

June 10, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Summer is a great time to keep reading! First, summer reading helps to keep the developmental skill of reading sharp and limit the loss of academic ground gained throughout the school year. Research shows that students who do not read over the summer fall behind a full grade level in their reading skills and must work harder in September to catch up to their peers who do read. Second, summer reading can instill a love of reading that will last a lifetime. Having the time to read what you like can be a wonderful opportunity to explore interests and try new authors.

This year, students currently in grade 5 will be asked to:

- read the *assigned Grade 6 book, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- complete a summary sheet with a written summary (first ELA Grade Term 1). The attached rubric will indicate how the written summary will be scored.

*This year's Berkley Middle School summer reading school-wide theme is bullying. Each grade will read a book related to this topic. **All Grade 6 students** are required to read the book *Maniac Magee*. The story contains characters and plot events that show how people are affected by bullying. The Berkley Public Library has some copies of *Maniac Magee* available for lending. Also, families may purchase *Maniac Magee* at local book sellers and online.

Upon return to school, each class will take part in the following group discussions and activities: understanding BMS school policies and procedures concerning bullying, helping students learn how to prevent bullying through making responsible choices with words and actions both in person and online, and learning how to help others who may be bullied.

Forms are included in this packet and are available on the school website at www.berkleypublicschools.org.

Optional Reading: students may use the list of suggested books for grades 5&6 to select a book of choice. Also, students can view video book talks to preview new books: <http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/ab/booktalks.htm>. Remember, students are able to choose their own books with the approval of their family or guardian. The Berkley Public Library is a great source of free books and offers free Internet access. Take advantage of the library's SAILS network to order books from other libraries.

Attention BMS students! Be ready to take an AR test in September! The Berkley Public Library has the Accelerated Reader list so that you may choose a book to help you meet the Informational Technology class reading requirement for Term 1. You will be required to read a book each term and take an accelerated reading test that counts toward your grade each term.

Families may wish to visit *Reading Rockets*, the national multi-media reading project at <http://www.readingrockets.org/> or *Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge* <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=318> for additional fun activities. Both of these resources offer tips for staying interested in reading and activities that can be enjoyed together.

Have a wonderful summer. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,
Grades 6 Teachers

Name: _____

Summer Reading Book Summary

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Main Character: _____

Description of Main Character (physical appearance, age, personality, strengths/weaknesses, likes/dislikes, other outstanding traits): _____

Others Characters: _____

Setting (when/where): _____

Plot (the action or events/what happens): _____

Problem: _____

Solution: _____

Theme (the moral, a lesson learned): _____

Best Part: _____

Rating (circle one): 1 - I really likes this book 2 - This book was OK 3 - I did not like this book
Give three reasons for this rating (you may use the back if needed):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Berkley Summer Reading List Grades 5, & 6

While this list of books is not all-inclusive, it is a starting point for choosing good literature for your child to read during the summer. Remember the Rule of 5: If you read the first page and make five mistakes, the book may be too hard for you at this time. Wait six months and try it again. Reading is more enjoyable when you don't have to struggle! Magazines and books on tape (CD's or on-line) make for easy reads, too.

Grades 5&6
Easy
Bunnicula Runt
Magic Tree House series
The BFG, Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Charlotte's Web
Amber Brown series
Little House and the Big Woods series
Fudge, Superfudge (Judy Blume)
The Time Warp Trio
Ramona series (Beverly Cleary)
Encyclopedia Brown series
Frindle (Andrew Clements)
Just Right
A Wrinkle in Time
Because of Winn-Dixie
Series of Unfortunate Events
Hoot Flush
George vs. George: The Revolutionary War as Seen by both Sides
Guardians of Ga'Hoole series
Bridge to Terabithia Ruby Holler
Harriet the Spy Nancy Drew Mysteries
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Just Ella Ella Enchanted Princess Academy
Lily's Crossing The Anybodies Thunder from the Sea
Old Yeller The Hardy Boys Mysteries
Harry Potter series The Land of Elyon series
The Black Stallion Julie of the Wolves Shiloh
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (Chronicles of Narnia)
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry
Dear America series Royal Diaries
Challenging
Call of the Wild White Fang Esperanza Rising
Eragon, Eldest Crispin (Avi) Artemis Fowl
Kidnapped 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
Sea Monster The Titan's Curse The Lightning Thief Warriors
Harry Potter Series Peter and the Starcatchers
Maximum Ride series
Inkheart Dragon Rider The Thief Lord The Hobbit
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Lord of the Rings Trilogy)
Short Stories by Edgar Allen Poe
Science Fiction by Ray Bradbury
Heat (and other baseball/sports stories by Make Lupica)
The Wizard of Oz The Secret Garden
Bud, Not Buddy Johnny Tremain