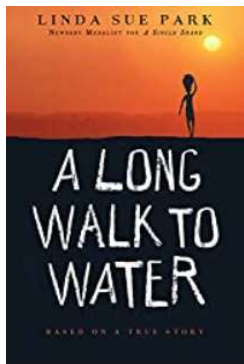


MPH Summer Reading 2022

6th Grade:

Welcome to 6th grade and middle school! 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 what it means to be a historian. What are the skills a historian needs to know to piece together the past? Where are places in the world and how did it impact their success as growing civilizations? How do good historians research, write, and convince people of their ideas? Understanding how historians have developed these skills and building up our own will help us to understand the world through a historical lens. This summer the books I choose relate more to our current world than the skills we will build in class. They amplify voices and stories of those we don't usually hear from. You can read more than one if you would like!

6th Grade History Summer Reading List: (Choose any one of the books below)

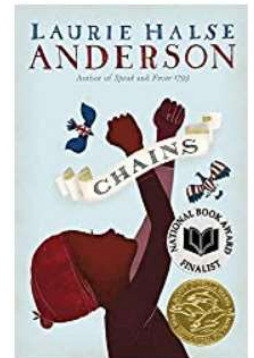


1. *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue-Park

“The New York Times bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours’ walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the ‘lost boys’ of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya’s in an astonishing and moving way.”

2. *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

“As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.”

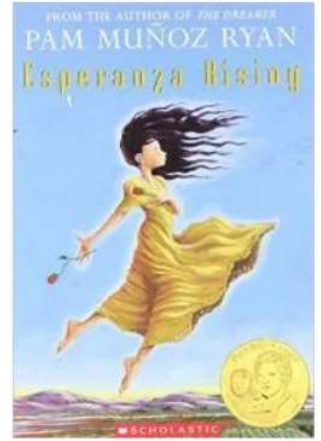


3. *The Last Cherry Blossom* by Kathleen Burkinshaw

Yuriko was happy growing up in Hiroshima when it was just her and Papa. But her aunt Kimiko and her cousin Genji are living with them now, and the family is only getting bigger with talk of a double marriage! And while things are changing at home, the world beyond their doors is even more unpredictable. World War II is coming to an end, and since the Japanese newspapers don't report lost battles, the Japanese people are not entirely certain of where Japan stands. Yuriko is used to the sirens and the air-raid drills, but things start to feel more real when the neighbors who have left to fight stop coming home. When the bombs hit Hiroshima, it's through Yuriko's twelve-year-old eyes that we witness the devastation and horror.

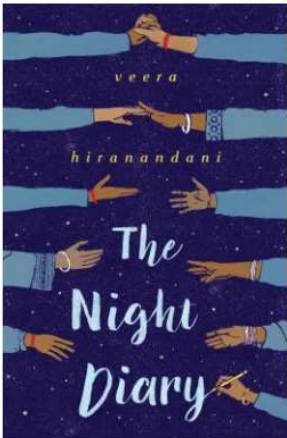
4. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza leads a fairytale life. Her father is a wealthy landowner in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and Esperanza is his only pampered child. She has silk dresses, porcelain dolls, and all the papaya salad she can eat. Every year after the grape harvest, her parents, grandmother, and all the household servants throw her a huge birthday party. But when her father dies, she and her mother must leave everything behind. They settle in a Californian camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza must learn to adjust to a life of hard physical labor. The poor working conditions cause many Mexican workers to strike. Esperanza believes in their cause, but also wants to earn enough money to bring her Abuelita to America.



5. *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani

Nisha is a twelve-year-old girl who lives with her twin brother, her father, and her grandmother in India in 1947. Her Muslim mother died during childbirth, and Nisha writes letters to her in her diary every night. Since being freed from the British, India has been divided and there is great tension between the Hindus and the Muslims. India is divided in two countries: India and Pakistan. The divide is supposed to reduce tensions. But Nisha is both, half Muslim and half Hindu. She's not sure where she belongs. She writes her accounts of civil unrest and danger in a diary full of letters to her dead mother—hoping that she can find a way to feel whole again.



6. *One True Way* by Shannon Hitchcock

Allie and Sam are classmates at Daniel Boone Middle School. Allie and Sam are friends. Allie and Sam are girls. Allie and Sam are falling for each other. In 1977 North Carolina, the people in Allie and Sam's town are not accepting of same sex relationships. The two girls witness the hatred spewed at other LGBTQ members of the community. As a result, they decide to hide their mutual romantic feelings. Although they have different reasons to avoid straying from their families' expectations, both girls try to find ways to be true to themselves. It's 1977, and girls who like girls are forced to question their choices. *One True Way* is a story that widens the heart and sheds light on what it means to be different while at the same time being wholly true to oneself.



7. *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper

Things have been peaceful in eleven-year-old Stella's small North Carolina town for a while. Peaceful doesn't mean equal. In the Jim Crow South, Stella notices the nicer white school building and the fact that the white doctor doesn't treat African Americans. But the KKK hasn't been active in a long time. Until 1932, with the Depression making finding work hard for everyone, the Klan resurrects itself. Stella and her brother Jojo witness the Ku Klux Klan burning a cross late one starry night, and when Stella's Dad decides to vote with two other black men, Stella's family and her entire community are in danger.

