

# PHILLIPS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MOBILE, ALABAMA

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List for Summer, 2019

Prospective PPS 6<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to read over the summer in preparation for the new school year. Choose **ONE** book from the list of ten below to read over the summer to meet the minimum reading requirement. You will complete a project on this book **when you return to school in the fall**. You **MAY** not report on a book that you have previously read.

### ***Alabama Moon by Watt Key***

For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves, their only contact with other human beings is an occasional trip to the nearest general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska to find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught and entangled in a world he doesn't know or understand, apparent property of the government he has been avoiding all his life.

As the spirited and resourceful Moon encounters constables, jails, institutions, lawyers, true friends, and true enemies, he adapts his wilderness survival skills and learns to survive in the outside world, and even, perhaps, make his home there.

### ***Eragon by Christopher Paolini***

Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy — an orphan taken in by relatives — one among the masses. Soon he discovers that nothing is farther from the truth. When his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed, Eragon must flee the tyrannical King Galbatorix. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save — or destroy — the Empire.

### ***Fablehaven by Brandon Mull***

For centuries, mystical creatures of all description were gathered to a hidden refuge called Fablehaven to prevent their extinction. The sanctuary survives today as one of the last strongholds of true magic in a cynical world. Enchanting? Absolutely! Exciting? You bet! Safe? Well...actually, quite the opposite!

Kendra and her brother, Seth, have no idea their grandfather is the current caretaker of Fablehaven. Inside the gated woods, ancient laws give relative order among greedy trolls, mischievous satyrs, plotting witches, spiteful imps, and jealous fairies.

However, when the rules get broken, an arcane evil is unleashed, forcing Kendra and Seth to face the greatest challenge of their lives. To save her family, Fablehaven, and perhaps the world, Kendra must find the courage to do what she fears most.

### ***Joshua's Song by Joan Harlow***

Boston, 1919. It's been a terrible year for thirteen-year-old Joshua Harper. The influenza pandemic that's sweeping the world has claimed his father's life; his voice has changed, so he can't sing in the Boston Boys' Choir anymore; and now money is tight, so he must quit school to get a job. It's not fair!

Joshua begins working as a newspaper boy, hawking papers on the street, but he soon finds himself competing with Charlestown Charlie, a tough, streetwise boy who does not make things easier for Joshua. It seems that fitting in is not as easy as it once was. Then disaster strikes the city of Boston. Joshua must do what he can to help, and in doing so he finds the place -- and the voice -- that he thought he'd lost.

### ***Notes from a Liar and Her Dog by Gennifer Choldenko***

Living in a family with two perfect sisters and parents who just don't get her, Ant MacPherson finds it easier to lie. After all, the only one who appreciates her is her dog, Pistachio. But when a concerned teacher sees the truth behind Ant's lies, it seems as though she might be in for a change . . .

### ***Somewhere in the Darkness* by Walter Dean Myers**

Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years. But one day his father comes back, on the run from the law. Together, the two of them travel across the country, where Jimmy's dad will find the man who can exonerate him of the crime of which he was convicted. Along the way, Jimmy discovers a lot about his father and himself, and learns that, while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood and forgiven.

### ***The House of Dies Drear* by Virginia Hamilton**

The house held secrets, Thomas knew, even before he first saw it looming gray and massive on its ledge of rock. It had a century-old legend -- two fugitive slaves had been killed by bounty hunters after leaving its passageways, and Dies Drear himself, the abolitionist who had made the house into a station on the Underground Railroad, had been murdered there. The ghosts of the three were said to walk its rooms....

### ***Mystery of Drear House* by Virginia Hamilton**

In award-winning author Virginia Hamilton's sequel to *The House of Dies Drear*, she continues the story of the long-dead abolitionist, Dies Drear, and the African-American family, the Smalls, who live in his former house. At the center of the story is young Thomas Small, who seeks to protect the 100-year-old treasure hidden in caverns that were once part of the Underground Railroad underneath Drear House. Thomas' neighbor, a young girl named Pesty Darrow, helps him uncover the secrets of Drear House, and in doing so, goes behind the backs of her greedy father and older brothers.

### ***The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan**

There's a whole new group of heroes at Camp Half-Blood, the summer camp for kids who are half human, half Greek god. In this first book in the new series, we learn that after defeating the evil Titan Lord Kronos, Percy Jackson and his friends rebuilt Camp Half-Blood for the next generation of demigods. Now these new half-bloods are facing a deadly prophecy of their own — and to fulfill the dangerous quest they must undertake, they'll need the help of some familiar demigods!

As he did in *Percy Jackson & the Olympians*, author Rick Riordan mixes classic Greek mythology with modern adventure in this action-packed series that will keep readers turning the pages — and may spark an interest in the original myths!

### ***There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom* by Louis Sachar**

Fifth grader Bradley Chalkers is bright, imaginative, antisocial and friendless. Unlike the kids at school, who hate him, Bradley's collection of chipped and broken little pottery animals allows him to be brave, smart and vulnerable; he uses them to resolve the rejection of peers and adults. Jeff, a new boy at school, offers friendship but then withdraws his offer, because Bradley is hard to like. Enter Carla Davis, new school counselor, who is caring and funny, and who gradually helps restore Bradley's self-confidence. Feelings and emotions are strongly evoked in this touching and serious story of a disturbed child that is infused with humor and insight.

### ***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio**

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. **WONDER**, now a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.