Recommended Summer Reading
Students Entering 6th Grade in 2013-2014

To prepare for unit 1, “Communicating Personal Experiences,” focus on memoir and personal narratives, by reading texts such as:

- *When I Was Your Age, Volume Two: Original Stories About Growing Up*, edited by Amy Ehrlich
- *Marshfield Dreams: When I was a Kid* by Ralph Fletcher
- *Baseball in April and Other Stories* by Gary Soto
- *Guys Write for Guys Read* by Jon Scieszka
- *Journey* by Patricia Maclachlan

To prepare for unit 2, “Painting Pictures with Words,” focus on descriptive language (including imagery and figurative language), by reading award-winning texts such as:

- *Moon over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Olive’s Ocean* by Kevin Henkes
- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

To prepare for unit 3, “Exploring Text Structures,” focus on unique text structures (including alternating perspectives, flashbacks), by reading texts such as:

- *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen
- *No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman
- *Witness* by Karen Hesse
- *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes
- *Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- *Bull Run* by Paul Fleischman
- *The Girls* by Amy Goldman Koss

To prepare for unit 4, “Imagining Other Worlds,” focus on historical and science fiction and specifically the role of setting in non-realistic fiction, by reading texts such as:

- *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Collier
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Summer of My German Solider* by Bette Greene
- *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck
- *Rodzina* by Cushman
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L’Engel
- *The Truth about Sparrows* by Hale