



6th Grade Summer Reading at HAJH

The books on this list are not required, simply suggestions from Mrs. Harland, HAJH Librarian. Keep in mind that students should beware when reading the books on this list as they will encounter many mysterious, hilarious, sinister, unusual, fascinating, and even frightening things!

Avi. Wolf Rider : a tale of terror

Have you ever received a prank phone-call? 15 year old Andy got a call last night from a man claiming he murdered a young college student. Should Andy take the call seriously, or assume it is a gag? Andy soon gets caught up in this mystery where nobody believes anything he says.

Brooks, Bruce. Throwing Smoke

Baseball and fantasy merge together in this story of friendship. The members of the Breadhurst News decide to create a dream team, when, to their surprise, the imagined members magically spring to life. The great lesson in Throwing Smoke is to appreciate people for their strengths.

Bruchac, Joseph. The Dark Pond

After he feels a mysterious pull drawing him toward a dark, shadowy pond in the woods, Armie looks to old Native American tales for guidance about the dangerous monster lurking in the water.

Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Creech, Sharon. Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

DiCamillo, Kate. The Tale of Despereaux

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Dovey Coe

"I hated Parnell Caraway as much as the next person, but I didn't kill him" are Dovey Coe's first words after she is accused of murdering her sister's boyfriend. Dovey sets out to prove the record straight and to let them folks in town know that she isn't a liar or a murderer.

Grahame, Kenneth. The Wind in the Willows

Happy Mole, good-natured, boat-loving Water Rat, boastful Toad of Toad Hall, society-hating Badger who lives in the frightening Wild Wood, and countless other creatures are the characters in this classic. This book is a wonderful read-aloud.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Among the Hidden

Imagine that you live in a world where having more than two kids is illegal. Luke Garner is a "shadow child" an illegal third child who must remain hidden from the Population Police. This is the frightening story of a world not too far from our own where Luke meets dangerous new friends that change his life.

Henkes, Kevin. Olive's Ocean

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

Horvath, Polly. The Canning Season

Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

Kadohata, Cynthia. Kira Kira

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Mazer, Harry. A Boy At War

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

Paulsen, Gary. Soldier's Heart

In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard left his farm and his family and enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was fifteen years old. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant, or what he was fighting for. All he knew was that he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. Warning: This novel is not for the faint of heart! It is filled with bloodshed and the brutalities of war.

Seabrooke, Brenda. The Haunting of Swain's Fancy

Eleven-year-old Taylor spends the summer with her father and his new family in a historic house in West Virginia and, while contending with hostility from her stepsister Nicole, attempts to solve the mystery of ghosts who haunt the site.

Venokur, Ross. The Autobiography of Meatball Finkelstein

Meatball Finkelstein was born big. He's always been and will always be the biggest kid in his class, and he's cool with that. But he does have more than his share of troubles: his older sister won't talk with him, his vegetarian family's tofu store is heading for bankruptcy, and his unfortunate first name make him the prime candidate for the attention of Rufus Delaney, the most horrible bully at school.

Wilson, Jacqueline. The Worry Web Site

Mr. Speed creates a web site on which his students can anonymously type their worries and get feedback from their classmates, which helps them sort out everything from pimples to stepfamily problems.