Dear 5th-into-6th Graders,

When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.

-- Maya Angelou

Indeed, students gain a better sense of themselves through the exploration of different characters and their experiences in literature. Summer is a time of fun, exploration, and growth for middle school students; it is the perfect time to READ, READ, and READ! To read for pleasure can be one of the most rewarding activities in life. Now that the school year is coming to an end, we encourage you to continue to enjoy worthwhile books over the summer.

There is one required summer reading book. Please read *Becoming Naomi León* by Pam Muñoz Ryan. There will be an in class activity on this book at the beginning of 6th grade. DO NOT ANNOTATE! As you are reading, give some thought to the chapter titles and think about why the author named them as she did.

Please read as many books as you would like from the Summer Reading List for Rising 5th and 6th Graders and the Recommended Book Series list. You will find those lists on the MS Library website. In addition, here are a few titles we know students have enjoyed in the past:

*Shakespeare’s Secret* by Elise Broach  
*Me and Marvin Gardens* by Amy Sarig King  
*The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez  
*The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall  
*The Key to Extraordinary* by Natalie Lloyd  
*The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown

We wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming you to 6th grade.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Almog and Ms. Leibowitz  
6th Grade English Teachers