

6th Grade 2011 Summer Reading Packet

Dear 6th Grader,

This summer you are required to choose **two books** to read from the "Kistler Library Holland Hall Middle School Grade 6 Booklist," which you can access from the Holland Hall Home Page or by going to **hollandhall.org/?p=133**. You may choose any two books from the list, except for those that are required for the school year and that you have read before. **For each of the two books you read, you will need to write a one-page (if typed) or two-page (if neatly handwritten) book review.**

Each of your two book reviews should briefly describe the plot, main characters, setting, and what you liked and/or disliked about the story. Be sure to support your opinions with specific details/examples from the book. Also, take the time to proofread your reviews for spelling, grammar, and mechanics, such as capitalization, run-on sentences, and incomplete sentences. Furthermore, **avoid using vague pronouns** such as "it," "this," "they," and "thing." Likewise, **do not use** "empty" or overused words like "very" and "really."

In addition to reading two books from the Kistler Library Booklist, you will also read ***Crossing the Wire*** by Will Hobbs. We will be discussing this book at the beginning of the school year and there will be a test. To help you prepare for what we will be doing in class, you will be keeping a **reading/vocabulary journal** while you read this book. Instructions for the reading/vocabulary journal as well as an example are attached to this document. Please read the instructions carefully and follow the format. The journal and book reviews will be graded.

Finally, you will need to read ***A Long Walk to Water*** by Linda Sue Park. There is no work required with this book except to read it. However, I do encourage you to share this book with your family. We will discuss this book at the beginning of the school year, which will help frame an important focus of the sixth grade curriculum.

I look forward to working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Mr. Marshall

Overview for what's due on the first day of school

- Two Book Reviews (library book list)
- Reading/Vocabulary Journal (*Crossing the Wire*)
- *A Long Walk to Water*

Reading/Vocabulary Journal Instructions for *Crossing the Wire* by Will Hobbs

Instructions: For this book you will need to complete at least 5 reading journal entries and five vocabulary entries. This kind of journaling allows you to practice active reading and writing strategies, as well as increase your vocabulary knowledge. Please follow the format below, including dividing your papers in half and drawing a line down the middle. See an example of each type of entry on the following page.

Reading/Vocabulary Journal Format

Reading Journal Entry Format Left Side	Reading Journal Entry Format Right Side
<p>You only have to write the title, author's name, city of publication, publishing company, and year of publication for the first reading entry</p>	
<p>RJ#1 Title of Book Author's Name City of Publication Publishing Company Year of Publication Write selected passage from the book with quotation marks and page number(s). Choose a passage that is important to the plot of the book that you like.</p>	<p>RJ#1 Write a paragraph (4-6 sentences) explaining the context of the quoted passage you selected and wrote on the left side. You do this by identifying the characters involved in the passage, the setting, and the situation (why). In short, you explain how the quote relates to the plot of the book.</p>
<p>RJ#2 – RJ#5 Entries Quoted passage from the book with quotation marks and page number(s).</p>	<p>RJ#2 – RJ#5 Entries Context paragraph for each entry</p>
<p>Vocabulary Journal Entry Format Left Side</p>	<p>Vocabulary Journal Entry Format Right Side</p>
<p>VJ#1 – VJ#5 Write the vocabulary word Write the sentence in which the vocabulary word appears. Be sure to include quotation marks and page number(s).</p>	<p>VJ#1 – VJ#5 Predict what the word means based on how it used in the quoted passage on the left (do this right after you write down the quoted passage and before you consult an expert). Write your prediction in a complete sentence that includes the selected word.</p>
<p>Consult an expert (print dictionary, online dictionary, parent, grandparent, sibling, or friend) for a definition. Write down the title of name of the expert. Then write the expert's definition.</p>	<p>Write your own sentence that uses the vocabulary word in a way that proves that you now understand the meaning and appropriate context of the word.</p>
<p>Choose one of the following to help you remember what the word means based on the context of the quoted passage: draw a picture, describe a movement or gesture you performed, or create an analogy (descriptive comparison) for the word.</p>	

