



Summer Reading Grade 6  
Stoneham Middle School  
Stoneham, Massachusetts

Welcome to the sixth grade! Your teachers are looking forward to seeing you in the fall. We hope you have a wonderful summer vacation. In order to integrate the summer reading program with the English curriculum, we have chosen a short list of books by award-winning authors recommended in the Massachusetts Language Arts Framework. Each book has the common theme of survival. You are required to keep a journal as you read one book from the following list:

- **A Girl Named Disaster** by Nancy Farmer - The story of a young girl who flees her home in Mozambique to escape an arranged marriage. Nhamo battles drowning, starvation, and wild animals in this gripping adventure and survival voyage. (Fiction)
- **Monkey Island** by Paula Fox - Forced to live on the streets of New York after his mother disappears from their hotel room, eleven-year-old Clay is befriended by two men who help him survive. (Realistic Fiction)
- **The Music of Dolphins** by Karen Hesse - Raised by a marine family of dolphins, a feral girl, reintroduced into human society, tells this thought-provoking tale. (Fiction)
- **Jason's Gold** by Will Hobbs - Jason Hawthorne, 15, and his husky King race to get five hundred miles down the Yukon River before freeze-up in this breath-taking survival story set in the time of the Klondike gold rush. (Adventure)
- **Dovey Coe** by Frances O'Roark Dowell - In Indian Creek, North Carolina, strong-willed Dovey Coe, 12, is not one to sit sback when troubles are brewing, but now that she's been accused of murder, she might just have to keep quiet and let the slick city lawyer take care of things - or will she? (Realistic Fiction)

Use the questions below as your journal guideline. Answer each question carefully and thoughtfully. Write your notes neatly and with as much detail as possible. This journal will be used as part of an "open-book test" on your novel, which will be given in September and will count toward your first quarter grade, so be prepared!

Follow these directions: This journal should be neatly written on loose-leaf binder paper – no raggedy-edge spiral sheets – and should be no longer than four handwritten or two typed pages. Please write on only one side of each paper, number each entry according to the question numbers, and skip lines between each entry. You do not need a separate sheet for each entry. Do the questions in order. Staple the journal pages together; do not turn in your journal in any kind of binder, plastic cover, or folder. **Bring your journal with you on the first day of school.**

### *Journal Notes*

1. At the top of your first page, write your name, the book title, and the author.
2. Describe the main character. Use appearance and personality traits. If the character has a nickname, explain how he/she got that nickname.
3. Describe the main character's family life. If he or she is not with his/her family, explain why.
4. Describe at least two other important characters in the novel, and explain how they are involved with the main character.
5. Who is telling the story? In other words, who is the narrator?
6. List the conflicts the main character faces and tell how he/she solves these conflicts. Remember, conflicts are struggles confronting the character; they may be problems with others, struggles with nature, or problems within him/herself.
7. In what ways does the main character seem unusual compared to other people of his/her age?
8. How does the title of the novel connect with the story?
9. Make a list of at least five vocabulary words or phrases from the novel that you do not know. Look up the definitions, making sure you use the definition as it relates to the context of the story.
10. What did you like about the story? What did you dislike? Write at least three specific details for each of these questions.

