



The Park School

Brookline, Massachusetts

June 2016

Dear Parents of Rising Grade VI Students,

As your family plans for summer and your children's transition to the next grade level, we hope that this letter regarding Upper Division summer reading requirements for 2016 will be helpful. The required summer reading texts will introduce, reinforce, and focus on the theme of courage, an idea that will be woven through the English and Social Studies curriculum for the whole school year. We expect students to arrive to school in September ready to actively engage in discussions about these texts.

Students entering sixth grade in the fall are required to read at least FOUR books over the summer. They are expected to select a book from this list that they have NOT read before. IF students have read all of these books, they are expected to re-read one.

1. At least one of the following books from a list of award-winning novels about courageous youths and the obstacles and challenges they face:
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
So Far From the Bamboo Grove by Yoko Kawashima Watkins
Taking Sides by Gary Soto
2. *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna* by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton
A contemporary, non-fiction account of a boy who grows up in Kenya, travels the world, but never abandons home.
3. A choice from the four Community Reading Books
**Students select their book and are given a paper copy before summer.*
4. One free read from the online Summer Reading list

With the exception of the community reading book (#3), families must obtain their own copies of these books (local library, Kindle, e-reader, or paper copy are all acceptable formats). Audio book accompaniment is also acceptable for readers who need or benefit from it. An [E] on the online Summer Reading list means it is available from Park's ebook collection. Recreational ebooks and audiobooks are available all summer from the Park School Digital Library. Upper Division students can log in with a Park School email address and read or listen to books on the device of their choice.

Our intention for summer reading is to promote a lifelong love of reading, enrich our students' understanding of the world, and prepare them for their lives as students in the Upper Division. Please join us in our effort to promote reading as a wonderful way to unplug, relax, and enjoy the summer. You are invited, though by no means expected, to read these powerful texts alongside your children and engage them in active conversations.

If you have any questions about reading or purchasing these texts, please don't hesitate to contact me.

With warmest wishes for a lovely summer,

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