



# BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

**Safety & Well-Being Acceptance & Respect Communication & Collaboration Learning & Growth**

*To cultivate an exceptional, innovative learning community that enables all students to succeed in a changing world.*

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May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Prospective Grade 6 Students:

This summer, you are required to select a book for a summer reading requirement from a short, carefully chosen list of interesting and high-quality novels. The purpose of the summer reading is to continue the development of your reading strategies and to support vocabulary enrichment as well as spark your interest in some great books. This summer reading will prepare you for thoughtful discussion in your English/Language Arts 6 class as you begin your sixth-grade year. You are required to select one of the titles from the books described on the back of this letter. These are all popular books and are available in a variety of places; we have contacted the Boyertown Public Library as well as local booksellers to ask them to have these books in stock.

Although it is not necessary, we encourage you to buy the book that you select so you can make notes in it and highlight interesting parts. It is important that you have a solid understanding of the characters, setting and plot in the book you choose since you will be using it in class discussions and activities. (So, if you were wondering, "Does this count?" It does!)

As you read your book, some key ideas you may want to remember:

- Highlight parts that you want to discuss or share when you return to school;
- Make note of any interesting or unknown vocabulary words;
- Question the author; write your questions in the margin as a strategy to help you better understand the plot;
- Make predictions as you read and revise your predictions as you learn more;
- Make use of your inferring skills as you read since most authors have messages that are not easily recognized as part of the plot...what is the theme of your novel?

When you return to school in fall, remember to bring your book with you. We look forward to kicking off the year with great discussions about your summer reading!

From One Reader to Another,

Michael R. Stoudt  
Asst. Superintendent

Randy A. Buck  
Principal, MS East



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## Book Descriptions for Prospective Grade 6 Students

Choose one of the following:

**Heat** — **Mike Lupica** (Guided Reading Level: V, Lexile: 940) Michael Arroyo's pitching arm throws serious heat, but his firepower is nothing compared to the heat he faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother, Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system, or worse. Together the boys carry on alone, until someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with so much power. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

**The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus** — **Dusti Bowling** (Guided Read Level T, Lex: 700) Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Then unexpectedly she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all, even without arms.

**Eight Keys** — **Suzanne LaFleur** (Guided Reading Level: V, Lexile: 590) Elise has always lived in a big house with her loving uncle and aunt because Elise's parents died when she was very young. Elise is best friends with her neighbor Franklin but as they start middle school, things seem all wrong. Elise struggles to keep up with school, has a locker partner that is a nightmare, and struggles to fit in. After her 12th birthday, Elise receives a mysterious key left for her by her father. There's always been a barn behind the house with eight locked doors on the second floor. She's never given much thought to the locked rooms above her uncle's workshop in the barn.

**Lost in the Pacific, 1942** — **Tod Olson** (Guided Reading Level: U, Lexile: 880) World War II, October 1942: a plane carrying eight Americans crashes into the middle of the Pacific Ocean. With only four oranges and no fresh water between them, the crew had to band together and rely on each other for survival. What they thought would be only a few hours or days before they were rescued turned into weeks lost at sea fighting off sharks, dehydration, hunger, and extreme heat.

**Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief** — **Wendelin Van Draanen** (Guided Read Level: T, Lex: 840) Sammy, a thirteen-year-old girl who is not supposed to be living with her grandmother, sees a robbery across the street through her binoculars. She sets out to track down the thief. The chase is on — but is Sammy on the trail of the thief. The police don't believe Sammy's story about a thief with black gloves, black glasses, and a black beard. Vice principal Caan didn't exactly believe her either when she explained that she couldn't possibly have broken Heather's nose. Well, Sammy's not putting up with this. Does she look like a liar? She knows what she saw and how hard she can hit. And somehow she's going to prove it.

**Bridge to Terabithia** - **Katherine Paterson** (Guided Reading Level: T, Lexile: 810) There's only one thing Jess Aarons is looking forward to in fifth grade, and that's being the fastest kid in school. He's been practicing all summer. He hasn't had much else to do since his mom spends all her time with his four sisters and his dad is always working. But when Jess arrives at the school playground to show off his speed, his new neighbor, Leslie Burke, beats him to it. She's way faster than Jess. But instead of being jealous, Jess admires Leslie's skill, confidence, and wild imagination. The two become instant friends, spending hours in the woods by their houses creating a magical kingdom. Then tragedy strikes and Jess is left alone. How can he ever go on?