

6th Grade Summer Reading List

Notre Dame Academy - 2019-20

Students entering the 6th grade in the 2019-20 school year must choose one of the following novels to read during their summer break. The novel should be within their 3rd trimester AR reading range. When the students return to school, they will take an AR test on the book on the Friday of the first week of school. In Literature class, they will discuss the themes in their novel and will complete assignments at the beginning of the school year. A short description is provided with the list below.

Find helpful information, including book summaries from Goodreads and Amazon, below.

Novel	Summary	# of pages	Reading Level	AR Points
One for the Murphys Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong, until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future.	224	3.4	6 Quiz #: 152684 EN
The Fourteenth Goldfish Author: Jennifer L. Holm	Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this gawky teenager really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?	240	4.1	4 points Quiz #: 168161
Ruby on the Outside Author: Nora Raleigh Baskin	Eleven-year-old Ruby Danes is about to start middle school, and only her aunt knows her deepest, darkest, secret: her mother is in prison. Then Margalit Tipps moves into Ruby's condo complex, and the two	176	4.5	5 points Quiz #: 174506 EN

	<p>immediately hit it off. Ruby thinks she's found her first true-blue friend—but can she tell Margalit the truth about her mom? Maybe not. Because it turns out that Margalit's family history seems closely connected to the very event that put her mother in prison, and if Ruby comes clean, she could lose everything she cares about most.</p>			
<p>Holes Author: Louis Sachar</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	233	4.6	<p>7 points</p> <p>Quiz #: 293 EN</p>
<p>Where the Red Fern Grows Author: Wilson Rawls</p>	<p>Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks.. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters—now</p>	258	4.9	<p>11</p> <p>Quiz #: 95 EN</p>

	<p>friends—and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.</p>			
<p>Tuck Everlasting Author: Natalie Babbitt</p>	<p>Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older.</p> <p>But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.</p>	160	5.0	<p>4</p> <p>Quiz #: 247 EN</p>
<p>My Side of the Mountain</p>	<p>Terribly unhappy in his family's crowded New York City apartment, Sam Gibley runs away to the solitude-and danger-of the mountains, where he finds a side of himself he never knew.</p>	192	5.2	<p>6 points</p> <p>64 EN</p>
<p>Ungifted Author: Gordon Korman</p>	<p>When Donovan Curtis pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students.</p> <p>Although it wasn't exactly what Donovan had intended, the ASD couldn't be a more perfectly unexpected hideout for someone like him. But as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science (or just about anything), he shows that his <i>gifts</i> may be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.</p>	288	5.2	<p>8 points</p> <p>Quiz #: 153175</p>
<p>Space Case Author: Stuart Gibbs</p>	<p>Like his fellow lunarnauts—otherwise known as Moonies—living on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is famous the world over for</p>	368	5.3	<p>11 points</p> <p>Quiz #:</p>

	<p>being one of the first humans to live on the moon.</p> <p>And he's bored out of his mind. Kids aren't allowed on the lunar surface, meaning they're trapped inside the tiny moon base with next to nothing to occupy their time—and the only other kid Dash's age spends all his time hooked into virtual reality games.</p> <p>Then Moon Base Alpha's top scientist turns up dead. Dash senses there's foul play afoot, but no one believes him. Dr. Holtz was on the verge of an important new discovery, Dash finds out, and it's a secret that could change everything for the Moonies—a secret someone just might kill to keep...</p>			168789
<p>Island of the Blue Dolphins Author: Scott O'Dell</p>	<p>Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as the island of San Nicholas. Dolphins flash in the blue waters around it, sea otter play in the vast kep beds, and sea elephants loll on the stony beaches.</p> <p>Here, in the early 1800s, according to history, an Indian girl spent eighteen years alone, and this beautifully written novel is her story. It is a romantic adventure filled with drama and heartache, for not only was mere subsistence on so desolate a spot a near miracle, but Karana had to contend with the ferocious pack of wild dogs that had killed her younger brother, constantly guard against the Aleutian sea otter hunters, and maintain a precarious food supply.</p>	192	5.4	<p>6 points</p> <p>Quiz #: 45 EN</p>

<p>The Witch of Blackbird Pond Author: Elizabeth George Spears</p>	<p>Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.</p>	147	5.7	9 Quiz #: 98 EN
<p>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas Author: John Boyne</p>	<p>Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance.</p> <p>But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.</p>	226	5.8	7 Quiz #: 109203 EN
<p>The Gallery Author: Laura Marx Fitzgerald</p>	<p>It's 1929, and twelve-year-old Martha has no choice but to work as a maid in the New York City mansion of the wealthy Sewell family. But, despite the Gatsby-like parties and trimmings of success, she suspects something might be deeply wrong in the household—specifically with Rose Sewell, the formerly vivacious lady of</p>	327	6.1	10 Quiz #: 182434 EN

	<p>the house who now refuses to leave her room. The other servants say Rose is crazy, but scrappy, strong-willed Martha thinks there's more to the story—and that the paintings in the Sewell's gallery contain a hidden message detailing the truth. But in a house filled with secrets, nothing is quite what it seems, and no one is who they say. Can Martha follow the clues, decipher the code, and solve the mystery of what's <u>really</u> going on with Rose Sewell?</p>			
<p>The Secret Garden Author: Frances Hodgson Burnett</p>	<p>When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors.</p> <p>The gardens surrounding the large property are Mary's only escape. Then, Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in—and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.</p>	384	6.3	<p>13 points</p> <p>Quiz #: 78 EN</p>