This summer, rising 6th graders are required to read a total of three books. The first two books are required for all rising 6th graders. These books include *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis. The third book is a choice novel. Students may choose any one book from the choices given. For all three of these books, the students will complete a book report form that can be found under the “Related Forms” section of this website. *Be sure you have the correct form as there is a Fiction form and a Non-fiction form.*

**Two required books for Language Arts: Assessment instructions are posted on the Summer Reading page under “Related Forms.”**

![Freak the Mighty](image)

**Philbrick, Rodman**  
*Freak the Mighty*  
At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

**AND**

![The Watsons go to Birmingham](image)

**Curtis, Christopher Paul**  
*The Watsons go to Birmingham*  
The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

**Third required book: Choose one from the list below. Assessment instructions can be found under the “Related Forms” section of this website. Be sure you have the correct form as there is a Fiction form and a Non-fiction form.**

![Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator](image)

**Allison, Jennifer**  
*Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator*  
During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion’s boarded-up tower.

![Grayson](image)

**Cox, Lynne**  
*Grayson*  
The author recalls how, while she was training for a long-distance swim off the coast of California, she encountered a baby gray whale that had been separated by its mother, and the desperate effort to reunite the pair. *(Non-fiction)*

![Bloomability](image)

**Creech, Sharon**  
*Bloomability*  
When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers her world expanding.
Dashner, James  
*Maze Runner*

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

DiCamillo, Kate  
*The Magician's Elephant*

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her.

George, Jean Craighead  
*My Side of the Mountain*

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Hesse, Karen  
*Out of the Dust*

In a series of poems that read like a novel, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family’s wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Jacques, Brian  
*Redwall* (or any in the series you have not read)

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall’s inhabitants destroy the enemy.

Jiang, Ji-li  
*Red Scarf Girl*

The author tells about the happy life she led in China up until she was twelve-years-old when her family became a target of the Cultural Revolution, and discusses the choice she had to make between denouncing her father and breaking with her family, or refusing to speak against him and losing her future in the Communist party. *(Non-fiction)*
Mikaelsen, Ben  
*Red Midnight*

After soldiers kill his family, twelve-year-old Santiago and his four-year-old sister flee Guatemala in a kayak and try to reach the United States.

Nimmo, Jenny  
*Midnight for Charlie Bone*

Charlie Bone had an average life until he realized that he could hear the words and thoughts of people in photographs. Charlie’s Grandma Bone recognizes that his new talent comes from his ancestor, the Red King, and sends him off to Bloor’s Academy for gifted children; but not before Charlie hears about a missing child and decides to find her.

O’Brien, Robert C.  
*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

With nowhere to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer’s tractor, too ill to be moved.

Palacio, R. J.  
*Wonder*

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can’t get past Auggie’s extraordinary face.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz  
*Esperanza Rising*

Esperanza’s life of wealth and privilege in Mexico changes dramatically when her father is killed.

Van Draanen, Wendelin  
*Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*

Sammy is a 12-year old super smart sleuth who sets out to catch the thief that she witnessed stealing wads of cash from a woman’s purse. The problem is that the thief saw her witnessing the crime, but no one is going to push Sammy around.

(Many annotations courtesy of Follett Library Resources)