



Leestown Middle Summer Reading

6th grade

Leestown Middle School summer reading is **THEME BASED**. This means that you **DON'T** have to read a specific book; instead *you get to pick a book* based on our theme! The theme for sixth grade is **GROWING UP: CHILDHOOD AND CHANGE**. You can read **ANY NOVEL** as long as it includes a *kid or young adult* who goes through some sort of *change* in the story.

Step 1 - Picking a Book

- ✓ Pick a novel (chapter book) about a kid who changes in the story.
- ✓ Pick a book you'll enjoy! Search through genres or series you already like to find one that fits.
- ✓ Pick a book that is around grade level (900-1200 Lexile would be appropriate for most students).
- ✓ See the back of this handout for some examples that would fit the theme!

Step 2 – Completing the Assignments

- ✓ Paragraph: Describe how the main character in your book changes as he/she faces a challenge. Make sure you tell who the character was before, what made the character change, and who the character was by the end of the novel.
- ✓ Comparison: Using any appropriate organizer, compare and contrast the main character in the book with another character in the book that is different. Try to compare at least 5 things.
- ✓ Bonus: Illustrate an **IMPORTANT** scene from the novel. Be as creative as you'd like!

Possible Summer Reading Books

Choose one of these or find one on your own that fits the theme!

City of Ember—Jeanne DuPrau. The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever!

The Egypt Game—Zilpha Keatly Snyder. Two girls, about to start 6th grade, spend their summer creating an elaborate "Egypt game," a fantasy game that soon leads to strange, unexplainable happenings.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate—Jacqueline Kelly. As eleven-year old Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century.

Flush—Carl Hiaasen. Noah's dad has a little problem with anger control. He tried to stop the *Coral Queen* casino boat's illegal dumping . . . by sinking the boat. But his bold protest fizzles: within days the casino is back in business, and Noah's dad is behind bars and out of action. Now Noah is determined to succeed where his father failed.

Football Genius—Tim Green. Troy White can predict any football play before it happens. And when his single mom gets a job with the Atlanta Falcons, Troy knows it's his big chance to help them out of their slump—and finally prove his football genius.

The Graveyard Book—Neil Gaiman. Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family

Joey Pigza Loses Control—Jack Gantos. Joey Pigza has always been wired. He couldn't sit still. He couldn't behave. He was always getting in trouble. Until he got the right meds. He's just met his dad for the first time in years, and now he knows where he gets it. His dad's wired, too. And he says he wants to teach Joey to be a winner, to take control. But Joey's not so sure. Because it means going off his medication . . .

The Sign of the Beaver—Elizabeth George Speare. His father leaves him alone to guard their newly built cabin in the wilderness, but when a renegade white stranger steals his gun, Matt knows he has no way to shoot game and no way to protect himself. It is only after meeting the proud, resourceful Indian boy Attean that Matt begins to discover new ways to survive in the forest.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town—Kimberly Willis Holt. Toby Wilson is having the toughest summer of his life. His mother left for good; his best friend's brother was killed. Then Zachary Beaver, the fattest boy in the world, arrives in Toby's sleepy Texas town. And it's Zachary Beaver who turns the town of Antler upside down and leaves everyone, especially Toby, changed forever.
