

BCMS Rising Sixth Grade Language Arts|Summer Reading 2021

Pre-AP Students: Choose TWO of the titles below to read over the summer (no more than one graphic novel).

On-Level Students: Choose ONE of the titles below to read over the summer.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Description: "Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure....A story of survival and of transformation, this riveting book has sparked many a reader's interest in venturing into the wild." —Scholastic

Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds

Description: Miles Morales' spidey-sense has been out of whack. He can't shake the nightmares or the buzz every day in history class amidst his teacher's suspicious lectures on the historical "benefits" of slavery. Something's off, but he has no idea what it might be. After being set up and then suspended, Miles wonders if he's even cut out to be a superhero. As his scholarship is threatened, Miles uncovers an evil in his school--now all he can do is suit up.

Last Day on Mars by Kevin Emerson

Description: Earth is gone, burned to a cinder when the sun began going supernova. The human race has fled to Mars, but it's only a temporary solution. Liam and Phoebe will be on the last starliner to depart Mars...or so Liam thinks. Before this day is over, they will discover that the human race is just one of many in our universe locked in a dangerous struggle for survival.

Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon Hale

Description: "Rapunzel escapes her tower-prison all on her own, only to discover a world beyond what she'd ever known before. Determined to rescue her real mother and to seek revenge on her kidnapper would-be mother, Rapunzel and her very long braids team up with Jack (of Giant killing fame) and together they perform daring deeds and rescues all over the western landscape." —Bloomsbury.com

An Elephant in the Garden by Michael Morpurgo

Description: Lizzie, an ailing elderly woman, recounts her childhood memories of life in Dresden, Germany during the 1945 allied bombings that destroyed the city. She and her family fled the city, taking with them an orphaned elephant her mother has cared for since its birth.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Description: "Using words that sing with both the complexity and simplicity of a symphony, and memories that both sting and inspire, Jacqueline Woodson's Brown Girl Dreaming is an intimate journey of victory, sorrow, and discovery. Sharp social commentary of a country's struggle to live up to its ideals, an honest portrayal of the strength of family, and the delicate blossoming of a young writer makes this memoir in verse a gift to all who read it." —nationalbook.org

Smile by Raina Telgemeier

Description: "Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth, and what follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly. This coming-of-age true story is sure to resonate with anyone who has ever been in middle school, and especially those who have ever had a bit of their own dental drama." —Scholastic.com

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin

Description: In 1876, a group of counterfeiters attempt to get their prized engraver out of jail by hatching an outrageous plan to steal President Abraham Lincoln's body from his tomb and holding the body for ransom.

Choosing Courage: Inspiring True Stories of What It Means to Be a Hero by Peter Collier

Description: What turns an ordinary person into a hero? What happens in the blink of an eye on a battlefield (or in any dangerous situation) to bring out true courage? The men and women who have been recognized by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation know the answers to these questions deep in their hearts.

Restart by Gordon Korman

Description: When Chase Ambrose falls off a roof and wakes up with amnesia, everything in his life changes. He used to be a football hero--and a total jerk. Now he's learning what everyone else used to think of him, and he doesn't like it. Is there a way to convince everyone that he's really changed--even the kid whose life he's ruined? Even his former criminally-minded friends? Even...himself?

All novels have been read and reviewed by the BCMS Sixth Grade Language Arts teachers.