

June 2021

Hello Future Sixth Graders!

I am already so excited to begin working with you in September! I wanted to let you know about your reading assignments for the summer - there are some really fantastic books you'll have the opportunity to read. Along with reading, you will have a bit of work to do - this helps me to know how well you understood what you read!

- **Book #1:** We will all read *A.K.A Genius* by Marilee Haynes. We will all complete the attached book report for this book.
- **Book #2:** You may choose any book from the attached list and complete any of the activities listed below.
- **Book #3:** You may choose any book you'd like! It does not have to be from our list. You will also complete one of the below assignments.

All summer reading assignments must be completed and handed in on the first day of school!

Here are your choices for projects for book #s 2 and 3. You may only choose each activity once.

1. Illustrate a scene from the book and write a caption (use complete sentences). Please use 8 ½ x 11 " paper.
2. Write a letter to one of the main characters. Your letter needs to be at least 8 sentences long and it should show me your understanding of the plot of the book. This can be typed or handwritten on theme paper.
3. Write a descriptive paragraph of a big scene from the book (in your own words). Your paragraph should be at least 8 sentences and include details from the story, feelings, character names, etc. Typed or handwritten on theme paper please.
4. Do a character web for two characters in the story. The webs should include "character traits" (funny, smart, loyal) about each character.
5. Tell your opinion of the book in a book review. Be sure it's at least 8 sentences and use details from the text to support your opinions. Typed or handwritten on theme.

Email me with questions! tcronin@sfaschool.com

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

FIFTH GRADE ENTERING SIXTH GRADE

***The Best Man* by Richard Peck** Archer Magill has spent a lively five years of grade school with one eye out in search of grown-up role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, the great architect; his dad, the great vintage car customizer. ©2017 Grade Level 5-6

***A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord** When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

***How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure* by John Rocco** The Moon landing is one of the most ambitious, thrilling, and dangerous ventures in human history. This book tells the stories of the 400,000 unsung heroes—the engineers, mathematicians, seamstresses, welders, and factory workers—and their innovations and life-changing technological leaps forward that allowed NASA to achieve this unparalleled accomplishment. **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award** ©2020 Grade Level 5-6

***Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell** With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world in her neighborhood on 58th Place. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. **Best Books of 2019, American Indians in Children's Literature** ©2019 Grade Level 6-8

***Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter* by Beth Fantaskey** It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

***Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate Dicamillo** Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her up one night and forces her on a bizarre car trip, running away from (imaginary?) law-enforcers. Louisiana has to use all her charms and wits to survive when she is abandoned and finds out that her life story has all been a gigantic lie. Her heart is put to the test: is it big enough to forgive? ©2020 Grade Level 5-6

***Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina** Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. **2019 Newbery Medal** ©2018 Grade Level 5-7

***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani** Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha seldom speaks and writes to her dead mother in a night diary. It's 1947, and her country (India) was just split into two countries: Pakistan and India. For the family's safety, they have to take a dangerous journey to a new home. **2019 Newbery Honor Book** ©2019 Grade Level 5-7

***Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Grey D. Schmidt** Carter Jones suddenly has an English butler who insists on helping his family during a time of grief: teaching and letting Carter drive the huge family car and taking over the school soccer field so everyone can play cricket, among other absurd and humorous events. ©2020 Grade Level 5-7

***Talking Leaves* by Joseph Bruchac** When his father, Sequoyah comes back from a long period of absence, Uwohali is excited to reconnect. However, his father's mind seems far away and everyone thinks he's crazy. As this story based on a major historical event unfolds, Uwohali and the readers find out that the ingenius Sequoyia is actually trying to invent the first Cherokee alphabet!. ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

Name: _____

Book Report

Title: *A.K.A. Genius*

Author: Marilee Haynes

Setting: (When and where does the story take place?):

Tell who the main character is and provide a brief description:

Describe the *conflict* of the book (What is the main problem for your main character?):

How is the conflict resolved?

What is a theme of the book (What is a big message that the author is trying to say about life in general?)

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Please explain your answer.
