

# Summer Reading Requirements/Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE SIX 2022 – 2023

Although we recognize and hope that many books may be read over the summer, **students are required to read a minimum of four books** to fulfill the SJA Summer Reading Program, including **ONE of the following three Sixth Grade Required Reads: *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat, *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, and *Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac.** \*If students choose to read graphic novels as part of this requirement, only one of the four required reads may be from this genre. Students need to list all book titles read, including the author's name. Parents must sign this list. The list of books read must be submitted to your classroom teacher on the first day of classes in September. These books may be used as the basis for discussion and writing during the first weeks of school.

We encourage families to make reading a regular part of their summer schedule; in this current era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parents and children to bond and relax together, and boosts students' attention span, comprehension, and language/vocabulary development – key tools for academic achievement and success.

Reading resources abound. The American Library Association provides a complete online list of Award Books at [www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia). Baltimore County Public Library ([www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info)), Harford County Public Library ([www.hcplonline.org](http://www.hcplonline.org)), and the York County Public Library ([www.yorklibraries.org](http://www.yorklibraries.org)) offer additional resources and programs for students. Their websites include suggested reading lists by age, information on youth reading programs and events, and a large selection of e-books and audio books available for direct download. In addition, we encourage you to link to the Baltimore County or Harford County Public Libraries' Research Databases to access NoveList K-8 Plus. This database is an excellent source for book recommendations based on age, fiction/non-fiction, interest, and genre.

We are asking that ***every* Sixth Grade student have a current public library card for the upcoming school year.** Library cards may be obtained in person or online from your local library branch. A public library card gives students access to the available resources detailed above, as well as to academic databases that may be used during the year for class assignments and/or projects.

## **REQUIRED READ**

**All students entering Sixth Grade must read ONE of the following selections:**

*Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac  
*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper  
*A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat

## **SUGGESTED READING**

Listed below are several selections from the 2022 – 2023 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominees in the Grades 6-9 Novel Category and Graphic Novel Category. *All titles are listed as suggestions only.*

### **2022 – 2023 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Novels**

- *The Brave* James Bird
- *The 47 People You'll Meet in Middle School* Kristin Mahoney
- *Just Like That* Gary D. Schmidt

### **2022 – 2023 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Graphic Novels**

- *Salt Magic* Hope Larson
- *Shark Summer* Ira Marcks
- *Fallout* Steve Sheinkin

### **2022 Newbery Medal**

*The Last Cuentista* Donna Barba Higuera

### **Short Story Collections**

Suggested authors and titles include, but are not limited to:

Edgar Allen Poe  
Carl Sandburg  
Jane Yolen

*What Do Fish Have to do With Anything?* by Avi

*Every Living Thing* by Cynthia Rylant

*Dare to be Scared: Thirteen Stories to Chill and Thrill* by Robert D. San Souci

*Guys Read Series* (Humor, True Stories, Sports, Science Fiction, Thrillers, Heroes & Villians) edited by Jon Scieszka

*Fear: 13 Stories of Suspense and Horror* edited by R.L. Stine

*Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in Their Youth to Become Stars* by Gregory Zuckerman