

**Summer 2018 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](#)

Please use the attached document as a template for your work. You will need to recreate the template by either printing it out or making one in your own spiral or composition book.

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

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:

Lone Star Reading List 2018

<https://bit.ly/2IA7STV>

Goodreads Best Middle Grade Novels 2017

<https://bit.ly/2gZDMko>

Suggested Titles from students in Mr. Sebek's previous Sixth Grade classes:

False Prince	Shimmer
Dragon Rider	Dreamland
Lightning Thief	Things Not Seen
Middle School, Worst Years of My Life	Legend
Everlost	Scythe
Downsiders	Ripper
Wonderstruck	I Am Number Four
Out of My Mind	Wonder
The Secret Tree	Rules
Ender's Game	Dragonet Prophecy
The Compound	How To Train Your Dragon
Girl Who Could Fly	20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

Please review expectations for summer reading on the other side of this document.

Students will keep an annotated journal of your thinking as you read your two free choice novels. You should have 25 – 30 annotations ***per novel***. Your notes should focus on the following concepts:

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.

This is an example of how to set up your dialectical journal.

Quote, Author and Page Number from the Novel	<p>How does this incident lead to the next event in the story or How do the characters actions/reactions lead to either conflict or resolution of conflict?</p>
<p>“A buzzer sounded in George’s head. His thoughts fled in panic, like bandit’s from a burglar alarm. (Vonnegut, 1)</p>	<p>(Incident in the story example) This incident introduces the reader to the challenges citizens face in this story. Each person lives under constant surveillance and lacks the freedom to make their own choices.</p>
<p>“Who knows better than I do what normal is?” said Hazel. (Vonnegut, 2)</p>	<p>(Character relationships and conflicts example) Hazel is very happy to be ignorant of what is going on around her. She does not want to know the truth and this will later be a challenge to helping the society make changes.</p>