



## Tuscaloosa Academy: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List 2020-2021

**Requirements (IMPORTANT!):** During the summer, students must read **THREE** books not previously read. Two of the three must come from the following list. The third book is considered free choice and does not have to come from this list. Any student may read more than the required amount.

See Extended Reading Opportunities at the bottom of this list for more information on this.

Please do NOT read any of the books that we will do as a class during the coming school year. Here is what **NOT** to read: **6<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Island of the Blue Dolphins*; *The Egypt Game*; *The London Eye Mystery*; *Al Capone Does My Shirts***

**What to Do When You Finish a Book:** Due to COVID19, the library will not be open for AR tests (Accelerated Reader). When you are finished reading a book, you may log in to your AR account and take the test from this link at home: <https://global-zone51.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/75307>

**If there is not an AR test available:** You will need to fill out a reading form about the book. Forms are posted on the TA website. **Note:** You will be asked to create a project during the first few days of class about your summer reading. The work will be done entirely in class, so you do not need to start a project at home.

**Note:** For one of the three books you read, you will be asked to create a project during the first few days of class. The work will be done entirely in class, so you do not need to start a project at home. **But be sure that you remember at least one of your books well enough to recall some details in order to make a good project.**

### Fantasy chapter books:

- ***Iron Trial* (Magisterium series) by Holly Black.** All his life, Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him. So he tries his best to do his worst -- and fails at failing. Now the Magisterium awaits him.

- ***The Menagerie* by Tui T. Sutherland.** In the small town of Xanadu, Wyoming lies the Menagerie, a top secret facility filled with unicorns, dragons, phoenixes, and other fairy tale creatures. At least, it was a secret—until six griffin cubs escaped. If Logan and Zoe don't get the cubs back fast, the entire Menagerie will be shut down. The race is on and the resulting adventure is only the beginning of a thrilling series that will leave readers wanting a magical menagerie of their very own.

• ***The Unwanteds* by Lisa McMann.** When Alex finds out he is Unwanted, he expects to die. That is the way of the people of Quill. Each year, all the thirteen-year-olds are labeled as Wanted, Necessary, or Unwanted. WANTEDs get more schooling and train to join the Quillitary. Necessaries keep the farms running. Unwanteds are set for elimination.

It's hard for Alex to leave behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted, but he makes peace with his fate—until he discovers that instead of a “death farm,” what awaits him is a magical place called Artimé.

• ***Outlaws of Time: The Legend of Sam Miracle* by N.D. Wilson.** Sam Miracle's life is made up of dreams, dreams where he's a courageous, legendary hero instead of a foster kid with two bad arms that can barely move. Sometimes these dreams feel so real, they seem like forgotten memories. And sometimes they make him believe that his arms might come alive again. But Sam is about to discover that the world he knows and the world he imagines are separated by only one thing: time. And that separation is only an illusion.

• ***The School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainan.** With her glass slippers and devotion to good deeds, Sophie knows she'll earn top marks at the School for Good and join the ranks of past students like Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Snow White. Meanwhile, Agatha, with her shapeless black frocks and wicked black cat, seems a natural fit for the villains in the School for Evil. The two girls soon find their fortunes reversed—But what if the mistake is actually the first clue to discovering who Sophie and Agatha really are?

• ***The Gauntlet* by Karuna Riazi.** A trio of friends from New York City find themselves trapped inside a mechanical board game that they must dismantle in order to save themselves and generations of other children in this action-packed debut that's a steampunk Jumanji with a Middle Eastern flair.

• ***Impyrium* by Henry H. Neff.** For over three thousand years, the Faeregine dynasty has ruled Impyrium. But the family's magic has been fading, and with it their power over the empire. Whether it's treachery from a rival house, the demon Lirlanders, or rebel forces, many believe the Faeregines are ripe to fall.

## **Mystery and Thriller:**

• ***Keeper of the Lost Cities* series by Shannon Messenger.** Twelve-year-old Sophie has never quite fit into her life. She's skipped multiple grades and doesn't really connect with the older kids at school, but she's not comfortable with her family, either. The reason? Sophie's a Telepath, someone who can read minds. No one knows her secret—at least, that's what she thinks...

• ***Ranger's Apprentice* series by John A. Flanagan.** They have always scared him in the past—the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now 15-year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't yet realize is that the Rangers are the protectors of the

kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied...

- ***The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau.** The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!

- ***Redwall* by Brian Jacques.** The question in this first volume is resoundingly clear: What can the peace-loving mice of Redwall Abbey do to defend themselves against Cluny the Scourge and his battle-seasoned army of rats? If only they had the sword of Martin the Warrior, they might have a chance. But the legendary weapon has long been forgotten—except, that is, by the bumbling young apprentice Matthias, who becomes the unlikely of heroes.

- ***Masterminds* by Gordon Korman.** Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world: Serenity, New Mexico. Honesty and integrity are valued above all else. The thirty kids who live there never lie—they know it's a short leap from that to the awful problems of other, less fortunate places. Eli has never left Serenity . . . why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything.

- ***The Green Ember* by S.D. Smith.** Heather and Picket are extraordinary rabbits with ordinary lives until calamitous events overtake them, spilling them into a cauldron of misadventures. They discover that their own story is bound up in the tumult threatening to overwhelm the wider world. Kings fall and kingdoms totter. Tyrants ascend and terrors threaten. Betrayal beckons, and loyalty is a broken road with peril around every bend. Where will Heather and Picket land? How will they make their stand?

- ***Edge of Extinction The Ark Plan* by Laura Martin.** One hundred and fifty years ago, the first dinosaurs were cloned. Soon after, they replaced humans at the top of the food chain. The only way to survive was to move into underground compounds... Five years ago, Sky Mundy's father vanished from North Compound without a trace. Now she has just stumbled on a clue that not only suggests his disappearance is just the tip of an even larger mystery, but also points directly to the surface. To find her dad—and possibly even save the world—Sky and her best friend, Shawn, must break out of their underground home and venture topside to a land reclaimed by nature and ruled by dinosaurs.

- ***Coraline* by Neil Gaiman.** When Coraline steps through a door to find another house strangely similar to her own (only better), things seem marvelous. But there's another mother there, and another father, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and courage if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life.

- ***100 Cupboards* by N.D. Wilson.** What dangers are locked behind the cupboard

doors? Henry isn't brave, but when he hears a thumping and scratching on the other side of his bedroom wall, he can't ignore it. He scrapes off the plaster and discovers mysterious doors—cupboards of all different shapes and sizes. Through one he sees a glowing room and a man strolling back and forth. Through another he sees only darkness and feels the cold sense that something isn't right. Now that he's opened the doors, can he keep the evil inside from coming through?

- ***Lockwood & Co The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud.** A sinister Problem has occurred in London: all nature of ghosts, haunts, spirits, and specters are appearing throughout the city, and they aren't exactly friendly. Only young people have the psychic abilities required to see—and eradicate—these supernatural foes.

- ***Nightmares!* by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller.** Charlie Laird has a dream life. 1) He has a weirdo stepmom who runs an herbarium. 2) He lives in a purple mansion with a portal to the Netherworld. 3) Since they escaped from the Netherworld, he and his best friends have been sleeping like babies. But Charlie can't shake the feeling that something strange is afoot. Things are getting freaky again.

- ***A Tale of Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz.** Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm (and Grimm-inspired) fairy tales. An irreverent, witty narrator leads us through encounters with witches, warlocks, dragons, and the devil himself. As the siblings roam a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind the famous tales, as well as how to take charge of their destinies and create their own happily ever after. Because once upon a time, fairy tales were awesome.

- ***Dead City* by James Ponti.** Most kids have enough to deal with between school, homework, extracurricular activities, and friends, but Molly Bigelow isn't your typical tween. By day, Molly attends MIST—the Metropolitan Institute of Science and Technology—but it's what she's learning outside of school that sets her apart from her classmates. Molly is a zombie hunter, just like her mother.

## Historical Fiction:

- ***The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency The Case of the Missing Moonstone* by Jordan Stratford.** Lady Ada Byron, age eleven, is a genius. Isolated, awkward and a bit rude—but a genius. Mary Godwin, age fourteen, is a romantic. Adventurous, astute, and kind, Mary is to become Ada's first true friend. And together, the girls conspire to form the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency—a secret constabulary for the apprehension of clever criminals. Their first case involves a stolen heirloom, a false confession, and an array of fishy suspects. But it's no match for the deductive powers and bold hearts of Ada and Mary.

- ***Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool.** Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. Having heard stories about Manifest, Abilene is disappointed to find that it's just a dried-up, worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to

excitement when she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos, including some old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends, Lettie and Ruthanne, on an honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to “Leave Well Enough Alone.”

• ***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan.** Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo.

• ***Midnight Without a Moon* by Linda Williams Jackson.** It’s Mississippi in the summer of 1955, and Rose Lee Carter can’t wait to move north. But for now, she’s living with her sharecropper grandparents on a white man’s cotton plantation. Then, one town over, an African American boy, Emmett Till, is killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman. When Till’s murderers are unjustly acquitted, Rose realizes that the South needs a change . . . and that she should be part of the movement.

• ***The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and A Boy Called Eel* by Deborah Hopkinson.** Eel has troubles of his own: As an orphan and a “mudlark,” he spends his days in the filthy River Thames, searching for bits of things to sell. He’s being hunted by Fisheye Bill Tyler, and a nastier man never walked the streets of London. And he’s got a secret that costs him four precious shillings a week to keep safe. But even for Eel, things aren’t so bad until that fateful August day in 1854—the day the deadly cholera (“blue death”) comes to Broad Street.

• ***Irena’s Children* by Tilar J. Mazze.** Tilar Mazzeo tells the incredible story of this courageous and brave woman who risked her life to save innocent children from the Holocaust—a truly heroic tale of survival, resilience, and redemption.

• ***Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys.** Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life—until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father’s prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

## **Realistic Fiction:**

• ***Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt.** In this companion novel to *The Wednesday Wars*, Doug struggles to be more than the “skinny thug” that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his

oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. Schmidt expertly weaves multiple themes of loss and recovery in a story teeming with distinctive, unusual characters and invaluable lessons about love, creativity, and survival.

- ***Booked* by Kwame Alexander.** In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *THE CROSSOVER*, soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.

- ***See You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng.** 11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan—named for his hero, the real-life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way Carl Sagan (the man, not the dog) launched his Golden Record on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to L.A., Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth, his earth, is like. But his destination keeps changing. And the funny, lost, remarkable people he meets along the way can only partially prepare him for the secrets he'll uncover—from the truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not-around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew.

- ***11 Birthdays* by Wendy Mass.** It's Amanda's 11th birthday and she is super excited---after all, 11 is so different from 10. But from the start, everything goes wrong. The worst part of it all is that she and her best friend, Leo, with whom she's shared every birthday, are on the outs and this will be the first birthday they haven't shared together. When Amanda turns in for the night, glad to have her birthday behind her, she wakes up happy for a new day. Or is it? Her birthday seems to be repeating itself. What is going on?! And how can she fix it? Only time, friendship, and a little luck will tell...

- ***Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan.** Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

- ***Rules* by Cynthia Lord.** 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?

- ***All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* by Leslie Connor.** Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth—and Perry is removed from the facility and

forced into a foster home.

• ***Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine.** Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure--and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.

**Humor:** • ***Big Nate Welcome to My World* by Lincoln Peirce.** Join Big Nate and his classmates Gina, Artur, Francis, Jenny, and Teddy, as they navigate the halls of P.S. 38. One thing's for sure: Nate is definitely not the teacher's pet! Nate Wright's life is just like his locker--it's full of surprises. The monstrous Mrs. Godfrey springs a pop quiz on Nate AND his grandparents. His horoscope predicts bad news for Nate's soccer career. And worst of all, he's forced to cut back on his beloved Cheez Doodles. It's enough to drive any kid crazy. Luckily, Nate's not just any kid. He's the ultimate sixth-grade survivor. When everything's falling apart, he finds a way to hold it together ... but nobody said it would be easy. Welcome to the world of Big Nate!

• ***Strange Case of the Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger.** In this funny, uncannily wise portrait of the dynamics of a sixth-grade class and of the greatness that sometimes comes in unlikely packages, Dwight, a loser, talks to his classmates via an origami finger puppet of Yoda. If that weren't strange enough, the puppet is uncannily wise and prescient. Origami Yoda predicts the date of a pop quiz, guesses who stole the classroom Shakespeare bust, and saves a classmate from popularity-crushing embarrassment with some well-timed advice. Dwight's classmate Tommy wonders how Yoda can be so smart when Dwight himself is so clueless. • ***A Whole Nother Story* by Cuthbert Soup.** Mr. Cheeseman, his three relatively odor-free children, a psychic hairless dog, and a sock puppet named Steve are on the run. Why? Because Mr. Cheeseman invented a time machine, of course. Now they're being chased by international super spies, top secret government agents, and a genius monkey.

• ***Ms. Bixby's Last Day* by John David Anderson.** A sixth grade class, in an elementary school, finds out their wonderful teacher has cancer. Three boys decide to let her know what she means to them. Told with heart and humor.

• ***The Cat Who Came in Off the Roof* by Annie M.G. Schmidt.** Girl turns into a cat and helps a struggling reporter keep his job while stopping a cruel man from a position of power in a small town.

• ***Demon Dentist* by David Walliams.** Alphie comes home from a dentist appointment with most of his teeth gone, and figures, Ms. Rock, the new dentist, seems to be behind a whole lot of weird things happening in town.

**Extended Reading Opportunities:** Double the required amount of books: read SIX off this list, and follow the procedure for testing as usual. If you are more ambitious, triple the required amount and read NINE books from the list, following the regular testing procedure. Your teacher will assign bonus points to your first quarter grade based upon your test scores/and or discussion with your teacher of the books read.