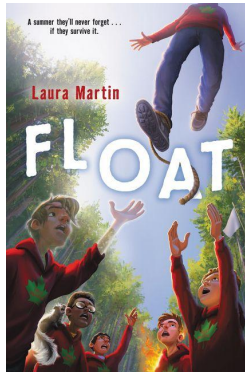


Upcoming Sixth Grade Summer Reading

The suggested literature study for this summer is:

*Float by Laura Martin

“**Float** by Laura Martin is about Emerson, a 12 year old boy, who is being sent to a government mandated camp for RISK kids. Emerson has a RISK (Reoccurring Incidents of the Strange Kind) factor that causes him to **float**, uncontrollably. He's also afraid of heights, which only further complicates his RISK factor.”



This book deals with the issue of belonging, a topic that we will address throughout sixth-grade.

After reading the book, you will have the chance to prepare a creative/digital project that you will share with your classmates. The project will be based on the book, Float , and will represent something about the issue of belonging. This is completely open-ended; be creative! Do not worry about being “right.” I want to see that you are thinking about the issue of belonging and using your imagination. Students in the past have created digital presentations using Clips, Keynote, Stop Motion, etc...

In addition to the digital project, I suggest you challenge yourself and answer the following discussion questions. Please respond to the following questions in full paragraphs using a digital platform such as Pages or Word.

Differences. Discuss the RISK factors for each of the six boys in Red Maple cabin. How do their “recurring incidents” re- flect their personalities? Are they shaped by their RISK factors or by the reactions of other people to what they do? Name the ways in which they accept each other’s different abilities.

Aging. Why does Hank suggest the boys all make “a life list” (p. 97)? Discuss his idea that people age according to the experiences they have rather than the passing of time. What do the items on each one’s “life list” tell you about their per- sonalities? How much older would you say each of the Red Maple boys is at the end of the summer?

Friendship. In the beginning of the summer, most of the campers want to escape, go home, or be somewhere else. What changes their minds about the camp experience and about each other? Which of these characters would you like to have as a friend and why?

Time and Space. Traveling in time is a recurring theme in fantasy and science fiction stories. How does Murphy feel about his time travel ability? Why does his RISK factor involve a government agency checking up on him? How is it possible for Murphy’s present and future selves to exist in the same space and time?

Identity. How does each of the Red Maple cabin boys develop a new sense of himself during the course of the summer at Camp Outlier? Is it the experiences they have or the new relationships that help them create a new sense of identity? What experiences and relationships in your own life have helped you to learn more about yourself and the person you want to become?

Write the Right Letter. Each of the Red Maple boys sends a letter to his parents at different stages in the story. Imagine you are a camper in a different cabin and write a letter home from Camp Outlier to your parents describing some of the activities during your summer. What would you want to share about your own experiences or about what is happening to others at the camp?

Turn your world around. Imagine that you could travel in time, like Murphy. Where would you want to go: to the past or the future? What part of the past would you like to experience? Write a short description of the period in history, or a time in your own recent past, that you would like to visit if you had this ability. Write a paragraph about how far into the future you would like to travel and what you would expect to find there.

