In preparation for 6th grade, you must read at least three books from the summer reading list. One of the books must be *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. You should read this book near the end of the summer so that its contents will be fresh in your memory when the book is discussed at the beginning of the year.

After reading the book, write two paragraphs in your best writing on loose-leaf paper.

**Paragraph 1:** Choose an important event from the story and explain what happened.

**Paragraph 2:** Explain what effect this event had on the story.

Next, choose a book from the List of Suggested Books provided below. After reading the book, write a paragraph on separate loose-leaf paper or on a word processor describing one of the characters in the book you selected. Be sure to tell what kind of person your character is. Give supporting examples. Include the title and author of the book.

Then, read another book from the List of Suggested Books. After you have finished, make a colorful, creative poster advertising your book. Be sure that your poster follows these guidelines:

(a) Use 12”x 18” or 14”x 22” poster board;
(b) Include the title and author on the poster;
(c) Write something on the poster to encourage others to read the book;
(d) Sign your name in the bottom right corner.

Be sure your lettering and artwork are neat. These posters will be displayed at the beginning of the year.

**READ WIDELY OVER THE SUMMER.** You should read at least a book every two weeks. Additional books may be chosen from the suggested list but are not required to be from the list.

Keep a record of your summer reading on notebook paper. When you have finished reading a book, ask a parent or another adult to initial each entry.
EXAMPLE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Began</th>
<th>Finished</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julie of the Wolves</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>8/1</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>FB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, when your school year begins, you will be asked to turn in the following assignments to your humanities teacher:

1. A folder containing
   a. the two paragraphs on *Where the Red Fern Grows*,
   b. a character paragraph from a second book,
   c. a record sheet of your summer reading;

**List of Suggested Books**

**FICTION:**

*Dorp Dead* by Julia Cunningham: an orphan is apprenticed to an eccentric ladder maker and soon realizes the sinister nature of his new home.

*The Black Stallion* by Walter Farley: the story of a seventeen-year-old boy and a wild stallion, the only survivors of a shipwreck, who live for a time on an uninhabited island until they are rescued.

*King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Green: this retelling of the Arthurian legend introduces readers to the excitement of medieval romance and adventure.

*Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry: a crippled South Seas island boy battles himself to conquer his fear of the sea.

*A Swiftly Tilting Planet* or *A Wind in the Door* by Madeleine L’Engle: fascinating adventures in time and space from the author of *A Wrinkle in Time*. Recommended for readers of science fiction.

*Shadow of a Hero* by Peter Dickinson: an elderly man works for the independence of his country during the downfall of Communism in Eastern Europe.

*Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman: a young boy is determined to prove his courage and realize his dream by conquering the mountain that killed his father.
*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell: a young girl must survive alone on a Pacific Island.

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne: the fantastic voyages of Captain Nemo.

*Shadow of a Bull* by Maia Wojciechowska: a boy in Spain must live up to the reputation of his father, a great bullfighter. A Newberry Medal Winner.

*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Jonathan Wyss: a European family is shipwrecked on a tropical island and learns to build its own house, make clothes, hunt, and fish to survive.

*Harris and Me* by Gary Paulsen: the city boy meets the country boy in this humorous and heartfelt novel. Both Harris and “Me” learn from each other through a series of crazy adventures.

*What Hearts* by Bruce Brooks: follow Asa as he deals with the issues of growing up from seven to twelve and learns to redefine his world each time it changes.

*The Ear, the Eye, and The Arm* by Nancy Farmer: a funny, suspenseful tale set in futuristic Africa, where three children of a famous general are kidnapped. Three mutant detectives, named the Ear, the Arm, and the Eye, are hot on the children’s trail when they uncover a sinister plot.

**NONFICTION:**

*Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom* by Virginia Hamilton: traces the history of slavery in the United States from earliest slave trading to the Emancipation Proclamation in the voices and stories of those who lived it.

*The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy: historically accurate narrative of the Chicago Fire of 1871 illustrates the triumph of the human spirit in times of deepest despair.