

Dear New Sixth Graders,

Reading is an important part of your educational and personal development. You are required to read **two books** over summer vacation, although we hope that you read more than that! **One book is your choice.** You may choose any book that you like that you have NOT read. **The second book needs to be chosen from our list of six books on this paper.** Students will take an AR test for both books at the beginning of the year. These will be the first grades for the quarter in Literature.

Have a great summer and happy reading!!

### Book Choices:

**Schooled** by : Gordon Korman: Cap Anderson has always been home schooled until his teacher and hippie grandma, Rain, falls out of a tree. Now he goes to Claverage Middle school and stays with Mrs. Donnelly and her daughter Sophie. At school Cap sticks out like a sore thumb. He gets elected for eighth grade president and wins! But being president wasn't what Cap wanted. Not at all! At home, Sophie is giving him a hard time, but when Cap goes missing everyone gets worried and thinks he died. Did Cap really die? And how will he survive school until Rain is better again?

**Treasure Island (unabridged and not Greater Illustrated Classics)** by Robert Louis Stevenson: Heady tale of a treasure map, a perilous sea journey across the Spanish Main, a mutiny led by the infamous Long John Silver, and a lethal scramble for buried treasure as seen through the eyes of cabin boy Jim Hawkins. An action-packed adventure story that will hypnotize young readers and entertain older ones.

**Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson: Jess Aarons' greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in his grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to see his classmates' faces when he beats them all. But on the first day of school, a new girl boldly crosses over to the boys' side and outruns everyone. That's not a very promising beginning for a friendship, but Jess and Leslie Burke become inseparable. Together they create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods where the two of them reign as king and queen, and their imaginations set the only limits. Then one morning a terrible tragedy occurs. Only when Jess is able to come to grips with this tragedy does he finally understand the strength and courage Leslie has given him.

**Where the Red Fern Grows** by Wilson Rawls: This is a simply written, moving story about a young boy living in the Ozarks who achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. This will touch the hearts of both young and old alike.

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**Tuck Everlasting** by Natalie Babbitt: Tuck Everlasting is the story of a girl named Winnie and a family whom she meets, the Tucks. The Tucks have a secret, they're immortal. They drank water from a spring that was actually a fountain of youth. Until the end of time, they

will stay that way. Winnie falls in love with one of the Tucks, Jesse, a "17"-year-old boy who shares the same feelings for her. Scared of death, Winnie must choose between being immortal and being with Jesse or following the circle of life and dying someday. The Tucks try to teach her how she shouldn't fear death, how they would give anything to die. It teaches the importance and understanding of life and death. It shows that you should not fear death, but to fear an unlived life.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins** by Scott O'Dell: Twelve-year-old Karana escapes death at the hands of treacherous hunters, only to find herself totally alone on a harsh desolate island. How she survives in the face of all sorts of dangers makes gripping and inspiring reading. This title is based on a true story.