

Summer Reading 2020

Grade 6



The purpose of the summer reading program is to encourage the enjoyment of reading and the development of independent reading skills. Summer is a time of fun, exploration and growth; it is a perfect time to read. It is our hope at St. Michael School that each of you will become lifelong readers. Students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades are required to read two books during the summer. One of the books should be chosen from the Summer Reading Book List.

1. ***Amal Unbound*** by Aisha Seed. Complete questions on the following page.
2. **Free Choice.** Choose one book from the *Suggested Titles* attached. Complete the corresponding assignment.

Several of the books on the Reading List are some of the students' favorites. Feel free to read more than one from the list. The reading and corresponding assignments will be collected on the first day of school. Enjoy your time reading this summer!



Grade 6 Summer Reading List

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett- The novel follows the story of an orphan girl sent to Yorkshire mansion. At first she is frightened by the place until she discovers a doorway leading to an overgrown garden.

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster, Jules Feiffer (illus.)- This ingenious fantasy centers around Milo, a bored ten-year old who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth gates and begins a memorable journey.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli- When Jeffrey Lionel Magee wanders into Two Mills, Pennsylvania, a legend is in the making. Before too long, stories begin to circulate about how fast and how far he can run and about feats so incredible they earn him the nickname "Maniac."

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt- Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb?

The Sisters Grimm Series (any book in the series)- by , Michael Buckley- When orphaned sisters Sabrina and Daphne are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother, Relda Grimm, who lives in a strange town in New York state, known for its extraordinary number of unexplained and unusual crimes, they begin to unravel a mystery that leads to their ancestors' magical beginnings.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett- This bewitching first novel is a puzzle, wrapped in a mystery, disguised as an adventure, and delivered as a work of art. When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen- Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter?

Escape Under the Forever Sky by Eve Yohalem- This suspenseful story is funny and touching. Lucy's mother is the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, so Lucy's life must be one big adventure, right? Wrong. Lucy's worrywart mother keeps her locked up inside the ambassador's residence. All Lucy can do is read about the exotic and exciting world that lies beyond the compound walls. Until one day Lucy gets kidnapped!

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.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne- Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. Their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein- Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech- A prequel to the Newbery Medal-winning *Walk Two Moons*, this book chronicles the daily life of 13-year-old Mary Lou Finney during her most chaotic and romantic summer ever. Mary Lou's summer journal -- which she begins grudgingly as a dreaded assignment for school becomes a hilarious chronicle of the circle of people and events that make her summer.

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli- As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds- The story of an African American middle school runner with the talent to qualify for the Junior Olympics—if he can learn to control his temper. Money is tight and his father is in jail, and Ghost has been having a lot of what he calls “altercations.”

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman- Catherine, the daughter of an impoverished knight, is in her fourteenth year when she begins a record of her daily life. Her diary of the year 1290 provides a revealing, amusing, and vivid picture of both Catherine's thoughts and Medieval life.

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm- Ellie is an 11-year-old girl who is having problems moving forward and finding her passion when her grandfather re-enters her life as a 13-year-old boy due to his discovery of an age reversing formula. With his help, she finally understands the cycle of life, finds that science is her passion and starts to live.

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai *I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday.* When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick- This is a powerful story of a unique friendship between a troubled, oversized boy and the tiny, physically challenged genius who proves that courage comes in all sizes.

The City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau-The story of Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow, two teenage citizens of a subterranean city called Ember, which was established 241 years before the events of the book to allow the human race to survive an impending apocalyptic event.

Schooled by Gordon Korman- Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan- Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe.

The Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis- Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Momma and Dad decide it's time for a visit to Grandma, Dad comes home with the amazing Ultra-Glide, and the Watsons set out on a trip like no other.

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan- Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of *The Wizard of Oz*, she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. Bubbling over with humor and tenderness, this is an irresistible story of self-discovery and of the role models who forever change us.

The Big Field by Mike Lupica- When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis- Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit. They end up in Hooverville outside of Flint, Michigan, and her brother attempts to be a performer while Deza and her mother search for a home.

Football Genius by Tim Green-Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Name _____

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Answer the following questions based on your free choice book.

1 Title of Book _____

Author _____

2. Pick three words to describe the protagonist (main character).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. In complete sentences describe the setting of the story.

4. Describe the major problem or conflict the main character had to overcome and describe how it was solved.

5. What lesson did you take away from this book? What mark has this book made on you?

Amal Unbound

Aisha Saeed



Amal is a typical 12 year old girl living in Pakistan, full of hopes and dreams for her future. Her whole life changes after an accidental run-in with the son of her village's corrupt landlord. Amal must work as his family's servant to pay off her own family's debt. When it becomes clear just how far they will go to protect their interests, Amal realizes she will have to find a way to work with others if they are ever to exact change in a cruel status quo, and if Amal is ever to achieve her dreams.

Amal is from Punjabi Village (a village in the province of Punjab in Pakistan). Some words throughout the book are written in Amal's language or refer to the Pkistani culture. Knowing these words will help you understand the story better.

I hope you enjoy the story!

Answer parts A and B after you read the novel.

Vocabulary:

Punjabi village- A village in the Punjab region.

Mosque- A muslim place of worship

Amma- Mother

Call to prayers- A speaker placed on a minaret signals to Muslims that it is time to pray.

Minaret- A tall, thin tower that is part of a mosque

Chador- An article of clothing worn by Muslim women that wraps around the head and body.

Kamizes- An article of clothing worn by both men and women.

Shalwar kamiz- Two articles of clothing including a long kamiz shirt and a pair of baggy shalwar pants.

Samosas- Filled pastries that are usually fried.

Kulfi- A frozen dairy dessert that has also been called “traditional Indian ice cream”

Abu- Father

Laddus- round sweets made from sugar, flour, and some sort of nuts

Dowry- Payment given from the bride’s family to the husband’s family as a part of the marriage. In Pakistan it is typical to include jewelry, clothing, and money. It could also be animals or land.

Zenith Irfan- The first female motorcyclist to ride across Pakistan

Cricket- A sport played with a bat and ball, but with rules of play much different from baseball

Rickshaws- A wheeled cart that people ride in that is pulled by a person

Jinn- a spirit in Arabian and Muslim mythology

Cholay- curried chickpeas

Beef korma- A curry dish made with beef

Roti- A flatbread that looks similar to a tortilla

Nihari- A stew of slow-cooked meat

Alif- The first letter in the Arabic alphabet

Baba- Papa

Bey- The second letter in the Arabic alphabet

Sari- A cloth that is draped and wrapped to be worn as a dress for formal functions in Pakistan

Hijab- A headscarf worn to cover the hair

Pakorras- Battered and fried snack food can include onion, eggplant, potato, spinach, plantain,

Baji- Big sister

Eid- Eid al-Fitr is an important holiday celebrated by Muslims that marks the end of Ramadan,

Mehndi- body art drawn on the skin using henna paste

Henna- a dye prepared from a flowering plant known as hina

Churidar pajamas- a close-fitting pair of pants with some stretch in them that are long and bunch at the ankles

A. What are Character Traits?

When we talk about a character, we often describe that character in terms of character traits: descriptive adjectives like happy or sad that tell us the specific qualities of the character.

We might infer a character trait from something a character does only once, or we might draw our conclusions from a series of things the character says and does. Sometimes a character's traits may be different by the end of a story than they were at the beginning.

Fill in the chart and identify at least **three** character traits for Amal that describe her in the beginning of the story and three that describe her at the end. The traits may be similar. Then cite at least one example for the novel to support the traits.

Beginning of the Novel	End of the Novel
Traits:	Traits:
Example from the novel:	Example from the novel:

B.**SUMMARY WRITING**

Use the right side of the chart to answer the questions.

Who is the main character?	
What does she want?	
What is the conflict? What is stopping her from getting what she wants?	
How does she try to resolve the conflict?	
Is the conflict resolved? Explain why or why not.	