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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation... and a great opportunity to read! According to research, students who read during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills. However, students who do not read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

We encourage students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to continue improving their reading skills by reading as much as possible over the summer months. All Millville sixth-grade students are **required to read one book** on the attached list. Many of these books are available to be borrowed from the Millville Public Library or purchased at a book store. Students will be **evaluated** on the book of their choice for summer reading by the language arts literacy teachers in September in **two ways**:

1. Complete a Book Review of the novel of their choice. (Please refer to the attached directions, scoring rubric and sample book review)
2. Take an Accelerated Reader test at school.


The Book Review is due the first day of school, but no later than **Friday, September 11, 2009**.

Students may take notes on the book they plan on using for the assessment that will be given in September. When they take the Accelerated Reader test for their book, they will be allowed to use their notes to help them complete the assessment!

The Book Review and the Accelerated Reader test will be scored and will count as the **first two (2) language arts test grades** for the first marking period.

It is through practice that both the skills and love of reading will grow. At Millville Public Schools, readers are leaders! Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

  
K-12 Language Arts Supervisor  
Millville Public School



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Estimados Padres/Encargados y Alumnos,

¡El verano es un tiempo de diversion y relajarse...y una gran oportunidad para leer! De acuerdo a investigaciones hechas, los alumnos que leen durante los meses de verano aumentan o mantienen sus destrezas de lectura. Sin embargo, los alumnos que no leen durante los meses de verano pueden retrazarse tanto como un nivel en sus notas de sus destrezas.

Nosotros exhortamos a los alumnos entrando al **6to. grado** que continuen mejorando sus destrezas de lectura leyendo lo más posible en los meses de verano. Todos los alumnos de sexto grado de Millville se les **requiere leer un libro** de la lista adjunta. Muchos de estos libros estan disponibles para coger prestados de la Biblioteca Pública de Millville o se pueden comprar en una tienda de libros. Los alumnos serán **evaluados** en el libro de su selección para su lectura de verano por las maestras de artes de lenguaje en septiembre de **dos maneras**:

1. Completar un Repaso de Libro de la novela de su preferencia. (Favor de referirse a la instrucciones adjuntas, rubrica de marcas y muestra de repaso de libro)
2. Tomar un examen en la escuela de "Accelerated Reader).

La fecha para el Repaso de Libro es no más tarde del **viernes, 11 de septiembre de 2009**.

Los alumnos pueden tomar notas en el libro que ellos piensan usar para la evaluación que se dará en septiembre. ¡Cuando ellos tomen el examen "Accelerated Reader" de su libro, se les permitirá a ellos usar sus notas para ayudarlos a completar el examen!

El Repaso de Libro y el examen de "Accelerated Reader" se evaluarán y contarán como los **primeros dos (2) notas de exámenes en artes del lenguaje** para el primer periodo de notas.

Es a través de la práctica que tanto las destrezas y el amor por la lectura aumentan. ¡En las Escuelas Públicas de Millville, los lectores son líderes! Gracias por su cooperación y apoyo.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margarita A. Colina".

Supervisora de Artes del Lenguaje de K-12  
Escuelas Públicas de Millville

## Summer Reading List for Students Entering Sixth Grade

### *Watership Down* – Richard Adams

The story follows the adventures of a group of rabbits, who escape from their home, Sandleford Warren, which is smoked out by farmers. Together they travel through fields and forests, meeting hardships and dangers while searching for a new home.

### *Tuck Everlasting* – Natalie Babbitt

10-year-old Winnie Foster is kidnapped by the Tucks, finds herself helping a murderer out of jail, and is eventually offered the ultimate gift--but doesn't know whether to accept it.

### *A Gathering of Days* – Joann W. Blos

A historical novel about a courageous nineteenth-century girl, *A Gathering of Days* is written in the form of a journal.

### *Caddie Woodlawn* – Carol Ryrie Brink

American pioneer life and the everyday experiences of the Woodlawn family, members of a farming community at the edge of the western Wisconsin wilderness is described through the experiences of an 11 year old tomboy.

### *Bud, Not Buddy* – Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud Caldwell runs from the barren, impersonal confines of a 1930s orphanage near Chicago, Illinois and a stupidly cruel and dysfunctional foster home in search of his birth father.

### *Stone Fox* – John Reynolds Gardiner

Little Willy has a big job to do. When his grandfather falls ill, it is up to Willy alone to save their farm from the tax collector. But where can a ten-year-old get five hundred dollars in a hurry?

### *Julie of the Wolves* – Jean Craighead George

Miyax, a thirteen-year old Eskimo whose mother is dead and whose father disappeared while hunting, has run away. She intends to use the survival skills her father taught her to eventually get to San Francisco to visit her pen pal and gets lost.

### *Pictures of Hollis Woods* – Patricia Reilly Giff

Hollis Woods never felt like she fit in with any of her foster homes and was considered a “mountain of trouble” because she kept running away. This changed upon meeting one elderly woman.

### *Ordinary People* – Judith Guest

The story depicts a confused teenaged boy's journey back from a suicide attempt after his older brother's death in a boating accident, and the grief and guilt that tear the family apart.

### *The House of Dies Drear* – Virginia Hamilton

A contemporary black family buys a house in Ohio. A century earlier, Dies Drear, an abolitionist, and two slaves that he had been hiding in this same house were murdered. Now the family is in danger.

***Words of Stone*** – Kevin Henkes

Blaze Werla is having a typical summer. He lives in the country with his father and grandmother. He spends his days alone wandering around the hill beside his home. Then the message appears on the side of the hill. Then Blaze's summer suddenly takes a turn toward the mysterious.

***Letters from Rifka*** – Karen Hesse

Rifka dreams of a life in America, but she may never get there. Rifka and her family have fled Russia's brutal treatment of the Jews for a new life in America. The path to freedom is full of terrible obstacles.

***Out of the Dust*** – Karen Hesse

Rifka dreams of a life in America, but she may never get there. Rifka and her family have fled Russia's brutal treatment of the Jews for a new life in America. But the path to freedom is full of terrible obstacles.

***Phoenix Rising*** – Karen Hesse

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

***Kokopelli's Flute*** – Will Hobbs

Tepary Jones, 13, sets out to view a total eclipse of the full moon from the ruins of a cliff dwelling near his family's farm in New Mexico. Tep finds an eagle-bone flute and then the magic begins.

***Wild Man Island*** – Will Hobbs

The adventure of a lifetime begins when on the last day of a sea kayak trip in southeast Alaska, fourteen-year-old Andy Galloway paddles away from the group and his father, an archaeologist dies.

***Outcast of Redwall*** – Brian Jacques

Abandoned as an infant by his father, Veil is raised by the kindhearted Bryony. Despite concerns from everyone at Redwall, Bryony is convinced that Veil's goodness will prevail. But when he commits a crime that is unforgivable, he is banished from the abbey forever. Veil must eventually make a choice between his father and the kindhearted Bryony.

***The Phantom Tollbooth*** – Norton Jester

A journey through a land where Milo learns that the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

***The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Nickname Game*** – Gordon Korman

Jeff and Wiley have been best friends for eleven years. So it stands to reason that they would both fall for the same red-haired girl. Meanwhile their football-coach-turned-English-teacher, Mr. Huge (Hughes), is in danger of losing his job unless their 6th grade class ace their State Reading Assessment.

***..and Now, Miguel*** – Joseph Krumgold

A young New Mexican boy believes that most of his problems and aspirations arise from his being the middle child in his family of shepherders.

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* – C.S. Lewis**

Four children -- Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy -- discover a strange old wardrobe. Stepping inside, they find that it's stranger still, because behind all the fur coats there is a wondrous land of trees and mountains, all glistening with snow. Once they are in this foreign land the adventures begin.

***Gathering Blue* – Lois Lowry**

Left orphaned and physically flawed, young Kira faces a frightening, uncertain future. Blessed with an almost magical talent that keeps her alive, she struggles with ever broadening responsibilities in her quest for truth, discovering things that will change her life forever.

***Shiloh* – Phyllis Reynolds**

Eleven-year-old Marty Preston enjoys spending time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Marty secretly decides he'll do anything to save the dog he found and named Shiloh.

***Park's Quest* – Katherine Paterson**

Parkington Waddell Broughton V knows he has ancestors, but his father died in Vietnam and he has never met his father's family. Though he is nearly twelve, his mother still avoids answering any questions about his father. Finally, to satisfy his curiosity, Park gets on a bus for the short ride from his home to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. There he finds his father's name and also resolves to get some of his questions answered.

***Hatchet* – Gary Paulson**

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother has given him as a present - - and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart ever since his parents' divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair -- it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

***Nightjohn* – Gary Paulson**

A female slave at the Waller plantation, first sees Nightjohn when he is brought there. He had escaped north to freedom, but he came back--came back to teach reading. Knowing there is punishment for reading, Nightjohn still returned to slavery to teach others how to read, and twelve-year-old Sarny is willing to take the risk to learn.

***Woodsong* – Gary Paulson**

*Woodsong* is a memoir which mostly teaches that people should "never give up, no matter how hard things may get."

***Where the Redfern Grows* – Wilson Rawls**

This classic is about a ten-year-old boy, Billy, growing up in the Ozark Mountains with his inseparable pair of dogs.

***The Egypt Game* – Zilpha Keatley**

Even to Melanie, who knew that you could never predict what a new kid would be like, April Hall was something of a surprise. One look at her stringy upswept hair, false eyelashes, and ragged fox fur collar, convinced Melanie that April was not going to be easy to integrate into the sixth grade at Wilson School.

***Stargirl*** – Jerry Spinelli

Although Stargirl is shunned by many at school for her unique presence, Leo Borlock, a fellow classmate, finds her inspiring and soon finds himself head-over-heels in love.

***Wringer*** – Jerry Spinelli

In Palmer LaRue's hometown of Waymer, turning ten is the biggest event of a boy's life. It marks the day when a boy is ready to take his place as a wringer at the annual Family Fest. It's an honor and a tradition, but for Palmer, his tenth birthday is not something to look forward to, but something to dread. Although he can't admit this to anyone -- Palmer does not want to be a wringer. He must learn how to stop being afraid and stand up for what he believes in.

***Abel's Island*** – William Steig

Abel's place in his familiar, mouse world has always been secure, but one stormy August day, furious flood water carry him off and dump him on an uninhabited island. Faced with the daily adventure of survival, he is moved to reexamine the easy way of life he had always accepted and discovers skills and talents in him.

***The Cay*** – Theodore Taylor

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

***Surviving the Applewhites*** – Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists.

***The Fellowship of the Ring*** – J.R.R. Tolkien

***The Fellowship of the Ring*** is the first of three volumes of the epic novel ***The Lord of the Rings***. It takes place in the fictional universe Middle-earth.

***Dacey's Song*** – Cynthia Vieght

Momma had abandoned them and them later been traced to an asylum where she lay unrecognizing, unknowing. So Dacey Tillerman, her brothers James and Sammy, and her sister Maybeth had spent the summer on their own on a long and difficult journey to find a home and a new life with the grandmother they'd never met before.

***Belle Prater's Boy*** – Ruth White

When Belle Prater disappears, her son, Woodrow, goes to live with his grandparents in Coal Station, Virginia. Woodrow's cousin, Gypsy, has hidden sorrows and secrets of her own. She wonders how Woodrow can accept his mother's disappearance when she's never gotten over her father's death. That's when Woodrow tells Gypsy the secret about his mother.

***Behind the Bedroom Wall*** – Laura E. Williams

In 1939, Korinna is a member of a Nazi Youth Group and believes Hitler's speeches that he is helping the world, but when Korinna discovers that her family is hiding a Jewish family behind her bedroom wall, she has to decide to whom she is truly loyal.

## Written assignment

After reading your novel, your assignment is to write a **book review**. A book review provides information about setting, character development, and plot, but does not give away the ending. A book review also includes the reviewer's opinions and recommendations.

### Book Review Format

Paragraph 1: In complete sentences, include the title, author, setting, and the genre of the book. The genre is the type of book. Some examples of book genres may include mystery, fantasy, comedy, tragedy, or science-fiction.

Paragraph 2: In complete sentences, tell about the characters and details about the plot. It is important to tell enough so the reader gets a good understanding about what the book is about, but **DO NOT GIVE AWAY THE ENDING!!!!** Remember the purpose of a book review is to convince the reader to want to read this book.

Paragraph 3: Now is your opportunity to spark more interest in persuading the reader to read this book. Ask attention-getting questions about some of the exciting events that took place in the plot.

Paragraph 4: Give your opinions. Did you personally like or dislike this book? Give reasons to support your opinions. To whom would you recommend this book?

The following pages include a graphic organizer, sample book review, and assessment rubric for the project.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fiction Book Review Frame

## THE BASICS

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: What type of book is it? \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTENT INFORMATION

Setting: Where does the story take place? \_\_\_\_\_

Character Development: How does the author help us know the characters? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Plot: What happens in the story? What is the major conflict? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Author's Style: What is unusual or interesting about the author's writing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## OPINIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Intended Audience: What type of person would like this book? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Overall Rating: Why did you like or dislike this book? Would you recommend it?

How do you rate it?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Rubric

- \_\_\_\_\_ (40 points) **Content/Organization**  
Is organized effectively around a single focus  
Includes details, examples, and reasons  
Moves logically from opening to closing  
Demonstrates analytical, critical, and/or creative thinking  
Contains interesting and original ideas
- \_\_\_\_\_ (20 points) **Sentence Construction**  
Uses a variety of sentence structures effectively
- \_\_\_\_\_ (20 points) **Usage**  
Contains few, if any, errors in grammar  
Includes appropriate word choice
- \_\_\_\_\_ (20 points) **Mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation)**  
Includes few, if any, errors in mechanics
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Points**

## *SAMPLE Book Review*

*The River* by Gary Paulsen

Student Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you like tales of survival and adventure? If so, try reading *The River* by Gary Paulsen. This sequel to *Hatchet* continues the series of Brian Robeson's adventures. Let's find out more about the story.

Two years ago, Brian Robeson had to survive in the Canadian wilderness alone for fifty-four days. Now a special organization wants him to do it again so that they can monitor his skills to help people, such as astronauts, learn how to survive better, except this time he won't be alone. Derek Holtzer, a psychologist from the organization, is coming with him to record the survival techniques that Brian uses. However, when a freak storm came, and Derek is hit by lightning, Brian must travel over a hundred miles to a nearby trading post.

Will Brian succeed in getting to the trading post? If so, how will he get through the river to get to the trading post? Will Derek live long enough to survive the trip? How will Brian manage to keep himself and Derek alive? All of this can be found out by reading *The River*.

I recommend this book because it shows how Brian reuses his skills from the first book, *Hatchet*, and finds new skills that he didn't even know he had. It is a great tale of wilderness survival and adventure. I hope you enjoy reading *The River* by Gary Paulsen.