6th Grade Middle School Summer Reading Assignment (2026-2027)

"Character Development"

How does the protagonist or main character develop or change throughout your novel?

Why do we require summer reading?

The Douglas Middle School ELA teachers believe that the more a person reads, the better they will become at reading comprehension, inferencing, fluency, accuracy, and overall problem-solving skills. Summer reading encourages students to **maintain skills** learned during the previous year. Through their reading, students will be **observing how authors create characters that develop and change throughout a novel** and **learn lessons** that connect to the novel's overall theme. **Analyzing a character's development** throughout a story will enable students to remember key points of their reading and will **assist them in the writing activity that will take place at the beginning of the school year**. **We believe, especially this year,** that all students MUST be able to **read and write effectively** to prepare for the upcoming school year and to become lifelong learners.

REQUIRED Summer Reading Assignment for the Upcoming 6th Grade Middle School Students:

Choose **ANY appropriate novel** (**Either** from the **Suggested** Book List **OR One of Your Choice**) that is **within your reading level** and describes a **strong protagonist (main character) that develops or changes over time.** As you read, pay attention to how the events that **propel** the **protagonist** to **develop and change** throughout the novel. It is important to note l**essons learned and the overall development** of that character.

Your Task: Attached is the Character Development **Graphic Organizer**. **You will use this to write down bullet ideas as you read. It must be completed in as much detail as possible and will be taken as a grade in your ELA class in September.** This is Not an option and IS mandatory. It's important to take your time, be **detailed and thoughtful in your written responses, and write neatly**. Typing your information is best; so, feel free to **TYPE the character development information** and attach it to the graphic organizer on return to school in the fall. This organizer will also be **used as a reference for an in-class assignment** within the first month of school.

(Extra points for those who type and are detailed in their responses).
Please attach it to the graphic organizer as your final product.

A List of "Suggested" Character Development Titles

Remember: This is just a suggested list. Feel free to choose one on your own as long as it's "parent approved" and showcases character development.

*** Items are preferred and student and teacher recommended.*

Feel free to read more than one book this summer. :)

Hunger Games (series)
Maze Runner (series)
Divergent (series)
Twilight (series)
Hatchet
The River
*Among the Hidden ***
*Ban This Book ***
Call it Courage
The 5th Wave
Fever 1793
The One and Only Ivan
One and Only Bob
Restart (any Gordon Korman books)
*Secret School ***
Unplugged
Schooled
The Unteachables
Harry Potter (series)
Rhino in Right Field
47 People You'll Meet in Middle School
*Wonder ***
*Auggie and Me ***
The City of Ember series
Ender's Game
Where the Red Fern Grows
Old Yeller
A Wrinkle in Time
The Yearling
*Tangerine ***
*Out of the Dust ***
El Deafo by Cece Bell
Bomb: the Race to Steal the World's Most Dangerous
If I Stay
Salt to the Sea
Rumble Fish
That Was Then, This is Now
So Far from the Bamboo Grove
The Bonesetter's Daughter
Alone Together
Dreams of Gold
Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII
*The Breadwinner ***
*A Night Divided ***
Parvana's Journey
The Storm in the Barn
*Prisoner-B-3087 (any of the Alan Gratz series) ***
*Two Degrees ***
*Refugee***
Wings of Fire
*Blended ***
The Boy Who Dared
Letters from Cuba
Show Me a Sign
Prairie Lotus
Echo Mountain
Brown Girl Dreaming
A Long Way Gone
Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow
Bartoletti--2007 Newbery Honor
Lincoln: A Photobiography--Newbery Honor.
Warriors Don't Cry
Guts by Gary Paulsen
Alive by Piers Paul Read
Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story
Wallace Rich Wallace
Brown Girl Dreaming
Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space
We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Peterson and the Churchill Club
*The Diary of a Young Girl ***
*Boy in the Striped Pajamas ***
Trapped by Marc Aaronson
The 57 Bus: A True Story about Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed their Lives
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World
Chasing Lincoln's Killer
Red Scarf Girl
*Chinese Cinderella ***
A Long Way from Chicago
Mockingbird
Hunger Game series
Sixth Grade Secrets
*Out of My Mind***
*Out of My Heart***

Name: _____ Date: _____ Grade: _____

Character Development Organizer for Summer Reading

As you read, fill out the following traits about the main character from your novel.
Use specific details. Please feel free to type each section, as well. (You earn extra points for more detail)

Book Title:	
Author:	
Genre:	

Main Character's Name: _____			
Character Type: (Circle One)	**Protagonist**	**Antagonist**	**Supporting**
Age:		**Gender:**	

Significant Event:

What is the Summary of the Story WITHOUT Giving Away the Ending?

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Internal Conflict:

What Did the Main Character Struggle to Deal with Inside of Themselves Throughout the Story?

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Overcoming Challenges:

How did the Main Character Overcome the Major Problem of the Story?

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Valuable Lesson:

What did the Main Character Learn About Themselves as they Moved Toward the Resolution of the Story?

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***Typing and attaching your work to this sheet is best and would set you up for success in 6th grade. After you bullet the information, you should turn it into a paragraph form to be more detailed.**