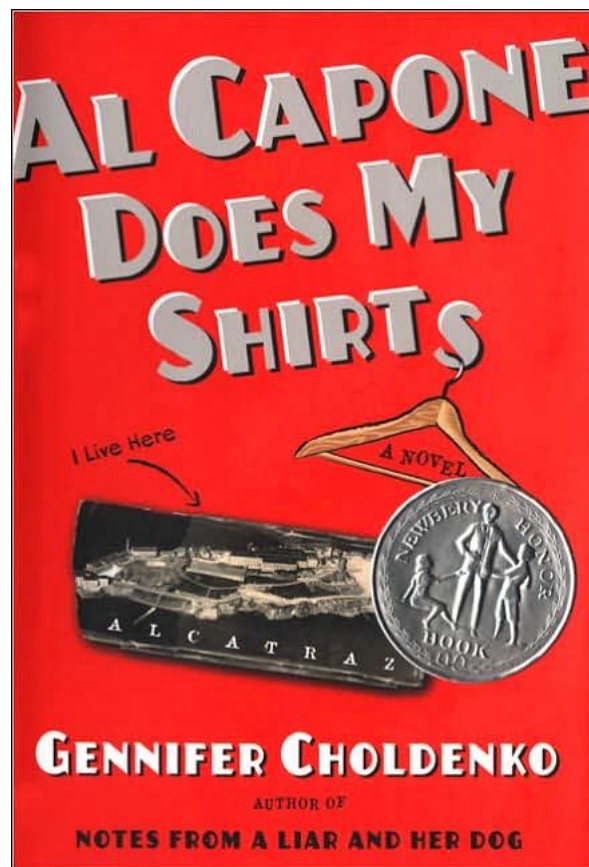


Sizzling 6th Grade Summer Reading

Turn up the heat
with Newberry honor novel:



In this appealing novel set in 1935, 12-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island where his father gets a job as an electrician at the prison and his mother hopes to send his autistic older sister to a special school in San Francisco. Family dilemmas are at the center of the story, but history and setting--including plenty of references to the prison's most infamous inmate, mob boss Al Capone--play an important part, too. The story, told with humor and skill, will fascinate readers until the end.

(School Library Journal)

Then dive into with one of these project options:

1. Research to learn more about Al Capone or another famous criminal mentioned in the novel who spent time at Alcatraz. Draw a timeline to depict the criminal's life, using drawings and descriptions to show important events. Students may wish to follow the format Theresa uses for her gangster information cards. (Parental discretion is advised)

2. What is autism? Use the Internet or reference books to learn more about autism, and create a poster or brochure to help educate your fellow classmates about this disorder. Be sure to include which signs of autism Natalie displays. Also, how has the treatment of autism changed since the 1930s?

3. Alcatraz was used as a prison from 1934 to 1963, but it was built long before that. Create a poster or a brochure that includes its previous use, why it was chosen to be a high security prison, how the prison was run, people who were imprisoned there, prisoners who escaped, and any other interesting information you find. You should also include a map of the area.

4. Create a 2-sided poster; one side should advertise Piper's laundry scheme as described in the book. If Piper came up with another money-making venture, what might it be? Would her next plan be as sneaky as the first? Come up with a new idea that Piper might use to make money on Alcatraz Island, and display an advertisement for it on the back.

FINALLY, relax and cool off! Turn in your project the **SECOND** day of school, and you could receive your first test grade of 100 of the school year.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Chen at dbby.chn@gmail.com

