

Summer Reading 2010 Incoming Sixth Graders

As in-coming sixth graders, you must read **two** books this summer:

- One book is a free choice. You may read any book you wish, in any genre you want, fiction or nonfiction. There is a suggested reading list for 6th grade if you need ideas. We will be talking about these books in English class in September.
- The second book must be one of the Jerry Spinelli books attached to this assignment. **You must choose a book from this list ONLY.** We will begin sixth grade English with an author study of Jerry Spinelli. We have included a short summary of each title to help you narrow down your choice.

PLEASE NOTE: Although Jerry Spinelli has written many books, some titles were left off of our list for very specific reasons. Please do not choose a Spinelli book off of the list.

You will be working on a Spinelli writing assignment in English class in early September. You will have to know information about the setting, characters, and plot.

We **HIGHLY** suggest you take notes on the Spinelli book you choose. You may use any note-taking style you want, i.e. flash cards, post-its, or we have attached a sample notes packet. Your notes **DO NOT** need to be written in complete sentences, but they should be thorough.

Please bring your notes and your Spinelli book (if you have it) to your English class on the very first day to school: Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

Have a great summer!!!

Ms. Messina, Mrs. Schwittek, & Mrs. Stevens

6th Grade Spinelli Reading List Summer 2010

Crash

John “Crash” Coogan is a seventh grade football star; popular and a bit stuck up. Penn Webb is Crash’s opposite in every way. He is even a cheerleader! Crash and his best friend, Mike, make Penn’s life miserable, but Penn always stays positive. Finally, Mike goes too far, and Crash needs to make some hard decisions about the kind of person he wants to be.

Loser

Zinkoff is not like other kids. He raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter at words like Jabip. Other kids have another word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy with his adventures to care; at least most of the time.

Maniac Magee

Maniac is a homeless boy who can outrun dogs, hit a home run off the best pitcher in the neighborhood, and untie the impossible “knot.” Maniac makes friends with people from both the East and West Ends in the small town of Two Mills, and that is something that is usually just not done in this town.

Report to the Principal’s Office

New sixth graders Eddie Mott, Pickles Johnson, Salem Brownhill, and Sunny Wyler face the beginning of middle school with all its trials and tribulations – lockers, older kids, new teachers, and crowded hallways. They even manage to wind up in the principal’s office on the very first day of school.

Smiles to Go

Will Tupence is a typical high school freshman. He is worried about skateboarding, his pesky little sister, girls, and hanging out with his friends. Will is also fascinated by science, and spends hours stargazing, thinking about faraway galaxies.

There’s a Girl in My Hammerlock

When eighth grader Maisie Potter decides to try out for the wrestling team after not making the cheerleading squad, she has no idea the trouble it will

cause. All she wants to do is to get to know Doug DeLong, a wrestler. Maisie makes the team and surprises everyone, even herself.

Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?

Sibling rivalry told from two points of view; twelve year old Megin and her older brother Greg. Greg can't stand that Megin is a slob and Megin can't stand Greg, period. Their problems intensify after Megin ruins Greg's science project, and he retaliates by throwing her favorite hockey stick in the pond.

Wringer

For as long as Palmer LaRue can remember, he has dreaded the day he will turn ten and have to take his place as a *wringer* at his town's annual Pigeon Day. However, it is what is expected of him; a long-standing town tradition. Palmer needs to decide whether to go along, or stand up to his friends and the town.

Summer Reading 2010

6th Grade Spinelli Notes

Title: _____

Characters

Use only what you need...if you have more than three characters you can use a separate sheet of paper, or go to the back.

The main character of my book is _____.
full name

Description: _____

Character #2: _____
full name

Description: _____

Character #3: _____.

full name

Description: _____

Setting

When _____

Where _____

Plot

Event #1 (the beginning, the event that starts the story moving forward) _____

Event #2 (the next big problem or event that moves the story forward) _____

Event #3 (towards the middle of the book) _____

Event #4 _____

Event #5 (towards the very end of the story) _____

Event #6 (the end, what happens to each of the main characters?) _____
