Grade 6 Summer Reading...
Battle of the Books!

Research continues to show that few things help students succeed in school better than reading. Beyond that, we hope you will enjoy reading for the simple pleasure of it! The summer reading program for Grade 6 is based on a program called “The Battle of the Books.”

It is a national program designed to get students reading for pleasure in a fun, yet competitive, spirit. Students will read from a set of over 30 books. They are popular titles for the middle school reader including novels and biographies. Our students will read these books throughout the year, and at the end of the school year, there will be a "Battle of the Books" where homerooms will compete with one another in a Family Feud type game. There will be prizes as well as monthly raffles and incentives throughout the year. The national chapter of Battle of the Books will supply the questions for each book at the end of the year for the competition. You can read about this program further at http://www.battleofthebooks.org/

For the summer, your child/children entering grade 6 will only have to read ONE book from the “Book Choice” list of 8 novels on the back side of this letter and fill in the “Quick Facts Novel Sheet” for it. He/she will hand this in to his/her English Language Arts teacher the first week of school in September. Your child/children, may however read as many of the 8 books as they like and complete a “Quick Facts Novel Sheet” for each extra book read and turn all of their sheets into their ELA teacher. As the school year begins, your child will be reading a minimum of two books each term; one from the start of the term until progress reports and then one from progress reports until the end of the term. They will respond to each book by completing the Quick Facts Sheet which will be graded and counted as a test grade. During the school day students often have time to read for the first 15-20 minutes of the ICE period but please encourage your child to read and discuss the book with you at home, too, since this will help them to remember details when it comes to the competition at the end of the year. At the end of the year, we have a fun and rewarding daylong event where the homerooms compete to be the winners of The Battle of the Books!

We look forward to continuing with Battle of the Books with your child.

Sincerely,
Grade 6 ELA Teachers: Mrs. Sejkora, Mrs. Hart, Mr. Cummings, Mrs. Sullivan
“BOB” Summer Book Choice List

**Baseball in April** by Gary Soto
Author Gary Soto used his own life experiences as a Mexican American boy growing up in California to create eleven delightful short stories in his book, *Baseball in April*. The stories are about everyday happenings including sports and provide a cultural/ethnic view of life.

**Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis
*Bud, Not Buddy*, by Christopher Paul Curtis is a historical fiction-adventure book which takes place during the Great Depression and jazz. Ten year old Bud decides to leave home and travel by train to find a mystery man. He is so determined to find the mystery man that he won’t let anything get in his way.

**City of Light, City of Dark** by AVI
*City of Light, City of Dark* by AVI is a graphic novel adventure story. The adventure is the race to prevent darkness from taking control over a city which would be controlled by lies and the past, and time is of the essence.

**Stand Tall** by Joan Bauer
*Stand Tall* is a contemporary story about a twelve year old boy who has sudden changes in his life which he must face and adjust to. Tree’s parent have now divorced and have sold their family home. Tree has to adjust to a new home and the separation of his parents. At the same time, Tree has to face and accept his failure as an athlete.

**On The Far Side Of The Mountain** by Jean Craighead George
This book is a sequel to (first book), *My Side Of The Mountain*, continuing two years later from the first book. *On The Far Side Of The Mountain*, the author has two plots, an adventure and a mystery, interweaving within the story. The adventure for Sam is to find his missing sister and Sam also has a problem to solve, the mysterious disappearance of his pet falcon which is taken from him.

**Our Only May Amelia** by Jennifer L. Holm
May Amelia Jackson is the only girl living in a new settlement in the state of Washington during 1899. She is a “tomboy” who rebels against being a “proper” young lady, living with her parents and seven older brothers. Girl chores do not appeal to her when she could be fishing and sheep herding like her brothers.

**The Lottery Rose** by Irene Hunt
The book, *The Lottery Rose*, is a contemporary story about a boy who shields his abusive home life into a safe, secret world of his own filled with flower gardens. Georgie learns to hide his hurtful life within the beauty of his gardens and his library books. Life changes for him when he wins a rosebush to love and care for and then a rescue by the courts to a home for boys.
**REDWALL** by Brian Jacques

*REDWALL* is the first of a series of seventeen interconnected legends. Mice live peacefully in Mossflower Wood until an evil one-eyed rat and his rat followers move into town. Now the swords and shields come out and the battle between the mice and rats begin.

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson

Barbara Robinson brings her witty sense of humor to The Woodrow Wilson School through a family of unruly children who seem to always cause a calamity wherever they go. This book, *The Best School Year Ever*, will keep you laughing and entertained from cover to cover.

Principal of Norton Middle School: Mr. Vincent Hayward

English Department Academic Coordinator: Todd Kefor, Ph. D.

Norton Middle School Reading Specialist: Susan Segaloff, M.Ed., CAGS

Questions or concerns please email: ssegaloff@norton.k12.ma.us
We need to prepare for battle! Arm yourself by completing this Facts Sheet on your book! 1) Show it in to your ELA teacher. 2) Then, after it is graded, YOU will place it in the binder in your homeroom, and it will serve as a reference when we review the books before doing battle at the end of the year. 3) Put the sticker on your homeroom chart. 4) Fill in a raffle ticket and give it to your ELA teacher.

For questions # 7, 8, and 9 - you need to create the rest of the question before answering!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What is the setting(s) of the story?</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Which <strong>characters</strong> are involved in the conflict of the story?</td>
<td>2. <strong>VS.</strong></td>
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<td>3. Which character is the protagonist (good guy)?</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Which character/thing is the antagonist (bad guy)?</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. What is one thing the protagonist does in the story that is <strong>important</strong> to the action?</td>
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<td>6. What is the climax (high point) of the story?</td>
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<td>7. Which character in the story...</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>____________________________________________?</td>
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<td>8. Who says,” __________________________________________”?</td>
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<td><em>(PAGE # )</em></td>
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<td>9. Which character in the story tries ___________________________________?</td>
<td>9</td>
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