

Revised 5/28/09  
Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Matthew J. Kuss Middle School  
Summer Reading 2009

Below is a list of suggested titles, but students may read any two age-appropriate chapter book they choose.

**Fiction**

*Something Upstairs*, by Avi  
*Call it Courage*, by Sperry  
*Holes*, by Sachar  
*Number the Stars*, by Lowrey  
*Ella Enchanted*, by Levine  
*The Cay*, by Taylor  
*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by Lewis  
*On My Honor*, by Bauer  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, by Dahl  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, by  
*The Penderwicks*, by Birdsall  
*Bread and Roses Too*, by Paterson  
*Crash*, by Spinelli  
*Joey Pigza*, by Gantos  
*Gulliver's Travels*, by Swift  
*Anne of Green Gables*, by Montgomery  
*Treasure Island*, by Stevenson  
*Robinson Crusoe*, Defoe  
*Fever: 1793*, by Anderson  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Taylor  
*True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi  
*Catherine Called Birdy* by Cushman  
*Girl from Yahmill: A Memoir* by Cleary  
*The Lost Garden* by Yep  
*The Invisible Thread* by Uchida  
*Tom Sawyer* by Twain  
*Murder on the Orient Express* by Christie  
*Hound of the Baskervilles* by Doyle  
*Alex Rider, The Gadgets* by Horowitz

*Little Men* by Alcott  
*Little Lord Fauntleroy* by Hodgson and Burnett  
*Time Machine* by Wells  
*Larklight* by Reeve

**Non-Fiction**

*Diary of a Young Girl*, by Frank  
*No Place to Be: Voices of Homeless Children*, by Berck  
*We Were There Too: Young People in U.S. History*, by Hoose  
*Uncommon Champions: Fifteen Athletes Who Battled Back*, Kaminsky  
*My Life in Dog Years*, by Paulsen  
*The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle*, Wulffson  
*Rising Voices: Writings of Young Native Americans* by Hirschfelder  
*I've Got Things to do with my Life: Pat Tillman and the Making of An American Hero* by Mike Towle  
*A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson  
*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millar  
*Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth*

**Folklore**

*Beat the Story-Drum, Pum-Pum*, by Bryan  
*Snow Goose*, by Gallico  
*The Elephant's Child*, by Kipling

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## Summer Reading Incoming Grade 6

Welcome to Kuss Middle School! To ensure students maintain the literacy skills they have been working on during the school year, Kuss Middle School requires each incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade student to read **at least two** books.

While reading, students should try to make the following **connections**:

Text-to-Self: something in the book reminds you of yourself or an event you have experienced.

Text-to-Text: something in the book reminds you of something in another book.

Text-to-World: something in the book reminds you of an event you have heard, read, or seen on the news.

Upon completion of each book, students are required to write a **Literary Letter** to a friend, parent, or teacher (use the attached form as a guide) **OR** design an **8 ½ x 11 inch poster**.

Poster Requirements:

- Title and author
- Includes details from the book that give others a thorough understanding of the plot, setting, and main characters
- An image that represents some aspect of plot, setting, or theme and an explanation of why you chose the image
- An image of the main character and five words that indicate his/her character traits (personality).
- A quote from the book and an explanation of why you chose the quote.

**The literary letter and poster are your FIRST GRADED ASSIGNMENTS in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Literary Letter

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Paragraph 1: Give some background information about the book. What is the title? Who is the author? To what genre (type of book) does it belong?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 2: Provide a summary of the book in which you reveal the main setting, major characters, major events, and/or main conflict. Help the reader get the general idea of the book. Do not give away the ending!

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 3: Explain connections you made while reading. Provide **at least** one quote from the book that helped you make a connection. Describe how the quote helped you make a connection and the connection you made. Explain how it helped you understand or enjoy the story.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 4: Explain to whom you would recommend this book and why.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 5: Wrap up your letter and say goodbye.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Write your signature.)