



Luther Burbank Middle School  
Entering Sixth Grade  
Summer Reading 2008

**Assignment:**

- Read two (2) books described below by the first day of school in September, 2008.
- Your parent(s) and/or guardian(s) must approve of your choice of books and indicate this by signing your graphic organizer/ book summary sheet.
- For each book you should complete a graphic organizer/book summary sheet provided. This graphic organizer will be worth bonus homework points and will be useful in completing a writing assignment, project, or test based on the book. The graphic organizer/book summary sheet is meant to be an information sheet. It is important to put as much information down as possible and answer all questions completely. The information will be used by the student as a study tool, therefore it is NOT necessary for this information to be typed or presented in a "finished" form.

*There is a Book Fair scheduled for June 5 and 6 at the school where many of these books will be available for purchase.*

*They should also be available at the public library and bookstores in the area. Some of the books are available on tape.*

Please choose from these recommended books by the following authors:

**Fiction**

Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women. This autobiographical story of the March sisters, a New England family, is told in a warm and loving account. This classic never gets tired. Combine with a trip to Orchard House (<http://www.louisamayalcott.org/>) in Concord or Fruitland's (<http://www.fruitlands.org>) in Harvard.

Balliett, Blue. Chasing Vermeer. When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. Take a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts (<http://www.mfa.org/>) or the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (<http://www.gardnermuseum.org/>) in Boston.

Clements, Andrew. Things Not Seen, When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it. Other books to choose from Andrew Clements:

Room One: A Mystery or Two

A Week in the Woods

The Last Holiday Concert

Lunch Money

Things Hoped For

Curtis, Christopher. Bud, not Buddy. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. Newbery Medal 2000 Also, The Watsons Go to Birmingham- 1963. Byron's family leaves Flint, Michigan, to live with Grandma Sands in Birmingham where they experience the realities of race relations in the South. Newbery Honor 1996 Introduce yourself to Jazz music and some of the great Jazz musicians in American history. Go to a Sunday Jazz brunch.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Among the Hidden. In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. Also read Among the Impostors and Among the Betrayed. These books beg the question: Could this happen here????

Henkes, Kevin. Olive's Ocean. On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer. Newbery Honor 2004. Combine this book with your vacation at the seashore. Also, read or re-read some of Kevin Henkes wonderful picture books and see if there is a connection in theme, characters, or setting: Chrysanthemum, Lily series. Check out the author's web site for more novels to choose at <http://www.kevinhenkes.com/>

Lupica, Mike. Heat. "Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hear of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources." Other books to read this summer by Mike Lupica are: Travel Team, Miracle on 49th Street, Wild Pitch. On Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock watch *Sports Reporters* on ESPN with the family and see Mike Lupica's latest commentary.

Tolan, Stephanie. Surviving the Applewhites. From School Library Journal, Grade 5-8- " In this laugh-out-loud novel, a young teen on the fast track to the juvenile detention center suddenly finds himself living in rural North Carolina with the outrageously eccentric Applewhite clan. Jake Semple, 13, has been expelled from a long line of schools before coming to the Applewhites . . . Jake is left largely to his own devices, since the family doesn't believe in telling their charges what or when to study. He develops a loyal following consisting of an active four-year-old and an overweight basset hound, and his transformation is complete once he becomes enmeshed in the family's production of *The Sound of Music*. Quirky characters . . . the narrative gently pokes fun at everything from sculpture to TV documentaries"

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Treasure Island. Pirates? Stranded on a Caribbean island? Treasure? “Shiver me timbers!” Experience it all! This book is a good excuse to take an off season vacation to the Caribbean. It’s even better in the summer!! I’ll be in St. John, USVI. Maybe I’ll see you there.

## Non-Fiction

Armstrong, Jennifer. Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: the Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance

“In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton set out from London with 27 men in an attempt to become the first team of explorers to cross the Antarctic continent from one side to the other. Five months later their ship, Endurance, became trapped in an ice pack. This the extraordinary adventure story of how the men survived.” Why is Antarctica important to anyone? Research global warming and what we can learn from have tried to understand its importance.

Covey, Sean. 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. How does a motivated teen move in a positive way toward the future? Sean Covey garners information and organization from his own life, his father’s and other’s to construct this “How-to” for teens to personally set goals, organize daily tasks, and deal with the usual and unusual adversities of this difficult time of life. Covey writes an inspirational text for the motivated teen to follow a positive, pro-active course towards success, focusing on principles (honesty, integrity, respect, loyalty, effort, moderation, fairness) and paradigm shifts (being able to change what is believed or expected). Covey uses a 7-step(habits) method to get teens to approach all sorts of limitations to personal success, including sexual abuse: being pro-active, having goals, setting priorities, using positive thinking, showing understanding(tolerance), being a team player, occasional renewing the self-evaluation tasks.

Freedman, Russell. Lincoln-A Photobiography. “The pictures have been well-placed to coordinate with the text; captions have been written with care as well. While many of the photographs are well-known, many less familiar pictures are also included. Freedman begins by contrasting the Lincoln of legend to the Lincoln of fact. His childhood, self-education, early business ventures, and entry into politics comprise the first half of the book, with the rest of the text covering his presidency and assassination. Freedman's extensive research is apparent in the liberal use he makes of quotations from original sources (letters, contemporary newspaper articles, etc.)” Do we ever get tired of stories about this great man? Taking a trip to Washington, D.C.? Make this a must read for the whole family.

Lipsyte, Robert. Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made It America's Favorite Game. From School Library Journal

“Grade 5 Up- . . . baseball history and eye-catching design, with red-bordered text and numerous oversize photographs. The images, though mostly black and white, help convey the intensity of the game, such as the one of Willie Mays making a leaping catch at New York's old Polo Grounds. Chapters highlight Lipsyte's heroes: A. G. Big Al Spalding, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle, Curt Flood, and Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire. The author's own opinions are perhaps what make this book notable: his arguments are lively, readable, and well documented.

**Murphy, Jim. The Great Fire. From Booklist, “Gr. 5-9. The great Chicago fire has long been the stuff of folklore and legend. Yet separating fact from fiction in this major disaster has often appeared a secondary priority at best. Murphy sets the record straight through carefully selected documents, personal accounts, photographs, and illustrations. Beginning on that warm Sunday evening, October 8, 1871, in the O’Leary barn, Murphy traces the fire through its three horror-filled days as, fed by lusty prairie winds, cinders from a Saturday night blaze, and structures (even streets and sidewalks) built almost entirely of wood, it consumed block after block of homes, businesses, and bodies, eventually leaving 100,000 people homeless.” Combine this book with a visit to your local fire station.**

Fiction Organizer for Sixth Grade Summer Reading Book

Book Title and Author \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(A signature indicates that the parent approves of the book/the child verifies that they have read the book.)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Explain who the main character is and describe him/her in detail. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explain geographically, where the main action of the story takes place. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explain as accurately as possible when the story takes place—in what time period, year, season, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the main problem the character faces and must solve? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the obstacles that get in the character's way as he/she tries to solve this problem, and how does the character succeed over these obstacles? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Are there minor obstacles that get in the character's way? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

How does the character resolve their problem in the end? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any interesting "special" vocabulary used in this book: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Non-Fiction Organizer for Sixth Grade Summer Reading Book

Book Title and Author \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

(A signature indicates that the parent approves of the book/the child verifies that they have read the book.)

Explain who or what real person/place/event is featured in your book.

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Explain, geographically, where the main action of the story takes place. \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain as accurately as possible when the story takes place—in what time period, year, season, etc.

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What is the main problem the character(s) face and must solve?

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What are some of the obstacles that get in the character's way as he/she tries to solve this problem, and how does the character succeed over these obstacles?

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Are there minor obstacles that get in the way? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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How is the problem resolved in the end? \_\_\_\_\_

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List any interesting, "special" vocabulary used in this book: \_\_\_\_\_

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