Friends Academy

2016 Middle School Summer Reading List

for students entering

Sixth Grade

### Challenge One

*Students entering sixth grade are required to read* **one** *of the following titles:*

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*.

2000 Newbery Medal Winner. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father, a renowned bandleader.

Grimes, Nikki. *Road to Paris*.

Inconsolable Paris has a new foster family, but is now separated from her brother Malcolm. She does learn to trust her new home, which helps when she must face a life-changing decision.

Hunt, Linda Mullally. *One for the Murphys*.

Carley has always kept her emotional walls high, but that changes when she becomes a foster child in the loving, bustling Murphy household. Here she learns to feel like she belongs until her mother wants her back. With this new future opening up for her, Carley has to decide where and how to live.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night*.

After being treated cruelly, orphaned Dave sneaks out of the Hebrew Home For Boys. He finds himself on the streets of Harlem, alive with jazz musicians, new friends and enemies, but he trusts he’ll be okay. He always is…

### Challenge Two

All 5th/6th students are required to read the following book for a September book discussion:

Pennypacker, Sarah. *Pax*.

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild.  
At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox.  
Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own . . .

### Challenge Three

*One book from this list will be required summer reading for sixth grade in addition to the Challenge One and Challenge Two requirements:*

Auxier, Jonathan. *The Night Gardener*.

One day, William discovers that the tree outside his window has been sculpted into a wise owl. In the following days, more topiaries appear, and each one is more beautiful than the last. Soon, William’s gray little town is full of color and life. And though the mysterious night gardener disappears as suddenly as he appeared, William—and his town—are changed forever.

Burnford, Sheila. *The Incredible Journey.*

Three house pets band together, facing starvation, wild animals and exposure while traveling through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.

Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt*.

It’s the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There’s . . . Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who’s having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school.  
Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn’t let them get away with much . . . until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything—and everyone.

Korman, Gordon. *The Hypnotists*.

Is it a gift . . . or is it a curse? Jax Opus can use his color-changing eyes to make people do things they don't want to do. (Only his color-blind best friend, Tommy, seems immune.) At first, Jax doesn't know what he's doing -- temporarily hypnotizing friends, foes, and strangers. But then his power pushes things way too far, and his secret isn't a secret any longer.  
Soon Jax finds himself meeting Dr. Elias Mako, who wants him to join a special institution that will teach him how to use his powers. But what will his powers be used for? That's the big question for Jax as his hypnotic abilities draw him into a conspiracy that will have him racing against time and a mysterious mastermind to save his best friend, his parents, and the entire United States.

London, Jack. *White Fang.*

Part dog and part wolf, White Fang relies on instincts to survive in the Yukon wilderness. He overcomes animal predators, and eventually makes his peace with man.

Mass, Wendy. *The Candymakers*.

When four twelve-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents’ Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association’s annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

Mass, Wendy. *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*.

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box, set aside by his father before his death five years earlier, that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

Milford, Kate. *Greenglass House*.

It’s wintertime at Greenglass House. The creaky smuggler’s inn is always quiet during this season, and twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers’ adopted son, plans to spend his holidays relaxing. But on the first icy night of vacation, out of nowhere, the guest bell rings. Then rings again. And again. Soon Milo’s home is bursting with odd, secretive guests, each one bearing a strange story that is somehow connected to the rambling old house. As objects go missing and tempers flare, Milo and Meddy, the cook’s daughter, must decipher clues and untangle the web of deepening mysteries to discover the truth about Greenglass House—and themselves.

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Glory Field*.

Follow one African-American family’s roots from slavery through present day, beginning with the capture of the founder of the family, Muhammad Bilal, in Sierra Leone. Read about Muhammad and his descendants from slavery to escape, through the Civil War, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, and up to a family reunion in present day New York City.

O’Roarke Dowell, Frances. *The Secret Language of Girls*.

Kate and Marylin have pledged to be friends forever, but when Flannery moves in, the dynamics of their relationship change. Through a series of events, the girls learn the meaning of true friendship.

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*.

1979 Newbery Medal Winner. The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must solve the mystery of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*.

2010 Newbery Medal Winner. Twelve-year-old Miranda travels in her 1970s New York City neighborhood with ease. But her everyday life becomes harder to navigate as she tries to make sense of notes from an anonymous source who claims to want to save her life. There is a criss cross of reality and fantasy in this book that is similar to *A Wrinkle in Time*, Miranda’s favorite book.

Turnage, Sheila. *Three Times Lucky*.

Rising sixth grader Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. Although Mo hopes someday to find her "upstream mother," she's found a home with the Colonel—a café owner with a forgotten past of his own—and Miss Lana, the fabulous café hostess. She will protect those she loves with every bit of her strong will and tough attitude. So when a lawman comes to town asking about a murder, Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth in hopes of saving the only family Mo has ever known.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*.

Newbery Honor Book, National Book Award FInalist, and Coretta Scott King Award.

Eleven-year-old Delphine and her sisters Vonetta and Fern fly from their home in Brooklyn to Oakland, California to spend the summer with Cecile, their mother, who left them seven years earlier, and now must deal with their return to her life. It is 1968, and the girls are sent to a summer camp sponsored by the Black Panthers, where they learn many things from these radicals with their Afros and black berets.

*Students may also choose any title from James Dashner’s Maze Runner series or the Divergent series by Veronica Roth:*

Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner* series.

Follow Mark, Trina and Thomas as they struggle to solve the Maze and cross the Scorch, while having to rely on Gladers and fight off Cranks. If only they were sure that they could trust Wicked as they make their way through these trials.

Prequel: *Kill Order*

Book 1: *Maze Runner*

Book 2: *Scorch Trials*

Book 3: *Death Cure*

Roth, Veronica. *The Divergent Trilogy*.

Veronica Roth's #1 New York Times bestselling debut is a gripping dystopian tale of electrifying choices, powerful consequences, unexpected romance, and a deeply flawed "perfect society."

Book 1: *Divergent*

Book 2: *Insurgent*

Book 3: *Allegiant*

Book 4 (Companion Volume): *Four: A Divergent Collection*