



## Middle School 936 The School of Performing & Visual Arts

Donna Nastasi, IA Principal  
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### Summer Assignment for Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

Dear Parents and Future 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

Congratulations on your child's graduation! We at M.S. 936, Arts Off 3<sup>RD</sup> want all of our students to continue to excel, therefore, it is important for your child to maintain and reinforce the reading skills he/she acquired during the school year.

Use the link <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/nyc-reads-365/grades-6-8> to find a Grade 6 suggested summer reading list. This list is created by librarians, is updated yearly, and only includes recently published books. Please read this list with your child so you can choose together. Your child is required to read a minimum of two books; however, we encourage you to read as many of the books as possible! Below are the details of the assignment. Your 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher will collect and grade the assignment in September. We have also attached a list of recommended books your child might enjoy and relate to the performing arts.

Each response should include:

- Title
- Author's Name
- Date and number of pages
- Choose one prompt from the list of prompts attached and write a one-page response.

A few guidelines:

- 6 responses per book.
- Responses should be written or typed on loose leaf or computer paper.
- One response per page.
- 5 sentences minimum for each response.
- Prompts cannot be repeated.
- In total, this assignment is 2 read books, 12 responses stapled together that include all the requirements.

We welcome you and your child to Arts Off 3<sup>rd</sup> in September. Thank you for supporting good reading habits that will enhance your child's learning. Have a great summer!

Very truly yours,

Donna Nastasi



Principal I.A.

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### Reading Response Journals

Each reading response journal should include the following:

- Name of Book
- Author's Name
- Date and number of pages read
- Six responses per book.

Choose a different prompt for each response from the sentence beginnings below.

- This (character, place, event) reminds me of .....because.....
- This conflict reminds me of .....
- The character I (like, admire, dislike) is ..... because.....
- The setting of this story is important because .....
- A question I have about this book is .....because.....
- When I read this book I felt .....
- If I were this (list the name) character, I would .....
- If I could talk to one of the book's characters I would (ask or say).....
- I predict that ..... because.....
- I don't understand the part of the story when .....
- The most interesting part of the book was ..... because .....
- The big ideas in the book were .....
- Some important details I noticed were ..... They were important because .....
- My feelings about the book changed when .....
- The book is an effective piece of writing because .....
- I thought this book was (realistic, unrealistic) because .....
- The genre of the book is ..... because it has (list characteristics).
- I (agreed, disagreed) with the author about .....
- If I were the author, I would have changed the part of the story when .....
- To summarize the text, I would say .....



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### Suggested Book List

**Although you may choose any book to complete your summer reading assignment, here are some suggested book titles to get you started. All the books below have an arts theme as well as celebrate wonderful storytelling.**

#### **Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle**

Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for seeing a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for *E.T.: The Musical*, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom.

#### **Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of *The Wizard of Oz*, she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. She hasn't ever thought of herself as a performer, but when the wonderful director of Oz casts her as a Munchkin, she begins to see herself in a new way. As Julia becomes friendly with the poised and wise Olive her own sense of self as an artist grows. Soon she doesn't want to fade into the background - and it's a good thing, because her director has more big plans for Julia!

#### **Amina's Voice by Hena Kahn**

Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. *Amina's Voice* brings to life the joys and challenges of a young Pakistani American and highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other.

#### **The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**

With a bolt of lightning on my kicks... The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dreadlocked 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother, Jordan, are awesome on the court. But, Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game changer for the entire family.



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### Another Word for Home by Jasmine Warga

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. However, when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US - and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But, this life also brings unexpected surprises - there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

### The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Perez

There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school - you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On day one, 12-year-old Malu (Maria Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: Be yourself. The real Malu loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyriso (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Malu finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself!

### From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run *from* somewhere; she wants to run *to* somewhere - to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money and thus can help her with the serious cash flow problem, she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. The statue is possibly an early work of the Renaissance master Michelangelo, and therefore worth millions. Or is it? Claudia is determined to find out. This quest leads Claudia to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue, and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself

### Theater Shoes by Noel Streatfield

When orphans Sorrel, Mark, and Holly are sent to live with their grandmother, a famous English actress, she enrolls them in the Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training, the same academy that made the orphans from *Ballet Shoes* famous so long ago. It's the chance of a lifetime, but the academy won't give the children the "proper" education their parents would have wanted. However, the children learn to love the academy when they find out that Sorrel has dramatic flair, Mark can sing, and Holly charms everyone with her adorable, impish ways. Maybe talent does run in the family.



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### **The New Kid by Jerry Craft**

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

### **The Backstagers by Jame Tynion IV**

When Jory transfers to an all-boys private high school, he's taken in by the lowly stage crew known as the Backstagers. Hunter, Aziz, Sasha, and Beckett become his new best friends and introduce him to an entire magical world that lives beyond the curtain that the rest of the school doesn't know about, filled with strange creatures, changing hallways, and a decades-old legend of a backstage crew that went missing and was never found.

### **And, these books are just some great book!**

### ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling**

Harry Potter has no idea how famous he is. That's because he's being raised by his miserable aunt and uncle who are terrified Harry will learn that he's really a wizard, just as his parents were. But everything changes when Harry is summoned to attend an infamous school for wizards, and he begins to discover some clues about his illustrious birthright.

### ***A Wrinkle in Time* Madeleine L'Engle**

*A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.

### ***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats and Nimh* by Robert O'Brien**

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.

### ***The Golden Compass*, by Philip Pullman**

Lyra Belacqua is content to run wild among the scholars of Jodan College, with her daemon familiar always by her side. But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle.