

April 15, 2019

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student,

*Happy Summer!* You have worked very hard this year and in order to be most prepared for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the following assignment, ***which will be graded***, must be completed and turned into your ELA teacher no later than **Friday, August 16, 2019**.

Please read one book from the list of Middle School Sunshine State Books for 2019-20. These books can be purchased from book stores, ordered online, or checked out at your local library. Then complete the following assignment.

- Write a book summary. This summary must be very neatly handwritten (on lined paper) or typed and 1-2 pages in length. *If you choose to type your summary, it must be in size 12 font and you must use a font that is easy to read.* Your summary should be well organized with the main events that happened in the beginning of the story, middle of the story, and end of the story. Please see attached example.

Have a wonderful summer and remember to **read a lot!**

Sincerely,  
Your 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher  
Seven Springs Middle School



**Book Summary – GHOST**  
**by Jason Reynolds**

Castle Cranshaw is a seventh-grader living in the poor part of town with a tragic family history. In fourth grade his dad, an alcoholic, tried to shoot him and his mom. They barely managed to escape alive, and ever since he felt that running was his destiny. He also chose the nickname Ghost for himself because of the way a shopkeeper looked at him and his mom the night they ran away.

One day Ghost was watching a track team private practice, and he challenged the fastest runner in the team, Lu. He unexpectedly won, and at first Ghost declined the coach's offer to join the Defenders track team, but then Coach Brody convinced him to join and his mom to allow it.

Ghost constantly gets in trouble at school. One day he gets suspended for hitting a bully and he pretends that Coach Brody is his uncle to get him out of trouble. That day was also Ghost's first day of practice with his new team, and he gets to talk with Coach Brody about his fears that started on the night his dad wanted to kill Ghost and his mom.

His first day of practice does not go well. He trips and falls while competing with Lu, and Ghost decides to cut off the tops of his high top sneakers. But the next morning in school Ghost realizes the kids are going to make fun of him because of the cut sneakers, so he skips class and steals a pair of running shoes from a sports store. He then goes to the neighborhood store where he hid in the stockroom with his mom the night they were hiding from his dad. Charles, the shopkeeper, tells him to follow his dreams and makes him help stock the shelves.

Ghost accidentally gets locked in the stockroom that brings back terrible memories of the shooting and he is late for practice. His practice does not go too well, but at home his mom seems to be pleased that Ghost is training.

During a dinner for the newbies with his track teammates and Coach Brody, each of them has to share a secret. Ghost learns, among other, that his rival, Lu, suffers because he is an albino, and that Coach Brody won an Olympic gold medal. Ghost tells the team that his dad is in jail for trying to kill him and his mom. Sharing the secret makes him bond with the other kids.

Just when practice seemed to start working for him, Coach Brody finds out that Ghost stole the running shoes and makes Ghost apologize to the storekeeper, who forgives him. Ghost tells the coach that he cannot possibly understand what it is like to grow up in a bad neighborhood with a violent father. Coach Brody shares his tragic experience growing up in the same neighborhood with a drug addict father and what motivated him to become an Olympic champion.

After all of these events, Ghost feels like he finally belongs to the team. The book's last chapter shows Ghost on his first 100 meter race, competing with his teammate Lu and, to his great surprise, against Brandon, the bully from his school that he once beat up, while Ghost is cheered on by family and friends. The author does not tell us who won that race, but for a kid like Ghost participating is winning.

I learned from this book that even in the most difficult life situations, you can still find something you are very good at, and that becomes more important than anything else and will make you happy.

# SSYRA Books

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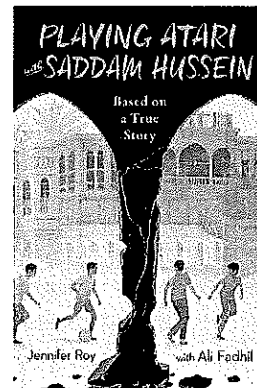
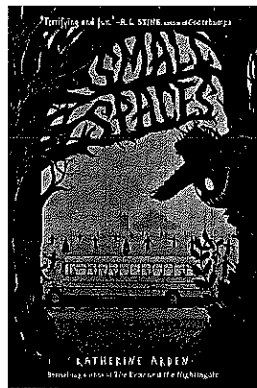
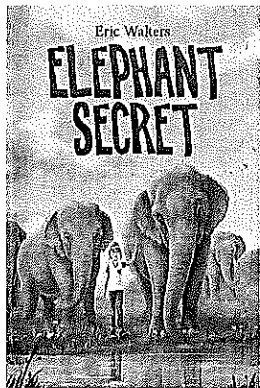
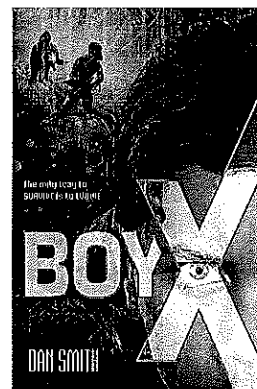
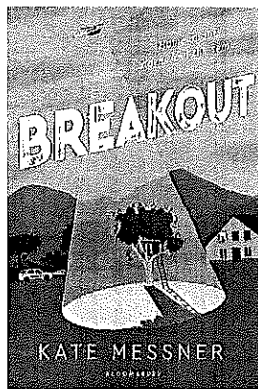
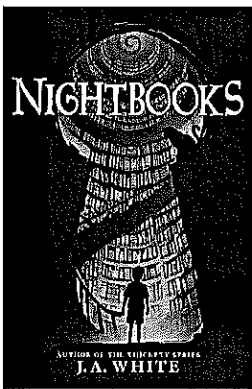
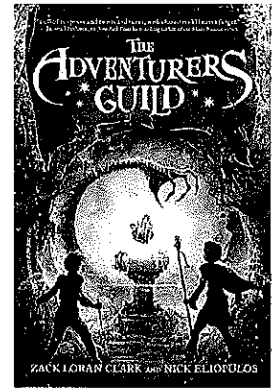
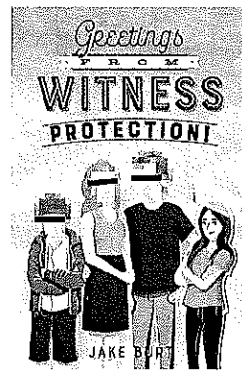
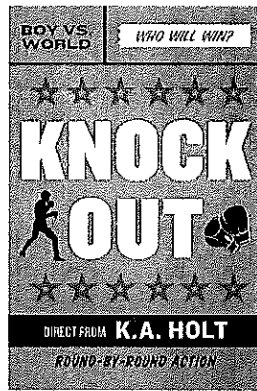
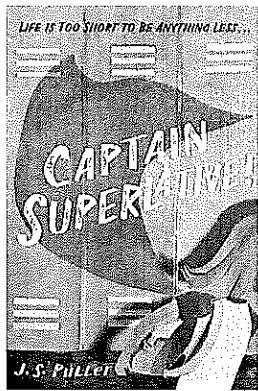
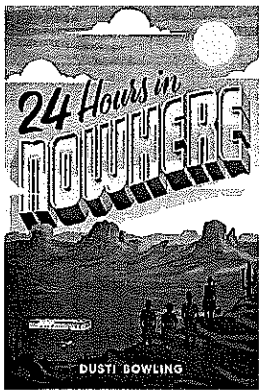


# 2019-2020

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# Grades 6-8



How many will you read???