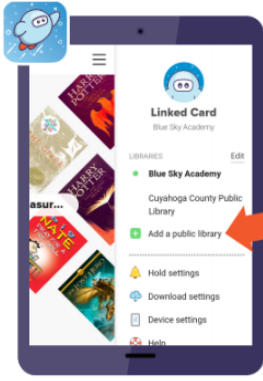


# QMS SUMMER READING 2023 - GRADE 6

As we enter the summer months, one of the best ways for students to remain engaged and to increase academic success in the fall is to participate in summer reading. This year we are asking that students read at least two books for summer reading. Students are not expected to complete an assignment during summer vacation, but they are encouraged to take notes on a book so that they can share the book with their peers when we return to school.


While most books are available through online bookstores like Amazon and Barnes and Noble, we are working hard to find ways to keep QMS students reading, regardless of financial constraints. Even if students don't have a library card, they can access eBooks through the Sora App by logging in with their Mansfield Public Schools Google credentials. See the instructions below to begin accessing through Sora.





**Here's how to access titles from the library through Sora:**

- 1 Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to [soraapp.com](https://soraapp.com).
- 2 In Sora, enter your setup code: mansfieldma
- 3 Under your Profile, select **Add a public library** and enter **Mansfield Public Library**
- 4 When you are ready to borrow a title, sign in with School Google Credentials

**Sora**

Brought to you by Mansfield Town schools and built with  by OverDrive.

The faculty at QMS is again sponsoring a Summer Reading Program that focuses on quality literature and invites students to experience a variety of genres. It is our hope that it not only challenges students to read two novels, but also inspires students to read other books for their own enjoyment. By interacting with good literature, both during the school year as well as during the summer, students will recognize and appreciate the power and beauty of written language and identify with the universality of human experience as they think critically about the events and characters portrayed in the literary works. It is through reading that we come to a better understanding of our world, the people who inhabit it, and the experiences we share. Enjoy! Below you will find some recommended titles for incoming sixth graders. Feel free to choose books from this list or simply use it as a springboard to find other intriguing books. Summaries are from Amazon.com unless otherwise noted.

- ❑ ***The 39 Clues: Book One – The Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan (fiction)** The Cahills are the most powerful family in the world. When Grace Cahill dies, her grandchildren, Amy and Dan, are given a choice: they can receive one million dollars or the opportunity to solve the long-standing family mystery. Dan wants to take the money and buy baseball cards. Amy, however, convinces him they should solve the mystery. They are given an envelope that contains a clue. They have no idea how their lives will be changed forever.
- ❑ ***All Alone in the Universe* by Lynne Rae Perkins (fiction)** When her best friend since the third grade starts acting as though Debbie doesn't exist, Debbie finds out the hard way that life can be a lonesome place. But

in the end the heroine of this wryly funny coming-of-age story--a girl who lives in a house covered with stuff that is supposed to look like bricks but is just a fake brick pattern--discovers that even the hourly tragedies of junior high school can have silver linings, just as a house covered with Insul-Brick can protect a real home. This first novel shines--fun, engrossing, bittersweet, and wonderfully unpredictable. (Summary from Harper-Collins Publishing)

- ❑ ***Believe: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand* by Eric LeGrand (nonfiction)** When Rutgers junior Eric LeGrand collapsed on the field in October 2010 after a tackle gone wrong, his football career, along with his ability to walk and care for himself, disappeared. Paralyzed from the neck down, LeGrand had to depend fully on nurses and his mother, whose devotion helps form the heart of this wrenching yet uplifting story. LeGrand's faith and optimism power through even the darkest details of his slow recovery, yet he still honestly explores what the accident has cost him. (Summary from publishersweekly.com)
- ❑ ***The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan (fiction)** Neftali is a dreamer. He loves words, birds, forests, and the sky. But his father expects him to be practical, concentrate on his studies, and prepare for a career in business. Slowly Neftali learns to believe in himself, defy his father, and trust his own vision...a vision that makes him grow up to become one of the foremost poets of the twentieth century. (Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))
- ❑ ***El Deafo* by Cece Bell (nonfiction)** In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful and very awkward hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear (including some things she wasn't intended to hear), but it also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. (Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))
- ❑ ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling (fiction)** Though Harry's first year at Hogwarts is the best of his life, not everything is perfect. There is a dangerous secret object hidden within the castle walls, and Harry believes it's his responsibility to prevent it from falling into evil hands. But doing so will bring him into contact with forces more terrifying than he ever could have imagined.(Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))
- ❑ ***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen (fiction)** Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure . . . He has no special knowledge of the woods, and he must find a new kind of awareness and patience as he meets each day's challenges. (Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))
- ❑ ***Heat* by Mike Lupica (fiction)** Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources. (Summary from Penguin-Random House Publishing)
- ❑ ***Horizon* by Scott Westerfield (fiction)** Eight kids survive a plane crash that lands them in the middle of a jungle. With little food and water, their only chance for survival is to work together. Will they be able to overcome their differences and get out of the jungle? Read this supernatural story and find out.

- ❑ ***The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune** Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days. But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe. As Arthur and Linus grow closer, long-held secrets are exposed, and Linus must make a choice: destroy a home or watch the world burn.
  
- ❑ ***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling** A bestselling middle grade novel about a spunky girl born without arms and a boy with Tourette syndrome navigating the challenges of middle school, disability, and friendship—all while solving a mystery in a western theme park.
  
- ❑ ***Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart** For readers who enjoyed *Wonder* and *Counting by 7's*, award-winning author Donna Gephart crafts a compelling dual narrative about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder. Their powerful story will shred your heart, then stitch it back together with kindness, humor, bravery, and love.
  
- ❑ ***Maximum Ride: Book One-The Angel Experiment* by James Patterson (fiction)** This is book one of James Patterson's popular fantasy series. Maximum Ride and her friends Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Angel and Gasman are kids who are different than most. They have no families and no homes. What they *do* have are wings that allow them to fly. When Fang gets kidnapped, her friends set off to save her. Will they be able to defeat the half-human, half-wolf Erasers and save Fang?
  
- ❑ ***One for the Murphys* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (fiction)** Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong, until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future. (Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))
  
- ❑ ***The Other Half of Happy* by Rebecca Balcarcel** This immersive and beautifully written novel follows the story of Quijana, a girl in pieces. Quijana must figure out which parts of herself are most important, and which pieces come together to make her whole. This is a heartfelt poetic portrayal of a girl growing up, fitting in, and learning what it means to belong.
  
- ❑ ***Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga** A gorgeously written, hopeful middle grade novel in verse about a young girl who must leave Syria to move to the United States, perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds and Aisha Saeed.
  
- ❑ ***The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang** Paris, at the dawn of the modern age: Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride—or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia—the hottest fashion icon in the world capital of fashion! Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances—one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend? Jen Wang weaves an exuberantly romantic tale of identity, young love, art, and family. A fairy tale for any age, *The Prince and the*

*Dressmaker* will steal your heart.

- ❑ ***The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett (fiction)** After the sudden death of her parents in India, Mary Lennox is sent 'home' to England, and the Yorkshire estate of a distant relative. Sad and lonely, her only interest lies in a secret garden, abandoned after a tragic accident. With the help of Dickon, a local country boy, and Colin, her guardian's invalid son, Mary's spirit is reawakened as they bring the garden back to life. Now Mary will discover that miracles can happen, and that magic is real.  
[Click here for a link to a free version of this title at Project Gutenberg](#)
- ❑ ***The Secret Sheriff of 6th Grade* by Jordan Sonnenblick** In sixth grade, bad things can happen to good kids. Bullies will find your weakness and jump on it. Teachers will say you did something wrong when really you didn't mean to do anything wrong. The kids who joke the loudest can drown out the quieter, nicer kids. Maverick wants to change all that. One of the last things his father left him was a toy sheriff's badge, back when Maverick was little. Now he likes to carry it around to remind him of his dad -- and also to remind him to make school a better place for everyone . . . even if that's a hard thing to do, especially when his own home life is falling apart. *The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade* is a story about standing up for yourself -- and being a hero at home and in the halls of your school.
- ❑ ***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (fiction)** Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle is excited to return home from her school in England to her family in Rhode Island in the summer of 1832. But when the two families she was supposed to travel with mysteriously cancel their trips, Charlotte finds herself the lone passenger on a long sea voyage with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew. Worse yet, soon after stepping aboard the ship, she becomes enmeshed in a conflict between them! What begins as an eagerly anticipated ocean crossing turns into a harrowing journey, where Charlotte gains a villainous enemy and is put on trial for murder! (Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))
- ❑ ***True Legend* by Mike Lupica (fiction)** There's a reason teammates call him "True." Because for basketball phenom Drew Robinson, there is nothing more true than his talent on the court. It's the kind that comes along once in a generation and is loaded with perks--and with problems. Before long, True buys in to his own hype, much to the chagrin of his mother, who wants to keep her boy's head grounded--and suddenly trouble has a way of finding him. That is, until a washed-up former playground legend steps back onto the court and takes True under his wing. (Summary from Penguin-Random House Publishing)
- ❑ ***Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor** This poignant and joyful novel is filled with meaningful moments and emotional resonance. Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mother has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, her way or no way. Addie's mother is bipolar, and she often neglects Addie. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie home, where she wants to be with her half-sisters and her stepfather. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal.
- ❑ ***The Wave* by Todd Strasser (fiction)** The Wave is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late. (Summary from Barnes and Noble website)
- ❑ ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt (fiction)** Toby Wilson is a 13-year old boy living a tough life. His mom leaves him, and his best friend's brother has been killed. Then a boy named Zachary Beaver moves to town. As the two boys become friends, things begin to turn around for Toby.
- ❑ ***Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls (fiction)** Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his bluetick hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In

time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion.

- ❑ **Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic (nonfiction)** As a child living in Sarajevo during the war, Zlata learns what it is like to lose friends and family and to fear for her life. Throughout the war, Zlata keeps her diary faithfully and shows her courage as her world falls apart around her. (Summary from Scholastic Book Wizard- [scholastic.com/teacher](http://scholastic.com/teacher))

#### QUESTIONING STEMS

##### **Make a Prediction**

I predict...  
I think that...  
Since this happened (fill in detail), then I bet the next thing that is going to happen is...  
Reading this part makes me think that this (fill in detail) is about to happen.

##### **Ask a Question**

Why did...  
What's this part about...  
What would happen if...  
Do you think that...  
Who is...  
I don't get this part...

##### **Clarify Something**

Oh, I get it...  
Now I understand...  
No, I think it means...  
I agree with you.  
This means...  
At first, I thought (fill in details), but now I think...  
This part is really saying...

##### **Make a comment**

This is good because...  
This is hard because...  
I like the part where...  
I don't like this part because...  
My favorite part so far is...  
I think that...

##### **Make a Connection**

This is just like a book I read....  
This reminds me of...  
I saw a movie once about something like this...

#### Text Coding Symbols

✓ I agree

✗ I disagree

? I have a question

! This is interesting!

\* This seems very important