

Summer Reading

For Incoming Grades 5 and 6 Students



As an incoming 5th grader, you will read *A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord.
As an incoming 6th grader, you will read *What the Moon Saw* by Laura Resau.

Then complete one reading response project from below for your required book, as well as two other responses for two additional books of your choice.

Book Review

Write a review of your book in which you

- create a teaser,
- summarize the main idea, and
- recommend it to target readers.

[See an example and get a template here.](#)

Song or Poem

Write a song about your book (possibly based on a song which you already know), or create an original poem. Your piece should touch upon the events, main characters, and some details from the book.

Sentence Summary

As you read, write a one sentence summary of each chapter. Once done, write another sentence or two to express how you feel about the book. Great option for **longer books with many chapters!** A folded piece of notebook paper used as a bookmark works well.

Poster

Create a poster about your book. The poster must include:

- the main characters,
- a summary which doesn't give away the ending, and
- a recommendation (what kind of readers would enjoy this book?).

Interview

Create a fictional interview with one of the book's main characters. Ask questions, and then answer as if you were this character. A great option if you have read a **biography or realistic fiction!**

[See templates here.](#)

Story Extension

Write a story extension, or an additional chapter, for the book you have read. Use the same characters, but involve them in a new situation. Your additional chapter could even precede (take place before) the story told in the book. Great option for **any type of fiction.**

Character Quotes

Choose at least three quotes from throughout the book that you feel were important. Record those, and then describe why you selected each.

[See an example](#) and get your template here.

Fact File

If you read a **nonfiction** book, create a fact file in which you share interesting facts and new vocabulary you've learned.

[Get a template here](#) for writing.
[See example here.](#)

Letter

Write a letter to one of the characters in the book. Share your opinion about the choices he or she made throughout the book, and explain whether you agree with those choices.

[See an example here.](#)

Design Your Own

If you have your own idea for a creative book response, email Mr. Schoch (*shoke*) at kschoch@stuartschool.org.

Once your idea is approved, you can get started!

Any additional questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Schoch.

Access this live online at <https://tinyurl.com/SCDS56Summer2022>

Recommended Reading for Incoming Grades 5 & 6

Realistic Fiction

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story*.

Relates how the lives of four children living in different parts of the country intersect and are affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

Benjamin, Ali. *The Thing About Jellyfish*.

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. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, 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 astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

Burg, Ann E. *Serafina's Promise*.

In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and to be a doctor--then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. *Ana María Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle*.

With a new sibling (her fourth) on the way and a big piano recital on the horizon, Dominican-American Ana María Reyes tries to win a scholarship to a New York City private school.

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Awkward*.

After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member.

Draper, Sharon M. *Blended*.

Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

Gemeinhart, Dan. *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*.

Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.

Griffin, Paul. *Saving Marty*.

When Lorenzo adopts a runt piglet destined for auction, an unexpected, life-changing friendship forms.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Shouting at the Rain*.

Delsie loves tracking the weather, living with her grandmother, and the support of friends and neighbors, but misses having a "regular family," especially after her best friend outgrows her. If you like this, try Hunt's other novels, *Fish in A Tree* or *One for the Murphys*.

Korman, Gordon. *Restart*.

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?

Lai, Thanhha. *Listen Slowly*.

A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother who is looking for the truth about what happened to her husband in the Vietnam War. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds.

McAnulty, Stacy. *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*.

A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*.

Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between.

Phipps, Lisa. *Starfish*.

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

Reynolds, Jason. *Patina*.

A newbie to the track team, Patina "Patty" Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons. Already read this? Try the rest of the *Track* series!

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *To Night Owl From Dogfish*.

Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through emails. Love this book? Try Ms. Sloan's other books, *Short* and *Counting By 7s*.

Urban, Linda. *The Center of Everything*.

Ruby Pepperdine has always done what she's supposed to, but on the day her beloved grandmother dies, Ruby didn't listen to her and now she's lost the center of everything. On her 12th birthday, Ruby makes a special wish that everything will be the way it's supposed to be again.

Uss, Christina. *The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*.

Left at the Mostly Silent Monastery as a toddler and home-schooled by a retired nun, twelve-year-old Bicycle rides cross-country to meet a famous cyclist who she hopes will be her first friend.

Warga, Jasmine. *The Shape of Thunder*.

Estranged from the best friend whose brother killed her sister in a school shooting, a grieving Cora receives a message on her twelfth birthday from her friend, asking for her help with creating a time

Jamieson, Victoria. *All's Faire in Middle School*.

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *The Thing About Luck*.

Just when 12-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *The Land of Forgotten Girls*.

Abandoned by their father and living in poverty with their heartless stepmother in Louisiana, two sisters from the Philippines, twelve-year-old Sol and six-year-old Ming, learn the true meaning of family.

Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice*.

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

portal to prevent the tragedy.

Weeks, Sarah. *Save Me a Seat*.

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk*.

Recent immigrants from China desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao exploits them; while her mother does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.

Science Fiction and Fantasy

Appelt, Kathi and Alison McGhee. *Maybe A Fox*.

When her sister Sylvie goes missing on a snowy morning and is never seen again, Jules refuses to believe she is gone forever, meanwhile, in the shadow world, a shadow fox is born.

Armstrong, Kelley. *Loki's Wolves*.

In modern day South Dakota, 13-year-old Matt, a descendant of the Norse god Thor, and Fen and Laurie, descendants of Loki, the trickster god, must fight for the world's survival against monsters in an apocalyptic battle. Already read it? Read *Odin's Ravens*, instead.

Auxier, Jonathan. *Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster*.

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*.

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Beasley, Cassie. *Tumble and Blue*.

In order for Tumble Wilson and Blue Montgomery to fix their ancestors' mistakes and banish the bad luck that has followed them around for all of their lives, they must face Munch, the mysterious golden alligator who cast the curse centuries ago.

Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot*.

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants. Already read this? Read the sequel, *The Wild Robot Escapes*.

Colfer, Chris. *The Wishing Spell*.

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. All *Land of Stories* tales.

Cottrell Boyce, Frank. *Sputnik's Guide To Life On Earth*.

When Prez's grandfather is diagnosed with dementia, he's sent to live in a foster home, but when he meets a talking dog named Sputnik, together, they come up with a plan to save the world.

Cuevas, Michelle. *The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole*.

Eleven-year-old Stella Rodriguez finds herself in possession of a strange new pet that swallows up everything in sight when a black hole decides to follow her home

DasGupta, Sayantani. *The Serpent's Secret*.

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader in New Jersey, but then her parents disappear and a drooling demon shows up in her kitchen. Soon she is swept into another dimension, full of magic and cute princes. Kiranmala needs to sort it all out, find her parents, and save the world.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Falling In*.

Middle-schooler Isabelle Bean follows a mouse's squeak into a closet and falls into a parallel universe where the children believe she is the witch they have feared for years, finally coming to devour them.

Graff, Lisa. *A Tangle of Knots*.

Destiny leads 11-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever.

Catmull, Katherine. *Summer and Bird*.

In the world of Down, young sisters Summer and Bird are separated and go in very different directions as they seek their missing parents, try to vanquish the evil Puppeteer, lead the talking birds back to their Green Home, and discover the identity of the true bird queen.

Holm, Jennifer. *The Fourteenth Goldfish*.

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter

Keller, Tae. *When You Trap a Tiger*.

When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni.

Historical Fiction

Agosin, Marjorie. *I Lived on Butterfly Hill*.

When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic, sadistic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety and her parents must go into hiding before they "disappear."

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life*.

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Homework*.

It is 1936 in this final volume of the award-winning Alcatraz trilogy and 13-year-old Moose Flanagan faces new challenges when his father is promoted to Associate Warden and a fire breaks out in the family's apartment. If you haven't already read them, start with *Al Capone Does My Shirts* and *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*, first.

Dagg, Carole Estby. *Sweet Home Alaska*.

In 1934, eleven-year-old Terpsichore's father signs up for President Roosevelt's Palmer Colony project, uprooting the family from Wisconsin to become pioneers in Alaska, where Terpsichore refuses to let rough conditions and first impressions get in the way of her grand adventure.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Raymie Nightingale*.

Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur.

Draper, Sharon M. *Stella by Starlight*.

In 1932, when a burning cross set by the Ku Klux Klan causes panic and fear in 2 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

Ehrlich, Esther. *Nest*.

On Cape Cod in 1972, eleven-year-old Naomi, known as Chirp for her love of birds, gets help from neighbor Joey as she struggles to cope with her mother's multiple sclerosis and its effect on her father and sister.

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out and Back Again*.

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. Newbery Honor. National Book Award Winner.

MacColl, Michaela. *Promise the Night*.

In Beryl's view, she should have been born to the Nandi tribe in east Africa. Headstrong and fearless, she'd prefer to track animals, wrestle, and spear targets than learn to be a proper English lady. Always seeking adventure, Beryl Markham makes history flying an airplane.

Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*.

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

Parry, Rosanne. *Written in Stone*.

In the early 1920s, thirteen-year-old Pearl, a member of the Makah Native American tribe in the Pacific Northwest, loses her father in a whale hunt. While dealing with her grief and finding her way in the world, Pearl helps when her tribe's livelihood and traditional ways are threatened.

Scattergood, Augusta. *Glory Be*.

Gloriana faces her twelfth birthday in 1964, but while she struggles to understand the shift in her relationships with her sister--who is about to enter high school--and her best friend, Frankie, Gloriana witnesses tempers rise in a debate over a segregated public pool.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest*.

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. Newbery Medal.

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

In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her two sisters travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, CA, to spend a month with the mother they barely know. National Book Award Finalist. Newbery Honor. Scott O'Dell and Coretta Scott King Winner. Already read it? Follow the Gaither sisters in *P. S. Be Eleven* and *Gone Crazy in Alabama*.

Gidwitz, Adam. *The Inquisitor's Tale*.

Crossing paths at an inn, thirteenth-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee, and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound, the three of whom join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution.

Levine, Kristin. *The Lions of Little Rock*.

Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

Wolk, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow*.

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.

Mystery, Suspense, and Adventure

Auxier, Jonathan. *The Night Gardener*.

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Bell, Juliet. *Kepler's Dream*.

While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library.

Black, Holly. *Doll Bones*.

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. Newbery Honor.

Chambliss Bertman, Jennifer. *Book Scavenger*.

Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends. Already read it? Try the sequel, *The Unbreakable Code*.

Child, Lauren. *Ruby Redfort Look Into My Eyes*.

Skilled code-cracker and detective Ruby Redfort and her sidekick butler Hitch work for a secret crime-fighting organization called Spectrum, and Ruby remains calm as they face evil villains.

Conklin, Melanie. *Every Missing Piece*.

Ever since her father died in a terrible accident, Maddy Gaines has worried a lot. She calls the police so often that she's on a first-name basis with the Sheriff. When a new boy moves to town, Maddy is convinced that he's not who he says he is—he's a boy who went missing six months ago. Maddy, her dog, her best friend, and her stepdad team up to see what he's hiding.

Fitzgerald, Laura Marx. *Under the Egg*.

Her grandfather's dying words lead thirteen-year-old Theodora Tenpenny to a valuable, hidden painting she fears may be stolen, but it is her search for answers in her Greenwich Village neighborhood that brings a real treasure.

Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*.

Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids inside the new library, funded by famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello, for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other kids compete to solve every clue and every secret puzzle to win Mr. Lemoncello's contest and, more importantly, find the hidden escape route. Already read it? Read the sequels, *Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics* or *Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race*.

Kittscher, Kristen. *The Wig in the Window*.

When their game of neighborhood spying takes a dark turn one night, pre-teen sleuths Sophie Young and Grace Yang find themselves caught in a dangerous cat-and-mouse game with their bizarre guidance counselor, who may be hiding something sinister.

Milford, Kate. *Greenglass House*.

At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure.

Miller, Jessica. *Elizabeth and Zenobia*.

When timid Elizabeth's father takes her and her fearless friend, Zenobia, to his family home, Zenobia becomes obsessed with finding a ghost there, and then Elizabeth learns she had an aunt who disappeared from the house years ago.

Rundell, Katherine. *Rooftoppers*.

When authorities threaten to take Sophie, twelve, from Charles who has been her guardian since she was one and both survived a shipwreck, the pair goes to Paris to try to find Sophie's mother, and they are aided by Matteo and his band of "rooftoppers."

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Secret Keepers*.

When twelve-year-old Reuben finds a peculiar, magical watch that has the power to turn its wearer invisible, he's propelled on the adventure of a lifetime.

Turnage, Sheila. *Three Times Lucky*.

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. Newbery Honor. Already read it? Choose *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing*, instead.

Classics

Dahl, Roald. ***The Witches.***

A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who is an expert on witches, together foil a witches' plot to destroy the world's children by turning them into mice.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Tale of Despereaux.***

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Juster, Norton. ***The Phantom Tollbooth.***

Maps on endpapers. Milo, a young boy with little interest in anything, takes a trip through the Phantom Tollbooth to the Lands Beyond where he meets an enchanting cast of characters that teaches him the importance of words, numbers, ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm for life.

L'Engle, Madeleine. ***A Wrinkle in Time.***

Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel. Already read it? Try the Graphic Novel!

Montgomery, Lucy M. ***Anne of Green Gables.***

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

O'Dell, Scott. ***Island of the Blue Dolphins.***

Tells the story of a young Native American girl stranded for eighteen years on San Nicolas Island, off the coast of California.

Paterson, Katherine. ***Bridge to Terabithia.***

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Maniac Magee.***

After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

Biography and Nonfiction

Buckley, James. ***It's a Numbers Game - Soccer.***

Information about soccer and soccer players incorporating math into the game, for children.

Clinton, Chelsea. ***It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired, and Get Going!***

With stories about children and teens who have made real changes big and small--in their families, their communities, in our country and across the world--this book will inspire readers to do their part to make our world a better place.

Grandin, Temple. ***The Outdoor Scientist.***

From New York Times bestselling author and world-renowned scientist and autism spokesperson Temple Grandin comes a book about exploring the world around us, asking questions, and making sense of what we see.

Jurmaine, Suzanne. ***Murder on the Baltimore Express: The Plot to Keep Abraham Lincoln from Becoming President.***

Find out how Detective Allan Pinkerton uncovered the plot to murder Lincoln and whisked him safely to Washington D.C. under the darkness of night! While on his inauguration tour,

Abraham Lincoln was to travel 2,000 miles by railroad to Washington. D.C.

King, Shani M. ***Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter?***

Black lives matter. That message would be self-evident in a just world, but in this world and this America, all children need to hear it again and again, and not just to hear it but to feel and know it.

Nuchi, Adah. ***Bunk 9's Guide to Growing Up: Secrets, Tips, and Expert Advice On the Good, the Bad, and the Awkward.***

All about your changing body from the girls of Camp Silver Moon.

Source of book synopses: Titlewave, Follett Library Resources, <<http://www.flr.follett.com>>.