

Dear Incoming 6th Grade Students,

Welcome to 6th Grade English at the Academy of Alameda! This year, we are going to begin our work even before the first day of school, and would like to share with you our summer reading program and requirements.

We have implemented a summer reading program because we believe that it is crucial that our students are reading every day. We want students to love books, and we know that the more a student reads for enjoyment, the more quickly he/she becomes a strong reader. Additionally, research shows that students who do not read over summer experience a decline in reading skills- and we are determined that **all** of our students continually grow and improve as readers.

You are required to read at least 2-3 books this summer. At least one of these books must be from our summer reading list- the others can be your choice. After you read each book, you will go onto Goodreads and participate in an online discussion about the book. You can access the summer reading documents by going to the AoA website (aoaschools.org) and clicking on 'Parent Resources' and then going to the 6th grade Resources folder. In that folder there are directions for how to sign up for and use Goodreads, the requirements for posting, and the book list.

You must post at least 2 comments/responses for each of the two different books (one must be from our reading list). On the Suggestions and Requirements page there is a timeline for when you should be reading and submitting responses for each book. If you read more than two books, feel free to continue posting! Of course, you can read as many books as you want and are only required to post responses about two of them. (You will probably see teachers and other AoA staff members participating in these online discussions as well!) If you will not have internet access during the summer, please pick up a copy of the materials and the alternative summer reading assignment in the office.

Teachers will know that you did the assigned reading on time by the dates and quality of your online posts. Additionally, when we return to school you will be asked to take a comprehension quiz for two of your books. Students who demonstrate that they clearly did the reading will earn points toward their independent reading grade.

We hope you have a wonderful summer and enjoy your books! We look forward to reading your comments and posts and, of course, to meeting you in person on the first day of school.

Sincerely,
The 6th Grade English team