

Dear Parents of Rising 6th Grade Students,

The best way for a child to improve proficiency in reading is to READ. This should be done on a consistent basis to acquire the maximum benefit. Some time each day should be spent engaged in reading, whether it is a novel, a recipe, an article, or comics.

This summer each student is required to read **at least** three books. Additionally, the student must write a three to five sentence opinion paragraph of each book read. The paragraph may begin similarly to the following: I enjoyed _____ because it was full of adventure and suspense. Students should use details from the story to indicate their like or dislike of the novel.

Of the three novels required, one is a mandatory selection, Restart, by Gordan Korman. This realistic fiction selection is a timeless classic full of humor, difficult decisions, and second chances. Rather than an opinion paragraph, the student needs to complete the included “Characters and Symbolism” activity. This should be completed as the student reads the novel. Creativity and thoughtful construction of the web should be evident. Your child should enjoy this opportunity to be original in his/her interpretation of a character. All writing should be done in complete sentences. I also highly suggest that your child read Restart as close to the beginning of the year as possible as we will begin our literature class with activities related to it and will **NOT** reread the novel in class.

I encourage you to use online services for access to powerful books. I also encourage students to take advantage of local summer library programs.

During the first week of school, students should return with two opinion paragraphs for the books of choice, a list of other books read if applicable, and the “Characters and Symbolism” activity. Have an enjoyable summer! I look forward to having your child in class next year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. C. Williams

NOTE: There are many online sites offering free grammar practice, creative writing fun, and editing practice. Rainy summer days are good days to review these skills. Below are two great examples for practice.

[Grammar Monster \(https://www.grammar-monster.com/\)](https://www.grammar-monster.com/)

[Grammar games \(https://www.education.com/games/grammar/\)](https://www.education.com/games/grammar/)