



Some questions/issues to think about while you read *My Brigadista Year*:

1. Why were many people against the authority of Fidel Castro? Do you think his authority worked in the best interest of the people of Havana? Why or why not?
2. What is the value in having young people teaching others to read as opposed to older people?
3. Some governments suppress literacy in parts of the population, such as among females or certain ethnic groups. During the time of slavery in the United States, it was illegal in places to teach slaves to read. Under what circumstances is learning to read revolutionary? Why would a government forbid literacy? Why would a government like Castro's encourage it?
4. Describe the expectations of girls in this society. How does Laura go against these expectations?
5. Explain the concept of martyrdom. How do we see it playing out in the novel?

Reading Tips:

1. **"Break"** your book up into sections to make the reading manageable.
2. Set aside a **certain amount of time** that you need to complete your book.
3. **Keep notes (graphic organizer, journal, or other note taking tool)** to write down words, ideas, questions, or "aha" moments you have when you are reading.
4. Make a **connection** to what you are reading.
 - How is the character like you or like someone you know?
 - What is the conflict? Is it interesting? How did the author make it interesting?
 - Can you connect to the characters in the book? Why or why not?

Dear Rising 6th Grader,

Things have changed drastically over the past few months, but we would like to maintain some normalcy through the summer reading program! Over the next few months, we want to give you an opportunity to keep thinking about things that are happening in and outside of your world. Your teachers believe that you can do this through reading some exciting books! You are being asked to **read two books**:

Book 1– Strong Suggestion: *My Brigadista Year* by Katherine Patterson. The **assignment** is to write an **informational OR persuasive essay** (see rubrics as a guide).

*Please reach out to me, Dr. Dukes melanie.dukes@wesleyacademy.org or Dr. Pullen, alastair.pullen@wesleyacademy.org if you have a problem with getting the suggested book.

Book 2– A book of your choice. A list of optional books has been provided, long with the Lexile range.

For your second book, you will be required to create a representation of what you have learned (see suggestions below):

- Create a series of Tik Toks that summarizes/dramatizes the book.
- Design a video game based on the novel you read.
- Create a series of pictures that represents the sections or chapters of the book.
- Create a summarized graphic novel of the book.
- Create a Vlog that expresses your feelings about the book.
- Produce a YouTube series that documents the story—include the facts from the book—character development, conflicts, climax, and resolution.
- Write and record a one person show of the book.
- Create an indoor or outdoor game of the book: e.g. board game (Monopoly, Clue, Gestures), card game (UNO, Spoons), using sports equipment (four corners, dodge ball, basketball).
- Scrapbook

Due Date: The summer assignments are **due August 31st**.

Assignments received after this deadline is at the discretion of the teacher.

Here are some books that range in Lexiles (L) that your peers have compiled to choose from. Choose ONE (1) book for your second book reading requirement from the book list below:

Novel	Lexile Level
1. <i>Pride</i> by Ibi Zoboi	HL 760
2. <i>Lunar Chronicles</i> by Marissa Meyer (start with <i>Cinder</i>)	810
3. <i>Tortilla Sun</i> by Jennifer Cervantes	620
4. <i>Guts</i> by Gary Paulson	-
5. <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander	750
6. <i>Booked</i> by Kwame Alexander	660
7. <i>I am Mulalah</i> by Mulalah Yousafzai	-
8. <i>Outcast United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed the Town</i> by Warren St. John	980
9. <i>Bamboo People</i> by Matali Perkins	680
10. <i>As Brave as You</i> by Jason Reynold	750
11. <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson	990
12. <i>Save Me a Seat</i> by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadaraja	780
13. <i>Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public Health</i> by Judith Waltzer Leavit	-
14. <i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> (any title) by Lemony Snicket	890-1370
15. <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Hunt	550
16. <i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth	HL 700
17. <i>The War I Finally Won</i> by Kimberly Bradley	HL 520
18. <i>The Perfect Score</i> by Rob Buyea	710
19. <i>The Westing Game</i> by E. Raskin	750
20. <i>Jefferson's Sons</i> by Kimberly Bradley	680
21. <i>Lily and Duncan</i> by D. Gephart	680
22. <i>Piecing Me Together</i> by Renee Watson	680
23. <i>Uglies</i> by Scott Westerfeld	770
24. <i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio	790
25. <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park	720
26. <i>One Crazy Summer</i> by Rita Williams-Garcia	750
27. <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> by D. Keyes	910
28. <i>Langston Hughes: Young Black Poet</i> by M. Dunham	860
29. <i>Sweet Words So Brave: The Story of African American Literature</i> by Curry and Brodie	890
30. <i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler	580