



**Germantown Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA  
2023-2024 Summer Reading List**



In order to promote continued literacy development, the GMS English Language Arts department believes that summer reading is essential for our students to combat “summer slide” and to be more successful the next school year. Because of this, all upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders are required to choose ONE book to read from the list below *before* the beginning of the 2023-24 school year **AND** complete ONE of the following activities -

1. Complete all of the reading response packet (see attached) **OR**
2. Complete 3 activities from the “Choice Boards” (see attached)

**Fiction:**

1. ***The Westing Game*** (750L) by Ellen Raskin  
- This major mystery novel unfolds with a bizarre chain of events after sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will.
2. ***Swindle*** (710L) by Gordon Korman  
- This is a caper story (a subgenre of crime fiction) about the retrieval of a valuable baseball card.
3. ***Fever 1793*** (580L) by Laurie Halse Anderson  
- This historical fiction story is based on the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Mattie Cook wants to turn the family coffee shop into a really fine place, but then the fever breaks out.
4. ***The Wonderling*** (795L) by Mira Bartók  
- This is an uplifting adventure fantasy book that tells the story of Arthur, a shy, fox-like animal with only one ear and a desperate desire to belong, as he seeks his destiny.

**Nonfiction:**

5. The updated 2016 version of ***Mistakes that Worked: The World's Familiar Inventions and How They Came to Be*** (1040L) by Charlotte Foltz Jones  
- The updated version has a pink pig, chocolate chip cookie & slinky on the front cover. It's a fun-filled book about everyday items that had surprisingly haphazard beginnings.
6. ***The Hero's Trail: A Guide For A Heroic Life*** (850L) by T. A. Barron  
- What is a hero? Using the metaphor of a hiking trail, the author discusses a great variety of heroes and brings them to life through their own stories.



FICTION Summer Reading Choice Board

Along with reading a book from the summer reading list, choose **THREE** of the following activities and complete them (digitally or on paper) before the start of school.

All work should be original and each student's own creation.

<p>(RL1) <b>Quotable Quotations:</b> As you read, choose at least <u>5</u> quotations from the book that are significant. Create illustrations (memes, cartoons, etc.) and include an inference, conclusion, or explanation about each.</p>	<p>(RL2) <b>“THE Message”:</b> Identify at least <u>3</u> themes from the book and create an acronym for each theme. Include illustrations that match the message of each theme.</p>	<p>(RL3) <b>Characterization:</b> As you read, collect evidence about the characters to create a visual map of each character's traits or a web of multiple characters' relationships. Include page numbers with evidence.</p>
<p>(RL3) <b>Plot:</b> Create visual description of the book's plot elements using a comic strip, story board, etc. Label each picture with the correct plot element (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).</p>	<p>(RL4) <b>Vocabulary:</b> As you read, make a list of at least <u>10</u> words that you do not know or want to understand better. Include the quotation from the book with each word, the part of speech and definition and an illustration that represents the idea of each word.</p>	<p>(RL5) <b>Style &amp; Structure:</b> Identify, illustrate, and label at least <u>5</u> places where the author effectively uses text structure (cause/effect, problem/solution, compare/contrast, description, etc.).</p>
<p>(RL6) <b>Point of View &amp; Purpose:</b> Research the author to learn more about who they are and why they wrote the book. Create a transcript or video of an imaginary interview with them using this information. Include your sources.</p>	<p>(RL7) <b>Other Media:</b> After reading the print version of the book, re-create part of the book in another media format: make a movie trailer, make a 10-song playlist or soundtrack with explanations, make a 3-D model of the setting or characters, scrapbook, poster, etc.</p>	<p>(RL9) <b>Text-to-Text:</b> Compare and contrast the book with one or more other texts (books, movies, paintings, songs, etc.) and create a transcript or video or an imaginary conversation between characters from each text.</p>



# Germantown Middle School



## NON-FICTION Summer Reading Choice Board

Along with reading a book from the summer reading list, choose **THREE** of the following activities and complete them (digitally or on paper) before the start of school.

All work should be original and each student's own creation.

<p>(Ri1) <b>Quotable Quotations:</b> As you read, choose at least <u>5</u> quotations from the book that are significant. Create illustrations (memes, cartoons, etc.) and include an inference, conclusion, or explanation about each.</p>	<p>(Ri2) <b>Central Idea:</b> Identify at least <u>3</u> central ideas from the book and create an acronym for each idea. Include illustrations that match the importance of each idea.</p>	<p>(Ri3) <b>Concept Map:</b> Create a concept map (or web) of the book. The map should visually show the distinctions and connections between ideas, people, events, etc. as well include a written explanation of their relationships.</p>
<p>(Ri4) <b>Vocabulary:</b> As you read, make a list of at least <u>10</u> words that you do not know or know but want to understand better. Include the quotation from the book, part of speech, definition and an illustration that represents the idea of each word.</p>	<p>(Ri5) <b>Style &amp; Structure:</b> Identify, illustrate, and label at least <u>5</u> places where the author effectively uses text structure (cause/effect, problem/solution, compare/contrast, description, etc.).</p>	<p>(Ri6) <b>Point of View &amp; Purpose:</b> Research the author to learn more about who they are and why they wrote the book. Create a transcript or video of an imaginary interview with them using this information. Include your sources.</p>

<p>(Ri7) <b>Other Media:</b> After reading the print version of the book, re-create part of the book in another media format: make a movie trailer, make a 10-song playlist or soundtrack with explanations, make a 3-D model of the topic or people, scrapbook, poster, etc.</p>	<p>(Ri8) <b>Argument:</b> Research at least <u>3</u> of the author’s claims to confirm or contradict each. Use this research to write a 5-star review, newspaper editorial, arrest warrant, wanted poster, etc. exposing or celebrating their claims. Include your sources.</p>	<p>(Ri9) <b>Text-to-Text:</b> Compare and contrast the book with one or more other texts (books, movies, paintings, songs, etc.) and create a transcript or video or an imaginary conversation between people from each text.</p>
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## Germantown Middle School



### Summer Reading Response Packet

The reading response packet is designed for you to split your summer reading book into fourths. You are to complete a reading response form over each one-fourth of your book. Please make sure you indicate the pages read on the top of each reading response form.

**Your Name:**

**Book Title:**

**See packet below.**



# Reader Response 1

I read from **page** \_\_\_ to **page** \_\_\_. (First 1/4 of your book)

**Vocabulary:** (RL4, Ri4, L4) As you read, write down 3 unfamiliar words and what you guess they mean based on what you read. (NOTE: These do not need to be words that completely stump you, just words that are new to you or that you are unfamiliar with. You **MUST** have 3 words, the sentence quoted from the book, and the dictionary definition filled in completely.) Write neatly.

	Word	How it is used in the text (write the sentence from the book)	Definition
1.			
2.			
3.			

**Connections:** (RL/Ri 9, RL/Ri 1) As you read, write down 4 connections that you make with the text. Remember, connections can be based on your personal life, background knowledge, or another book you have read. Use complete sentences. Example: *This book/character reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_ because\_\_\_\_\_.* or *The part in the book when \_\_\_\_\_ is kind of like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.*

	Detail from the Text (write the quote here)	Connection Made (explain the kind of connection using complete sentences)	Identify Connection Type (Text-to-Self, Text-to- World, Text-to-Text)
1.			
2.			
3.			

4.		
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## Reader Response 2

I read from **page** \_\_\_ to **page** \_\_\_\_\_. (Second 1/4 of the novel)

**Vocabulary:** (RL4, Ri4, L4) As you read, write down 3 unfamiliar words and what you guess they mean based on what you read. (NOTE: These do not need to be words that completely stump you, just words that are new to you or that you are unfamiliar with. You **MUST** have 3 words, the sentence from the book, and the definition filled in completely.) Write neatly.

	Word	How it is used in the text (write the sentence from the book)	Dictionary Definition
1.			
2.			
3.			

**Questions:** As you read, write down at least 3 questions (teacher-like questions) that you have about the text.

1.	
2.	

3.	
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## Reader Response 3

I read from **page** \_\_\_ to **page** \_\_\_. (Third 1/4 of the novel)

**Connections:** (RL/Ri 9, RL/Ri 1) As you read, write down at least 3 connections that you make with the text. Remember, connections can be based on your personal life, background knowledge, or another book you have read. Use complete sentences. Example: *This book/character reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.* or *The part in the book when \_\_\_\_\_ is kind of like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.* Write neatly.

	<b>Detail from the Text</b> (write the quote here)	<b>Connection Made</b> (explain the kind of connection using complete sentences)	<b>Identify Connection Type</b> (Text-to-Self, Text-to-World, Text-to-Text)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

**Prediction:** (RL/Ri 1) Make 1 prediction about what will happen next in the book. Include **why** you are making this prediction.

I predict that

because

### Reader Response 4

I read from **page** \_\_\_\_ to **page** \_\_\_\_.(Last 1/4 of the novel)

**Literary Element:** (RL/Ri 3) Conflicts are challenges in the story between the main character(s) and other forces. Most good stories involve challenges that characters must face and attempt to overcome. Through challenges characters grow, typically gaining new knowledge and perspective by the end of their journey. A challenge can be any one of the following, and sometimes several at once: Person vs. Person; Person vs. Self; Person vs. Society; and/or Person vs. Nature. Give an example of a Conflict in the story. You may use any part of the book. Write neatly.

Quote (page #).	Opponent	Interpretation
Cite four specific examples of <b>challenges</b> faced by a major character(s). Include page number in parentheses.	Against what or whom did this character struggle? (Versus-a Person, Vs.- Circumstances, Vs.- Nature, Vs.-Society, Vs.- Self)	<b>Explain</b> how the citation outlines the two opponents in the challenge – the character and their opponent. What does it say about the main character involved?
1.		
2.		

3.			
4.			