

MEDIA Waldron Mercy Academy
Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 6

Required text: *The Westing Game* - Ellen Raskin

Please also read two other texts of your choice from the provided list.

- *Fish Girl* -- David Weisner
- *Flawed Dogs* -- Berkely Breathed
- *Masterminds* -- Gordon Korman
- *Horizon* -- Scott Westerfeld
- *The War the Saved my Life* -- Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *The Girl who Drank the Moon* -- Barnhill
- *Lockwood & Co Screaming Staircase* -- Jonathan Stroud
- *Shadows of Sherwood* --Kekla Magoon
- *Blackthorn Key* --Kevin Sands
- *Under the Egg* --Laura Marx Fitzgerald
- *11 Birthdays* – Wendy Mass
- *Airborn* - Kenneth Oppel
- *Almost Astronauts* - Tanya Lee Stone
- *Baseball Great* – Tim Green
- *Beacon Street Girls* - Annie Bryant
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* - Jacqueline Woodson
- *Cosmic* - Frank Cottrell Boyce
- *Dark Life* – Kat Falls
- *D’Aulaires Book of Greek Myth* - Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- *Dragon Slippers* – Jessica Day George
- *Drizzle* – Kathleen Van Cleve
- *Everything on a Waffle* – Polly Horvath
- *Gossamer* - Lois Lowry
- *Heir Apparent* - Vivian Vande Velde
- *Invisible Inkling* – Emily Jenkins
- *Joan of Arc* - Diane Stanley
- *King Arthur – His Knights and Their Ladies*
- *Magic Half* – Annie Barrows
- *Max Cassidy, Escape from Shadow Island* – Paul Adam
- *Peace, Locomotion* - Jacqueline Woodson
- *Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman* – Ben H. Winters
- *Sparrows in the Scullery* - Barbara Brooks Wallace
- *Swindle* – Gordon Korman
- *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* - John Ritter
- *The Death-Defying Pepper Roux* - Geraldine McCaughrean
- *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* - Jacqueline Kelly
- *The Glory Girl* - Betsy Byars

- *The Trumpeter of Krakow* - Eric P. Kelly
- *Touch Blue* - Cynthia Lord
- *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* by Homer (translated for students/children)
- *The Making of a Knight* - Patrick O'Brien
- *The Reinvention of Moxie Roosevelt*- Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
- *The Sixty-Eight Rooms*- Marianne Malone
- *Thunder Cave* - Roland Smith
- *Turnabout*
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*
- *Whole Nother Story* – Dr. Cuthbert Soup
- *Written in Bone*

Dear Incoming Sixth-grade Class,

This summer, one of the books that you will be reading is *The Westing Game*, by Ellen Raskin. This Newbery Medal winner is a fast-paced mystery about Samuel W. Westing, his \$200 million estate, and the many unique characters that compete to solve a mysterious puzzle. The plot may seem confusing at first, but don't stop reading! It all ties together in the end.

Part 1: First Impressions (Analyzing Characters)

In literature, we often analyze the characters that so greatly affect the outcome of our stories. Their thoughts, behaviors, and decisions shape how we view them and allow us to make predictions about what may happen next. Complex characters, and the many layers within them, are at the very heart of this story.

For the first part of this assignment, record your first impressions for each character. Record their name in the left column, and then in the right column, choose three or four descriptive adjectives (character traits) that you believe best describe their behavior, thoughts, or actions.

Character	Traits
Example: Judge J. J. Ford	brilliant, curious, ambitious

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Part 2: Character Growth

This activity is to be completed AFTER finishing the novel.

Choose two characters that you now view differently since their first impressions in the beginning of the story. How would you describe them now that you have learned more about them? Record your thoughts in the space below, and provide a few (three or four) character traits that you believe accurately describe them.

Bring your book (with the completed assignments) with you on the first day of school. Please be prepared to share what you wrote. We will discuss your findings in detail together as a class.

Finally, you must also read at least two other recommended books from the suggested summer reading list. Be prepared to discuss these as well.

Enjoy your summer reading!

-Mr. Prince