

## Sixth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Dripping Springs Middle School

Sycamore Springs Middle School

*One grade level, two schools, four book choices, hundreds of readers!*

May 8, 2020

Dear Parents,

One of the goals of Dripping Springs ISD is to assist your child in becoming a lifelong learner. The summer months provide the perfect opportunity to extend and enrich your child's reading and learning experiences. To meet that goal, all incoming sixth graders will participate in our summer reading assignment by reading one of the books listed below.

Students can choose any book on the list, but Pre-AP or GT students should not choose *Rules* and On-Level students should not choose *Fish in a Tree*. Students need only to read their chosen novel by the end of the summer and write down a few general notes about the characters, the setting, and the main conflict in their book. When school begins, teachers will group students together by book for discussions and activities.

Thank you in advance for your support. The sixth grade teachers look forward to partnering with you in your child's education.

Book Choices:

**[Freak the Mighty, by Rodman Philbrick](#) (This option is for both On-Level and Pre-AP & GT students)**

*from Amazon:* Two boys – a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces – forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.

**[Out of My Mind, by Sharon Draper](#) (This option is for both On-Level and Pre-AP & GT students)**

*from Amazon:* Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people--her teachers and doctors included--don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write.

Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind--that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

**Tangerine, by Edward Bloor (This option is for both On-Level and Pre-AP & GT students)**

*from Amazon:* Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some very unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day?

The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football-star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. And he also gains the courage to face up to some secrets his family has been keeping from him for far too long. In Tangerine, it seems, anything is possible.

**Rules, by Cynthia Lord (On-Level option only)**

*from Amazon:* Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

**Fish in a Tree, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Pre-AP & GT option only)**

*from Goodreads:* Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb?