

June 2014

Dear CMS Students and Families,

The Chatham Middle School summer reading program is dedicated to encouraging our students to read as much as possible, and develop the skills needed to be lifelong readers. Summer can be a time for children to enjoy reading.

The sixth grade teachers are requiring students to read at least one book over the summer. Attached is a list of recommended books that vary in difficulty and genre. Students should pick a book from the list that is appropriate to their reading level and interest. They should use the attached reading response form to help guide their thoughts as they read.

The Chatham Public Library and [midhudson.org](http://midhudson.org) are two excellent resources we encourage you to use in an effort to engage your children with excellent books.

If you have questions, please leave a message at the Middle School office at (518) 392-1560 and a teacher will return your call.

Happy reading!

The sixth grade ELA teachers,  
Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Mackowski, TBD

**Chatham Middle School Sixth Grade**  
**Summer Reading Suggested Books 2014**

**Fiction**

- ***Hate that Cat***-Sharon Creech (**verse novel**)

Jack is a boy who thinks he can't write and claims he hates cats. This humorous story shows what changes him.

- ***Do the Funky Pickle***-Jerry Spinelli (**humor**)

Eddie's struggle to win the affections of Sunny is complicated by a dance called the Funky Pickle and an orange-haired girl called Angelpuss.

- ***I Survived***- Lauren Tarshis (**adventure series**)

Does surviving a disaster change who you are? Or, does it force you to look inside yourself to discover what was there all along? This series ranges from Gettysburg to Hurricane Katrina.

- ***The Royal Diaries***-Assorted authors (**historical fiction series**)

In each of the books, a fictional diary of a real female figure of royalty, characters range from Cleopatra, to Anastasia of Russia, to Kristina, Girl King of Sweden.

- ***Bud, Not Buddy***- Christopher Curtis (**realistic/historical fiction**)

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him including a suitcase of secret items.

- ***A Wrinkle in Time***- Madeleine L'Engle (**fantasy**)

Everything is wrong in Meg Murray's life until she meets Mrs. Whatsit who helps her, her brother Charles Wallace, and her new friend Calvin O'Keefe embark on a dangerous quest to find her missing father.

- ***The Red Pyramid***- Rick Riordan (**fantasy**)

Readers enter the world of Egyptian Mythology. It explains the adventures of a 14-year-old boy named Carter Kane, and his 12-year-old sister, Sadie Kane. Carter and Sadie both work together to solve mysteries about things that have disappeared from them.

- ***The Westing Game***-Ellen Raskin (**mystery**)

Sixteen strangers are invited to live in a new, apartment building. When their neighbor, millionaire Sam Westing, dies, the residents are called to the reading of his will. They discover that Westing believed he was killed by one of them. Who was it?

## Nonfiction

- *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*-Jennifer Armstrong (**history**)

In 1914, Shackleton, a brave explorer, organized a crew of men to sail on *The Endurance* from England and be the first to cross the Antarctic on foot. However, their ship was frozen in between icebergs before they ever got there, and they had to abandon their ship. How did they all survive?

- *Stronger than Steel*- Bridget Heos (**science**)

Readers enter Randy Lewis' lab where they come face to face with golden orb weaver spiders,, and goats, whose milk contains the proteins to spin spider silk--and to weave a nearly indestructible fiber. Learn how this amazing material might someday be used.

- *The Elephant Scientist*-Caitlin O'Connell, Donna M Jackson (**science**)

Scientist Caitlin O'Connell watches African elephants through her binoculars. Her observations guided her to a groundbreaking discovery about elephant communication: elephants actually listen with their limbs.

- *You Wouldn't Want to be a Slave in Ancient Greece*- Fiona Macdonald (**history**)

Readers learn about the treatment of slaves in Ancient Greece through pictures, cartoon art and fact filled text. This is one of many books in the "You wouldn't want to be..." series you could choose.

# Reading Response

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

What are five questions you are wondering as you are reading?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Brief summary of the plot

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Theme

---

---

---

---

Text evidence to support the theme

---

---

---

---

---



Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Score</b>	<b>Response Features</b>
2 Point	The features of a 2 point response are <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Valid inferences answering the prompt</li><li>• Sufficient number of relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or other information from the text as required by the prompt</li><li>• Complete Sentences</li></ul>
1 Point	The features of a 1 point response are <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lacking inferences answering the prompt</li><li>• Some relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or other information from the text to develop response according to the requirements of the prompt</li><li>• Incomplete sentences or bullets</li></ul>
0 Point	The features of a 0 point response are <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A response that does not address any of the requirements of the prompt or is totally inaccurate</li></ul>