

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM – GRADE 6

The faculty at QMS is again sponsoring a Summer Reading Program that focuses on quality literature and invites students to experience a variety of genres. It is our hope that it not only challenges students to read two novels, but also inspires students to read other books for their own enjoyment. By interacting with good literature, both during the school year as well as during the summer, students will recognize and appreciate the power and beauty of written language and identify with the universality of human experience as they think critically about the events and characters portrayed in the literary works. It is through reading that we come to a better understanding of our world, the people who inhabit it, and the experiences we share. Enjoy!

Incoming sixth grade students are expected to read two of the books listed. It is strongly suggested that notes be kept while reading the books.

For *one* of the books read students should complete the following:

**Design a new book cover/jacket for the book.** This should be created on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, folded in half. The front half is for the illustrated cover. The back half is for the summary.

Requirements for front cover:

- \* A scene from the book different from the current cover. The drawing must be student-generated, colored, and cover the entire page (no white space).
- \* Title
- \* Author

Requirements for back cover:

- \* A typed summary of the book, minimum one paragraph.
- \* Student's name.
- \* Remember...the goal is to summarize the plot and interest others in reading the book.

For the *second* book read, students will be asked to complete an **in-class writing assignment.** This will occur during the month of September.

## BOOKS FOR GRADE 6

### **Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic**

Zlata's diary begins with the typical concerns of an eleven year old girl. Gunfire and the horrors of war change her happy world

### **The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth Speare**

This is a story of two boys and their coming of age in the Maine wilderness prior to the Revolutionary War. An awkward relationship develops when the starving white boys are forced to teach the reluctant Indian to read in order for them both to survive.

### **All Alone in the Universe by Lynne Rae Perkins**

Debbie, a middle school student, loses her best friend since third grade, Maureen, to another classmate. The book describes the end of this relationship and how Debbie triumphantly recovers from this major passage in her life. The author writes with honesty and lightens the story with delightful line drawings and bits of humor. She tackles the issue of growing up and outgrowing friendships in a meaningful and upbeat manner.

### **The Wave by Todd Strasser**

This novel is based on an actual event that occurred in a California classroom. A popular history teacher, Ben Ross makes history come alive by class discussions and role-playing. He devises an in class experiment known as "The Wave" in which students who were part of an elite group found themselves energized by the group's power.

### **Redwall by Brian Jacques**

War erupts shattering the peace in Mossflower. A dark cloud of doom and despair hangs over the ancient stone abbey of Redwall. Cluny the Scourge, an evil one-eyed Savage rat, has arrived with his rodent horde to conquer and destroy.

### **Woodson by Gary Paulsen**

Alone, with only his dogs for company, Paulsen faces the challenge of the Idtarod, a thousand-mile trek through the Arctic wasteland.

### **The Year Mom Won the Pennant by Matt Christopher**

Nick Vassey's Little League baseball team needs a coach in order to play the season. Much to Nick's disappointment, his Mom decided she will be the coach. The story details the Thunderball's season, as Nick is forced to deal with the embarrassment of his Mom being so successful. Will Nick quit the team?

### **The Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter**

The Lenape Indians captured true Son, born John Butler, when he was just four years old. The great warrior Cuyloga who renamed him and reared him as his own adopted him into the tribe. After a treaty he had to be returned to the white men. Who were his people now?

### **When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt**

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small town until one summer when Zachary Beaver, the fattest boy in the world, arrives. Toby then has a summer that changes his forever.

### **Heat by Mike Lupica**

Michael Arroyo is the best player on his New York City all-star baseball team. He's so good, in fact, that some of the coaches in the league don't believe he is only 12-years old. As his team tries to advance to the Little League World Series, Michael is asked to produce a birth certificate that will verify his age. The problem is he has no parents and his birth certificate is back home in his native Cuba. Will Michael, with the help of his older brother Carlos, be able to get his birth certificate in time to help his team?