

Incoming Sixth Graders Summer 2011 Reading List

- **Required:** *Dar and the Spear Thrower* by Marjorie Cowley
- Choose one other book to read from the following list. Free choice from this list. No other titles will be accepted.
- Write a synopsis about EITHER *Dar and the Spear Thrower* OR the book you choose from the list.

Title	Author	Genre
<i>Little Women;</i>	Alcott, Louisa May	Historical Fiction
<i>Tuck Everlasting</i>	Babbitt, Natalie	Fantasy
<i>The Secret Garden;</i>	Burnett, Frances Hodgeson	Fiction
<i>Under a Stand Still Moon</i>	Creel, Ann Howard	Historical Fiction (Native American)
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Curtis, Christopher Paul	Historical Fiction
<i>The Little Prince</i>	de Saint-Exupery, Antoine	Fantasy
<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>	Di Camillo, Kate	Fiction
<i>My Side of the Mountain;</i>	George, Jean Craighead	Fiction/Adventure
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	L'Engle, Madeleine	Fantasy
<i>Call of the Wild;</i> <i>White Fang</i>	London, Jack	Adventure (Animals)
<i>Gathering Blue;</i> <i>Messenger</i>	Lowry, Lois	Fantasy
<i>Number the Stars</i>	Lowry, Lois	Historical Fiction
<i>The King of Mulberry Street;</i> <i>Song of the Magdalene;</i> <i>The Smile</i>	Napoli, Donna Jo	Historical Fiction
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Rawls, Wilson	Fiction
<i>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</i>	Taylor, Mildred D.	Historical Fiction (African American)
<i>The Cay</i>	Taylor, Theodore	Fiction/Adventure

June, 2011

Dear Sixth Graders,

Happy Summer! I hope you will enjoy a luxurious summer filled with fun, relaxation and READING!

Students entering Sixth grade are required to read two books this summer. One is required. It is called *Dar and the Spear Thrower*, by Marjorie Cowley. The other book is your choice, from the list on the back of this letter.

Step 1. Read your books carefully, making notes as you go, either in the margins (if it is your own book), or on sticky notes. The notes should cover the elements listed below.

Step 2. Write a synopsis of one of the books. You may choose which book you prefer to summarize. The synopsis should be three to five paragraphs long, and include all of the following elements. There is no set number of paragraphs, but your synopsis should be about a page and a half long. Including a quote is always a good idea.

- *Title (in italics);*
- Author;
- Genre;
- Characters;
- Setting;
- Problem;
- Solution;
- Lesson, or moral, or theme (Why is the book worthwhile, what does it teach you?) This will wrap up your synopsis, and reveal your feelings about the book, but do not use the words, "I think." And, since a synopsis is not a book *review*, don't end with "I recommend this book...."
- TYPE your synopsis, including your MLA heading.

On a separate sheet of paper, list 10 new vocabulary words you encountered in *Dar and the Spear Thrower*, with their part of speech and definition.

Step 3. Bring your synopsis and the vocabulary list to Language A class on the first day of school in September. You will receive credit for this assignment.

Thank you and enjoy! I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Mrs. Galloway