

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING: GRADE 6
2009-2010

CONTENT AREA: ENGLISH



STANDARDS: Reading 7-1.1: 25 Books or Book Equivalents
Writing 7-2.2: Writing in Response to Literary Text
Writing 7-2.6: Writing conventions

OBJECTIVES: ALL STUDENTS WILL:

- ❖ Choose one (1) of the books from the list below.
- ❖ Keep a journal (requirements listed below) for assessment purposes.

BOOK LIST: Choose one of the following books.

Jar of Dreams by Yoshiko Uchida (REQUIRED BOOK FOR 6th grade LBGL students; however, this book is an option for a
students.)

Lunch Money by Andrew Clements

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements

Swindle by Gordon Korman

YOUR JOURNAL: While reading your book, you need to complete journal entries using the journal book provided. This journal will be turned into your 6th grade English teacher the first week of school. The completed journal will be used for assessment purposes.

Grade 6 Choices

Brief Description of A Jar of Dreams by Yoshiko Uchida

Growing up in California during the depression isn't easy for eleven-year-old Rinko. She desperately wants to fit in and be like everyone else, but instead she is ridiculed and made to feel different because she is Japanese.

But when Aunt Waka comes to visit, and brings with her the old-fashioned wisdom of Japan, she teaches Rinko the importance of her Japanese heritage, and the value of her own strengths and dreams, in this warm and touching story.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON A Jar of Dreams:

The story takes place after the Great Depression which occurred in October 1929. This is a period in United States history of great economic hardship. Because of the Stock Market crash of '29, many Americans lost much of their money. Unemployment went from 1.5 million in 1929 to 13 million in 1932. Many people who did not have jobs lost their homes and could not feed their families. It became a very desperate situation for many all over America. In Europe, which was also experiencing this same Depression, Hitler and the Nazi party were coming to power.

Also at this time, a large immigration of Japanese, especially to the West coast, occurred during 1891-1910. Many Americans felt that the Japanese were taking jobs away from natural-born American citizens. As a result, President Roosevelt took steps to limit any further immigration. Again, because of the desperate times, people unfortunately did not treat each other as they should have.

Brief Description of Swindle by Gordon Korman

How far would you go to get back what is rightfully yours? When Griffin Bing is cheated out of a priceless baseball card he makes a plan. With an unlikely group of sixth graders, Griffin will need to be daring and resourceful in order to outsmart the swindler.

Brief description of Lunch Money by Andrew Clements

Sixth-grader Greg Kenton always had a talent for making money, but this year, he finds some competition when he tries to sell his own comic books series. Eventually, he has to challenge some inconsistent school rules, which leads him to think about how he could use some of his money for good causes. The characters in the book are rich with interesting quirks, and the story is fast paced and humorous.

Brief description of A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements

Mark, the 11-year-old at the center of Clements's (Frindle; The Jacket) novel, initially has no interest in making friends at his new school in Whitson, N.H., where his constantly traveling parents have just renovated and enlarged a 1798 farmhouse. Knowing that he's headed off to a prestigious boarding school next year, the boy has no incentive for pleasing his teachers and spends much of the day gazing out the classroom window. His science teacher, Mr. Maxwell, passes judgment on Mark before the boy finally decides to give the school a chance. A showdown between boy and teacher occurs at the start of the annual environmental program organized by Mr. Maxwell for the fifth graders, who spend a week in a wooded state park. Will Mark survive on his own in the woods, overnight? What will Mr. Maxwell do when he learns his own prejudices have colored his judgment? What starts out as a school camp out turns into a terrifically suspenseful survival story of a man and boy who come head-to-head, and learn a few lessons while they're at it? Readers will be on the edges of their seats!