



Summer Reading Requirement for Incoming 6th Graders



Each incoming 6th grader to Academy of Tucson Middle School is asked to read one of the below two book choices during the summer before their 6th grade year. The two books below were chosen for their theme of survival and their connection to nature. Both are also Newbery Award winners. One book has a female protagonist; the other a male. Upon completion, students need to write a one-page summary in neat handwriting (or typed) that includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Who is the main character, and what is their situation at the start of the book?
- What are they hoping to achieve, and why is this important to them?
- What is the inciting incident that starts the main character's conflict and journey?

BOOK CHOICE #1: Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Island of the Blue Dolphins is a classic children's novel by Scott O'Dell, based on the true story of a young Nicoleño girl, Karana, who lived alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island off the coast of California in the 1800s. The book, a Newbery Medal winner, follows Karana as she survives by building shelter, finding food, and making weapons, developing a deep connection with nature and animals while waiting for rescue. It's a story of survival, self-reliance, and courage.

BOOK CHOICE #2: Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Hatchet is a 1987 young-adult novel by Gary Paulsen about 13-year-old Brian Robeson, who must survive alone in the Canadian wilderness after a plane crash, armed with only a hatchet his mother gave him. The book follows his transformation as he learns to find food, build shelter, and make fire, overcoming despair and self-pity to develop new maturity and self-reliance over 54 days before his rescue.

IMPORTANT: Students' one-page book summary should be completed by the first day of school. It will be collected and assessed by a teacher. In addition, a quiz will be given at the start of the school year on each book.