

Ho-Ho-Kus Public School

Required Summer Reading

for

Sixth Grade

2020

Mrs. Frassetto

Welcome to the Sixth-Grade Summer Reading Page 2020

“So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky.” ---William James

Summer offers a perfect opportunity to rediscover the pleasure of reading at a leisurely and enjoyable pace. Connecting to stories that are exciting and engaging is key to developing lifelong reading habits, and students are encouraged to read widely and sample a variety of genres. Reading, writing, and success in school are closely interrelated. Even more importantly, reading engages the imagination like no other medium, transporting readers into the hearts and minds of others.

Instructions:

All students in middle school must read *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper and complete the activity.

Assignments should be completed before the beginning of school. **Work will be due on Tuesday, September 15, and will count as a homework grade.**

If you have questions during the summer, please e-mail Mrs. Frassetto at kfrassetto@hohokus.org.

1. **Required:** *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper
2. **Required:** CHOICE - *The Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen OR *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
 1. **Blended** by Sharon M. Draper as well as both activities
 - All students must read **Blended** and complete one of the attached assignments.
 2. **Options:** (Choose one novel to read and complete the activities)
 - **Required Option A:** *The Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen
 - **Required Option B:** *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Required Reading:



Blended by Sharon M. Draper

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves.

Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels completely stuck in the middle, split and divided between them more than ever. And she is beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad involves more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting: "You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." "But what are you really?" She knows what they're really saying: "You don't look like your parents." "You're different." "What race are you really?" And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again—until the worst thing happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired.



1. [Read here to learn more about Sharon M. Draper!](#)

2. [Activities:](#)

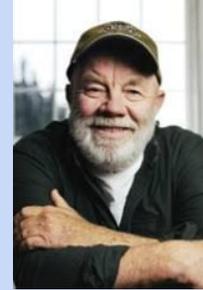
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Choice Reading: Choose one of the following novels to read and complete the assignment:



***The Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen**

An adventurous boy named Mark is transported through time to a strange and dangerous world where he encounters friendships but also faces violence and war as he struggles to survive and tries to understand this puzzling new world.



1. [Click here to learn more about Gary Paulsen](#)
2. Complete the slides as you read

[Activities](#)

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/23384/gary-paulsen>



***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

A young girl, Esperanza (meaning “hope”), lives with her wealthy family in Mexico. She is just about to celebrate her birthday when suddenly her family’s plantation is attacked, and she and her mother must flee to America.

They become farm workers and use their strength, determination, and imagination to make a living and regain their happiness



1. **Click here to learn more about [Pam Muñoz Ryan](#)**
2. Complete the slides as you read:

[Activities](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan

