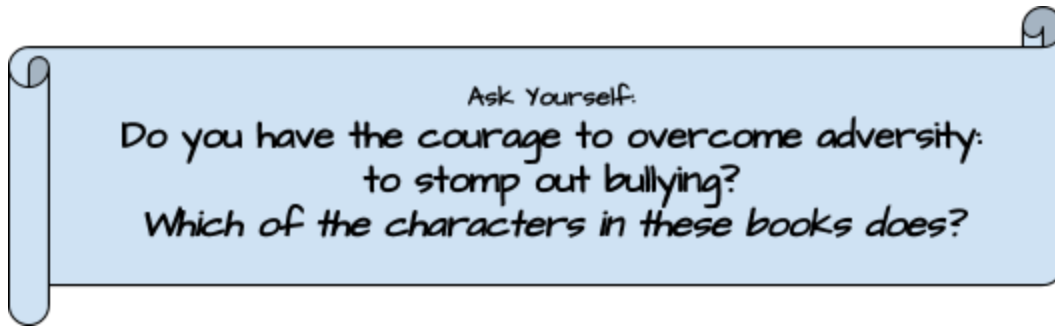


2017 Sixth-Grade Summer Reading Extravaganza!



Everyone Reads:

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.

Iron Thunder: the Battle Between *The Monitor* and *The Merrimac*, by Avi

When his father is killed fighting for the Union in The War Between the States, thirteen-year-old Tom Carroll must take a job to help support his family. He finds work in the ironworks factory in his hometown of Brooklyn, NY.

There, he becomes part of a team of men who make and sail ***The Monitor***, a ship made of iron. With Tom on board, the ship fights the Confederate “sea monster” ***the Merrimac***. Tom and crew wonder if their ship will be a home for heroes or an iron coffin.

Choose at least one more: When you read, look for the major conflict in the story!

Challenge yourself: Make connections between the protagonist in this choice book and the characters you met in either of the two required books.

**A favorite!*

***A favorite with a challenge!*

***Schooled** by Gordon Korman

Capricorn “Cap” Anderson is raised, until the age of 13, on a commune. His “hippie” grandmother is his parent, his teacher and his role model. When she has to be hospitalized, Cap finds himself in a modern middle school where he has to quickly adjust to the social conditions a teenager faces and **hoax** after **hoax** orchestrated by his peers. Or, do the children of “C” Average Middle School have to adjust to him? *Who, from the story Crash, does Cap most remind you of?*

(Semi-Realistic Fiction)

***Counting on Grace**, by Elizabeth Winthrop -- In 1910, many kids who should have been students ended up working in factories in order to provide enough income for a family to survive. Lewis Hines, a famous photographer from the time period, links up with Grace and her good friend to start a campaign against child labor

Taking Sides, by Gary Soto Lincoln is in a jam when his basketball team at his new school--where the students are rich and mostly white--faces his old team from the barrio on the boards. How can he play his best against his friends? No matter who wins, it looks like it will be lose-lose for Lincoln. *Why are good values and sportsmanship so important?*

(Realistic/ Sports Fiction)

Letters From Rifka by Karen Hesse

In letters written to her cousin back in Russia, Rifka tells of her immediate family's flight from Russia in 1919. At each step of the journey, Rifka and her family must **overcome** an **obstacle**. *Which of these obstacles might be considered a form of bullying?*

(Historical Fiction)

****Princess Academy**, by Shannon Hale

When the royal priests of Danland declare the prince's future bride will be from remote Mount Eskel, a princess academy is established to prepare the candidates and Miri becomes one of the candidates. *How **ironic** is it that potential princesses must fight to be respected?*

(Fantasy/Newbery-Award Winner)

The Great Gilly Hopkins, by Katherine Paterson

An 11-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly to her. *Think about the similar themes found in The Pinballs. Also, ask yourself, is Gilly the bully?*

(Realistic Fiction)

***Esperanza Rising**, by Pam Munoz Ryan

When Esperanza and Mama are forced to flee to a Mexican farm labor camp in California, they must adjust to a life without the fancy dresses and servants they were accustomed to. What are the obstacles Esperanza must overcome once she is in the USA? *Are any of those obstacles in this story caused by relational bullying or **discrimination** – leaving out a person or group of people?*

(Multicultural/ Historical Fiction)

****House of the Scorpion**, by Nancy Farmer

In a future where human cloning is common but humans despise clones, Matteo Alaecran enjoys a special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 140-year old leader of a corrupt empire. How is Matt bullied? *How is this futuristic society nestled between Mexico and the United States, a potential predictor of what might come if we do not learn to manage bullying issues?*

(Science Fiction/ Newbery Honor Book/National Book Award)

Swindle, by Gordon Korman

After an **unscrupulous** collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of **misfits** to break into Palamino's heavily guarded store to steal the card back and use the money to help his father. *Can adults be bullies too?*

(Realistic Fiction)

Rules, by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is nearly impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family whose daily routine revolves around his disability. Catherine spends a lot of time trying to teach her brother *rules* so he won't embarrass her. *In the process of dealing with her embarrassment, is she accidentally leaving out others – potential great friends – because they are different?*

(Newbery Honor Book/ Realistic Fiction)

Bomb, by Steve Sheinkin

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. *What would someone like Penn Webb say about the making of the atomic bomb? How about Tom Carroll?*

(Historical Non-Fiction/Newbery Honor Medal Winner)

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl. *Look carefully at the traits found in the children who joined into Hitler's youth organizations. Do they remind you of any of the fictional characters you've faced? How about those who opposed the Nazis? Do they seem similar to people like Jane Forbes or Tom Carroll?*

(Historical Non-Fiction)

****Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**, by Phillip Hoose

After getting dragged off to jail for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white woman, Claudette Colvin fights **segregation** in Alabama in the 1950's, deciding she's had enough of the white Jim Crow laws that have angered and puzzled her since she was a young girl. This book is a true story of a remarkable young girl who demonstrates **courage** and **perseverance** when faced with real-life bullying. *How is Claudette similar to Rosa Parks?*

(Historical Non-Fiction/Newbery Honor Book)

We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, by Kadir Nelson

Following your passion in spite of obstacles is the theme of this story of unsung heroes; gifted athletes who had to **overcome segregation** and **discrimination** to simply *play ball*. Nelson received prestigious awards and honors for both his story and his illustrations. We will be learning more about **civil rights** during the winter months in sixth grade. Reading this book gives you a head-start! *What character traits helped these men overcome adversity?*

(Historical Non-Fiction/Sibert Medal Winner, Coretta Scott King Winner and Honor Book)

****Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini**, by Sid Fleishman

Fleishman provides insider information on how the very ordinary Ehrich Weiss magically transformed himself into the mystical, legendary Harry Houdini. Fleishman shares, with wit and a strong bias, some of Houdini's most amazing hoaxes! We will examine several **hoaxes** during sixth-grade reading and study how authors create **bias**, so reading this biography will give you a head-start! *What conflicts did Houdini face on his rise to fame? How did he overcome them?*

(Biography)

****Kennedy's Last Days**, by Bill O'Reilly

Kennedy's Last Days is a gripping account of the events leading up to the most notorious crime of the twentieth century. Author Bill O'Reilly describes the Kennedy family's life, the crises facing the president around the world and at home, the nation's growing fascination with their vigorous, youthful president, and finally, the shocking events leading up to his demise. *How did President Kennedy and his family grow into their role in the white house? Why do you think some people did not respect the stands that President Kennedy took on many of the issues he faced? (Can you make a connection to Penn Webb or to Captain Ericsson?)*

(Historical Non-Fiction)

True Green Kids, by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin

Kids can help to, according to the authors of **True Green Kids**. This non-fiction collection of environmental issues and kid-friendly solutions is filled with great pictures, diagrams and websites that tell the story of our environment and the dangers we might face if we don't raise our awareness.

(Science, Non-Fiction)

When Rivers Burned: The Earth Day Story by Linda Crotta Brennan

Once, in America... chemicals killed plants and animals. Cars and factories filled the air with toxic fumes. Oil spills destroyed ocean life. The sewage floating along America's rivers was so thick it sometimes caught fire. The Earth was dying. Senator Gaylord Nelson believed that attitudes about ecology could change if people understood what was happening. He charged student organizer, Denis Hayes, with setting a plan for a national Earth Day in motion. What these men began on April 22, 1970, would change the world for the better. *What kind of courage does it take to stand up for what you believe in and help to make a change?*

[Science Non-Fiction]

YOU CAN FIND THESE BOOKS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY, AT A BOOKSTORE, AT AMAZON.COM OR PURCHASE AND READ THEM ON YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICE! ENJOY!

Sue Gareffa
Gould Library

The Sixth-Grade Team