



AVOYELLES
— Parish Schools —

**6TH GRADE
SUMMER READING
2024**



Avoyelles Parish Schools

221 Tunica Drive West
Marksville, Louisiana 71351

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Superintendent
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Dear Sixth Grade Students and Parents,

We aim to ignite a love of reading in all of our children in Avoyelles Parish. During the school year we have programs such as **DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)** and **Accelerated Reader**. This summer we are sending free books home with your child to continue to grow our readers. Just reading 20 minutes a day will grow their vocabulary by 1.8 million words a year. The reading gift your child received today contains some of the books listed below. It contains some family activities that we hope you will dive into with your child. As you read, take a look at the Summer Reading Journal in order to get the most out of what you are reading. Use the activities in the journal to connect with what you are reading and engage in conversations with others. Invite your family and friends to read with you and talk about the topics in the books. **Your child is required to choose ONE book and return pg. 13 Word Workout and four additional activities from the reading journal upon arrival at school next year to be graded.**

Sixth Grade Summer Reading List
Frizzy by Claribel A. Ortega
Connect the Dots by Keith Calabrese
Chasing Jaguars by Melissa Cristina Marquez
The Storyteller by Brandon Hobson
The Way to Rio Luna by Zoraida Cordova

Note: Some packets may have other Scholastic Books not on the list. They are still approved and can be used.

Have a great summer!

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know
The MORE that you
Learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



DEAR STUDENT,

Good news! Your school has partnered with Scholastic to give you a great set of books to read over the summer. These books are a gift for you to enjoy, share with others, and keep. Inside this packet, you will find:

- ▶ Interesting and fun books
- ▶ Activity Sheets that go with each book
- ▶ A Summer Reading Journal

The goal of My Books Summer is for you, your family, and your friends to engage with books in a way that is fun and interactive. Reading can be so much more than the words on a page when you use the text as a springboard for conversations and ideas.

As you read, take a look at the Activity Sheet that goes with the book. Complete the different sections in any order and at any pace that is comfortable for you. Ask your family to read the Activity Sheets with you, and see whether you can turn a single book into an experience for you and your family.

The Summer Reading Journal is another way for you to get the most out of what you are reading. The journal can be used with any book in this packet or any book in general. Enjoy your summer, and happy reading!

DEAR FAMILY,

Even though your child is now an independent reader, there are still many ways to enjoy literature together. Sometimes you may read a book together; other times, your child may read independently. You might simply scan the title and read the information on the back cover. Whether you read alongside your child or have conversations with him or her about the book, partnering together can make reading more fun and meaningful.

Use the Activity Sheets provided in the My Books Summer packet as a way to talk with your child about what they are reading. Share any connections that you may have to the stories, and ask your child questions about the books. Use the conversations that stem from these books as a window into your child's world. Enjoy the experience of connecting with your child in a way that promotes learning, conversation, and family engagement.

HAPPY READING!

Frizzy

by Claribel A. Ortega; illustrated by Rose Bousamra

Before Reading

Read the back cover of *Frizzy*. Think about what “good hair” means to you. Do you think you have good hair? If so, what makes it “good”? If not, what don’t you like about your hair? Who defines what “good hair” is?

While Reading

As you read, pause and think or write about these questions:

- After “El Salon” and “¡Quince!”: Where does Marlene go every Sunday, and why? How does she feel about it? Why does she think about the *Super Amigas* show while she’s there?
- How and why do people compare Marlene to her cousin, Diana? Why is Marlene’s mother angry at her for dancing?
- After “Best Friends” and “The Plan”: Why does Marlene think adults are “weirdos”? Why is it important to her to mess up her straight hair? Why is it hard for her to talk to her mom about the salon?
- Why does Marlene get in trouble at school? How does Marlene deal with Diana’s comment about “good hair”? What does her mother tell her about looking “the way [we] do” and fitting in?
- After “A Special Wash Day”: How does Tía Ruby help Marlene understand her mom? What does Marlene learn about anti-Blackness?
- What does Tía Ruby say about Marlene choosing natural hair versus straight hair? How does she explain “good” and “bad” hair”?
- What gives Marlene the courage to talk to her mom? How does her mom respond?

After Reading

Marlene’s mom says, “It’s not easy to undo something you’ve been taught was right your whole life.” Think about what Marlene’s mom means, and how Marlene helps her. Then write down something you might want to undo that you’ve been taught to believe was right.

Literacy Tip

Have you ever heard the saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words”? Some illustrated scenes are powerful without text, such as on page 25, when Marlene is in awe of Tía Ruby with her beautiful curls, and on page 31, when Marlene sees her distorted reflection in the spoon.

Frizzy

by Claribel A. Ortega; illustrated by Rose Bousamra

Write It

Marlene's family makes "mean or judgy" comments about her appearance and the way she acts, but she gets in trouble for defending herself. Can you relate to this? Are there people in your family or friends group who make you feel badly?

If so, what do they say, and why do you think they say it? How do you deal with it? Do *you* ever say things that make other people feel badly? If so, why do you do it? Below, in whatever style you like, write about your personal experience with mean and judgy comments.

The Storyteller

by Brandon Hobson

Before Reading

Most people have experienced feeling anxious or nervous. It's not unusual to feel anxious before a big test, a big game, or speaking in public. But full-blown anxiety—a feeling of fear or dread—can be debilitating. What do you know about anxiety? Have you—or has someone you know—ever experienced anxiety? If you have, how would you describe the feeling? What did you do to deal with it?

While Reading

As you read, pause and think or write about these questions:

- After Chapters 1–5: What trauma is Ziggy dealing with? Why is President Andrew Jackson in Ziggy's dreams?
- In what way is Ziggy's mom like many other Native women? Why does Ziggy need to talk to Alice? What do Alice and Ziggy have in common?
- After Chapters 6–10: Why is it awkward listening to Mr. Lynch teach Native history? How does the difference between possibility and probability help Ziggy? What does Ziggy figure out about Mr. Lynch from the armadillo?
- After Chapters 11–15: How does Ziggy try to visualize his anxiety? Why did Alice lie about the cave?
- After Chapters 16–19: When did Alice stop looking for her sister, and why? What is the importance of stories about people who are gone?
- What does Ziggy finally tell his father he needs? What do you think is the most important thing on Ziggy's "Things I Learned Last Night" list (pp. 192 and 193)?

After Reading

Based on the stories in this book, do you agree or disagree with Grandma's belief that a storyteller's power lies in finding meaning in events and then conveying that meaning to others? Can you think of a time when you heard someone tell a powerful story? What made that story seem especially powerful to you?

Literacy Tip

On page 25, the students in Ziggy's class all have names that are variations on or direct references to rock stars from the 1970s and 1980s (Adam Ant, Chrissie Hynde, Bryan Ferry, and Robert Smith). Ziggy himself was named after a character created by rock star David Bowie.

The Storyteller

by Brandon Hobson

Write It

"There are plenty of people who will tell lies about us. There are many who don't want our history to be a part of theirs. But we cannot give up. We take the truth of the past with us, and preserve it from being forgotten" (pp. 171 and 172).

Think about this quote in the context of President Andrew Jackson's speech (taught in Mr. Lynch's class and quoted by the armadillo) about the Indian Removal Act of 1830, in which he referred to the Act as "benevolent," even though it required approximately 60,000 Native Americans to leave their land and 4,000 of them died during the forced relocation.

Why do you think some people wouldn't want the Indian Removal Act to be part of their history as Americans? What would they have to acknowledge or recognize about American history?

What do you think of this *selective* approach to history (meaning that you get to choose what's part of your country's history and what's not)?

Connect the Dots

by Keith Calabrese

Before Reading

Look at the cover of the book and read the title, then study the image. What kind of book do you think *Connect the Dots* is? What does the expression “connect the dots” mean? When do people tend to use this expression?

While Reading

As you read, take time to pause and think, talk, or write about these questions:

After reading Chapters 1–4: How does the author describe Preston’s relationship to math? How does this help the reader understand exactly what Preston is capable of? Oliver also seems to have a skill, although it’s more subtle than Preston’s. What do you think it is?

After reading Chapters 5–7: Why is it difficult for Preston to trust people? Why is it difficult for Oliver to trust people, even before he meets Mr. Kaplan? What happens with Mr. Kaplan?

After reading Chapters 8–10: What is Matilda’s father hiding from Matilda? What is Matilda hiding from her parents? What is she hiding from her friends? How do these secrets affect the plot of the story?

After reading Chapters 11–13: What is chaos theory, also known as the *butterfly effect*? How is it connected to Preston? How does it make Preston dangerous?

After Reading

Using technology he designed himself, Preston “communicates” with historical figures Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, and Nikola Tesla. Why do you think he chose these four people? Whom would you choose to communicate with, if you could use this technology?

Literacy Tip:

On the first page of every chapter, the author includes a summary of what’s going to happen. This is a clever nod to Preston’s need to know what’s going to happen before it happens.

Connect the Dots

by Keith Calabrese

Write About It

"Sometimes we give more than we take, and sometimes we take more than we give. But, I find, as long as you have people in your life that you can really count on, it all pretty much works out in the end."
(page 84)

"...who we are is just the sum of the tiny, random choices we make every day. It all adds up." (page 218)

Which of the two quotes above do you think best captures the message of this book, and why? Support your answer, using evidence from the book.

Chasing Jaguars

by Melissa Cristina Márquez

Before Reading

Have you ever watched a reality television show, a documentary movie, or a video that features animals? What are your thoughts about reality shows, movies, or videos about real animals? In what ways might they be educational? In what ways might they be problematic—for animals or for humans? And in what ways might they be a little of both?

While Reading

As you read, take time to pause and think, talk, or write about these questions:

After reading Chapters 1–5: What brings the Villalobos family to Sonora? Who is Daniela, and what is she trying to accomplish? Who is Señor José, and what is his point of view? How are they in conflict with each other?

After reading Chapters 6–11: What is camera trapping? What is satellite tagging? What are tracking collars? How do these important tools work? And how do they help conservationists and researchers?

After reading Chapters 12–16: What does Adrianna notice in the camera footage the group is watching after the jaguar gets caught in the snare? Why does this make her think of the people she saw in Cuba and Sri Lanka? Why does this make her feel guilty?

After reading Chapters 17–22: What does the team do when they finally find the injured jaguar? What steps do they take to help him? What happens to the jaguar? What are your feelings or thoughts about this?

After Reading

What clues hint that Mr. Savage isn't exactly who he seems to be and may in fact be connected to the poachers? Name three clues from different points in the book.

Literacy Tip:

Throughout the book, there are profile pages about the wild animals found in Sonora. These pages provide information about the animals' sizes, the foods they eat, and whether or not they're endangered. But the purpose of these profile pages is not only to inform the reader. These profile pages are from the trip pamphlet Mr. Savage gives the Villalobos family about each new location. Thus, these profile pages are part of the story.

Chasing Jaguars

by Melissa Cristina Márquez

Write About It!

Write an essay explaining how Señor José's feelings about jaguars change from the beginning of the book to the end. Use details from the text to support your ideas. In your essay, describe what happens along the way to help facilitate this change. Then explain how his change of heart reflects one of the book's important messages.

Feeling creative? Write your essay from Señor José's point of view, as a memoir or a journal entry. Include illustrations to go along with your text.

The Way to Rio Luna

by Zoraida Córdova

Before Reading

Read the quote on the cover of the book. It says that the book is “a love letter to everyone who believes in magic.” What does that mean? How can a book be a love letter to a specific group of people?

While Reading

As you read, take time to pause and think, talk, or write about these questions:

After reading Chapters 1–6: Magic is important to Danny. Explain why you think it is. How does magic cause trouble for him? How do his feelings shift as time goes on? What happens that restores his faith in magic?

After reading Chapters 7–12: What does Glory tell Danny about enchanted books? What does he learn about *The Way to Rio Luna*? How is this connected to finding Pili? What must he and Glory do?

After reading Chapters 13–18: Why does Glory feel bad about the book and magic in general? What happened to Glory’s ability to see enchantment? How does Danny try to make her feel better?

After reading Chapters 19–23: What does Danny learn from Ollie about Ella St. Clay and Leanna North? What does this lead him to figure out about Auntie North and the Shadow Queen?

After Reading

Even from the very beginning, starting with her first entrance on page 97, there are clues that something is not right with Auntie North. What are these clues? List three clues from different scenes in the book.

Literacy Tip:

At the end of the book, the author leaves several big plot points unresolved—such as what happens to the Shadow Queen and where Ella St. Clay is. Why might an author do this? It could be a signal that there may be more books in the series to come.

The Way to Rio Luna

by Zoraida Córdova

Write About It

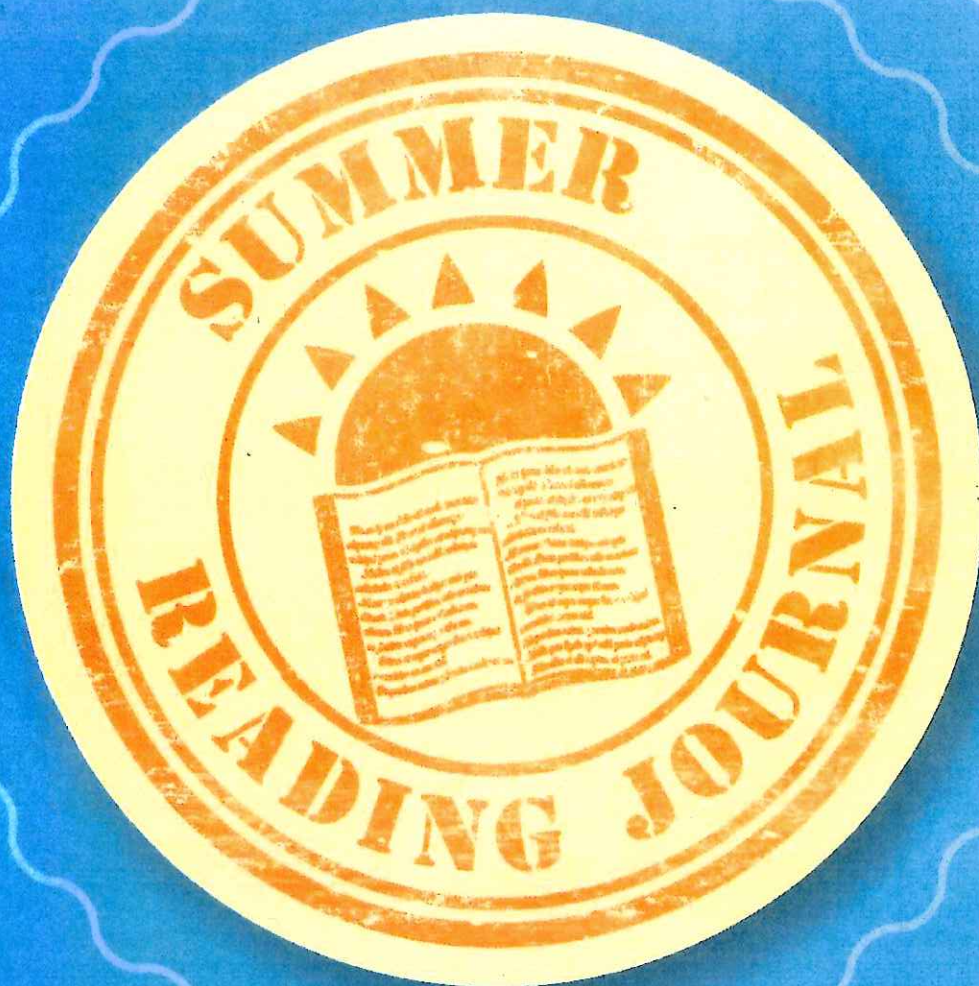
In the book, when Danny is thinking about the missing endings of the stories, he wonders whether it's better to write a different ending simply because it's happier, or whether it's better to tell the truth (page 258).

In real life, people are often faced with a similar dilemma: Should I tell the truth, even if it may cause someone unhappiness or pain? Or should I avoid telling the truth and instead tell them something that will make them happy?

What's your opinion? Do you believe that telling the truth is always the best option? Or do you think there are times when it might be better to tell people what you think they want to hear instead of the truth? Explain your answer.

Feel free to write your response as an opinion piece, or as a list of pros (Yes, always tell the truth) and cons (No, sometimes honesty is NOT the best policy).

Grades
6-12



 SCHOLASTIC

Welcome to My BOOKS Summer

Dear Student,

This Summer Reading Journal is intended to be used with books that you already have in your home or that you check out from your local library. Use the activities in the journal to connect with what you are reading and spark family conversations. Invite your family to read with you, and encourage them to talk about the topics in each book. Books can be amazing starting points for shared experiences of laughter, imagination, and insight! Use the following tips to enhance your reading experience.

BEFORE READING: It is important to think about what you are going to read before beginning. This can set the stage for a more powerful reading experience.

- **Investigate the front cover.** How does the title relate to the image on the cover? What do you think this book will be about?
- **Discuss what you know about the topic.** For nonfiction books, think about questions you hope are answered in the text.

DURING READING: Thinking about the subject matter and text while you are reading can lead to a deeper understanding of the book.

- **Read stories and sections of stories multiple times.** You can discover subtleties and deeper meanings in the text with each reading.
- For longer books, **pause at section or chapter breaks** to monitor your own understanding. Can you explain what has happened in the book? What do you think will happen next? Look up any words or ideas you may not know.
- Pay attention to **plot and character development** as you read. Think about how different characters change throughout the book and how events in the plot affect each character. Consider which events impact the resolution of the book.

- **Discuss the author's craft.** Did the author use a particular style to tell the story? Did the author use any literary devices that require you to think beyond the literal meaning of the text? What message is the author conveying with similes, metaphors, idioms, and irony? Think about why the author made these decisions.
- **Look beyond the text.** Look for photographs, illustrations, and images that provide deeper meaning to the story.

AFTER READING: The impact and experience of reading a book do not end when the last page is turned. Thinking about and discussing ideas from a book after reading add new levels of meaning and understanding.

- **Discuss personal connections.** Have you ever had an experience like the main character? Have you ever visited a place like the setting of the book? Imagine what it would be like to be a character in the story.
- **Find the common thread that ties the story together.** In fiction stories, look for a theme. What events support the theme? In nonfiction stories, look for the main idea. What evidence supports the main idea?
- **Think about how you feel about what you have read.** You may read stories about important social issues or injustices from the past. Sometimes these topics can be difficult to read or think about. It can be helpful to write down your reaction to a book after reading, or to discuss these feelings with a friend or family member.

Most importantly, make reading a thoughtful experience that extends beyond the pages of the book. Talk about what you are reading with family and friends. Think critically and creatively about what you have read, and enjoy the adventure of reading!

Happy Reading,
Your Friends at Scholastic

Designed by Lindsey Dekker and Brian LaRossa.
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Ready, Set, Text

Pretend you are texting with a friend. Answer each question to tell your pal about a book you just read.

Title _____ by _____

Read any good books lately? What?

Tell me about the main character. Would I like this person?

What was the tone of the story? How did it make you feel?

Should I read this book? Why or why not?

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, keep the pretend conversation going. Pose more questions about the book and answer them as texts.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

There are usually crucial points in life that require people—whether real or fictional—to make important decisions. Choose two people or characters from a book you read, and write about a moment of decision for each of them. Then write about the outcomes of those decisions. Include page numbers to show where in the book you found the information you cite.

Title _____ by _____

<p>Character 1</p>	<p>Moment of Decision</p> <p>Page _____</p>	<p>Outcome</p> <p>Page _____</p>
<p>Character 2</p>	<p>Moment of Decision</p> <p>Page _____</p>	<p>Outcome</p> <p>Page _____</p>



Right or wrong decision? Choose one of the decisions. On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph telling whether you think the person or character made the right or wrong choice.

The Way I See It . . .

Who's telling the story? The point of view—the perspective from which a story is told—affects how much is revealed about the characters and events in a story. Answer the questions below to explore the point of view of a book you read.

Title _____ by _____

1. Who's telling the story? _____

2. What evidence from the text can you cite that makes that clear? _____

3. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from that viewpoint? _____

Now write a paragraph explaining how the story would be different if it were told from another character's perspective.



Tweet, Tweet

Time to broadcast your opinion to the world! Compose four tweets to tell about a book you read, adding a fitting hashtag for each. Challenge yourself to make the tweets super exciting. And remember, the Twitter character limit is 140 characters.

Title _____ by _____

Describe the main character to a T:



Tell when and where the book is set:



Briefly recap the book's plot:



Blast a blurb that will make everyone on Earth want to read it:



EXTRA!

Having fun? On a separate sheet of paper, compose more tweets about the same title.

Incredible Quotation

Read any good biographies lately? Find two important quotations from a book you read. Then complete the chart below.

Title _____ by _____

<p>Quotation</p> <p>Speaker _____ Page _____</p>	<p>This quotation made me think ...</p>
<p>Quotation</p> <p>Speaker _____ Page _____</p>	<p>This quotation made me think ...</p>

Find That Feeling

A book has the power to make you feel happy, sad, relieved, surprised—and every other emotion in between! Browse through a book you recently read and see if you can find an event that made you feel each emotion below. Describe the events in your own words and add page numbers for reference.

Title _____ by _____

I felt...	Event	Page(s)	Why I felt this way
happy			
sad			
relieved			
surprised			



What OTHER emotion did the book make you feel? On a separate sheet of paper, write about it.

Switch Position

Pick an informational book you read in which the author took a stand and made his or her opinion known. First, write a paragraph in which you agree with the author. Be sure to back up your claims by citing information from the text. Then, switch your position and write a paragraph that disagrees with the author. When you're done, check the box to tell how you REALLY feel.

Title _____ by _____

Write a paragraph in which you **AGREE** with the author:

Write a paragraph in which you **DISAGREE** with the author:

Now tell how you REALLY feel: I agree with the author. I disagree.

Read All About It!

You're an ace reporter who's just been handed a cool assignment: Retell the plot of a book in the form of a newspaper article. Be sure to stick to the facts and answer these six key questions: *Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?* When your article is complete, give it an attention-grabbing headline. Now, get writing—you're on a deadline!

Title _____ by _____

*Daily
Edition*

The Book Time

*All the Fiction
That's Fit to Print*

Write your headline here.



On a separate sheet of paper, write an imagined "exclusive interview" with a key character from the same book.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Imagine you could invite one of the characters in your book to dinner. Which character would you choose? Write four questions you would ask him or her.

Title _____ by _____

Character _____

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

In a short paragraph, explain why you chose the character you did.



What food should be served at the dinner? On a separate sheet of paper, decide what your character would like to have for dinner and tell why.

The Kind of Person Who...

How would you describe the characters in a book you read? Choose three characters and complete each of the sentences below.

Title _____ by _____

1. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

2. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

3. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about the kind of person who would like to read the book you read and explain why.

Word Workout

Give your vocabulary a workout! Keep track of the BEST new words you learned from books this summer.

	Word	Definition
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		



Love words? Start a word journal in which you write down all your favorites.

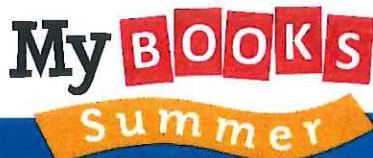
My Reading Log

Time to kick back and read! Record the titles and genres of each new book you devour. Then rate it with one to five stars.

	Title of Book	Fiction or Nonfiction	How I Felt About It
1			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
2			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
3			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
5			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
6			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
7			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
8			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
9			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
10			★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Name _____

Grades 6-12



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