

**Sixth Grade Summer Reading**  
**Mrs. Shelly Sutton-Chaudoir**

Well, you are almost here! You've almost made it to MIDDLE SCHOOL!!! I am so excited to have you next year in my English class. I can't wait to meet you in August and create a year full of fun memories. That is always a theme in my classroom – to MAKE MEMORIES – and to LAUGH every day!!! I can promise you, we will do both of those next year!

**The Summer Slide:**

Just a thought, though, as you ease into your restful, stress-free summer. Even though you are “book” free for a few months, studies show that if you don't read during the summer you can lose up to two months of reading performance. So, how can you stop the summer “slide” or even make your reading growth and comprehension better? Here are a few ideas:



#1: Visit your local library! Find the “right fit” books for you. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to you and are not beyond your reading level. I never believe someone who says, “I don't like reading!” I say that you just haven't found the right books for you!

#2. Try to read at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, if you read only 1 minute a day you will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade or if you read 20 minutes a day, you will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! Read for the pure enjoyment of reading!! Reading will take you on a journey without ever leaving your home. I often feel sad at the end of a book because I've made “relationships” with the characters, and I hate to say goodbye!

#3. Put the computer games, television, and phones away. Surely you are not THAT addicted that you can't read something interesting for a few minutes every day ... even if it's a magazine! Don't just look at the pictures; read the words!

**Your Assignment:**

So, with all this being said, what do I want you to do this summer for your summer reading assignment? I want you to read **TWO books of YOUR choice** that are age appropriate and fun to read! If you feel like writing in your book, do it (unless you borrow it from a library, of course!!!) You might as well get used to that because you will learn how useful that skill can be as you progress as a reader in middle and high schools. Make notes, ask questions, connect with the text.

After we return to school in August, you will be writing a book review of ONE of the books you read this summer, so be thinking about the following:

- Can I write a short summary of the book?
- Who are the most important characters?
- What is the conflict (or problem) in the book?
- What is my opinion of the book?
- Why did I like it or why do I dislike it?
- Was it easy to read or hard to read?
- What was my favorite part of the book?
- Did I make any connections with the text?
- Is there a favorite line or quote out of the book that I like?

Just be thinking of these things (or making notes on them), so that you will be prepared to write your first book recommendation for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade!

**Tips for Parents:**

#1. Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.

#2. Read TO your child – if they will let you! When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for the different characters in the story and increasing volume for exciting parts are only a few ways to make reading interesting.

#3. Read WITH your child –explore different types of reading like poetry. For our little ones, poetry is great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.

#4. Read for different purposes. Even reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways to incorporating reading.

Happy Reading! See you in August!

Mrs. Sutton-Chaudoir