

Kelly Mill Middle School

Dear Sixth Grade Parents and Students,

Reading is the most important lifelong skill that we can help our students to learn and to practice. Along with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Commission on Reading, we believe that reading is not just a skill learned and practiced at school, but a developmental and continual process throughout life.

Kelly Mill Middle School encourages students to maintain the reading skills and strategies taught and practiced throughout the school year by having a summer reading list that offers students choices in their reading selections. Students are asked to read one book from the grade-leveled list provided. We encourage parents and students to choose books according to interests and the Lexile scores (reading level) provided for each selection. Parents should refer to their student's Lexile score that was reported on the spring MAP score report.

Every child is encouraged to create a journal responding to the story as he or she reads it. Responding to literature is an important part of the reading process and allows students to explore their ideas, impressions, and reactions to the literature. Journal entries include a brief summary of the section along with a personal response. Responses might include:

- Questions about the reading
- Predictions about what will happen next
- Interesting or surprising quotes
- Personal opinions about characters and their actions

When the school year begins, students will be asked to respond to a writing prompt about the novel he or she read over the summer. Students will be required to write a literary essay in response to the prompt. The aforementioned journal can be to use as a reference when responding to the written prompt.

The Kelly Mill Middle School Summer Reading Committee, comprised of language arts teachers, the curriculum specialist, the principal, and media specialist, has provided a list of summer reading choices for rising 6th graders (attached). In order to assist you in finding copies of the books, local book stores and local branches of the Richland County Public Library have been provided with a copy of the list. Other good resources for finding books are Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble at bn.com.

Happy Reading!

6th Grade Summer Reading List (2009-2010)

Lexile

39 Clues Series

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| Book #1 - Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan | 610 |
| Book #2 - One False Note, by Gordon Korman | 680 |
| Book #3 - The Sword Thief, by Peter Lerangis | 660 |
| Book #4 - Beyond the Grave, by Jude Watson (release date June 2, 2009) | |

Series Description:

Minutes before she died Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: "You have a choice - one million dollars or a clue."

Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world's most powerful family. Everyone from Napoleon to Houdini is related to the Cahills, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents.

Additional 39 Clues Information:

The 39 Clues is Scholastic's groundbreaking new series, spanning ten adrenaline-charged books, 350 trading cards, and an online game where readers play a part in the story and compete for over \$100,000 in prizes.

By going to website www.the39clues.com, readers discover they are lost members of the Cahill family, and set up online accounts where they can compete against other kids and against Cahill characters to find all 39 clues. Through the website, kids can track their points and clues, manage their card collections, dig through the Cahill archives for secrets, and "travel" the world to collect Cahill artifacts, interview characters, and hunt down clues. Collecting cards helps: Each card is a piece of evidence containing information on a Cahill, a clue, or a family secret.

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins.....630

It's the beginning of summer and everyone is going off to camp except Gregor, an 11-year-old boy from New York City. Since his father's disappearance from their New York City home, he has been helping out with taking care of his little sisters, especially two-year-old Boots. Gregor sacrifices his chance to go to camp, letting his other sister go instead. While doing laundry in the basement of his apartment building, Boots disappears down an air chute and Gregor goes after her. At the bottom of this inner-city rabbit hole, the two find themselves in the Underland surrounded immediately by giant cockroaches, or crawlers. The story moves quickly as the two Overlanders are taken to the Queen of the Underlander humans, where Gregor learns of a prophecy which focuses on him and a quest to find his missing father. He travels with bats, crawlers, spinners (giant spiders), a rat, and two of the royal Underlanders. Gregor spends his time between protecting Boots, who doesn't know she needs to be protected, and becoming the leader of the questors who must not only save his father, but also save the Underlanders' kingdom. This fantasy by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic, 2003) is skillfully written with well-developed characters and enough action to keep listeners' attention.

Girl in a Cage by Jane Yolen & Robert Harris.....690

In 1306, a year has passed since patriot William "Braveheart" Wallace was executed, and things are not going well for the cause of Scottish freedom. Robert Bruce, newly crowned king of Scotland, has managed to evade his powerful enemy, Edward I of England, but many allies have been killed or taken. A recent capture is Bruce's 11-year-old daughter Marjorie. The princess finds herself conveyed to the English border town of Lanercost, locked in an iron cage, and displayed outdoors day and night by the decree of ailing King Edward, "Longshanks," himself.

The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo520

Rob and his father moved to Lister, FL, to try to begin life anew without Rob's mother, who recently died from cancer. The boy goes through his days like a sleepwalker, with little or no visible emotion. "He made all his feelings go inside the suitcase; he stuffed them in tight and then sat on the suitcase and locked it shut." His sadness permeates the story; even the weather, with its constant dreary drizzle is sad. With the arrival of a new student, Sistine Bailey, Rob's self-contained world begins to crumble. He and Sistine are both friendless and victims of the cruelty often shown outsiders at school. The principal, worried about contagion, decides that Rob should remain at home until the rash on his legs improves. Rob appreciates the respite and Sistine appears daily on the pretense of bringing him his homework. She seems to have the keys to unlock the suitcase on Rob's "not-wishes and not-thoughts." When the boy finds a caged tiger in the woods, he recognizes a similarity between himself and the animal. Then the sleazy owner of the motel where Rob and his dad are living gives him the responsibility of feeding the creature, and Rob realizes he finally holds in his hands the keys to freedom.

Just Ella by Margaret Peterson Haddix.....850

In *Just Ella*, Margaret Peterson Haddix puts a spin on the traditional tale of the glass slippers. In her version, Ella (sans "Cinder") finds her own way to the ball (there was no fairy godmother, despite the rumors) and wins the heart of the prince. But now she is finding that life at the palace as Prince Charming's betrothed is not as great as she thought it was going to be. In fact, it's downright boring for a self-reliant and active girl to do needlework all day or listen to instructions on court etiquette from the strict and cold Madame Bisset. Worst of all, Ella is beginning to suspect that Charming's beautiful blue eyes and golden hair are attached to a head with nothing in it. Her young tutor Jed, however, talks with her about serious things that really matter. Ella finally gets up the courage to announce to Charming that she doesn't want to go through with the wedding, but when she finds herself locked in the dungeon she realizes it's not that easy to walk away from a politically arranged marriage. In the end, as in all good fairy tales, our heroine and hero do manage to live happily ever after--but with a twist.

Five Ancestors Series by Jeff Stone

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| Book #1 - Tiger | 800 |
| Book #2 - Monkey | 700 |
| Book #3 - Snake | 700 |
| Book #4 - Crane | 770 |
| Book #5 - Eagle | not available |
| Book #6 - Monkey | 700 |

Cangzhen Temple is one of the most renowned temples in China and home to five unique teens. Each is the master of a particular style of Kung Fu and their skills are put to the test when their Temple is destroyed by Ying, a former student of the temple. Before he dies, the grandmaster of Cangzhen Temple instructs his five youngest pupils to search out the secrets of their pasts. Only then, he tells them, will they be able to avenge their fallen brothers and retrieve the temple's secret scrolls.