

**Summer 2016 Reading Guidelines for
6th Graders Attending the Fort Bend GT Academy**

In a 2009 government web cast, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described summer learning loss as “devastating.” This is what researchers have often referred to as the “summer slide.” It is estimated that school summer breaks will cause the average student to lose up to one month of instruction, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected (Cooper, 1996).

Cooper, H., Nye B., Linsey J., et al. (1996). "[The Effects of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test Scores: A Narrative and Meta-Analytic Review](#) [ERIC]." *Review of Educational Research*, no. 66, 227-268.

Students entering 6th Grade in the GT Academy will read four books.

Required (students will read this book):

The Conch Bearer by [Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni](#)

Required (students will read one of these books):

Get Organized Without Losing It by Janet Fox or

Where's My Stuff?: The Ultimate Organizing Guiding by Samantha Fox, Lesley Schwartz Martin or

The Middle School Student's Guide to Ruling the World by Susan Mulcaire or

The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond by Donna Goldberg

Please use the attached document to document your thoughts as you read *The Conch Bearer*.

We ask that you read **one of the organization books** and be ready to apply the concepts this Fall.

Student Choice (students will read two novels of their choice):

Students will *also* read two novels of their own choosing. We ask that these novels be at least 125 pages long. Here are some resources to help students choose other novels they would like to read this summer:

[6th Grade QVMS Goodreads page](#)

[Lone Star Reading List 2016](#)

Suggested Titles from students in Mr. Sebek's Sixth Grade class of 2014 - 2015

False Prince
Dragon Rider
Lightning Thief
Middle School, Worst Years of My Life
Everlost
Downsiders
Wonderstruck
Out of My Mind
The Secret Tree
Ender's Game
The Compound
Girl Who Could Fly

Shimmer
Dreamland
Things Not Seen
Legend
Harry Potter
Ripper
I Am Number Four
Wonder
Rules
Dragonet Prophecy
How To Train Your Dragon
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

Your future success may rely on you turning this paper over. There is valuable information on the other side. Please do not ignore this warning. Turn the paper over now. Stop reading this and please turn the paper over. You are still reading.

That was close. I thought you would never get here.

Students will keep a journal or use sticky notes to keep track of their thinking as they read their free choice novels. The areas that students should focus their notes on are:

incidents that advance the story or novel, explaining how each incident gives rise to or foreshadows future events;

explain the roles and functions of characters in various plots, including their relationships and conflicts

Students will use their notes to demonstrate their understanding of the novels during the beginning of the Fall semester.

Read and earn books from Barnes and Noble this summer:

[Barnes and Noble Summer Reading](#)

This document can be found at <http://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/30867> with active links to the sites mentioned throughout the document.