

## Summer Reading List for Incoming 6th Grade (2019)

Incoming 6th Graders are asked to read two books over the summer break. **Required** for everyone is *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, and one book of their choice from the list under the **Book 2**.

### BOOK 1

#### Required Reading Book:

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

FANTASY / MYTHOLOGY

### BOOK 2

#### You MUST choose ONE of the following books:

*Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko

FICTION/DISABILITIES

*The Mark of the Thief* by Jennifer Nielsen

FANTASY

*The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

MYSTERY/MYTHOLOGY

*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

MYSTERY/SPORTS

*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

MYSTERY

*My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

ADVENTURE

*The Golden Bull: A Mesopotamian Adventure*  
by Marjorie Cowley

HISTORICAL FICTION

*Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan

HIST FIC / FANTASY

*A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

HISTORICAL FICTION

*Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk

HISTORICAL FICTION

*Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina

REALISTIC FICTION

*Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool

FICTION

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

REALISTIC FICTION

*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

FICTION/SPORTS

*Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly

FICTION

*The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*  
By Jeanne Birdsall **FICTION**

*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech **REALISTIC FICTION**

*Bomb: The Race to Build-And Steal-The World's Most Dangerous Weapon*  
By Steve Sheinkin **NONFICTION/HISTORY**

*The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy **NONFICTION/HISTORY**

*The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* by Adam Gidwitz  
**NONFICTION/HISTORY**

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ACCOMPANYING WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Assignment for *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin**

Complete the following comprehension questions about the book. Please write between 5-8 sentences for each question. Please hand write answers on looseleaf paper.

- 1) Stories are an important part of Minli's life. How do the stories affect Minli's life, and what does Ma think about them?
  
- 2) When Minli sets off on her journey, she writes a letter to Ma and Ba, and signs it, "Love, your obedient daughter." How are Minli's actions similar to or different from the actions of Jade Dragon's children? Compare their different reasons for their actions.
  
- 3) Describe Minli's friendship with Dragon. How do they each help the other reach their goals?
  
- 4) In the story told by the goldfish man, Ma and Ba learn that he once read from the Book of Fortune. What might be the advantages and disadvantages of reading from the Book of Fortune, and knowing your future? Would you have done it if you had the chance? Explain why or why not.
  
- 5) As Ma and Ba think about whether they should let Minli try to change their fortune, Ba says it is like trying to find the paper of happiness. In the story, the secret of happiness is shared, but then lost. What word might have been written on that piece of paper? Why would this word be the secret of happiness?
  
- 6) When Minli meets the buffalo boy and is taken to his home, she feels a tightness in her throat when she thinks of her home in contrast with the boy's home. What are the differences between her situation and that of the buffalo boy, and why does this make Minli react in the way that she does?
  
- 7) Minli is faced with a difficult decision when she reaches the Old Man of the Moon. She can ask only one question. Why does she decide to ask the question that she does? What does this say about what she has learned on her journey?
  
- 8) Ma says stories are worthless, but stories play an important role throughout Minli's journey. Describe one time in the book where a story helps Minli reach her goal of getting to the Old Man in the Moon.
  
- 9) How has Ma's character changed from the beginning of the book to the end?
  
- 10) Many stories are told within the main story of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. Which do you think held the most importance, and why?
  - The author includes illustrations of specific events for the reader. For the story that you think is most important, create an illustration for the author to include in the book. If the story already has an illustration, pick a different part of the story to draw.

**DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU CHOOSE A FICTION BOOK OR NONFICTION BOOK,  
CHOOSE ONE ASSIGNMENT BELOW TO COMPLETE**

**Assignment For a Fiction Book ONLY : Character Study**

If you choose a fiction book from the list as your second choice, complete the following. Please hand write response on looseleaf paper.

Choose one book and write a three paragraph response that explains how the main character of the book has changed from the beginning to the end. In your response, be sure to talk about what the character is like at the **beginning (paragraph #1), middle (paragraph #2), and end of the book (paragraph #3)**. Answer the following:

- Explain **WHY** this character changes throughout the book.
- Does the character change because of important events or conversations with other characters? What causes the changes?
- How do these changes affect the book's plot? List the title and author at the beginning of your response.

Include **specific examples** in your report and list the page number where they were found in the book.

**Assignment For a Nonfiction Book ONLY: NONFICTION BOOK**

If you choose a nonfiction book as your second choice, complete the following. Please hand write response on looseleaf paper.

For the nonfiction book that you have chosen, write a three paragraph report about the book's main event or problem. In your response, explain the **author's purpose** in writing the book (**paragraph #1**), and how the book's main event or problem **changes the world or individual people** in some way (**paragraphs #2 and #3**). Include **specific examples** in your report and list the page number where they were found in the book. List the title and author at the beginning of your report.