

2023 Chelmsford Public Schools  
Suggested Summer Reading for Grade 6

June 2023

Future Sixth Grade Student,

Over the summer, we would encourage you to read as many books as you can! Reading books that interest you will improve your comprehension skills and keep you “in shape” for next fall’s ELA class.

Books are available at the Chelmsford Public Library. Feel free to ask your teachers, librarians, or family members for suggestions on a book you would enjoy!

The following books are suggestions for you, but you can read any books you would like to. **Summer reading is not required, and no assignment will be collected or graded.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Abbey Dick, English Department Coordinator: [dicka@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:dicka@chelmsford.k12.ma.us).

**Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez**

In order to heal after his mother’s death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things—and people—from other universes. But when Sal Vidon meets Gabi Real for the first time, it isn’t under the best of circumstances. Sal is in the principal’s office for the third time in three days, and it’s still the first week of school. Gabi, student council president and editor of the school paper, is there to support her friend Yasmany, who just picked a fight with Sal. She is determined to prove that somehow, Sal planted a raw chicken in Yasmany’s locker, even though nobody saw him do it.

**Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee**

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces.

**Pax by Sara Pennypacker**

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day the unimaginable happens: Peter’s dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather’s house three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn’t where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own.

**Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park**

Julia Song and her friend Patrick want to do a project for the state fair, preferably something to do with animals. But you can’t raise a cow in the suburbs. So Julia’s mom suggests silkworms. They could raise them and then use the silk to make something. Patrick thinks it’s perfect! Julia, not so much. It’s so...Korean. Julia wants to do something more American. But with nothing else to suggest instead, she agrees: Silkworms it is. But growing silkworms is more difficult than either one of them imagined, especially for Julia, who learns about more than just the care and feeding of worms.

### **Save Me a Seat by Sara Weeks and Gita Varadarajan**

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common—but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

### **The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser**

It's five days before Christmas, and the Vanderbeeker children should be dreaming about sugar plums and presents. But when their curmudgeonly landlord mysteriously refuses to renew their lease, the five siblings must find a way to change his mind before New Year's. All they have to do is show him how wonderful they are, right? But as every well-intentioned plan goes comically awry, what the Vanderbeekers ultimately need is a Christmas miracle.

### **The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

Ada is ten years old and has never left her one-room apartment. Her cruel mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother, Jamie, is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him.

### **The Perfect Score by Rob Buyea**

No one likes the Statewide Assessment tests. Not the kids in Mrs. Woods's sixth-grade class. Not even Mrs. Woods. It's not as if everyone doesn't already have enough to worry about. With the test time approaching, the whole school is in a frenzy—students, teachers, the administration. When one of the kids has a big idea for acing the tests, they're all in. But things get ugly before they get better, and in the end, the real meaning of the perfect score surprises them all.

### **Travel Team by Mike Lupica**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team—the very same team that his father once led to national prominence—twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

### **Into the Wild (Warriors series book 1) by Erin Hunter**

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying—and some deaths are more mysterious than others.

Other places to find good books include <https://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/kids/> and <http://www.ala.org> (The American Library Association).

Have a wonderful summer vacation!