

June 1, 2011

Dear Incoming Sixth Graders,

This summer you are to read a **total of three** of the books on the following lists. Each book is an award winner and highly recommended by students who are your age. Several genres have been included on the list. I suggest that you keep a journal so that you can keep track of the characters, setting, important events, and your opinion of the books.

One of the books must be from the **Shakespeare** list, the other two are from the **Too Good to Miss** list. You are also allowed to pick great books that are not on my list. Just make sure you keep track of the title and author.

You will be demonstrating your knowledge of these books during the first two weeks of school. These books are available at the public library, and you are strongly encouraged to join the U.A. Library Summer Reading Program!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and have fun reading. I am looking forward to a great seventh grade year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. McCarron

### Shakespeare List

***The Shakespeare Stealer*** by Gary Blackwood

Widge, a bright orphan, has learned an unusual form of shorthand from a doctor. One day, a stranger appears and buys Widge from the doctor and plans to use him and his unique talent to steal the play "Hamlet" from William Shakespeare.

***Shakespeare's Scribe*** by Gary Blackwood

The exciting sequel to **The Shakespeare Stealer**. Widge is now 15 and an apprentice actor with William Shakespeare's troupe. When the troupe goes on the road, Widge finds out more about his parents along the way.

***Shakespeare's Spy*** by Gary Blackwood

In his third book of the series, Wide becomes a spy to determine who is stealing scripts of Shakespeare's latest play from the Lord Chamberlain's men.

***Mary, Bloody Mary*** by Carolyn Meyer

Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII of England, was a beautiful young princess accustomed to every luxury until her father divorced her mother to marry Anne Boleyn and banished Mary to a humiliating life.

***Saffy's Angel*** by Hilary McKay

After learning that she is adopted, thirteen year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special memento of her past.

If you enjoyed ***Saffy's Angel***, you may also want to read the two companion books, ***Indigo's Star*** and ***Permanent Rose***, both by Hilary McKay. These books continue the adventures of the Casson family.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** by Gennifer Choldenko

Moose Flanagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she is denied admittance to the school, Moose's family has trouble coping with her disorder. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never far away.

***Absolutely Normal Chaos*** by Sharon Creech

Thirteen year-old Mary Lou grows up considerably during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death and her cousin's search for his biological father.

***The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*** by Karen Cushman

In 1849, a twelve year-old girl who calls herself Lucy is distraught when her mother moves herself from Massachusetts to a small California mining town, where Lucy runs a rough boarding house and looks for comfort in books while trying to find a way to get "home."

***Among the Hidden*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

This first title in the Shadow Children sequence introduces readers to a time in the not-so-distant future when having more than two children is illegal. Luke Garner is a third child, a shadow child, whose existence is punishable by death. Luke has spent his whole life hiding until one day he catches a glimpse of another third child in a new house near his home. Luke meets Jen, a bold girl, who makes him dream of freedom. (You may also read other titles in this sequence.)

***Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island*** by Eve Bunting

Danny Sullivan has to get away from a gang who is threatening him after he reports one of them to the police; but just when he thinks he's escaped from them on a boat to Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, he is horrified to find that they have followed him, and now they have him trapped.

***Change-up : mystery at the World Series*** by Feinstein, John.

While covering the World Series, teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol uncover some inconsistencies in the life story of a popular, new pitcher and begin to investigate.

***The Batboy*** by Mike Lupica

It is every baseball kid's dream summer job: batboy for your hometown Major League team. Yet for fourteen year-old Brian, the job means more than just the chance to hang around his idols. Baseball was the job his father loved so much, in the end he couldn't leave it. Yet he could leave his family. Now Brian sees the job as the way to win back his father.

***A Long Way from Chicago*** or ***A Year Down Yonder*** by Richard Peck

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. The story continues in the sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*, when 15-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty grandmother.

***Under the Blood Red Sun*** by Graham Salisbury

After the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 13-year-old Tomizu, the American-born son of Japanese immigrants, suddenly becomes the man of the house after his father is arrested and discovers the true meaning of friendship and loyalty.

Themes: World War II, Attack on Pearl Harbor, identity, adventure

***Lily's Crossing*** by Patricia Reilly Giff

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently (Historical fiction)

***Flush*** by Carl Hiaasen

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. Realistic Fiction. Environmental fiction

***Raven's Gate*** by Anthony Horowitz

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle. Series sequels: *Evil Star* and *Nightrise Fantasy*.

***Roberto Clemente : baseball's humanitarian hero*** by Herón Márquez

A biography of major league baseball player Roberto Clemente and describes his impoverished childhood in Puerto Rico, love for baseball, and entrance into professional sports in the U.S. where he played for both the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Pittsburg Pirate. (non-fiction)

***The Penderwicks: a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy*** By Jeanne Birdsall

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

