Things* – Paul Acampora** (Guided Reading Level: S, Lexile 660). In a middle school pottery class, three unlikely friends find strength in each other. Oscar, a football star, is grieving his little sister. Riley is angry about moving from Philadelphia to a tiny Pennsylvania town. And Noah, who’s always been homeschooled, is struggling to fit in after his parents’ messy divorce. But as they shape clay, they also shape a bond that helps them face life’s toughest challenges.

***Bridge to Terabithia* - Katherine Paterson** (Guided Reading Level: T, Lexile: 810) There's only one thing Jess Aarons is looking forward to in fifth grade, and that's being the fastest kid in school. He's been practicing all summer. He hasn't had much else to do since his mom spends all her time with his four sisters, and his dad is always working. But when Jess arrives at the school playground to show off his speed, his new neighbor, Leslie Burke, beats him to it. She's way faster than Jess. But instead of being jealous, Jess admires Leslie's skill, confidence, and wild imagination. The two become instant friends, spending hours in the woods by their houses creating a magical kingdom. Then tragedy strikes, and Jess is left alone. How can he ever go on?



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