



Please try and read two books over the summer (ideally one fiction and one non fiction). If you need ideas for inspiration, have a look through the following list (but feel free to choose other books not on this too):

Fiction:

- ***Tristan Strong Punches a Whole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia**

Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom and steals Eddie's notebook.

- ***Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga**

A gorgeously written, hopeful middle grade novel in verse about a young girl who must leave Syria to move to the United States.

- ***New Kid* by Jerry Craft**

A timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real.

- ***Schooled* by Gordon Korman**

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school

- ***The Brooklyn Nine* by Alan Gratz**

In nine innings, this novel tells the stories of nine successive Schneider kids and their connection to Brooklyn and baseball. As in all family histories and all baseball games, there is glory and heartache, triumph and sacrifice.

- ***From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks**

A captivating mystery full of heart, as one courageous girl questions assumptions, searches for the truth, and does what she believes is right—even in the face of great opposition.

- ***Theodore Boone* by John Grisham (6 book series)**

Though he's only thirteen, Theodore Boone has spent more time in the courtroom than almost anywhere else, and there's always a new adventure waiting. Theo happily dispenses legal advice to friends and community members, just like real lawyers.

- ***Escape Under the Forever Sky* by Eve Yohalem**

Lucy's mother is the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, so Lucy's life must be one big adventure, right? Wrong. Lucy's worrywart mother keeps her locked up inside the ambassador's residence. All Lucy can do is read about the exotic and exciting world that lies beyond the compound walls and imagine what it would be like to be a part of it. That is, until one day Lucy decides she has had enough and she and a friend sneak off for some fun. But to their horror, Lucy gets kidnapped!

- ***The Ear, The Eye and The Arm* by Nancy Farmer**

Non Fiction:

- Reynolds, Jason & Kendi, Ibram X **STAMPED: RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU: A REMIX OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD-WINNING STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING.** This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race.
- Hopkinson, Deborah. **TITANIC: VOICES FROM DISASTER.** Photographs, telegrams, letters, and first-person accounts from passengers, witnesses, and crew members provide multiple perspectives on the sinking of the Titanic.
- Noah, Trevor **BORN A CRIME: YOUNG READERS EDITION.** The host of *The Daily Show*, Trevor Noah, tells the story of growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid.
- Lawlor, Laurie. **RACHEL CARSON AND HER BOOK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.** Rachel Carson was an ordinary child who grew up to be a pioneer environmentalist. This biography shows that anyone can make a difference. A detailed epilogue explains more about the lasting impact of her book, *Silent Spring*.
- Sandler, Martin. **THE IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ARCTIC ADVENTURE.** In the dead of an Arctic winter, whaling ships full of men are stranded in ice. Follow three rescuers in a race

Three adventurous children escape their parents' heavily guarded mansion to explore the dangerous world outside. They soon learn how dangerous it really is.

- **FLORA AND ULYSSES: THE ILLUMINATED ADVENTURES**, by Kate DiCamillo

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw it coming - the vacuum cleaner, that is. As for self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, she has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!* so she is just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight and misspelled poetry.

- **A Wrinkle in Time**, by Madeleine L'Engle

People who are extraordinary, by definition, don't fit in. The main character of this book, Meg Murray, is an extraordinarily intelligent and thoughtful person who struggles with real issues such as making friends. When her father, a brilliant scientist, needs help, Meg learns that the very qualities that make it hard for her to relate to her peers also make her the one person who can come to his aid

- **The Only Black Girls in Town** by Brandy Colbert

The only two black girls in town who discover a collection of hidden journals revealing shocking secrets of the past.

- **Wringer** by Jerry Spinelli

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

- **The Hobbit** by JRR Tolkien

Full of magic, humour and adventure, it continues to offer plenty to entertain and engage today's young readers who are discovering it for the first time.

- **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** by CS Lewis

When Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy - step through a wardrobe door in the strange country house where they are staying, they find themselves in the land of Narnia.

- **Once** by Morris Gleitzman

Morris Gleitzman brings heart and humour to the difficult subject of the Holocaust in this ground-breaking children's book.

- **Goodnight Mister Tom** by Michelle Magorian

Willie Beech, a lonely and deprived child, is evacuated to a tiny English village just before the Second World War, and finds himself living with reclusive widower Thomas Oakley.

- **Truckers** by Terry Pratchett

The first title in the Bromeliad trilogy, this is an enchanting fantasy from favourite author Terry Pratchett.

against time in this heart pounding true adventure

- Jewell, Tiffany **THIS BOOK IS ANTI-RACIST**. Gain a deeper understanding of your anti-racist self as you progress through 20 chapters that spark introspection, reveal the origins of racism that we are still experiencing and give you the courage and power to undo it.
- Shetterly, Margot Lee. **HIDDEN FIGURES YOUNG READERS EDITION**. It is the powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.
- Thimmesh, Catherine and Melissa Sweet. **GIRLS THINK OF EVERYTHING: STORIES OF INGENIOUS INVENTIONS BY WOMEN**. (Biography) This book tells how women throughout the ages have responded to situations confronting them in daily life by inventing such items as correction fluid, space helmets, and disposable diapers.
- Vernick, Audrey. **BROTHERS AT BAT: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ALL-BROTHER BASEBALL TEAM**. The Accerra family had 16 children, including 12 baseball-playing brothers. In the 1930s, the boys formed their own semi professional team and became the longest playing all-brother baseball team in history.
- Borden, Louise. **THE JOURNEY THAT SAVED CURIOUS GEORGE: THE TRUE WARTIME ESCAPE OF MARGARET AND H. A. REY**. This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the Reys and their escape from Paris during World War II.

Books recommended by current 6eme students:

- **The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate** *Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.*
- **Legend by Marie Lu** *What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.*
- **Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve** *London is hunting again. Emerging from its hiding place in the hills, the great Traction City is chasing a terrified little town across the wastelands. Soon London will feed. In the attack, Tom Natsworthy is flung from the speeding city with a murderous scar-faced girl. They must run for their lives through the wreckage -- and face a terrifying new weapon that threatens the future of the world.*
- **Bad Dad by David Walliams** *Frank's dad was a champion hot-rod racer, Gilbert the Great. But when a terrible accident sees him go from hero to zero, Frank and Gilbert are left with nothing—and in the grips of a wicked crime boss and his henchmen. After Gilbert is thrown in prison, only Frank can come to his rescue*
- **A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz** *Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. As readers follow the siblings through a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches.*
- **Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar** *Fifth grader Tamaya Dhilwaddi and seventh grader Marshall Walsh have been walking to and from Woodridge Academy together since elementary school. But their routine is disrupted when bully Chad Hilligas challenges Marshall to a fight. To avoid the conflict, Marshall takes a shortcut home through the off-limits woods. Tamaya, unaware of the reason for the detour, reluctantly follows. They soon get lost. And then they find trouble. Bigger trouble than anyone could ever have imagined. What they uncover might affect the future of the world.*
- **Janitors by Tyler Whitesides** *Have you ever fallen asleep during math class? Are you easily distracted while listening to your English teacher? Do you find yourself completely uninterested in geography? Well, it may not be your fault. The janitors at Welcher Elementary know a secret, and it's draining all the smarts out of the kids. Twelve-year-old Spencer Zumbro, with the help of his classmate Daisy Gullible Gates, must fight with and against a secret, janitorial society that wields wizard-like powers. Who can Spencer and Daisy trust and how will they protect their school and possibly the world?*
- **Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt** *Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.*
- **Percy Jackson and the Olympians** (5 book series) **by Rick Riordan** - *The books explore Percy Jackson's adventures with gods and monsters as he learns about who he is and where he comes from. Action packed!*
- **Tom's Midnight Garden Philippa Pearce** *When Tom's brother gets sick, he's shipped off to spend what he's sure will be a boring summer with his aunt and uncle in the country. But then Tom hears the old grandfather clock in the hall chime thirteen times, and he's transported back to an old garden where he meets a young, lonely girl named Hatty. Tom returns to the garden every night to have adventures with Hatty, who mysteriously grows a little older with each visit. As the summer comes to an end, Tom realizes he wants to stay in the garden with Hatty forever.*