

Summer Reading/Language Arts for Rising 6th graders

NONFICTION ASSIGNMENT

Select one of the following nonfiction books to read:

- *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande

A story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to "El Otro Lado" (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to "El Otro Lado" to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father.

- *Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz*
by Debbie Bornstein Holinstat and Michael Bornstein

Michael Bornstein was liberated from the Nazi concentration camp when he was only 4 years old. While most children lived for no more than two weeks after their arrival at Auschwitz, the extraordinary courage and ingenuity of his mother and grandmother kept him safe. The story told in *Survivors Club* moves from the Nazi occupation of Bornstein's small hometown in Poland to Auschwitz and finally to the years after the end of the war when members of his extended family became "displaced persons."

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

By Candace Fleming

In alternating chapters, Fleming deftly moves readers back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup)—this unique nonfiction title is tailor-made for middle graders.

- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.

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- *The Finest Hours-The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue* by Michael Tougias

On the night of February 18, 1952, during one of the worst winter storms that New England has ever seen, two oil tankers just off the shore of Cape Cod were torn in half. With the storm in full force and waves up to 70 feet high, four coast guardsmen headed out to sea in a tiny lifeboat to come to the rescue. They were the only hope for the stranded sailors. Despite incredible obstacles, these brave men risked their lives, remembering the unofficial Coast Guard motto: *You have to go out, but you do not have to come back.*

- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Readers Edition) by William kamkwamba

When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library . . . and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and thus became the local hero who harnessed the wind.

- *She Dared: Malala Yousafzai* by Jenni Walsh

Malala Yousafzai always knew she wanted to become a doctor someday. But a new extremist group in her home country of Pakistan wanted to stop girls from going to school. Malala knew what was important, and so she spoke out. Even after she was attacked in the street for her views, she persisted. Learn about Malala's incredible recovery, and her journey to becoming a world-famous advocate of girls' rights and education, as well as the youngest-ever Nobel Prize winner.

- *The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Sue DiCicco

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on her city of Hiroshima at the end of World War II. Ten years later, just as life was starting to feel almost normal again, this athletic and enthusiastic girl was fighting a war of a different kind. One of many children affected by the bomb, she had contracted leukemia. Patient and determined, Sadako set herself the task of folding 1000 paper cranes in the hope that her wish to be made well again would be granted.

Read, Then Write!

After you have completed reading **one** of the books on the list, please write **two (2)** paragraphs according to the following directions.

1. Write an 8-10 sentence paragraph that tells me about the **main character** of your book. Choose three (3) adjectives/traits that best describe him/her. (Examples are determined, kind, helpful, honest, funny, intelligent, etc.) For each adjective/trait you choose, include a detail from the book that supports that adjective/trait.

*Begin with a topic sentence that names the character and the title and author of the book you read.

*Use a time order word (first, second, last) to introduce each trait. Then in 1-2 sentences support that trait with a detail or two from the book.

*Include a wrap-up sentence that shares your overall opinion of this character.

2. One major theme that all of these books share is COURAGE. Write an 8-10 sentence paragraph that tells me how this character displayed BRAVERY/COURAGE.

*In the topic sentence, state the name of the character and the fact that he/she was brave/courageous.

*Give three (3) examples of how this character showed courage. Clearly explain each example using a specific detail from the book.

*Conclude the paragraph with a sentence that tells whether or not you believe you are/could be as courageous as this character.

Your assignment should be typed using 12 pt. Times Roman font and double-spaced.

In the upper left hand corner of the assignment, include your full name and the title of the assignment, "Summer Reading 2022:

Be sure to proofread for correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation BEFORE turning in the assignment the first week of school.