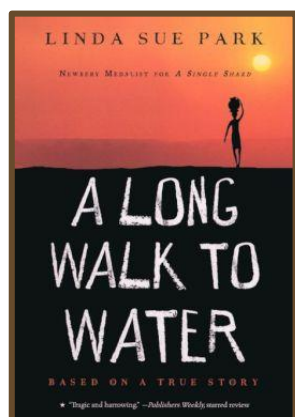


## Independence Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Requirements

Upon returning to school, students will work with their Language Arts teacher in a literature circle using the novels assigned as summer reading. The teacher will focus on discussing the plot, characters, and general themes. Students will also complete the Reading Counts Quiz. Sit back and read both novels or choose one. You are *required* to read at least one novel listed below.

The novels may be purchased at Barnes & Noble or found at the local library!



***A Long Walk To Water*** Author: Linda Sue Park

Lexile: 720L

Children who don't know anything about the Lost Boys of Sudan will gain a deep understanding and appreciation of their plight after reading this beautifully written book. Two stories are juxtaposed—two lives, two stories, joined by water and a Sudanese homeland. The narrative begins simply enough in 2008 with Nya walking back and forth to the pond two hours away, twice a day, fetching water for her family. Salva's story starts in 1985 in a schoolhouse as his daydream is interrupted by the sounds of gunfire and the rebel war breaking out around him. Both children undergo hardships and setbacks, some unimaginable. But they are joined in the end as Salva's story catches up to Nya's. Based on a true story, this simple yet compelling tale will leave a lasting and reverberating impact. Highly Recommended. Rita Fontinha, YA Librarian, Milton (Massachusetts) Public Library

***Rules***

Author: Cynthia Lord

Lexile: 780L

Catherine's younger brother, David, is autistic. She wants so badly for him to be “normal” that she makes up rules for him. While Catherine is struggling with her feelings about David, she meets Jason, a wheelchair-bound young man who communicates by pointing at word cards in a notebook. Catherine loves to draw and notices that Jason needs a larger and more colorful vocabulary. She makes him some new words, and their friendship begins. Catherine eventually comes to terms with her feelings of shame about David and about being seen with Jason. The first-person narrative is very engaging, and readers will identify with Catherine's struggles and cheer for her at the end. This is a great book to help students gain some understanding about autism, while also providing a good read. The author is a mother of an autistic child. Recommended. Robin Henry, Librarian, Lakeside Junior High, Little Elm, Texas

