
WLPCS SUMMER READING

5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2018

Requirements by Course

Students are required to read the book or books listed for the grade they will enter in the fall.

English 5

1. *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
2. *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
3. Two books from the 5th and 6th grade independent reading list

English 6

1. *Hoodoo* by Roland L. Smith
2. Three books from the 5th and 6th grade independent reading list

Student Choice Books

Students will read the required number of books (indicated above) from the 5th and 6th Grade Independent Reading List.



Why summer reading?

At Washington Latin, we require that students read over the summer for several reasons. Required texts establish themes for the year and are frequently the focus of the first unit of the year in each class. They serve as touchstones and jumping-off points for year-long conversations about the essential thematic questions that drive English courses at Latin. We require summer reading to prevent any loss of reading skills over the summer; summer reading ensures that students are engaged in some of the same activities they pursue during the school year. We believe children learn to read (and think) best when they want to read; we require summer reading to promote reading for pleasure and assist parents in motivating students to read. We are trying to teach students to love reading. We think if children love books, they will do well in life.

INDEPENDENT READING LIST

5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2018



Nonfiction

***Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance* by Jennifer Armstrong** -- In 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his crew sailed to Antarctica to become the first team to cross the continent on foot. Instead, their ship was trapped in ice about one hundred miles from land, and they struggled to survive the continent's harsh conditions.

***Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan* by Ashley Bryan** -- This beautiful and moving book documents the hopes and dreams of eleven people who were sold into slavery through powerful illustrations, portraits, artifacts and poems.

***Sneaker Century* by Amber J. Keyser** -- "In *Sneaker Century*, follow sneaker fashions and the larger-than-life personalities behind the best known athletic shoe brands in history."

***Fourth Down and Inches* by Carla Killough McClafferty** -- This nonfiction book tells about the story of football's rise to importance in American sports, while detailing concerns with concussions and traumatic brain injury for today's players. A must-read for young fans of the sport.

***Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future!* by Kate Schatz** -- History has been made by many radical women. This book introduces the reader to twenty-six women who made our world a better place through art, politics, science, and more!

***Kid Artists* by David Stabler** -- "Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations reveal how Leonardo da Vinci, Beatrix Potter, Keith Haring, and other great artists in history coped with regular-kid problems."

Adventure, Survival and Sports

***Booked* by Kwame Alexander** -- Soccer player Nick learns how to stand up for himself, use his words wisely, and impress the girl he likes with the help of his friends, family, and rapping librarian The Mac.

***Touchdown Kid* by Tim Green** -- "Cory has always been passionate about football. But life for him and his single mom has been hard, making it difficult for Cory to play.... But when the coach from an elite private school with one of the best football programs in the country recognizes his talents on the field, Cory is presented with an unbelievable opportunity."

Titles in red are new for 2018 list.

(+) Students may read any book from the series.

"Quoted book descriptions belong to the publisher"

(+) **Willie & Me by Dan Gutman** -- "Stosh thought he was finished traveling back in time. But then [famous baseball player] Ralph Branca shows up in his room one night, begging for Stosh's help."

The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel -- When Will Everett hops aboard the Boundless -- a brand new luxury train on its first cross-country voyage -- he knows he's headed for an adventure.

(+) **I Survived: The Shark Attacks of 1916 by Lauren Tarshis** -- In the summer of 1916, the newspapers spread terror about sharks on the Jersey Shore. Ten-year-old Chet doesn't believe the news, until he goes swimming in a local creek... and comes face-to-face with a shark! Now, how does he tell his friends?

(+) **Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld** -- In an alternate reality WWI, the Clankers and their machines fight the Darwinists and their new species. As the Clanker Prince Aleksandar escapes for his life, he meets daring Deryn Sharp, a Darwinist training aboard the airship Leviathan.

Ancient World and Mythology

(+) **Thieves of Ostia by Caroline Lawrence** -- In 79AD in the Roman port of Ostia, Flavia Gemina, adventurous daughter of a sea captain, and her three friends solve the mystery of the murder of the town's beloved guard dogs.

(+) **Hades Speaks!: A Guide to the Underworld by the Greek God of the Dead by Vicky Alvear Shecter** -- The god of the underworld takes the reader on a hilarious and dangerous journey through his domain. It's to die for!

(+) **When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin** -- Pinmei must uncover the legendary Luminous Stone That Lights The Night to rescue her grandmother, the village storyteller, from the wicked Emperor who has kidnapped her.

Tales of the Greek Heroes by Roger Lancelyn Green -- This classic tells the myth and legends of Ancient Greek heroes and gods, including the stories of Perseus, Heracles, Jason, and Odysseus.

Treasury of Norse Mythology: Stories of Intrigue, Trickery, Love, and Revenge by Donna Jo Napoli -- "Classic stories and dazzling illustrations of gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters come to life in a stunning tableau of Norse myths, including those of the thunder god Thor, the one-eyed god and Allfather Odin, and the trickster god Loki."

Black Ships Before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliff -- A masterful retelling of The Iliad in accessible and beautiful language, this book shares the story of the Trojan War.

Historical Fiction

I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin -- Eleven-year-old Celeste has a peaceful life in Chile until the country falls to the influence of a dictator. To keep her safe, her parents send her to live with her aunt in Maine.

(+) **The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** -- Because of Ada's twisted foot, her mother has always been ashamed of her and won't let her leave their apartment. When her brother is sent to the country to escape the violence of WWII in London, Ada sneaks out too and discovers a new world of opportunities.

Stella by Starlight by Sharon Draper -- "Stella lives in the segregated South... Late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see... As Stella's community--her world--is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire."

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas -- Zomorod Yousefzadeh's family is from Iran in the 1970s, but they live in California, where her dad is working on an oil refinery. Zomorod, who calls herself Cindy after a character from The Brady Bunch, really wants a new start where she can be something other than a loner or a nerd. When her home country is covered in the news for protests and taking Americans hostage, though, it seems like she might lose her chance at fitting in.

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz -- When three children face persecution for their beliefs, they join forces to save themselves from the Inquisition. Their adventures on the way to safety lead them through many funny trials, but they also think about serious issues like the nature of miracles, too.

(+) **One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia** -- In 1968, Delphine and her sisters head from Brooklyn to Oakland to visit their mother. When they arrive, their mother sends them to Black Panther summer camp.

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Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk -- "Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger."

Horror, Mystery and Suspense

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier -- This spooky fable tells the tale of Irish children working in an English manor house. Molly and Kip must save the residents and themselves from being haunted by the evil spirit of the Night Gardener.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste -- "Corinne La Mer isn't afraid of anything. Not scorpions, not the boys who tease her, and certainly not jumbies.... Then one night Corinne chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden forest. Those shining yellow eyes that followed her to the edge of the trees, they couldn't belong to a jumbie. Or could they?"

Unstoppable Octobia May by Sharon Flake -- "At a time when children, and especially girls, are 'seen, not heard,' Auntie allows Octobia May the freedom and expression of an adult. When Octobia starts to question the folks in her world, an adventure and a mystery unfold that beg some troubling questions."

Took by Mary Downing Hahn -- Thirteen-year-old Daniel Anderson doesn't believe Brody Mason's crazy stories about the ghost witch who lives up on Brewster's Hill with Bloody Bones, her man-eating razorback hog... But Daniel's seven-year-old sister Erica has become more and more withdrawn, talking to her lookalike doll. When she disappears into the woods one day, he knows something is terribly wrong."

The Riverman by Aaron Starmer -- "Fiona wants Allistair to write her biography. What begins as an odd vanity project gradually turns into a frightening glimpse into the mind of a potentially troubled girl. Fiona says that in her basement, there's a portal that leads to a magical world where a creature called the Riverman is stealing the souls of children. And Fiona's soul could be next."

(+) **The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud** -- The ghost-fighting team Lockwood and Co battles the ghosts of Combe Carey Hall, ancient monks who died violent deaths after being shunned for their worship of wicked ways.

(+) **Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage** -- Mo LeBeau solves the mystery of a murder in Tupelo Landing with her friend Dale Earnheart Johnson III. As she does, she also learns more about her own mysterious past.

Fantasy

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate -- As Jackson's family struggles and lives out of their car, an old friend -- a large imaginary cat named Crenshaw -- comes to help Jackson cope.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill -- "One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences."

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Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley – “Micah believes in the stories his dying Grandpa Ephraim tells him of the magical Circus Mirandus: the invisible tiger guarding the gates, the beautiful flying birdwoman, and the magician more powerful than any other... With his friend Jenny Mendoza in tow, Micah sets out to find the Circus and the man he believes will save his grandfather.”

(+) Over Sea, Under Stone by Susan Cooper -- When the Drew children are staying with their Great Uncle Merry, they discover an ancient map that will lead them to a source of dark power. Finding that power will put them in great danger.

(+)The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantani DasGupta -- “On the morning of her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala is just a regular sixth grader living in Parsippany, New Jersey . . . until her parents mysteriously vanish and a drooling rakkhosh demon slams through her kitchen, determined to eat her alive.”

The Seventh Wish by Kate Messner -- When Charlie discovers a magical fish that will grant all of her wishes, she can’t wait to finally get her family’s attention. She learns, as is so often the case with getting exactly what you want, to be careful what you wish for.

(+) We Free Men by Terry Pratchett -- Tiffany Aching, witch-in-training, must rescue her brother from the monsters of Fairyland. The good news is that she has the feisty Nac Mac Feegles to help.

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan -- A prophecy, a curse and a magical harmonica unite the tales of Otto, Friedrich, Mike, and Ivy across time and continents.

Realistic Fiction

The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett and Jory John -- When prankster Miles Murphy moves to a new school, he joins forces with the school’s current prankmaster Niles Sparks to pull off the ultimate prank.

George by Alex Gino -- Melissa wants to play Charlotte in a class production of Charlotte’s Web. The problem is that only girls can try out. Melissa knows she’s a girl, but when other people see her, they see a boy named George. With her friend’s help, Melissa plans to tell her class about her identity and try out for the play.

Fish in a Tree by Linda Mullaly Hunt -- Ally has a secret she keeps hidden. She can’t read. Her new teacher, Mr. Daniels uncovers her secret and not only helps her get tested for dyslexia and learn to read, but also helps her see her full potential.

Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan -- “A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family’s vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community in this sweet and moving novel.”

Listen, Slowly by Thanhha Lai -- Even though she’d rather be at the beach with her friends, Mai travels to Vietnam with her grandmother and learns about her family’s past.

The Best Man by Richard Peck -- Archer really wants to grow up to be like his role models, and he wants to do it fast! When he’s invited to be the best man in one of his role model’s wedding, he realizes that growing up might be different than he thinks.

The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Perez -- “There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school... On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú... inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School’s queen bee, violates the school’s dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process.”

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds -- What does it mean to be brave? Over the course of a summer staying with his grandparents in rural Virginia, Genie tries to find out. Is his grandfather, who is blind, brave even though he mostly stays in the house? What about his brother Ernie, who doesn’t want to learn how to shoot a gun? Maybe bravery means something more than Genie used to think.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia -- “Armed with his grandfather’s brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, Clayton runs away from home in search of [his late grandfather’s band] the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him.”

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Save Me a Seat by Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks -- "Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common -- but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week."

Science Fiction

Wild Robot by Peter Brown -- "When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants."

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau -- The City of Ember has protected humanity for nearly 250 years, but time is running out. As the city shows signs of collapse that leave citizens hungry and in the dark, Lina and her friend Doon set out to find a way out of the city.

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm by Nancy Farmer -- In Zimbabwe in the year 2195, although the wealthy live with robot servants and automatic food, the poor live in and around the toxic wasteland of the Dead Man's Vlei. The book follows three children of an important military general as they leave the safety of their technological home to see the world around them.

Space Case by Stuart Gibbs -- "When Moon Base Alpha's top scientist turns up dead, Dash senses there's foul play afoot, but no one believes him. Everyone agrees Dr. Holtz went onto the lunar surface without his helmet properly affixed... But Dr. Holtz was on the verge of an important new discovery... and it's a secret that could change everything for the Moonies."

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm -- Ellie's grandfather is a scientist who has figured out how to reverse aging. When he comes to live with Ellie's family as a teenage boy, she deals with the joys and challenges of having her grandfather as a friend and a classmate.

Me and Marvin Gardens by Amy Sarig King -- "One day, Obe sees a creature that looks kind of like a large dog. And as he watches it, he realizes it eats plastic. *Only* plastic. Water bottles, shopping bags... No one has seen a creature like this before. The animal--Marvin Gardens--becomes Obe's best friend and biggest secret."

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle -- When their father disappears during a government experiment, Meg Murray, her brother Charles Wallace, and her friend Calvin must save him from a looming cosmic evil, with the help of Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Whatsit.

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