

Friends Academy
2019 Middle School Summer Reading List
for students entering
6th Grade

Challenge One: Community Read

Students entering sixth grade are required to read the following:

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*.

ISBN # 978-1407184326

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .

ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

Challenge Two

In addition to Challenge One, students entering sixth grade are required to read any two books from the Challenge Two list.

Anderson, John David. *Ms. Bixby's Last Day*.

ISBN-13: 978-0062338181 *Realistic Fiction*

Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard, the ones who stopped trying long ago. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is somehow worthwhile. Who recognizes something in you that sometimes you don't even see in yourself. Who you never want to disappoint. What Ms. Bixby is, is one of a kind. Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a risky plan—more of a quest, really—to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves.

Applegate, Katherine. *Home of the Brave*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0312535636 *Realistic Fiction*

Kek comes from Africa where he lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived. Now she's missing, and Kek has been sent to a new home. In America, he sees snow for the first time and feels its sting. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter—cold and unkind. But slowly he makes friends: a girl in foster care, an old woman with a rundown farm, and a sweet, sad cow that reminds Kek of home. As he waits for word of his mother's fate, Kek weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country.

Burnford, Sheila. *The Incredible Journey*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0385322799 *Animal Tale/Classic*

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

Buyea, Rob. *Mr. Terupt* series.

Realistic Fiction

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.

Book 1: *Because of Mr. Terupt* **ISBN-13:** 978-0375858246

Book 2: *Mr. Terupt Falls Again* **ISBN-13:** 978-0307930460

Book 3: *Saving Mr. Terupt* **ISBN-13:** 978-0449818282

Dashner, James. The *Maze Runner* series.

Science Fiction

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 so sure that they could trust Wicked as they mark their way through these trails.

Origin Story Book 4: *Kill Order* **ISBN-13:** 978-0385742894

Prequel Book 5: *The Fever Code* **ISBN-13:** 978-0553513127

Book 1: *Maze Runner* **ISBN-13:** 978-0385737951

Book 2: *Scorch Trials* **ISBN-13:** 978-0385738767

Book 3: *Death Cure* **ISBN-13:** 978-0385738781

Frank, Steven B. *Armstrong and Charlie*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0544826083 *Realistic Fiction*
Charlie isn't looking forward to sixth grade. If he starts sixth grade, chances are he'll finish it. And when he does, he'll grow older than the brother he recently lost. Armstrong isn't looking forward to sixth grade, either. When his parents sign him up for Opportunity Busing to a white school in the Hollywood Hills, all he wants to know is "What time in the morning will my alarm clock have the *opportunity* to ring?" Set in Los Angeles in the 1970s, *Armstrong and Charlie* is the hilarious, heartwarming tale of two boys from opposite worlds, Different, yet the same.

Galante, Cecilia. *The World from Up Here*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0545848466 *Realistic Fiction*
Wren Baker has never felt brave a day in her life. She doesn't even know what she's afraid of, really. Only that if she raises her voice or leaves her mark or ventures too far from home, she'll risk falling flat on her face. But that all changes when Wren's cousin, Silver, walks into her life. Silver is totally fearless. Maybe that's why she's the most popular girl in the sixth grade. She dares Wren to take risks, to live out loud, to finally spread her wings. And when Silver decides to undertake the journey of a lifetime, Wren is forced to make a decision: Is she in or is she out?

Harrington, Karen. *Mayday* **ISBN-13:** 978-0316298032 *Realistic Fiction*
Wayne Kovok lives in a world of After. After his uncle in the army was killed overseas, Wayne and his mother survived a plane crash while coming back from the funeral. He then lost his voice. Wayne has always used his love of facts to communicate ("Did you know more people die each year from shaking a vending machine than from shark attacks?"). Without his voice, how will he wow the prettiest girl in school? How will he stand up to his drill-sergeant grandfather? And how will he share his hopes with his deadbeat dad? It's not until Wayne loses his voice completely that he realizes how much he *doesn't* say.

Hunter, Erin. *Warriors* series. *Fantasy*
For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But now ThunderClan is in grave danger. Rival ShadowClan is growing stronger, a traitor may be hiding in their midst, and rising tensions threaten every cat in the forest.
In the dark days ahead, ThunderClan's fate will rest in the paws of an unexpected hero: an ordinary house cat named Rusty...who may yet turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.

Book 1: <i>Into the Wild</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366962
Book 2: <i>Fire and Ice</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366979
Book 3: <i>Forest of Secrets</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366986
Book 4: <i>Rising Storm</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366993
Book 5: <i>A Dangerous Path</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062367006
Book 6: <i>The Darkest Hour</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062367013

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello, Universe*. ISBN-13: 978-0062414151 Realistic Fiction
Newbery Medal 2017

Newbery Medalist Erin Entrada Kelly's *Hello, Universe* is a funny and poignant neighborhood story about unexpected friendships. Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner Bayani (hero). “Readers will be instantly engrossed in this relatable neighborhood adventure and its eclectic cast of misfits.”—Booklist

Korman, Gordon. *The Hypnotists*. ISBN-13: 978-0545503259 Supernatural/Mystery
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*. ISBN-13: 978-1505313109 Animal Tale/Classic
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. *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* ISBN-13: 978-0316058490 Mystery
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.

Mass, Wendy. *The Candymakers*. ISBN-13: 978-0316002592 Mystery
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.

Milford, Kate. *Greenglass House*. ISBN-13: 978-1328594426 Mystery
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*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0545055758 Historical Fiction
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.

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0451480989 Mystery
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.

Roth, Veronica. *The Divergent Trilogy*. Science Fiction
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* **ISBN-13:** 978-0062387240
Book 2: *Insurgent* **ISBN-13:** 978-0062024053
Book 3: *Allegiant* **ISBN-13:** 978-0062024077
Book 4 (Companion Volume): *Four: A Divergent Collection* **ISBN-13:** 978-0062421364

Standish, Ali. *The Ethan I Was Before*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0062433381 Realistic Fiction
Ethan had been many things. He was always ready for adventure and always willing to accept a dare, especially from his best friend, Kacey. But that was before. Before the accident that took Kacey from him. Before his family moved from Boston to the small town of Palm Knot, Georgia. Palm Knot may be tiny, but it's the home of possibility and second chances. It's also home to Coralee, a girl with a big personality and even bigger stories. Coralee may be just the friend Ethan needs, except Ethan isn't the only one with secrets. Coralee's are catching up with her, and what she's hiding might be putting both their lives at risk.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0375850868 Mystery
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 crisscross of reality and fantasy in this book that is similar to *A Wrinkle in Time*, Miranda's favorite book.

Turnage, Sheila. *Three Times Lucky*.

Newberry Honor Book

ISBN-13: 978-0142426050

Mystery

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*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0060760908 Historical Fiction

Newberry 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.