



**2010 - Summer Reading - Grade 6**  
**Stoneham Middle School, Stoneham, MA**

Welcome to sixth grade! We hope you have a wonderful vacation, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall. **Students are required to read one of the books listed below and keep a journal. Students will be tested the first week of school and may use the journal during the test.**

- **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.
- **Monkey Island** by Paula Fox - Forced to live on the streets of New York after his mother disappears from their hotel room, 11-year-old Clay is befriended by two men who help him survive.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Dovey Coe** by Frances O'Roark Dowell - In Indian Creek, North Carolina, strong-willed Dovey Coe, 12, is not one to sit back 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?

### **Journal Directions**

- Type or write neatly (no raggedy-edge spiral sheets) and with as much detail as possible.
  - Type/write on only one side of the paper.
  - Double-space or skip lines between directions.
  - Number each question and answer in order.
  - Staple the journal together (do not use a binder, plastic cover or folder).
  - Bring your journal on the first day of school.**
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. Write the definition of each word as it relates to the story. Hint: It might not be the first definition.
  10. What did you like about the story? What did you dislike? Write at least three specific details for each of these questions.