

## Sixth Grade Summer Reading

Welcome to sixth grade!! I am very excited to meet you and get to know each of you. Please complete the following summer reading requirements and bring your work to school on the first day of classes. *This assignment will be graded.*

Each student is required to read **two** of the following titles and complete the focus questions for each title.

- *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead
- *Million Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica
- *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John Ritter
- *The Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate

### Story Synopsis by Goodreads.com

#### ***I Will Always Write Back:***

The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from an impoverished city in Zimbabwe and a letter that changed both of their lives forever.

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe written on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of-- so she chose it.

In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends and better people throughout their letters.

### ***The Girl Who Drank the Moon:***

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. She rescues abandoned babies and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest. Find out what happens when Xan decides to adopt her own child and how this child must fight to protect those who have protected her.

### ***Million Dollar Throw***

#1 New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica asks the question: If a million dollars was at stake, could you make the throw? Nate Brodie is nicknamed “Brady” not only for his arm, but also because he’s the biggest Tom Brady fan. He’s even saved up to buy an autographed football. And when he does, he wins the chance for something he’s never dreamed of-to throw a pass through a target at a Patriots game for one million dollars. Read this book to find out if Nate makes the pass or chokes under pressure.

### ***The Boy Who Saved Baseball:***

Tom Gallagher is in a tight spot. The fate of the Dillontown team rests on the outcome of one baseball game, winner takes all. If Tom’s team loses, they lose their field tool. But how can they possibly win? Just when everything seems hopeless, a mysterious boy named Cruz rides into town and claims to know the secret of hitting. Read this book to learn how one boy’s struggle to preserve the spirit of the game he loves turns out.

## ***The Wish Tree: (wishtree.com)***

Red is an oak tree which is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood “wishtree”. People write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. You might say that Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red’s experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.

### **Assignment:**

The following questions must be answered for each book you read. All questions must be answered in complete sentences and **typed**. *These will be graded, so be sure to follow the directions and use proper grammar and punctuation.*

1. Vocabulary: Select **ten** new words to you from the story. Define the words including part of speech. Write a sentence using the new word. Your sentence should illustrate your understanding of the word.  
Example: The **cow** was nice. (*does not tell me what a cow is*)  
The **cow** in the meadow needs to be milked every day by the farmer. (*This sentence gives me more information about a cow.*)  
**Please note: you are completing two items for each word. (the definition and part of speech and a sentence using that word correctly)**
2. Character Description: Create an *acrostic poem with the main character’s name*. The acrostic should include any physical characteristics included in the story (eye and hair color, height, skin color, etc) as well as personality traits that you infer about the character by how they act, what they say and what they think. (*See example below*)
3. Write a short summary of the book. Your summary should include the following topics:
  - a. Setting and characters
  - b. Conflict, Climax and Resolution Was the conflict resolved? Did you expect this resolution? Explain your answer using textual support.

- c. Theme (What was the theme of the novel? What lesson did you learn from this book?) Use textual evidence from the book to support your response.
- d. Novel Review: Would you recommend this novel to a friend or classmate? Explain your answer noting the novel's strong points and weak points.

**Example of an acrostic poem:**

**M**agnetic personality

**A**ccomplished musician

**Y**outhful

*Remember I will be collecting this assignment the first day of school*

*Have a wonderful summer!!*