

**MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SUMMER READING LIST  
GRADE 6 - 2021**

**Mustangs Who Read Succeed!**

There will be **no mandatory** reading requirement at Morton for summer 2021. However, for those of you who want to enrich and exercise your brain this summer, please find below some great, diverse options from our sixth grade list. It is recommended (not required) for students to read two books off the list. Happy reading!

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1. **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (unabridged) (5 points)** - Lewis Carroll. Readers will enjoy this classical favorite fantasy tale as they travel on a journey through Wonderland with the protagonist, Alice, as she encounters many amazing, whimsical characters.
2. **C.C. Payne Collection of Stories: *Lula Bell on Geekdom, Freakdom, and the Challenges of Bad Hair* (7 points); *Something to Sing About* (4 points); *The Thing About Leftovers* (10 points)** - Read **any** of the three touching and humorous novels by local novelist and former Morton student, C.C. Payne. Through a cast of quirky characters, readers explore many themes such as friendship, family, and forgiveness.
3. **Counting by 7s (10 points)** - Holly Goldberg Sloan. Willow, a young genius, is devastated after the death of her adoptive parents. However, she learns to rebuild her life as she develops new relationships with unusual, quirky characters.
4. **Esperanza Rising (6 points)** - Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza and her mother must give up their lives of wealth in Mexico and work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.
5. **Fantasy League (10 points)** - Mike Lupica. Charlie, a twelve-year-old fantasy football expert and a celebrity famous for his football game picks, befriends a NFL team owner and becomes part of his inner circle. Football enthusiasts will love this sports fiction novel.
6. **Grace, Gold & Glory: My Leap of Faith (8 points)** - Gabrielle Douglas and Michelle Burford. An inspiring autobiography about Gabby Douglas, the first African American gymnast to win the all-around competition in the Olympics. Gabby shares with readers the message that any dream is possible with faith, perseverance, and determination.
7. **The Hobbit (16 points)** - J.R.R. Tolkien. Fantasy lovers will enjoy this classic heroic tale of a Hobbit named Bilbo Baggins and the other mythical creatures that live in a land called Middle Earth.
8. **Masters of Disaster (3 points)** - Gary Paulsen. Readers will enjoy this humorous adventure book about three twelve-year-old boys who decide to increase the excitement in their lives by participating in a series of daring stunts like riding a bicycle off of a roof top.

9. **Merci Suarez Changes Gears (10 points)** – Meg Medina. In this book, readers become immersed in Cuban American family, culture and immigrant life. Merci, a sixth grader with a wandering eye from a working-class Latina family, is a scholarship recipient at an elite private school in South Florida. Humor and wisdom is used to share the obstacles she faces with bullies at school and at home with an adored grandfather who struggles with dementia.
  
10. **The Mother-Daughter Book Club Series (AR points vary based on each book in the series.)** - Heather Vogel Frederick. Read any of the first seven books in this delightful series about a few mothers who force their daughters to join a book club to the dismay of their daughters who are not even friends. The humorous twists and turns, pranks, and struggles in the lives of the book club daughters are highly entertaining! The club members mature from middle school to the end of high school throughout the series, and each book focuses on a different Classic novel as the topic of book club meetings.
  
11. **Saving Wonder (9 points)** - Mary Knight. With a setting in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky, three close friends bond for a common environmental cause and demonstrate the power of words, friendship and family to unite their community to bring about positive change.
  
12. **Scat (12 points)** - Carl Hiaasen. The Florida Everglades is the setting for this twisted, hysterical mystery. The drama unfolds after a feared biology teacher mysteriously disappears following a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp.
  
13. **Seas Apart (10 points)** - Jeanna Janes. This debut adventure novel, by a native Kentuckian, takes readers on the sensational journey of two kids who are attempting to solve a mystery by unlocking hidden family secrets of the past. Along the way, they encounter pirates and uncover unexpected hidden treasures. This action packed quest will keep you turning the pages!
  
14. **The Skin I'm In (4 points)** - Sharon Flake. Thirteen-year-old Maleeka is dissatisfied because her skin is extremely dark until she meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face. Through her teacher, Maleeka discovers who she is and what she looks like in this realistic fiction book.
  
15. **Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line (8 points)** - Andrew Maraniss. This nonfiction book details the fascinating life of Perry Wallace, an African American basketball player who desegregated the Southeastern Conference when he accepted a scholarship to play ball at Vanderbilt University. Readers will learn of the many horrifying obstacles Wallace faced at school and while on the road in the Conference.
  
16. **The White Giraffe (7 points)** - Lauren St. John. On the night Martine turns eleven, her life changes forever. She must leave her beloved childhood home and move in with her unfamiliar grandmother on a game reserve in South Africa. There her African adventure begins as she befriends a mythical white giraffe.