

## Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Project

Every rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to read ONE novel of his or her choice from the historical fiction novels below and complete a summer reading project (the project will be **due August 26, 2024**). The project will be graded as a major test grade, and your student will present the project aloud to his or her classmates beginning on that date.

All three award-winning, historical fiction novels are aligned with the concepts and themes addressed throughout the year in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. And any of the novels can be checked out from the local library or can be purchased on-line or from local bookstores. Any questions can be answered by Magan Thomas at [mthomas@lmaedu.org](mailto:mthomas@lmaedu.org).

### **Novel Choices (Choose one.):**

*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth G. Speare

Or

*The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

Or

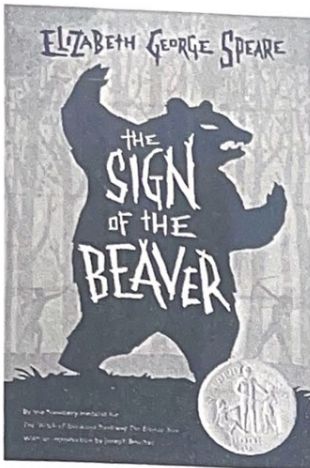
*The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd

### **Project Choices (Choose one.):**

Options	Requirements
<b>Journal It!</b> Pretend you are the main character. Write and illustrate a journal from his or her point of view.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not use notebook paper. Be more creative!</li><li>• Include <u>at least</u> 5 entries (each including an original drawing).</li><li>• Each entry should be at least one well-written paragraph (at least 5-8 sentences in length).</li></ul>
<b>Map Maker!</b> Create a full-color, hand-drawn map of the setting of the novel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not use notebook paper. Be more creative!</li><li>• Include <u>at least</u> 5 important locations.</li><li>• All locations should be labeled like a real map.</li><li>• Write a brief description of each location on the back or attached to the map. Descriptions must be at least two sentences each.</li></ul>
<b>Video Director!</b> Pretend a movie has just been made of the novel. Create a movie trailer for this book.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your film needs to be <u>at least</u> 3-5 minutes in length and should summarize the entire novel without giving away the ending for other readers.</li><li>• Videos can be made using a variety of free software and/or apps.</li></ul>

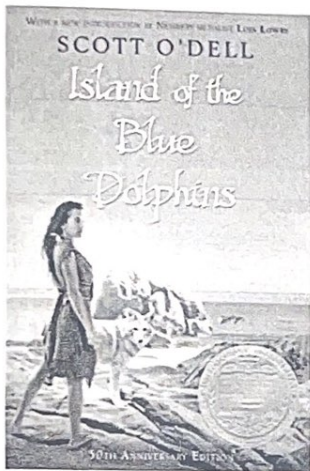
Students, don't wait until too late to start working on this. Let's have fun with these instead and consider this a way to share your personality with your classmates. We'll work on loads of projects like this in my class next year, and I look forward to getting to know you then!





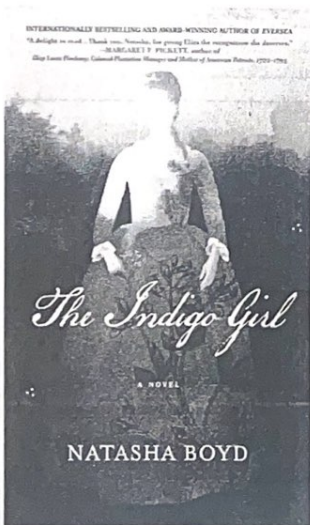
*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

Twelve-year-old Matt is left on his own in the Maine wilderness while his father leaves to bring the rest of the family to their new settlement. When he befriends Attean, an Indian chief's grandson, he is invited to join the Beaver tribe and move north. Should Matt abandon his hopes of ever seeing his family again and go on to a new life?



*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind. — This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. It is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.



*The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd

The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is sixteen years old when her father leaves her in charge of their family's three plantations in rural South Carolina and then proceeds to bleed the estates dry in pursuit of his military ambitions. Upon hearing how much the French pay for indigo dye, Eliza believes it's the key to their salvation. So begins an incredible story of love, dangerous and hidden friendships, ambition, betrayal, and sacrifice. Based on historical documents, including Eliza's letters, this is a historical fiction account of how a teenage girl produced indigo dye, which became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina, an export that laid the foundation for the incredible wealth of several Southern families who still live on today.