

## **6th Grade:**

### **Welcome to 6th Grade and Middle School!**

**Hello everyone!** My name is **Ms. Rai** (pronounced Ray, like a sun ray) and I am so excited to meet with you and get to learn more about you and your interests! Over the next year I want us to explore more about the world around us and how history very much ties into the decisions we make as individuals, as a nation, and within the world today! The books I have chosen for our summer reading can be found in bookstores, online, as digital copies, or in libraries. Please choose one of the following books to read to help us prepare for next year!

History shapes and builds all the parts of the life we know right now, making connections from past to present is an essential part of being a historian. Over the course of the next year we will be examining the Ancient World. The books I have chosen below have been arranged by topic area of themes we will uncover as we survey ancient civilizations. Studying how these ancient civilizations planned water systems, valued resources, and shaped agriculture can give us a better understanding on how to discuss and plan for the effects of climate change today. The movements of nomadic people to hunt and gather resources and form boundaries within their communities might help us comprehend issues in immigration. The effects of colonialism and the ability of ancient civilizations to adapt or fall ill to new diseases can give us more insight into the pandemics of the 20th and 21st century. The evolution, explosion, and destruction of these civilizations laid the foundations for our world and brought forth a system of power and representation that not only exists for Indigenous voices but also minority voices today. Understanding how global issues have developed over time will help us better understand our world and the ancient world.

### **6th Grade Summer Reading List: (Choose ONE)**

#### **Climate Change:**

- *Life As We Knew It* by [Susan Beth Pfeffer](#)
- *Hoot* by [Carl Hiaasen](#)

#### **Immigration:**

- *Orange for the Sunsets* by [Tina Athaide](#)
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by [Thanhha Lai](#)

#### **Epidemics:**

- *Auma's Long Run* by [Eucabeth Odhiambo](#)
- *The Island at the End of Everything* by [Kiran Millwood Hargrave](#)

#### **Indigenous and Minority Voices:**

- *The Ugly One* by [Leanne Statland Ellis](#)
- *How I Became A Ghost* by [Tim Tingle](#)
- *Ghost Boys* by [Jewell Parker Rhodes](#)
- *A Good Kind of Trouble* by [Lisa Moore Ramée](#)

## **6th Grade Guiding Questions:**

(Follow only the Guiding Questions that align with the topic you have chosen)

You do **NOT** have to answer these questions writing, but please think about them and keep them in mind as you read.

### **Climate Change:**

- What do you already know about climate change? What new things have you learned after reading?
- How is climate change impacting our world? What sort of events are happening because of climate change?
- Why is climate change a problem for many communities right now and how will it be a problem for all communities in the future?
- What steps should we take to work together to help slow down climate change? What will happen if we don't take these necessary steps?

### **Immigration:**

- What do you already know about immigration? What new things have you learned after reading?
- Why do some people immigrate to other countries? What causes or forces them to move?
- What experiences do immigrants have on their journey to a new place and once they have settled into their new homes?
- How might immigration benefit and hurt countries around the world?

### **Epidemics:**

- What do you already know about epidemics/pandemics? What new things have you learned after reading?
- Why are epidemics a global problem not just a national problem?
- Why do epidemics impact some communities more than others?
- How can we work together in the world to make sure all people are given equal access to medicine and healthcare?

### **Indigenous Voices:**

- What do you already know about Indigenous people? What new things have you learned after reading?
- Why are Indigenous people sometimes left out of conversation in society?
- How does the United States treat Indigenous people in our society today?
- Do you think it is fair that Indigenous people are often misrepresented, turned into cartoons, or used as mascots for sports teams? Why or why not?