



**Bernardsville Middle School
2011 Summer Reading**

Students Entering Grade 6



Please Note: All suggested summer reading titles are recommended for the 6th grade reading level. It is up to you and your parents/guardians to decide which books are appropriate for you.

One School, One Book

All STUDENTS Entering 6th Grade SHOULD read:

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* – Jordan Sonnenblick**



When his younger brother becomes very sick, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

In addition, all students entering 6th grade should read at least one of the following titles by Jordan Sonnenblick:



**After Ever After:
*Sequel to *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie!***
Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.



Dodger and Me:
Miserable because his only friend moved away and he has again caused his baseball team to lose a game, Willy Ryan's life suddenly becomes a lot more interesting when he finds Dodger, a furry, blue chimpanzee that only he can see, and he has to decide what he really wishes for in life.



Zen and the Art of Faking It:
When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer -and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

Top Teacher Picks:

***A Mango-Shaped Space* – Wendy Mass**

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* – Avi**
As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

**- Mrs. Reznick, Literacy – Grade 6
Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series – Jeff Kinney**

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh* – Robert C. O'Brien**

With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer's tractor, too ill to be moved.

- Miss Paparozzi, Literacy – Grade 6

***Anne of Green Gables* – Lucy Maud Montgomery**

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

- Mrs. Procacci, Literacy – Grade 6

Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series

- Rick Riordan

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and a Greek God, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself and joins

his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

***39 Clues Series* – Various Authors**

Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents.

***Chasing Redbird* - Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor uncovers family secrets and self truths while clearing a mysterious settler trail that begins on her family's farm in Kentucky.

- Miss MacGorman, BMS School Librarian

Additional Suggested Titles:

***Castle Corona* - Sharon Creech**

Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever.

***The Secret Garden* - Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

***A Crooked Kind of Perfect* - Linda Urban**

Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.

***Edward's Eyes* - Patricia MacLachlan**

Edward is one of a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other, and when he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to a perfect recipient.

***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* – Jacqueline Kelly**

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

***Leepike Ridge* - N.D. Wilson**

While his widowed mother continues to search for him, eleven-year-old Tom, presumed dead after drifting away down a river, finds himself trapped in a series of underground caves with another survivor and a dog, and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters.

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

***Ranger's Apprentice: Book One* – John Flanagan**

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

***Shakespeare's Secret* – Elise Broach**

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

***The Last Apprentice Series* - Joseph Delaney**

Young Tom starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."

***Swordbird* - Nancy Yi Fan**

Warring factions of blue jays and cardinals call on Swordbird, the heroic bird of peace, to rescue them from the evil machinations of Turnatt, the tyrant hawk lord who plans to enslave them.

***Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* – Jack Gantos**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Images and Summaries from: [Titlewave](http://Titlewave.com), Follett Library Resources, Titlewave.com

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