

# WLPCS SUMMER READING

5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2019

## 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.



Washington Latin PCS \* 5200 2nd Street NW \* Washington DC 20011 \* [www.latinpcs.org](http://www.latinpcs.org)

# INDEPENDENT READING LIST

5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2019



## Nonfiction

***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.

***Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild* by Catherine Thimmesh** -- "Roughly a thousand years ago, an estimated 23,000 pandas roamed wild and free through their native China. But within the past forty years, more than fifty percent of the panda's already shrinking habitat has been destroyed by humans, leaving the beautiful and beloved giant panda vulnerable to extinction. Despite the seemingly insurmountable odds—poaching, habitat destruction, pollution, human overpopulation, and global climate change—the panda is making a comeback. How? By humans teaching baby pandas how to be wild and stay wild."

***The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* by Sonia Sotomayor** -- Sonia Sotomayor was just a girl when she dared to dream big. Her dream? To become a lawyer and a judge even though she'd never met one of either, and none lived in her neighborhood. Sonia did not let the hardships of her background—which included growing up in the rough housing projects of New York City's South Bronx, dealing with juvenile diabetes, coping with parents who argued and fought personal demons, and worrying about money—stand in her way. Always, she believed in herself... Eventually, all of Sonia's hard work led to her appointment as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 2009."

***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."

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# Adventure, Survival and Sports

***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.

***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."

(+) ***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.

*Titles in red are new for this year's list.*

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**Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome** – "It's 1946. Langston's mother has just died, and now they're leaving the rest of his family and friends. He misses everything-- Grandma's Sunday suppers, the red dirt roads, and the magnolia trees his mother loved. In the city, they live in a small apartment surrounded by noise and chaos.... But Langston's new home has one fantastic thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. There, hiding out after school, Langston discovers another Langston--a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him."

**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 Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani** – "It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too."

**The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock** – "Boy has always been relegated to the outskirts of his small village. With a hump on his back, a mysterious past, and a tendency to talk to animals, he is often mocked by others in his town—until the arrival of a shadowy pilgrim named Secundus. Impressed with Boy's climbing and jumping abilities, Secundus engages Boy as his servant, pulling him into an action-packed and suspenseful expedition across Europe to gather seven precious relics of Saint Peter."

## 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?"

**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 Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson** – "When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle."

**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.

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## 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."

**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."

**Peasprout Chen: Future Legend of Skate and Sword by Henry Lien** -- "Peasprout Chen dreams of becoming a legend of wu liu, the deadly and beautiful art of martial arts figure skating. As the first students from the rural country of Shin to attend Pearl Famous Academy of Skate and Sword, Peasprout and her little brother Cricket have some pretty big skates to fill. They soon find themselves in a heated competition for top ranking."

**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.

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**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 Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon** -- "Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene are excited to have adventures in the woods behind their house.... Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade--exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream."

**Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina** -- "Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students.... Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately... No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school."

**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."

**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."

**Front Desk by Kelly Yang** -- "Mia works at the front desk of the California motel her parents manage and writes letters to aid others, including an African-American victimized by racial profiling and a Chinese immigrant abused by his boss. Mia's story is one of hope, and her voice is genuine and inspiring."

## 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."

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**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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