

Students Entering 6th Grade:

Choose **one** novel from this list and **complete the journal assignment** on pages 2 and 3 of this packet. The rubric is on page 4.

The Fairy Tale Detectives (Sisters Grimm Series #1)

by Michael Buckley

With the winning combination of *Nancy Drew* meets *Shrek*, this first book in the new *Sisters Grimm* series will entertain with a hilarious mix of mysteries and fairy tale twists. In the tradition of *Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events* and *The Spiderwick Chronicles* comes a new humorous mystery of fantastic circumstances. *The Sisters Grimm (Book One): The Fairy Tale Detectives* introduces us to two orphaned sisters, Sabrina and Daphne, who are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother, Relda Grimm. Grandmother Grimm lives in a strange town in New York State, known for its extraordinary number of unexplained and unusual crimes. As soon as the sisters arrive, they begin to unravel a mystery that leads to their ancestors' magical beginnings. Sabrina and Daphne learn they are descendants of the Brothers Grimm, who were actually detectives of the magical phenomenon perpetrated by the Everafters, a parallel race of magical beings. They soon discover it is the Grimm family's legacy to keep the Everafters in line and the two sisters are the sole heirs to this challenge!

Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, leaves a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he thinks is his father. The man he is looking for is the famous H.E. Calloway.

Heat

by M. Lupica

Michael Arroyo, a 13-year-old Cuban immigrant, dreams of playing in the Little League World Series. After all, he's an excellent pitcher on his team, and he lives next to Yankee Stadium. But how can his team from the South Bronx beat the rich kids from the suburbs? Michael has more than baseball on his mind, however, as he must deal with the death of his father, and his decision (with big brother Carlos) to keep the death a secret to avoid foster care. Sports fans will relish the on-court action, expertly rendered in Lupica's taut prose.

Out of My Mind

by Sharon Draper

"If there is one book teens and parents (and everyone else) should read this year, *Out of My Mind* should be it" (Denver Post). Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise.

Crash

by Jerry Spinelli

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

Literary Devices

The time and location (*setting*) of the novel is important because

The problem (*conflict*) in the story is

The message the author tells us about life (*theme*) is

Reflect

Write down a moment in the book that affected you in some way. Make sure to describe that moment in detail and explain why it affected you.

Rubric

Score 4

The bookmark responses demonstrate **thorough comprehension** of ideas stated and implied in the summer reading by providing **thoughtful and accurate responses** with examples and details from the novel. The responses demonstrate a **full understanding of the reading**.

Score 3

The bookmark responses demonstrate **comprehension** of ideas stated and/or implied in the summer reading by providing **mostly accurate responses** with some examples and details from the novel. The responses demonstrate an **adequate understanding of the reading**.

Score 2

The bookmark responses demonstrate **basic comprehension** of ideas stated and/or implied in the summer reading by providing **generally accurate responses** with limited examples and details from the novel. The responses show only a **limited understanding** of the reading.

Score 1

The bookmark responses demonstrate **little to no comprehension** of ideas stated and/or implied in the summer reading by providing **minimally or no accurate responses** with few or no examples and details from the novel. The response **does not demonstrate reading comprehension** of the novel.