



Manhasset Public Schools

Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.

Principal

Munsey Park School

Dear Incoming Sixth Grade Students and Parents:

On behalf of the Sixth Grade Team, we wish to welcome you to your 6th grade English class. Your English teachers are looking forward to meeting you and helping you become great readers, writers and thinkers.

Every summer we ask students to read as much as possible, to keep their minds active and promote reading as a leisure activity. This summer, incoming 6th grade students are required to read two novels. The first should be a book of your choice from any genre. For the second title, please choose one of the following: The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson, Hatchet by Gary Paulsen, Crash by Jerry Spinelli, or Loser by Jerry Spinelli. Students may purchase one of these titles from local bookstores or for their E-Reader, obtain it from the Manhasset Public Library, or borrow a copy from Munsey Park. *When possible, purchasing titles is strongly encouraged as it allows for greater interactive reading and note-taking in the text.*

If you wish to borrow a copy of one of the required books, complete the form below. Please return this form to your child's classroom teacher no later than Thursday, June 19 to guarantee delivery of the book, which will be brought to your child's class before the end of the year. Borrowed copies must be returned in September or, in the event of loss, paid for by the student.

During the first few days of class, students will be asked to demonstrate their understanding of the books read. This assessment will take the form of a writing task in which students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the material. Students are encouraged, but not required, to keep a journal as they read. Prompts which may be helpful as students reflect on and write about what they have read can be found on the back of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 267-7405. We encourage our students to continue developing the habits of good readers and to include reading as a part of their academic and leisure activities. Thank you for your support of the summer reading program.

Sincerely,
The Sixth Grade Team

Name of Student _____ Date _____
(Please Print)

Current Grade 5 Teacher _____

Title You Wish to Borrow _____

Parent's Signature _____ Contact Phone Number _____

PLEASE SEE REVERSE OF THIS LETTER FOR SUGGESTED JOURNAL PROMPTS

Reading Response Topics and Ideas

You are encouraged, but not required, to keep a journal focused on the books that you read. Your responses may focus on character, plot, theme, problem/solution, author's craft or any other aspect of the text that interests you.

Here are some ideas to get you started. You may also want to add some of your own ideas.

Characters

- Relate a character to someone you know and explain how they are similar/different.
- Make a connection between yourself and a character. Explain.
- Put yourself in a character's shoes and explain how you would behave or react to the events in the book and why.

Plot

- Discuss why you think a part of the book is realistic or unrealistic.
- Make a prediction about what you think will happen next and explain why.
- Interpret what is happening in the chunk that you read.

Conflict/Problem

- Explain the problem or conflict in the story. How do you think it will be solved?
- Relate to a problem that a character in the book is facing. What would you do to solve it?

Author's Craft

- Choose a quote and explain its importance.
- Copy a descriptive passage and explain why you chose it. What is the author trying to show/tell?
- Explain what you think the author's message is.

Other Ideas

- Make a text-to-text or a text-to-self connection.
- Create a question about something that you are confused about. Try to answer it to better understand the text.
- Explain how your feelings have changed throughout the book.
- Connect a scene to a similar one in another book you have read.
- Explain how a scene makes you feel.