



# The IB Middle Years Program at Deal Middle School



## Summer Assignment 2018 for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Reading is the best way to be prepared for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. While we want you to read all the time for fun, you are **required to read two books** from the following list and complete one activity for each book. Students may select any two books from the list that interest them. Both activities are due on **Friday, August 24, 2018**.

### Activity Descriptions

**Book 1 Activity:** For one book you choose to read, write a personal letter to the author (living or dead) explaining how reading his or her book changed you or your view of the world. How and why are you different now than you were before you read this book? Support your ideas with specific details from your life and the book. Be personal, but also be persuasive! This is not a fan letter but rather a reflection on how an author influenced you.

**Book 2 Activity:** For the other book you choose to read, imagine that the author is interested in getting more 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to read the book and needs your help. The author has asked you to design a *new* eye-catching book cover or to write a poem about the book. Use your imagination and stay true to the story.

Each project should be on an 8.5" x 11" (regular printer-sized) sheet of paper, and may be typed or handwritten.

Make a strong first impression!

The following are the books students should select from:

- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith – An American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century.
- *Around the World in Eighty Days*, by Jules Verne – In the story, Phileas Fogg of London attempts to circumnavigate the world in 80 days.
- *Bad Boy*, by Walter Dean Myers – Author Myers describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer.
- *Circus Mirandus*, by Cassie Beasley – When he realizes that his grandfather's stories of an enchanted circus are true, Micah Tuttle sets out to find the mysterious Circus Mirandus and to use its magic to save his grandfather's life.
- *Counting by 7s*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan – Twelve-year-old Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.
- *Elijah of Buxton*, by Christopher Paul Curtis – Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known in his hometown as the boy who made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass when the great orator visited Buxton.
- *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan – Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico, but a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers.
- *Flora & Ulysses*, by Kate DiCamillo – Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.



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- *Little Brother*, by Cory Doctorow – Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to things right.
- *Mockingbird*, by Kathy Erskine – Ten-year-old Caitlin Smith is doubly bereaved. Two years ago, her mother died of cancer; now her beloved older brother Devon has been randomly murdered in a shooting at their American middle school.
- *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, by Rodman Philbrick – The story of a young boy who runs away to find his brother, a young boy who has been sold into the army during the Civil War.
- *One Crazy Summer*, by Rita Williams-Garcia – In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
- *Rain Reign*, by Ann M. Martin – Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose Howard shares a bond with her dog, Rain, but when the dog goes missing, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels to search for her pet.
- *Rules*, by Cynthia Lord – Catherine is a 12-year-old girl who is on summer vacation. While she would like to be doing things like finding new friends, instead she has to take care of her younger brother, David.
- *Secret Coders*, by Gene Luen Yang – Attending an elite school where enterprising students are challenged to solve a variety of clues and puzzles using computer programming, Hopper and her friend, Eni, resolve to crack the school founder's most elusive mystery together.
- *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett – The book tells the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled, contrary, solitary child raised in India but sent to live in her uncle's manor in Yorkshire after her parents' death.
- *Slacker*, by Gordon Korman – When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming-- but before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon 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.
- *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson – Jim Hawkins is a young boy who lives at his parents' inn, the Admiral Benbow, near Bristol, England, in the eighteenth century. An old sea captain named Billy Bones dies in the inn after being presented with a black spot, or official pirate verdict of guilt or judgment.
- *The War That Saved My Life*, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley – 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.
- *The Wednesday Wars*, by Gary D. Schmidt – During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.
- *Zita the Spacegirl*, by Ben Hatke – When young Zita discovers a device that opens a portal to another place, and her best friend is abducted, she is compelled to set out on a strange journey from star to star in order to get back home.