



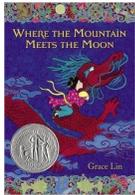
Grade 6

At the end of the year reading survey, sixth graders identified “not enough time” as their main roadblock for reading during the year. It’s SUMMER! Now you have time!

TAKE YOUR TIME choosing your choice books. Go to the bookstore or library (I happen to be a huge fan of the library) and peruse as many as you can. Pick an author you like or a topic that interests you. Pick your book if you like the sound of the main character; use any criteria you like, but choose deliberately!

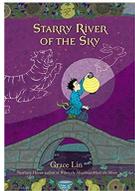
HAVE FUN!

Summer Read 1: Choose one of a trilogy



Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin:

ISBN-10: 0316038636



Starry River of the Sky by Grace Lin:

ISBN-10: 0316125970



When the Sea Turns to Silver by Grace Lin:

ISBN-10: 031612592X

Grace Lin wrote these three books that share a world, though the books aren't linear (that is, they don't move in logical sequence). Rather, they share myths, legends, and even characters; at times, it's unclear where the real world ends and the story world begins. You are required to choose one of these three books and read it carefully. We will start off the year by jumping right into discussion and activities surrounding these novels.

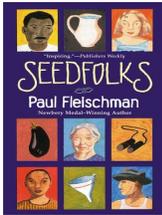
As you read, pay particular attention to the stories within the story. These stories are clearly marked with separate titles. Your first assignment will be to choose one of the stories within the story. Choose one you like! Using that story, you will:

- 1) **Prepare to tell the story in the first week of school.** English class isn't all about writing. It's about communicating effectively, and writing is only a part of that. Speaking -- telling a story or relaying an idea -- is actually a more common form of communication. We do it all the time! Make your story re-telling memorable! "How?" you might ask. Getting into character is always a great way to engage your audience. Using a prop or two is another great way! Objects, artwork, a repeated motion or phrase; these are all tools used by storytellers. Certainly, you should practice your story over time so that rather than telling your story, you are really imagining it as you go. Joe Hayes, a great storyteller from New Mexico, was asked how he remembers hundreds of stories. He responded, "I don't memorize my stories. I re-live them." Keep that in mind as you consider how you will retell your chosen story.

- 2) **Analyze the story through your writing.** Consider how the story you chose affects the outcome of the main characters. Questions you might consider in your writing:
 - a) Does the story serve a purpose within the novel? If so, what is it?
 - b) Does the story change the trajectory of the plot?
 - c) How does the story connect characters? You could interpret this question in many ways, so feel free to write your own interpretation.

** A few reminders: Please do the best work you can. You can feel free to discuss ideas with family and friends, but your writing needs to be your own. Proofread your work for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and structurally sound sentences (no run-ons or incompletes).

Summer Read 2:



Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman
ISBN-10: 0590511904

For this book, make a list of characters. For each character, write notes on:

- 1) What he/she brings to the garden or how she/he affects those around her/him.
- 2) How he/she is changed by the garden.

Summer Read 3: *YOU CHOOSE!*

Completely your choice, but it must be something you've never read before. If you don't know of any books you'd like to read next, please follow the link to discover some of the favorites from past sixth grade students. The list is *entirely student generated*.

[Sixth Grade Student Recommendations](#)

As you read your *Category 3 Book*, please keep the narrative arc in mind. How does the author build tension in the story? What are the major conflicts? Themes?

You do not need to write anything, but simply reading with these thoughts in mind will help you process the book differently than you would if you were simply free reading. Be ready to discuss.