

Your Name: _____

The Brandeis School- Summer Reading for Grade 6 (entering September 2010)

TWO BOOKS+ REQUIRED NOTETAKING

- 1) **All students entering grade 6** will read and be able to answer study guide questions on **Among The Hidden** by Margaret Haddix. (A copy of the book will be provided).
- 2) Use **post-its** while you read **Among the Hidden**, marking the pages which contain the answers to the study guide questions (see page 4). With these post-its, you will be discussing and writing about the book on your return to school. Your book will be checked on the very first day of school. Please follow the directions carefully.
- 3) Students must choose **another book** to read from the list below **and complete short notes** for the second book according to the format on page 5. Make sure your notes are legibly written or typed.
- 4) If you have another book you want approved for reading, you must show it to Mrs. Cohen before the summer.

Susan Bartoletti's **The Boy Who Dared** is based on research from her previous book, **Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow**. When 16-year-old Helmuth Hubner listens to the radio, he quickly discovers that Nazi Germany is lying to its people. But when he tries to expose the truth, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmuth's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the "patriotism" of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.

Nick of Time- Ted Bell

In the grand tradition of epic novels like Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* comes a tale of time travel, adventure, and riches, in which twelve-year-old Nick McIver sets out to become "the hero of his own life." (long)

The Warriors-Joseph Bruchac

Jake felt at home on the reservation with his people, the Iroquois. He loved playing lacrosse and was one of the best players. But all that changed when his mother took a job in another city and Jake had to begin attending a boarding school. Luckily the school has a lacrosse team but soon Jake finds out that his new coach has some strange ideas about the game and the native people who created it. Will Jake be able to make his coach and his new teammates understand him or his people? (Sports, short)

The Sisters Grimm: The Fairy-Tale Detectives- Michael Buckley

Life hasn't been a fairy tale for Sabrina and Daphne Grimm. First, their parents mysteriously disappear; second, Sabrina and Daphne constantly have to run away from all sorts of terrible foster homes; and then third, someone claiming to be their dead grandmother comes to take them to a new home! But this home is stranger than any that they have ever seen--is the old woman crazy or is she

telling the truth? Is there a dangerous giant on the loose, and have these fairytale characters REALLY come to life? (mystery, short)

In *Graceling*, by Kristin Cashore, Katsa was born with the ability to kill men with her bare hands, but can she find moral courage to stand up to evil rulers and fight for what is right?

In Eoin Colfer's *Airman*, Conor Broekhart spends his days dreaming of flying hot air balloons and inventing flying machines until murder and court intrigue send him to prison and labor in the diamond mines. (Colfer also wrote the well-known Artemis Fowl series)

The Midwife's Apprentice- Karen Cushman is about a strong young woman in medieval England. From the first page you're caught by the spirit of the homeless, nameless girl, somewhere around 12 years old. She gets the village midwife to take her in, befriends a cat, names herself Alyce, and learns many things about life.

Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story- Malka Drucker

The year that she is eight, Marissa asks a fifth question at the family Passover Seder. She wants to know who the two guests are who have been staying with her family; enjoying the Seder, and they're "not even Jewish." The response is the story of how Alex and Mela Roslan saved him and his brother during the Holocaust. The remainder of the book is that story, set in Poland between 1941-1945.

The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forester tells the story of Piper, whose amazing ability gets her into a top secret school for kids with unusual abilities. However, the school is ready for a full-scale rebellion and Victoria has to decide which side to join.

The Princess Academy by Shannon Hale is the story of Miri, a village girl who cannot stay home and get a job like the rest of her family, but must be sent to a special school where the wife of the prince is trained. Miri turns her search for Prince Charming into something totally unexpected!

The Wish -Gail Carson Levine

In this original modern-day fairy tale, we meet Wilma, a friendless eighth-grader whose wish to become the most popular girl at school comes true. Now, Wilma's life is everything she ever dreamed of. She is the center of attention, has dozens of friends, and she can do whatever she pleases and people still love her! But what will she do in a few weeks at graduation, when her wish ends and her popularity will disappear?

The Big Field- Mike Lupica

The focus is on one player's life in the run-up to the big game. Fourteen-year-old Hutch is the best player on his American Legion team, in the hot-shot position of shortstop — until Darryl Williams, an exceptionally talented player, arrives on the scene.

The Candy Shop War- Brandon Mull

Welcome to the Sweet Tooth Ice Cream & Candy Shoppe, where the confections are a bit on the unusual side: Rock candy that makes you weightless, chocolate that makes you a master of disguise. Four friends meet the grandmotherly Mrs. White, owner of the Sweet Tooth, and soon learn about the unexpected side effects of her candies.

Blizzard- Jim Murphy

“A fascinating account of the March 1888 storm that left 55 inches of snow and paralyzed the Northeastern U.S. for four days.” (Chicago Public Library) “Stellar nonfiction” (ALA) Also by Murphy and recommended: *A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy* and *The Long Road to Gettysburg*, the story of the Civil War’s bloodiest battle, and two teenagers who were officers during that battle.

In *Wake*, by Lisa McMann, Janie Hannigan can slip into other people’s dreams. Do the dreamers know she is there? Can she help them overcome their nightmares? Or will they create nightmares for her?

Six Innings: A Game in the Life -James Preller

Sam Reiser, almost 13, a former star player sidelined by serious illness, is the play-by-play announcer. The book is framed around a single Little League championship game. We are rooting for Sam’s team, Earl Grubb’s Pool Supplies, against Northeast Gas & Electric.

Yoni Netanyahu- Devra N. Speregen

Few rescue missions have succeeded like "Operation Thunderbolt," the Israeli plan led by Yoni Netanyahu on July 4, 1976, to rescue 105 hijacked Jewish passengers held captive in Uganda’s Entebbe Airport. In her gripping biography Speregen introduces young readers to one of Israel’s bravest soldiers. Two **other** biographies of famous Jews by Speregen are also acceptable: Albert Einstein and Ilan Ramon.

Fifteen Minutes- Steve Young

When seventh-grader Casey finds his grandfather’s old watch in the attic, he puts it on, but like most of Grandpop’s inventions, it doesn’t seem to work right. Then, Casey discovers that he can’t take it off. Grandpop’s notebook reveals that the watch is actually a time machine that can take its wearer 15 minutes into the past. At first Casey is delighted, and he uses the watch to enhance his coolness rating with the popular girls and to outsmart a bully. But then...

Other options from the book fair:

Avi: *The Seer of Shadows*

Rawls: *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Du Prau: *City of Ember*

Curtis: *Bud, Not Buddy*

Swanson: *Chasing Lincoln’s Killer* (non-fiction)

Riordan: *The Lightning Thief*

Funke: *Igraine the Brave*

Levine: *Fairest*

St. John: *The White Giraffe*

White: *Belle Prater’s Boy*

6th Grade Summer Reading- The Brandeis School- Summer, 2010

Study Guide Questions for Among the Hidden: Use your post-its to mark the answer to each question. You might need more than one Post-it for a question.

1. Why is Luke's family so terrified of the government? What strategies does the government use to make Luke's family feel so powerless?
2. Discuss the differences between the Barons and ordinary citizens. How are the families of Jen and Luke different in life style and privileges?
3. What are two important moments in the growth of Jen and Luke's friendship? What makes you feel they are important?
4. Why is it interesting that Jen is a rebel? Why does it take Luke a while to agree with her attitude and to approve of her actions?
5. What are two ways our government in the United States is different from the government in the book?
6. Who are the hidden in this story? Why are they hidden and who is trying to find them?
7. When and where does the book take place? Why do you think so?
8. What purpose do you think the author has for writing the book?
9. Where in the world today does a government limit the number of children a family can have? What are its reasons?

(Hint: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/03/10/china.onechild/index.html>

Or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One-child_policy)

6th - Grade Summer Reading List: Notes Format for Your Choice Book

Directions: As you are reading, please make sure to take notes on five separate loose-leaf pages using the categories below as a guide. Write a heading on the first page. Use **one** page for **each** of the five categories. Write at least five **full sentences** on each page and use details from your reading. Staple the pages for each book together. Bring everything with you on the **first day of class**.

Page #1: Your Name: _____
Title of Book: _____
Author: _____
Date Reading Completed: _____

Page #2. Main idea: Write out the main idea from the book and briefly describe it. Include 5 incidents from the book that show the idea.

Example: The book shows that it is important to be loyal to your family. When Jon doesn't go to basketball practice because he wants to listen to his sister's problem, he shows that he values his family. Because he acts this way, his sister feels a lot better.

Page #3. Setting: a. In what **time period** does the novel/book take place?
b. **Where** does it take place?)
c. In what ways is this setting important to the story/book?

Page #4. Conflict (challenge): What is the main character's challenge or problem? How is it resolved?

Page #5. Recommendation: Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not? Give at least two reasons and be specific.