

2026 Summer Reading Assignment for Rising 6th Grade

Dear Rising 6th Grader,

Congratulations on finishing your fifth-grade year with your fantastic teachers and peers at Holy Redeemer! Your middle school teachers are so excited to welcome you to middle school! Over the summer, we ask that you relax, enjoy some special family time, try something new, and don't forget to read!

Speaking of reading, Mrs. Enkiri and I have been discussing books a lot! We decided on the book that **every** 6th grader will be expected to read this summer. The title of the book is Fish in a Tree, and it is written by the brilliant Linda Mullaly Hunt. This book is readily available in bookstores (new and secondhand!).

As a part of your reading of this book, you will be completing a reflection journal that is attached. Please write legibly and completely (would love to see a little cursive here and there if you can!), really considering the characters' experiences and comparing them with yours. Your reflection journal will be turned in to me on the first day of school for your initial grade in literature class.

You may choose one other book to read from the list below for your enjoyment. I will have a brief, fun quiz on what happened in the book for you to take when you return to school. ☺ That will be your only assignment for the second book. ☺

2nd Book Selections: (Your choice to annotate or not!)

The Hundred Dresses, Eleanor Estes

From Goodreads, "This Newbery Honor classic, illustrated by a Caldecott Medalist, is a beautifully written tribute to the power of kindness, acceptance, and standing up for what's right. Wanda Petronski is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. She claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't. When Wanda is pulled out of school one day, the class feels terrible, and classmate Maddie decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again." A timeless, gentle tale about bullies, bystanders, and having the courage to speak up."

The Hero Two Doors Down, Sharon Robinson

Summary: Steven Satlow is an eight-year-old boy living in Brooklyn, New York, which means he only cares about one thing--the Dodgers. Steve's love for the baseball team is passed down to him from his father. The two of them spend hours reading the sports pages and listening to games on the radio. Aside from an occasional run-in with his teacher, life is pretty simple for Steve. But then Steve hears a rumor that an African American family is moving to his all-Jewish neighborhood. It's 1948 and some of his neighbors are against it. Steve knows that this is wrong. His hero, Jackie Robinson, broke the color barrier in baseball the year before. Then it happens - Steve's new neighbor is Jackie Robinson! Steve is beyond excited about living two doors down

from the Robinson family. He can't wait to meet Jackie. This is going to be the best baseball season yet! How many kids ever get to become friends with their hero?

Hatchet, Gary Paulsen

Summary: Hatchet is a survival novel about a thirteen-year-old boy named Brian Robeson who finds himself completely alone in the Canadian wilderness with only a hatchet as his tool.

Restart, Gordon Korman

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So, as a recap, you need to read two books this summer; of course read more if possible! Have a wonderful summer and please reach out to me via email if you should have any questions. My email is k.parker@hrs-ken.org. Please ask permission from a parent to contact me, and cc a parent on the email. I cannot wait to be your teacher for literature!

Sincerely,

Ms. Parker ☺

Middle School Literature and 8th Grade Homeroom

Holy Redeemer Catholic School