

Summer Reading 6th grade 2011-2012:

Required: *Afrika* by Colleen Craig

- Growing up in Canada with her white South African mother, Kim van der Merwe does not know who her father is. Now, at 13, she goes to Cape Town for the first time, shortly after independence in the mid-1990s, because her mother, a journalist, is going to report on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Visiting and meeting her family for the first time, she decides that her mission will be to discover her father's identity. Her life becomes more closely entwined with South Africa's political and social realities as she gets closer to the answer she seeks. The climax packs a powerful emotional punch as the author dovetails Kim's personal odyssey with the pain, contradictions, and hopes of the country as it carries its devastating history into the future.

Additional Reading – Please choose one book to read and then do a project from the list attached.

Genre: Classic

Bradbury, Ray *The Illustrated Man*

Orwell, George *Animal Farm*

Genre: Contemporary/Fiction

Clements, Andrew *Extra Credit*

Konigsburg, E.L. *The View from Saturday*

- This 1996 Newbery Medal winner charts the ties that bind four members of an extraordinarily successful 6th-grade quiz bowl team.

Genre: Sci-Fi/Fantasy

Westerfield, Scott *Leviathan*

Horvath, Polly *My One Hundred Adventures*

Genre: Historical Fiction

Lee, Tony *Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood*

Avi *Crispin*

Conly, Jane Leslie *Crazy Lady*

- Vernon finds himself hanging out on his Baltimore street corner, quietly desperate about school but powerless to resolve his problems. He and the other neighborhood boys like to taunt Maxine and Roland, an alcoholic and her retarded son. When Vernon supports the woman's argument with their grocer one day, he's embarrassed both by his previous behavior and her kind remarks about his dead mother. Vernon's story is an interesting and involving one that reveals the enormous capacity of teens for both cruelty and compassion. Its truth reveals that each of us has felt the pain of exclusion and the liberation of acceptance and love.

Genre: Humor

Peck, Richard *A Season of Gifts (series of A Year Down Yonder)*

Genre: Multicultural

Park, Linda Sue *When My Name Was Keoko*

Kadohata, Cynthia *Kira-Kira* (Newbery Medal Winner)

- This is the story of a close friendship between two Japanese – American sisters growing up in a rural Georgia during the late 1950's and early 1960's and the despair they feel when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Genre: Mystery/ Adventure

Wooding, Chris *Malice*

Raskin, Ellen *The Westing Game*

Creech, Sharon *Walk Two Moons*

Genre: Nonfiction

Heiligman, Deborah *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith* (Michael L. Printz 2010 Honor)

Cobb, Vicki *Marie Curie*

Blumberg, Rhoda *The Incredible Journey of Lewis and Clark*

- Blumberg's meticulously chronicles the explorers' westward odyssey in clear text, original art and archival photos; a PW Best Book of 1987.

Freedman, Russell *The Wright Brothers*

Genre: Sports

Pfetzer, Mark and Jack Galvin *Within Reach: My Everest Story*

Book Report and Comprehension

Required Reading: The instructor will be administering a test to all 5th and 6th grade students during the first week of class. The test will include questions about setting, character plot/conflicts, theme, and point of view. Students are encouraged to highlight important quotes, potential vocabulary and facts.

Additional Novel Choice:

1. Postcard – On the outside of construction paper or poster board, draw the setting based on the information provided in the novel. Be creative! On the back of the postcard, briefly describe the main characters, conflict and the resolution.
2. Comic Strip – Use construction paper to illustrate three to five cells that depict events from the beginning, middle and end of the novel. The cells should provide details, characters, and dialogue in bubbles. In a couple of sentences underneath each cell, write what is happening in each with more details.
3. Acrostic Poem – Using the title of the second book, students are to create an acrostic poem (use internet for examples) on an 8x11 paper. Each line should provide an important detail of the story. Be creative!
4. Create a K-W-L chart on the novel. Write out 2-5 things for each column including things you KNOW, WANT To KNOW, and LEARNED by the end of the story.
5. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the character and events to your own self and life story. See internet for examples.