

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you and your student are enjoying the conclusion to a productive year with the Braintree Public Schools. Throughout the year, students had many opportunities to read and listen to books read aloud during the school day. Your support for those same reading experiences at home will help your child continue to grow as a reader, writer, thinker, and learner.

As you plan for the summer, please consider the literacy experiences your child will have in these months away from the classroom. Faculty members at East and South Middle Schools have selected Gennifer Choldenko's *Al Capone Does My Shirts* for all incoming sixth graders to read over the summer.

When school begins in the fall, all sixth grade English classes will participate in learning activities related to the novel. In addition to *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, your son or daughter should read at least one other book. Any title you select together is a great choice!

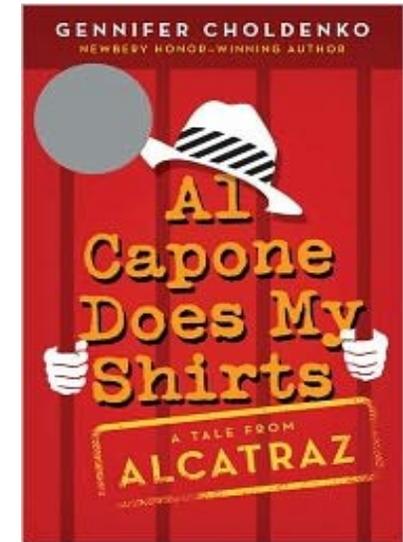
*Al Capone Does My Shirts* is readily available locally or via online booksellers, in paperback, hardcover or Kindle/Nook versions. In addition to local bookstores, the Thayer Public Library is a valuable (and free!) resource. If you need help in selecting more books, do not hesitate to ask the librarian!

For those of you planning travel this summer, consider going beyond the bookshelves and print pages to include audio books in your student's experience. These are available at the library on CD or on iTunes (ready to go right onto an iPod!). While audio books are no replacement for reading, they are a wonderful supplement, especially when experienced with a copy of the actual book. Many books are also available for reading on a Kindle, Nook, iPad, other tablet, or smartphone.

As you explore *Al Capone Does My Shirts* and other books that interest your student, remember that summer reading is for pleasure! I hope you and your son or daughter find many enjoyable books and stories to be part of your summer. I look forward to working with you throughout your student's middle school experience.

Sincerely,  
Rock B. Roberts  
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Braintree Public Schools Summer Reading  
for  
students  
entering  
grade 6



All students entering grade 6 at East or South will read...

Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz in 1935 so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco. It is a time when the federal prison is home to notorious criminals like gangster Al Capone. Depressed about having to leave his friends and winning baseball team behind, Moose finds little to be happy about on Alcatraz. He never sees his dad, who is always working; and Natalie's condition-- her tantrums and constant needs--demand all his mother's attention. Things look up for Moose when he befriends the irresistible Piper, the warden's daughter, who has a knack for getting Moose into embarrassing but harmless trouble. Helped by Piper, Moose eventually comes to terms with his new situation. With its unique setting and well-developed characters, this warm, engaging coming-of-age story has plenty of appeal, and Choldenko offers some fascinating historical background on Alcatraz Island in an afterword. *Ed Sullivan*  
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Students should also select a second book (with parent approval!) to read before the start of the year. The instructions for short written responses to each book are on the back of this page.

**Steps to a complete  
summer reading assignment  
for students entering grade 6:**

- Get your copy of *Al Capone Does My Shirts*—from the library, a local bookseller, or an online store.
- Read it and answer the questions below in your own handwriting on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Identify the qualities that make Moose a good brother. Support your answer by using examples from the text.

2. Piper is an emotional bully. Emotional bullying is when a person tries to get what they want by making others feel angry or afraid. Give three examples of times when Piper is an emotional bully.

3. Moose moves to a new place. Describe at least two positive effects and two negative effects of this change on Moose.

- Select any other book (with parent approval).
- Read it and complete the questions below in your own handwriting.
  1. List at least five important events and give a brief explanation of why each is important to the book.
  2. What is the central conflict or major problem that characters/people face in the book? How is it resolved?
  3. Describe a choice one of the main characters or people made in the book. How did this choice change that character/person? How did it affect the story as a whole?
- **This assignment should be completed before your return to school and will be graded for effort and completeness.**

- Turn in your written work to your English teacher in the fall.

- Participate in the summer reading class activity in your English class.

- Your passing or failing mark for summer reading will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent Portal.