

Incoming Sixth Grade Summer Reading List and Requirements 2026

All incoming Upper School Students must read
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition)
by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer

All incoming 6th graders must also read ***Holes* by Louis Sachar**

In addition, they must **choose one book** from the following list:

- *The Crossover* — Kwame Alexander
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* — Kelly Barnhill
- *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* — Ann Braden
- *The Mona Lisa Vanishes* — Nicholas Day
- *Louisa June and the Nazis in the Waves* — L.M. Elliott
- *The First State of Being* — Erin Entrada Kelly
- *The Night Diary* — Veera Hiranandani
- *Fish in a Tree* — Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* — Norton Juster
- *Inside Out and Back Again* — Thanhha Lai
- *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* — Stacy McAnulty
- *Village of Scoundrels* — Margi Preus
- *The Westing Game* — Ellen Raskin
- *Impossible Creatures* — Katherine Rundell
- *Alcatraz vs. The Evil Librarians* — Brandon Sanderson
- *The Wednesday Wars* — Gary D. Schmidt
- *The Bletchley Riddle* — Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin
- *The Schwa Was Here* — Neal Shusterman
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society* — Trenton Lee Stewart
- *Beyond the Bright Sea* — Lauren Wolk

St. Michael's Summer Book Report Requirements for Sixth Grade

Students must create a book jacket with a front cover, an interior two-page spread, and a back cover. The entire book jacket should be created from a single sheet of folded, white 8 1/2 x 11" paper. The inside spread and back cover text can be either typed and glued, or hand-written in ink.

- **Front Cover:** The front cover is based on the chosen book you read (Not *Holes* or *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*). It must include title, author, and the student's name, as well as one original color drawing of a significant scene **and** one significant quotation from the book.
- **Inside Spread:** Inside the book jacket, you will examine **a shared theme in *Holes* and *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind***. As you reflect on both texts, think about how the characters respond to challenges and what each story suggests about themes such as **perseverance, hope, or friendship**.

You will write **two well-developed paragraphs — one for each book**—explaining how your chosen theme is shown. In each paragraph (6-8 sentences), include a clear topic sentence that names the theme and the text, along with specific examples from the story to support your ideas. You may include direct quotes or paraphrased details from the text, but be sure to clearly explain how your examples connect to the theme.

- **Back Cover:** The back cover must include an 8-10 sentence personal response to your selected book (not *Holes* or *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*): How does this book compare to other books you've read in the same genre? Did the characters appeal to you? Did you relate personally to any of the characters or events? Why did or didn't you enjoy the book?

DUE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026
(first day of school)

Please include this form completed when you turn in your book report at the start of school.

Student's Name _____

- Book One: ***Holes*** by Louis Sachar
- Book Two: ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition)***
by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer
- Book Three: _____

PARENT VERIFICATION

I verify that my child has read all three of these books and that this report represents the original work of my child. (Evidence of plagiarism will result in a zero on the report.)

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____