

May 2021

Dear Parents or Guardians:

In Katy ISD, all students are encouraged to read for pleasure over the summer. Summer reading provides many advantages for students, including maintaining skills, fostering independent learning, increasing vocabulary, and promoting a lifelong love of reading. Additionally, students who enroll in KAP, KAP/GT, or AP English courses in grades 6-12 are expected to read an appropriately challenging work of literary merit over the summer to create an initial common framework for course discussion and study.

KAP and AP English courses offered in grades 6-12 are designed to develop reading, writing, and thinking skills necessary for success in these courses and the Advanced Placement examinations available upon completion of AP English courses. Students who are successful on Advanced Placement exams may be awarded credit for college English courses at most colleges and universities.

For the summer of 2021, students should carefully read **one** novel that addresses the theme and essential questions of the first unit of study. Students may select a text from the list on the following page or choose their own novel that meets the specified criteria. Text selections on the following page meet the specified criteria.

Sixth Grade KAP
Theme: New Beginnings

Essential Questions

- How do new beginnings provide new opportunities?
- How does our point of view influence the choices we make?
- How do our personal experiences shape our views of others?

The theme and essential questions above provide students with a focus for their reading. After classroom instruction, these guiding questions and the summer reading text will provide the basis for discussion and/or writing in the fall semester.

Encourage your child to complete this reading by the start of school in August. All students must complete the reading no later than Monday, August 23, 2021.

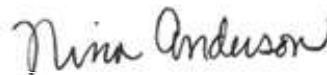
A copy of this letter can be found online at katyisd.org under Parent Resources/Summer Reading. A parent who has a concern with the text options may contact Amanda Palmer at amandakpalmer@katyisd.org or 281.237.7059 or Nina Anderson at carolineeanderson@katyisd.org or 281.396.2121.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Amanda Palmer
Secondary ELA Curriculum Coordinator



Nina Anderson
Secondary ELA Curriculum Coordinator

Sixth Grade KAP Summer Reading Guidance

Thematic topic	New Beginnings
Essential questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do new beginnings provide new opportunities? How does our point of view influence the choices we make? How do our personal experiences shape our views of others?
Suggested texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Counting by 7s</i> by Holly Goldberg Sloan <i>Home of the Brave</i> by Katherine Applegate <i>One Crazy Summer</i> by Rita Williams-Garcia <i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon Draper <i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman <i>Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</i> by Kwame Mbalia
Criteria for selecting texts	<p>If none of the suggested summer reading texts are of interest, students may select their own novel using the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connection to the grade level essential questions Age appropriate characters (main characters are between 11 & 15)

Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life. . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate

Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter – cold and unkind. In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means "family" in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country.

***One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia**

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it... somehow.

Restart* by Gordon Korman

Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is -- it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole 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. Tristan chases after it—is that a doll?—and a tug-of-war ensues between them underneath a Bottle Tree. In a last attempt to wrestle the journal out of the creature's hands, Tristan punches the tree, accidentally ripping open a chasm into the MidPass, a volatile place with a burning sea, haunted bone ships, and iron monsters that are hunting the inhabitants of this world. Tristan finds himself in the middle of a battle that has left black American folk heroes John Henry and Brer Rabbit exhausted. In order to get back home, Tristan and these new allies will need to entice the god Anansi, the Weaver, to come out of hiding and seal the hole in the sky. But bartering with the trickster Anansi always comes at a price. Can Tristan save this world before he loses more of the things he loves?

***Available for checkout through Sora.**

Sixth Grade KAP Summer Reading Processing Document

In August, your ELA classes will participate in discussions and complete various activities about the book you chose and how it relates to the essential questions. Consider using this processing document to gather evidence and hold your thinking as you read. This will help you be an active participant in discussions and be prepared for reading responses.

<h2>Essential Questions</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do new beginnings provide new opportunities? • How does our point of view influence the choices we make? • How do our personal experiences shape our views of others?
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Directions: As you are reading, find and record five to ten pieces of text evidence for each of the three elements (setting, character, and conflict) to support your thinking. Evidence should come from the beginning, middle, and end of the text. You may find it helpful to recreate these charts on separate sheets of paper, so you have more room to write.

What is the connection of the SETTING to the essential questions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does something happen in a society or community that forces the character to grow up? • Do traditions within the community or society influence the plot or character development? 	What is the connection of the CHARACTERS to the essential questions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the character change throughout the novel? How? Why? 	What is the connection of the CONFLICTS to the essential questions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What problems are present in the novel? • How do they impact the characters and/or society? • How do the problems impact traditions in the community/society?
Text Evidence (page/location*)	Text Evidence (page/location*)	Text Evidence (page/location*)

Based on my evidence, I believe the theme of _____ is _____ because _____.

*Including the page (for a print book) or location (for a digital book) will help you remember where you found the evidence.