



## OMNIBUS SUMMER READING LIST | 6th Grade

Dear 6th grade families,

Welcome to 6th grade at Hillcrest Lutheran Academy! You are invited to take your first step into next year by participating in our summer reading program. Reading is the gateway to knowledge. There is no more valuable learning activity, and at Hillcrest we value reading quality literature. All students in our 5th-12th grades will be participating in reading great books during the summer months in preparation for the coming year.

I have provided the following summer reading list based on topics we will be discussing in the coming year. Below are two categories of books you are asked to read from in varying levels of difficulty. The first is the **PRIMARY** source book list. These are historical fiction or nonfiction selections based upon true stories or first-hand encounters. You are to choose one of the three options given from the list. The **SECONDARY** source book list includes fictional and historical selections related to time periods we will be discussing in history through the year. You will choose one of these selections; however, you are certainly welcome to enjoy as many books as you would like before September. There will be questions to answer for the **PRIMARY** source selections and a project to complete for the **SECONDARY** source selection. This is an opportunity for you to share your writing skills and knowledge with me. This project/assignment will be due on or before September 9th. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [sholm@fhillcrest.org](mailto:sholm@fhillcrest.org).

Why is reading assigned over the summer? Reading keeps your scholarly muscles in shape, working your brain by:

- Building vocabulary
- Improving spelling through word recognition
- Focusing your thoughts
- Introducing new people, places, ideas, and situations
- Exposure to the time periods we will be learning about this year

Find yourself a comfortable reading spot; perhaps a cozy chair, a tree limb, or a basement hideout away from the heat. Settle in and enjoy reading!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Holm



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### 6th GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

All assignments are due on September 8, 2023

#### PRIMARY BOOKS:

Choose one of the following:

- 2a. Carry on, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham (at level)
- 2b. The War to End All Wars by Russell Freedman (above level)
- 2c. The House of Sixty Fathers by Meindert DeJong (below level)

⇒ After reading, answer the questions in the associated packet.

#### SECONDARY BOOKS:

Choose one of the following:

- 3a. Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss (above level)
- 3b. The War Horse by Michael Morpurgo (at level)
- 3c. Calico Captive by Elizabeth George Speare (below/at level)
- 3d. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi (at level)
- 3e. The Lacemaker and the Princess by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (below level)

⇒ Choose a project to complete on one of the books you read following the project guidelines/rubric found in the associated packet.



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### PRIMARY BOOKS:

Each of the **PRIMARY** and **SECONDARY** books are available at the following locations:

- Audiobooks available via Hoopla app or Audible, if you have an account
- Your local library
- HLA library for a check-out option over the summer.

### PRIMARY BOOK SUMMARIES

1. [Carry on, Mr. Bowditch](#) by Jean Lee Latham  
“Feeling the financial impact of war and death on his family, former sea captain Habakkuk Bowditch of old Salem indentures his son, Nat, to a shipping company. Nat has an amazing head for mathematics. His teacher believes he could attend Harvard. But his apprenticeship requires him to work for his employers until he’s 21, too old for school. Despite his circumstances, Nat takes every opportunity to learn about navigation and shipping. He goes on to write books, teach crews how to figure out important sailing calculations and serve as captain of a ship.”  
<https://www.pluggedin.com/book-reviews/carry-on-mr-bowditch/>
2. [The War to End All Wars](#) by Russell Freedman  
“Nonfiction master Russell Freedman illuminates for young readers the complex and rarely discussed subject of World War I. The tangled relationships and alliances of many nations, the introduction of modern weaponry, and top-level military decisions that resulted in thousands upon thousands of casualties. These all contributed to the "great war," which people hoped and believed would be the only conflict of its kind. In this clear and authoritative account, the Newbery Medal-winning author shows the ways in which the seeds of a second world war were sown in the first.”  
<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/7683302>  
*Teacher Note: This book contains a fair amount of military violence and atrocities of the war. It may not be suitable for all students.*
3. [The House of Sixty Fathers](#) by Meindert Dejong  
During World War II, Tien Pao and a piglet he named "Glory-of-the-Republic," after his baby sister "Beauty-of-the-Republic," drift free in a storm down river, escaping his war-torn village. While following tiny mountain trails back to find his parents, he meets an American aviator. Tien helps save their lieutenant and the American guerillas help him find his parents and sneak them free. This story is based on a real story of a boy adopted by a squadron of sixty American flyers in their bunkhouse.”  
<https://www.pluggedin.com/book-reviews/house-of-sixty-fathers/>



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### SECONDARY BOOK SUMMARIES

1. Swiss Family Robinson by (adventure)

“The Robinsons leave their home in Switzerland planning to settle half a world away. But things do not turn out as they had expected. The sole survivors of a terrible shipwreck, they wash ashore to learn that the danger has only begun. Their new world will test their courage, cleverness, endurance, and faith as they struggle to survive and create a civilization of their own in the wilderness.”

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/62111.The\\_Swiss\\_Family\\_Robinson](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/62111.The_Swiss_Family_Robinson)

2. The War Horse by Michael Morpurgo (historical fiction)

“A powerful tale of war, redemption and a hero's journey. In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?”

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/792161>

3. Calico Captive by Elizabeth George Speare (historical fiction/adventure)

“Early one morning in 1754, the stillness of Charlestown, New Hampshire, is shattered by shrill war whoops and the terror of an Indian raid. Young Miriam Willard, on a day which had promised new happiness, finds herself instead a captive on a forest trail, caught up in the ebb and flow of the French and Indian War.

She endures a harrowing march north to what she imagines may be a life of slavery. But when they reach Montreal, a sudden twist of fortune brings Miriam to the acquaintance of the prominent Du Quesne family. The Du Quesnes introduce her to a life of luxury that she never could have imagined, and compel her to the most important decision of her life. Based on the actual narrative diary published in 1907, *Calico Captive* skillfully re-enacts an absorbing facet of history.”

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/116697>



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### 4. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (historical fiction/adventure)

“Charlotte Doyle is 12. It is the 1800s, and her wealthy father has arranged for her passage back to the United States on his merchant sailing ship. Two other families do not show up to sail, and Charlotte is the only passenger aboard. A questionable captain is in charge and tells Charlotte that it is acceptable for her to travel aboard the ship accompanied by a rough and unrefined crew. After the whipping of a sailor reveals an evil side of Captain Jaggery, Charlotte finds herself relating more to the crew than to the deceptive captain. Charlotte decides the only course left for her is to join the crew. She proves her nautical skills to the crew first by climbing the ship’s mast. The captain is infuriated that Charlotte has left her station as a passenger. When a sailor is killed, the captain frames Charlotte as the murderer. She is tried and sentenced to death by hanging.”

A mysterious, former crew member becomes her ally, and the captain is hurled into the sea before the ship reaches America. Once home, she realizes the adventures aboard the ship have changed her.”

<https://www.pluggedin.com/book-reviews/true-confessions-of-charlotte-doyle/>

### 5. The Lacemaker and the Princess by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (historical fiction)

“Eleven-year-old Isabelle is a lacemaker in the town of Versailles. One day as she delivers lace to the palace, she is almost trampled by a crowd of courtiers -- only to be rescued by Marie Antoinette. Before Isabelle can believe it, she has a new job -- companion to the queen's daughter. Isabelle is given a fashionable name, fashionable dresses -- a new identity. At home she plies her needle under her grandmother's disapproving eye. At the palace she is playmate to a princess.

Thrown into a world of luxury, Isabelle is living a fairy-tale life. But this facade begins to crumble when rumors of starvation in the countryside lead to whispers of revolution. How can Isabelle reconcile the ugly things she hears in the town with the kind family she knows in the palace? And which side is she truly on?

Inspired by an actual friendship between the French princess and a commoner who became her companion, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley offers a vivid portrait of life inside the palace of Versailles -- and a touching tale of two friends divided by class and the hunger for equality and freedom that fueled the French Revolution.”

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1222958.The\\_Lacemaker\\_and\\_the\\_Princess?from\\_search=true&from\\_srp=true&qid=8Zy5soY5Uz&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1222958.The_Lacemaker_and_the_Princess?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=8Zy5soY5Uz&rank=1)



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### ASSOCIATED PACKET

#### PRIMARY BOOKS

Please answer the following questions in cursive (if you have been taught) using complete sentences. You may use this paper or notebook paper.

#### Questions for **PRIMARY** Books (Carry on, Mr. Bowdich, The War to End all Wars, The House of Sixty Fathers)

Please answer the following questions for the book you chose in cursive (if you have been taught).

1. List the main characters (or countries) found in the story and share 3 quality adjectives to describe each. (3 points)
  
2. Describe two of the main settings in the book. Then draw a quality picture of how you imagine each setting using markers/colored pencils/crayons. Include a different page with the drawings labeled. (6 points)  
  
Setting 1:  
  
Setting 2:
  
3. Share a summary of the story using 5+ complete sentences (remember to include the beginning, 3 details from the middle, and ending). If you read *War to End All Wars*, share a narration of what happened in the War. Include what started the war, describe 3+major battles or interesting facts, and explain what led to the end of the War. (5 points)





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### SECONDARY BOOKS:

Choose a project for the book you read. A rubric has been provided to explain how you will be graded.

1. Design a book jacket: A book jacket is the paper cover that contains illustrations and information about the book. It has two purposes. The first is to protect (keep it clean and dust free) and the second, to sell the book. You are going to inspire your classmates to read the book when they see the book jacket you design. Here are the instructions:
  - a. With butcher paper, a brown grocery sack, or construction paper, fold a book cover for your book. You may simply fold a large rectangle in half and then fold the edges in about 3 inches to make flaps.
  - b. On the front cover create a quality illustration. Include the name of the book and its author.
  - c. On the inside front flap, add a promotional text (the information you write to inspire your classmates to want to read the book) about what happens in the book--include something about the characters, setting, and situation without giving away the ending.
  - d. On the back flap, give some information about the author and draw a picture of the author using color.
  - e. For the back cover, you will need to write a blurb that is so exciting your classmates will want to read the book. It would be a good idea to use a suspenseful quote from the book that will make them want to know what happens. (Something like, "slowly, slowly, the heavy door creaked open as she brushed aside the cobwebs, her heart pounding loudly. Then, suddenly. . .")
  - f. Write your blurbs on paper that has been measured to fit the spaces on your book jacket. You may write on the jacket itself or cut out your blurbs to paste them on the jacket.
  - g. If you have room, you may add some small drawings or borders around the blurbs on the jacket flaps.
  
2. Writing journal:

A writing journal is a journal or a diary you keep while reading a particular book. You write entries in the journal based upon what you have read that day. Here are the details:

  - a. Create a journal with folded paper or your own creative method.
  - b. Pretend you are a character in the book. All entries need to match the personality of the character.
  - c. Write in your journal each day you read, or for each chapter you read (minimum of 10 entries). Be sure to write in the same style in which the character speaks. Your character may also comment on the other characters in the book. Include 5 small illustrations on pages in your journal.
  - d. On the last page of your journal include a summary of the story using 5+ complete sentences. Spelling and grammar will be graded on the summary, not the journal entries.





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### 3. Comic book:

Comic books are fun to read and they're also fun to create. Choose a favorite scene from your book and create a comic strip! Comics will be on 11x17 paper (or something similar- the HLA office will have this paper for you). One side will have your comic strip and the other side will include a 1 paragraph summary of the created scene and explain why you chose that particular scene. The comic should include a scene which involves 2 + characters, use 10+ frames, be detailed in design, and show excellent full-color illustrations. Your paragraph should include 5 + complete sentences and follow appropriate spelling, punctuation, and capitalization rules.

### 4. Build:

Construct a 3-D model of a scene from the book. Models should include at least 3 labeled characters from the scene, be detailed in design, and include a 1 paragraph summary of the created scene. Your paragraph should include 5+ complete sentences and follow appropriate spelling, punctuation and capitalization. *Model ideas: Lego, shoebox diorama, clay, etc.*



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### SECONDARY BOOK Project Rubric

<p><b>Comprehension</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is related to the book.</li> <li>Project shows an understanding of the book's plot, ideas, themes, or context.</li> <li>Project follows given directions.</li> <li>Project demonstrates an understanding of characters and their relationships.</li> </ol>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>all 4</b> requirements. (10 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>3</b> requirements. (9 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>2</b> requirements. (8 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>1</b> requirement. (7 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>0</b> requirements. (0 pts.)</p>
<p><b>Creativity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is artistic and original.</li> <li>Project is neat and detailed.</li> <li>Project is colorful and eye-catching (or filled with quality adjectives and verbs, if written).</li> <li>Project shows effort and excellence/quality.</li> <li>Project matches the written description, or as stated in the project.</li> </ol>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>all 5</b> requirements. (10 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>4</b> requirements. (9 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>3</b> requirements. (8 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>2</b> requirements. (7 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p>Meets <b>1</b> requirement. (6 pts.)</p>
<p><b>Writing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capitalization</li> <li>Spelling</li> <li>Punctuation</li> <li>Complete sentences</li> <li>Writing is organized into paragraphs, or as stated in the project.</li> </ol>	<p>☐</p> <p><b>0</b> errors (10pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p><b>1</b> error (9 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p><b>2-3</b> errors. (8 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p><b>4-5</b> errors. (7 pts.)</p>	<p>☐</p> <p><b>6+</b> errors. (6 pts.)</p>

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_/30

**Comments**

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