

Welcome to the 6th Grade!



Over the summer, all students entering grade six are required to read **at least two books**. Choose two books from the 6th grade suggested reading list or pick your own titles! If you choose to read books off of the list, please let Mrs. Craven know and email her at mcraven@briarcliffschools.org.

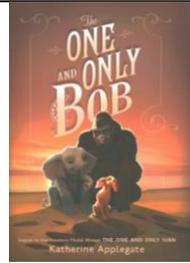
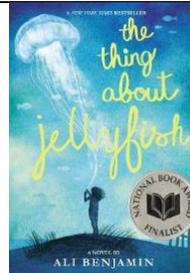
Reading over the summer helps to improve comprehension and writing skills. Choose books that interest you so your reading will be enjoyable. If you would like to listen to your books, spoken books are a great option! You can purchase an audiobook or borrow one from the public library using the Libby app.

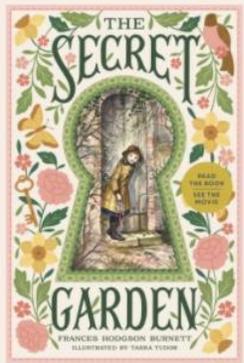
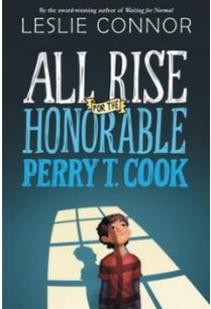
While you are reading, find an index card and use it as a bookmark and to take notes. You will be preparing a book talk based on your favorite of the two books you chose to read when we start school in September.

You will need to acquire these books on your own. If you cannot get a physical copy of the books you choose (either through the library or for purchase), you can look for them in an electronic format from the Briarcliff Public Library or the New York Public Library. You can find instructions on how to access those here: <https://bit.ly/PublicLibraryHowTo>.

Have fun reading this summer. We look forward to meeting you!

Suggested Reading List

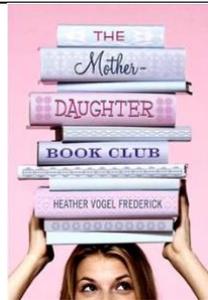
	<p>The One and Only Bob by Katherine Applegate</p> <p>A scrappy dog named Bob and his best friends, Ivan the gorilla and Ruby the elephant, undertake a dangerous journey to seek Bob's long-lost sister, but a storm is approaching, and time is running out.</p>
	<p>Anything but Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin</p> <p>Jason, a 12-year-old boy on the autism spectrum who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. He's most comfortable in an online writer's forum called Storyboard. Jason gets nervous though when he makes plans to attend a Storyboard Conference. As Jason explains, there's really only one kind of plot: Stuff Happens. That's it.</p>
	<p>The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin</p> <p>After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. She crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.</p>
	<p>Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol</p> <p>All Vera wants to do is fit in--but it's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford the best summer camps. Vera's mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range--Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. Nothing could prepare her</p>

	<p>for all the 'cool girl' drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares</p>
	<p>The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett</p> <p>When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's house she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. The gardens surrounding the property are her only escape & Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in--and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.</p>
	<p>All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor</p> <p>11-year-old Perry was born in the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far the warden has made it possible for them to be together. Until a new district attorney finds out and Perry is forced into a foster home. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime.</p>
	<p>Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar</p> <p>At first, twelve-year-old Carol is not happy to be spending the summer helping her parents move her grandfather to an assisted living home, but as the summer wears on, she finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by his amazing stories.</p>



One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

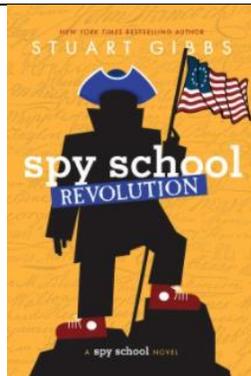
Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But her loving, bustling foster family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, she eventually feels like she belongs--until her mother wants her back.



The Mother Daughter Book Club by Heather Vogel Frederick

It doesn't start as a typical book-club. Megan would rather be at the mall, Cassidy is late for hockey practice, Emma's already read every book in existence, and Jess is missing her mother too much to care. But what begins as a mom-imposed ritual of reading Little Women soon helps four unlikely friends navigate the drama of middle school.

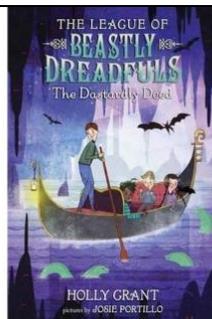
Sequels: Much Ado About Anne, Dear Pen Pal, Pies and Prejudice, Home for the Holidays, Wish You Were Eyre



Spy School: Revolution by Stuart Gibbs

With SPYDER apparently defeated, 13-year-old Benjamin Ripley is hoping for some peace at spy school, but when the CIA conference room is blown up, suspicion falls on fellow trainee (and secret crush) Erica.

Series: Spy School, Spy Camp, Evil Spy School, Spy Ski School, Spy School Secret Service, Spy School Goes South, Spy School British Invasion



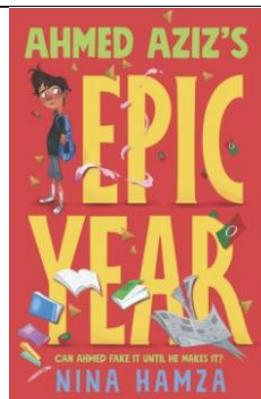
The Dastardly Deed by Holly Grant

Anastasia has barely managed to escape the nefarious clutches of C.R.U.D. when they are brought to the underground Cavelands, where she finds out she is Caveland royalty and her family figures into a centuries old scandal that began with the disappearance of her grandfather.



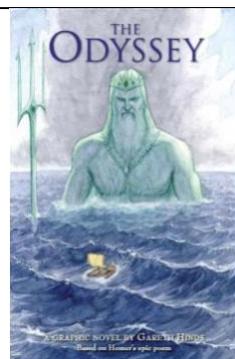
Planet Middle School by Nikki Grimes

For 12 years, Joylin Johnson’s life has been just fine. A game of basketball with the boys was all it took to put a smile on her face. Then, everything suddenly seemed to change all at once. Her best girl friend is now flirting with her best guy friend. Her clothes seem all wrong. Jake is acting weird, and basketball isn’t the same. And worst of all, there is this guy, Santiago, who appears from . . . where? What lengths will Joy go to—and who will she become—to attract his attention?



Ahmed Aziz’s Epic Year by Nina Hamza

Ahmed Aziz is having an epic year-epically bad. Ahmed’s family moves from Hawaii to Minnesota for his dad's medical treatment. Ahmed can't imagine a worse place to live. He's one of the only brown kids in his school. But Ahmed surprises himself by actually reading the assigned books for his English class. Shockingly, he doesn't hate them. He also starts learning about his uncle, who died before Ahmed was born. Getting pieces of his family's history as his dad's health hangs in the balance and the school bully refuses to leave him alone. Will Ahmed ever warm to Minnesota?



The Odyssey Graphic Novel by Gareth Hinds

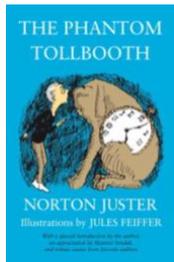
Fresh from the Trojan War, Odysseus wants to return home to his family. Instead, he offends the sea god, Poseidon, who dooms him to years of wandering. Battling monsters, storms, and the supernatural sirens and sorceresses, Odysseus will need all his strength and smarts--and a little help from Mount Olympus--to make his way home.

**** There are many graphic novel versions of *The Odyssey*, be sure to read this one by Gareth Hinds**



Drum Roll Please by Lisa Jenn

The day before Melly heads to Camp Rockaway her parents drop a bombshell: They're getting divorced. There are a lot of other big changes for Melly too: her best friend ditches her, and Melly finds herself unexpectedly falling for another girl at camp. To top it all off, Melly's not sure she has what it takes to be a real rock n' roll drummer. Will she be able to make music from all the noise in her heart?



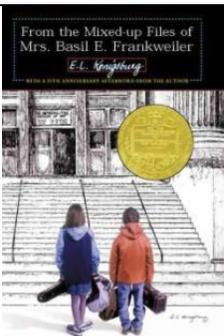
Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Milo travels through a magical tollbooth and begins a journey to the Kingdom of Wisdom, where he and a "watch" dog named Tock try to end the feud between numbers and words.



Slacker by Gordon Korman

When eighth-grader Cameron creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends to fool his parents & teachers into letting him concentrate on his video-gaming--but soon other kids are taking it seriously, and he finds himself president of the P.A.G., and involved in community service, so the boy who never cared about anything is now the center of everything, whether he likes it or not.



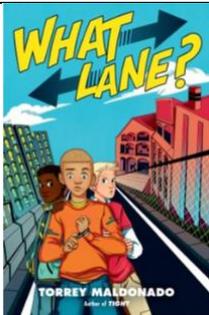
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.



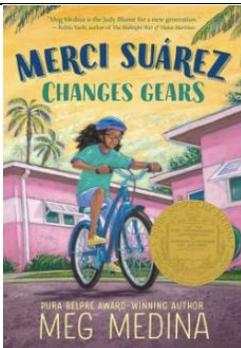
Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

Thirteen-year-old Min, comes from a long line of fox spirits. But you'd never know it by looking at her. To keep the family safe, none of them use fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Min feels hemmed in by the rules and chores. She would like to escape Jinju, her neglected, dust-ridden, planet and is counting the days until she can follow her older brother, Jun, into the Space Forces and see more of the Thousand Worlds.



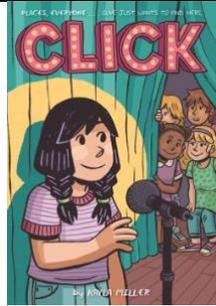
What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado

Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends. As a mixed kid, he feels like he's living in two worlds with different rules. So what'll he do? Hold on tight as Stephen swerves in and out of lanes to find out which are his--and who should be with him.



Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

Merci knew 6th grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, she is not like other kids at her private school, because she and her brother are scholarship students. They don't have a big house and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. Merci becomes the target of bossy classmate Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either, her grandfather is acting strangely. No one will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling on her own at school.



Click by Kayla Miller

Olive "clicks" with everyone in the fifth grade--until one day she doesn't. When a school variety show leaves Olive stranded without an act to join, she begins to panic, wondering why all her friends have already formed their own groups . . . without her. With the performance drawing closer by the minute, will Olive be able to find her own place in the show before the curtain comes up?



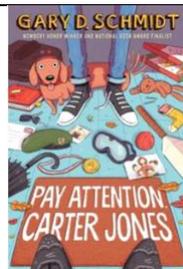
Fearless by Kenny Porter

Kara hoped to spend the summer with her best friend Alice. But when Alice moves two towns over, everything changes. She stops answering Kara's phone calls and letters. Kara plans to bike over to Alice on her own. But she sees Alice has found new friends and has left Kara behind. Can Kara be fearless when she feels so alone?



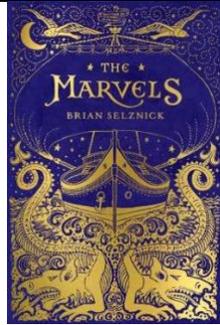
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own--Old Dan and Little Ann--he's ecstatic. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. The combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters--now friends--and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair.



Pay Attention Carter Jones by Gary D. Schmidt

Sixth-grader Carter must adjust to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to help him become a gentleman, and also to deal with burdens from the past.



The Marvels by Brian Selznick

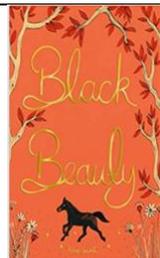
The journey begins at sea in 1766, with a boy named Billy Marvel. After surviving a shipwreck, he finds work in a London theatre. His family flourishes for generations as brilliant actors until 1900, when young Leontes Marvel is banished from the stage.

A century later, runaway Joseph Jervis seeks refuge with an uncle in London. Albert Nightingale's strange house, captivates Joseph and leads him on a search for clues about the house, his family, and the past.



The Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell

Welcome to a neighborhood of kids who transform ordinary boxes into colorful costumes, and their ordinary block into cardboard kingdom. This is the summer when sixteen kids encounter knights and rogues, robots and monsters--and their own inner demons--on one last quest before school starts again.



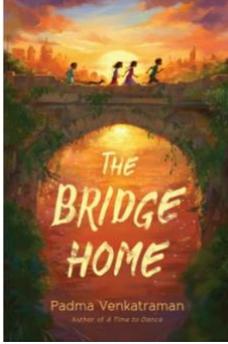
Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Traces the life and adventures of **Black Beauty**, a horse in 19th-century England. It opens with **Beauty's** descriptions of his life as a colt in the home of a kind master named Farmer Grey.



Shuri: A Black Panther Novel Book 1 by Nic Stone

T'Challa's younger sister, Shuri sets out on a quest to save Wakanda. For centuries, the Chieftain of Wakanda (the Black Panther) has gained his powers through the juices of the Heart-Shaped Herb. Much like Vibranium. But something is wrong. The plants are dying. No matter what they do, they can't save them. And supply is running short. It's up to Shuri to discover what is killing the Herb, and how she can save it.



The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

Life is harsh in Chennai's streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Quickly, they discover how vulnerable they are. Fortunately, the girls find shelter--and friendship with two homeless boys, Muthi and Arul & the group forms a family of sorts. While making a living scavenging the city's trash heaps, the kids find plenty to laugh about. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile freedom.



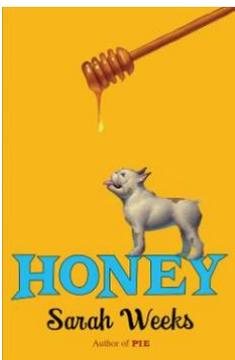
My Family for the War by Anne C. Voorhoeve

Ten-year-old Franziska Mangold escapes Nazi Germany on the kindertransport she boards in Berlin, and when she arrives in London, she takes on the name Frances and struggles with her identity as she pieces together a new life without her family.



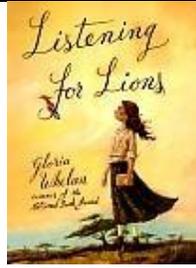
So B. It by Sarah Weeks

After living only with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.



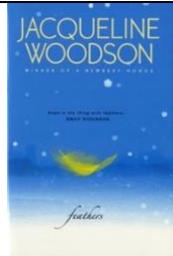
Honey by Sarah Weeks

Melody has lived in Royal, Indiana, for as long as she can remember. It's been just her and her father, and she's been okay with that. But then she overhears him calling someone Honey-- and suddenly it feels like everyone in Royal has a secret. Meanwhile, a dog named Mo is new to Royal. He doesn't remember much from when he was a puppy ... but he keeps having dreams of a girl he is bound to meet someday.



Listening for Lions by Gloria Whalen

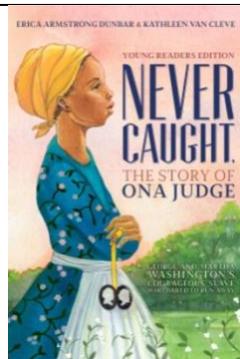
Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, 13-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.



Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson

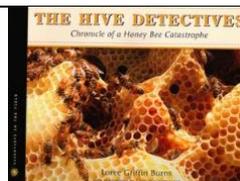
When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.
Newbery Honor Book, 2008

Non-Fiction



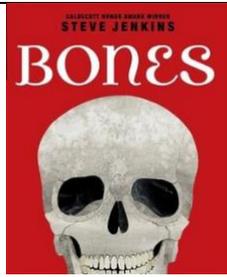
Never Caught: The Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington's Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away
by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Born into a life of slavery, Ona Judge eventually grew up to be George and Martha Washington's "favored" dower slave. When she was told that she was going to be given as a wedding gift to Martha Washington's granddaughter, Ona made the bold and brave decision to flee to the north, where she would be a fugitive. A fascinating and heartbreaking behind-the-scenes look at the Washington's when they were the First Family--and an in-depth look at their slave, Ona Judge, who dared to escape from one of the nation's Founding Fathers.



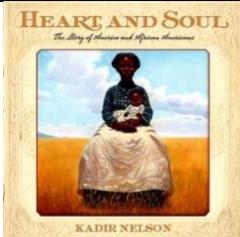
The Hive Detectives by Loree Griffin Burns

In 2006 honey bees from hives around the world began to die from a mysterious condition called colony collapse disorder. This book examines the efforts of scientists to discover the cause of the problem, and includes information about bees, their hives, and their honey.



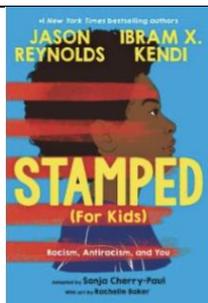
Bones: Skeletons and How They Work by Steve Jenkins

This book takes a fascinating look at the bones of the human body as compared to the bones of animals, and shows them off! Here you'll find the differences between a man's hand and that of a spider monkey; the great weight of an elephant's leg, paired with the femur of a stork; and info about snakes and sloths. Many of the bones are life-size on fold-out pages.



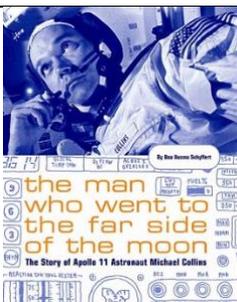
Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson

An unnamed narrator tells her family story and the history of African American people in America. We get a sense of what it was like to be a slave, a Union soldier, a sharecropper during Reconstruction, and a Buffalo soldier in Oklahoma; and eventually what it was like to head north to Chicago as part of the Great Migration. Beautiful illustrations go along with the text in this moving story.



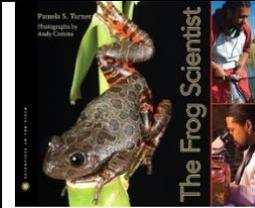
Stamped (For Kids) by Jason Reynolds, adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul

This book takes readers on a journey from present to past and back again. Kids will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives.



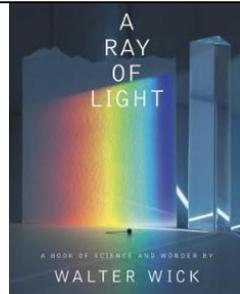
The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins by Bea Uusma Schyffert

It's bad enough to go somewhere and have to wait alone in the car, but what if you traveled all the way to the moon and had to stay in the spacecraft? This is the story of Michael Collins, the astronaut on the 1969 Apollo 11 moon mission who did not walk on the moon. His job was to maneuver the capsule and wait while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed the lunar module and planted the first footprints into moon dust. This scrap-book style book details Collins' important trip.



The Frog Scientist by Pamela Turner

Meet Dr. Tyrone Hayes, who studies the effects of pesticides on frog development. These chemicals are radically changing the DNA of frogs and how they live. There are lots of beautiful pictures of the frogs Dr. Hayes studies and of their habitats.



A Ray of Light: A Book of Science and Wonder by Walter Wick

Walter Wick's photographs paired with text and scientific observations help readers understand the secrets and complexity of light. What light is made of and how it fits alongside everything else in the world. Wick introduces readers into the mystery behind incandescence, light waves, the color spectrum and iridescence as well how they perceive light in their world and beyond. Walter Wick demonstrates that science and art both offer ways to observe the world.