

J.P. McConnell Middle School
Summer Reading Documentation 6th Grade

You must select two books to read from the list of books for the grade level you are entering in August 2011. One book should be fiction, and the other book should be non-fiction. You will complete a card for each of the two books. For returning McConnell students and rising 6th graders from Lovin ES, Cooper ES, or Harbins ES your cards are due by August 19, 2011. If you are new to McConnell, your language arts teacher will assign your due date.

1. Use only 5" x 8" index cards, or you may cut a piece of card stock to this size.
2. Use only one card for each book.
3. Complete your work neatly. You may use a computer to type the information, print it, and then you may adhere it to the card.
4. Have a parent sign both cards in order to receive full credit.

On the **FRONT** of the card, include the following:

TOP of card

Title:	Name:
Author:	Grade:
Setting:	Parent Signature:

BOTTOM of card

Memorable Quote or Scene (for **fiction/biography**):
Interesting Quote or Fact (for **non-fiction**):

On the **BACK** of the card, include the following:

TOP of card

Fiction/Biography: Description of 1-2 major characters

Nonfiction: Identify a significant person or group who contributed to the major idea(s) of the book

BOTTOM of card

Fiction: Summary (Tell plot and include conclusion)

Nonfiction/Biography: Summarize the main ideas

Please write in complete sentences.

J.P. McConnell Summer Reading List
Rising 6th Grade 2011

Directions: Read any **two books** from this list (one fiction and one nonfiction) and complete the reading response documentation.

Fiction

All the Lovely Bad Ones by Mary Downing Hahn - (GA Book Award Nominee '10) Travis and his sister Corey decide to boost business at their grandmother's Vermont inn by staging a few "hauntings" that soon draw tourists from across the country, but when their antics awaken a dark force, they must find a way to put to rest the ghosts they have disturbed. Mystery/Ghosts

Anything but Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin - Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. Realistic

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata - A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog. Historical

A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban - Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life. Realistic

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick - At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. Realistic

Go Big or Go Home by Will Hobbs - (GA Book Award Nominee '10) Fourteen-year-old Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his Black Hills, South Dakota, bedroom. Science Fiction

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron - (Newbery Medal Winner '07) Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life. Realistic

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Realistic/Series

Quake! Disaster in San Francisco by Gail Langer Karwoski - Tells the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake through the eyes of Jacob, a thirteen-year-old Jewish boy who lives in a boarding house with his father and younger sister. Historical Fiction

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer - After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls. Fantasy

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett - Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. Classic

Stowaway by Karen Hesse - A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the "Endeavor" which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook. Historical Fiction/Adventure

Heat by Mike Lupica Twelve year old Michael is from the Bronx and desperately wants to play baseball, but a terrible secret that could tear his family apart is keeping him from doing so. Realistic

Each Little Bird that Sings by Deborah Wiles Comfort Snowberger and her dog Dismay live in a funeral parlor run by her family. When a dangerous flash flood comes to Snapfinger where Comfort lives on the day of her beloved aunt's funeral, Comfort learns that life is full of surprises, good and bad. Realistic

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan Thirteen year old Esperanza and her mother are forced to flee from depression-era Mexico and their affluent lifestyle after the death of Esperanza's father. Working on a Mexican farm labor camp takes getting used to - but hope builds. Realistic

Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare When Kit is forced to leave her Caribbean home for the 1687 Connecticut Colony, she befriends an old Quaker lady known as The Witch of Blackbird Pond. This friendship soon leads to Kit having to defend herself as a possible witch, too. Historical

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier All of his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam is smart and brave and is now part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British, including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim knows he'll have to make a choice between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats - and between his brother and his father. Realistic

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg (Newbery Medal Winner '68) Claudia and Jamie run away from home and wind up living at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There they are privy to the introduction of a new statue and immediately are suspicious of its authenticity. Mystery

Joey Pigza Loses Control by Jack Gantos When Joey Pigza meets his dad for the first time in years, he meets a grown-up version of his old out-of-control self. Carter Pigza is as wired as Joey used to be before his stint in special ed, and before he got his new meds. Realistic

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt (GA Book Award Nominee '09) War may be raging in Vietnam, but Holling has his own battles to fight. When the rest of his class leaves for Hebrew school or Catechism every Wednesday afternoon, he's stuck in class with the fearsome Mrs. Baker, who's either out to murder him or slowly torture him with Shakespeare. Realistic

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli During the annual pigeon shoot, it is a town tradition for 10-year-old boys to break the necks of wounded birds. In this riveting story told with verve and suspense, Palmer rebels. Realistic

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (Newbery Medal Winner '63) This is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem. Fantasy

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith Ida Mae Jones dreams of flight. Her daddy was a pilot and being black didn't stop him from fulfilling his dreams. But her daddy's gone now, and being a woman, and being black, are two strikes against her. Historical

Non-Fiction

Blizzard! The Storm that Changed America by Jim Murphy - Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl - Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood, including his summer vacations in Norway and life at an English boarding school.

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz - (Newbery Medal Winner '08) A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a 13th century English manor.

Tsunami: The True Story of an April Fools' Day Disaster by Gail Langer Karwoski - Chronicles the tsunami that hit Hawaii on April Fools' Day 1946.

Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipovic - The diary of a thirteen-year-old girl living in Sarajevo, begun just before her eleventh birthday when there was still peace in her homeland.