

**Summer 2020 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 three books.

Required (students will read this book):

The Mysterious Benedict Society by [Trenton Lee Stewart](#)

Please use the directions on the following pages for the Mind Map assignment for this novel.

Student Choice (students should 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 one novel of their choice):

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

Lone Star Reading List 2020

<https://bit.ly/3bbmRBj>

Goodreads Best Middle Grade Novels 2020

<https://bit.ly/3dnrhqo>

Thirty-Three Top Middle Grade Novels

<https://bookriot.com/2020/01/14/top-middle-grade-books/>

Suggested Titles from students in previous Sixth Grade classes:

False Prince
The Lion, The Witch,
and The Wardrobe
Matilda
Dragon Rider
Lightning Thief
Middle School, Worst
Years of My Life
Everlost
Downsiders
Wonderstruck

Out of My Mind
Because of Winn
Dixie
The Secret Tree
Ender's Game
The Compound
Girl Who Could Fly
Shimmer
Dreamland
George
Things Not Seen

The Wishing Spell
Legend
Scythe
Thunderhead
The Toll
Ripper
I Am Number Four
Wonder
Counting by 7's
The Crossover
Rules

Holes
The Wednesday Wars
Dragonet Prophecy
How to Train Your
Dragon
The Westing Game
20,000 Leagues
Under the Sea

Directions for *Mysterious Benedict Society*

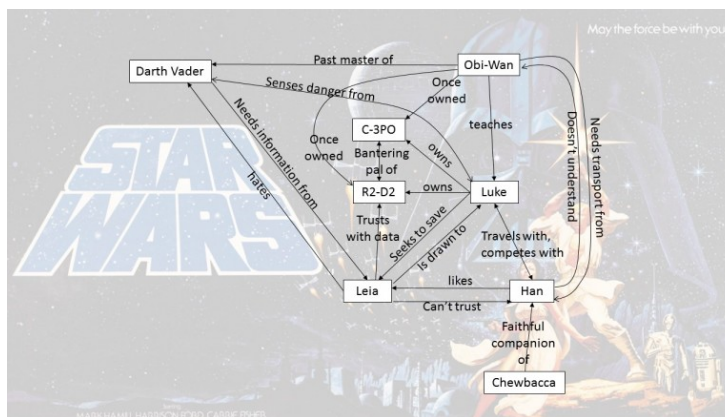
Character Connections:

Directions: As you are reading the novel, use the following list of characters from the book to create a mind-map that shows the connections amongst the characters from the book:

Reynie Muldoon
Ms. Perumal
Mr. Rutger
Vic Morgeroff
Rhonda Kazembe
Sticky (George) Washington
Kate Weatherall
Old Yellow Suit
Milligan
Pencil Woman
Mr. Benedict

Constance Contraire
Sender
Ledroptbra Curtain (Mr. Curtain)
Jillson
Jackson
SQ Pedalian
Martina Crowe
Corliss Danton
Charlie Peters
Harry Harrison/Mr. Bloomberg

1. Create your Mind Map on an 11 x 17 inch sheet of paper. It is okay to tape two regular size sheets of paper together side by side.
2. Start with Reynie in the middle.
3. You may hand draw your mind map or create a digital product using one of many free online mind mapping programs or Microsoft tools like Word or PowerPoint.
4. Remember, when a character interacts with another character in the novel, you should show a connection between the two. You may want to show different types of lines or use different colors for direct and indirect connections.
 - a. If one character directly talks to another character then they have a solid line between them
 - b. If it is mentioned in the novel that two characters are connected but not directly shown, then you might use a dashed line between them
5. Between the connections, write a statement explaining the event that brought the two characters together in the novel. To show the direction in which the connection needs to be read.



This Mind Map comes from *Star Wars: A New Hope* and was created by Steven Southard.

This is an example using PowerPoint.

It shows some connection between characters.

Make sure you explain your connections in more detail than this example.

Directions for Organization Book

Read the book you chose and talk with your parents about the structures and routines you plan to use to hold yourself accountable for the new responsibilities you are about to take on. Middle school is much different from elementary and having systems in place to support you will make the transition easier.

Directions for Free Choice Novel

Students will keep an annotated journal of your thinking as you read your free choice novel. You should have 20 - 25 total annotations. Your notes should focus on the following concepts from fifth grade:

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 novel 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	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?
"A buzzer sounded in George's head. His thoughts fled in panic, like bandit's from a burglar alarm. (Vonnegut, 1)	(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.
"Who knows better than I do what normal is?" said Hazel. (Vonnegut, 2)	(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.