

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Suggested Summer Reading List**

### **Abel's Island** by William Steig

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

### **Action Heroes Vol. 1** Captain Atom Archives

Contains a collection of Captain Atom comics, illustrated by "Spiderman" co-creator, Steve Ditko, and originally published in the 1960s, and includes "Space Adventures" #33-40 and 42, and "Captain Atom" #78-82.

### **Agnes Parker – Happy Camper?** By Kathleen O'Dell

Sequel to: Agnes Parker-- girl in progress. Science camp brings pranks, fun, rivalries, and a new and somewhat unsettling view of a long-time best friend.

### **Akiko: Pieces** of Gax by Mark Crilley

Sixth-grader Akiko and her friends from the planet Smoo travel to the upside-down city of Gollarondo where an accident befalls Gax the robot and a search begins for all his missing pieces.

### **Alabama Moon** by Watt Key

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

### **Alien Androids Assault Arizona** by Johnathan Rand

Shelby Crusado enlists her friend Joey in a quest to save Scottsdale, Arizona, and the world, when she discovers her teacher--who she long believed to be a robot--is one of a group of aliens intent on taking over the planet.

### **All the Way Home** by Patricia Reilly Giff

In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a boy from New York's apple country, and Mariel, a young girl made shy by her bout with polio, and the two make a journey from Brooklyn back to help Brick's elderly neighbors save their apple crop and to help Mariel learn about her past.

### **Ancient Greece** by Stewart Ross

Examines the lives of both the rich and the poor in ancient Greece, and describes how both social and economic classes lived, how they dressed, slavery, and much more.

### **Bud Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

**Cleopatra** by Diane Stanley

A biography of Cleopatra, who became queen of Egypt at the age of eighteen and maintained power over her kingdom through her alliances with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.

**Curse of the Pharaohs: My Adventures with Mummies** by Zahi Hawass

Zahi A. Hawass, currently in charge of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt, tells true stories of archaeology and Egypt's treasures.

**Dovey Coe** by Frances O'Roark Dowell

Accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother, as she attempts to clear her name.

**Earthquakes** by Seymour Simon

Examines the phenomenon of earthquakes, describing how and where they occur, how they can be predicted, and how much damage they can inflict.

**Ella Enchanted** by Gail Carson Levine

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

**The Emperor's Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China**

by Jane O'Connor

Describes the archaeological discovery of thousands of life-sized terracotta warrior statues in northern China in 1974, and discusses the emperor who had them created and placed near his tomb.

**Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Basil** by Wiley Miller

Twelve-year-old Basil meets an eccentric professor with a flying boat and sets off on a journey into the clouds, where they find a floating city filled with otherworldly inventions and ideas.

**The Fear Place** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When he and his older brother Gordon are left camping alone in the Rocky Mountains, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fear of heights and his feelings about Gordon - - with the help of a cougar.

**Finding Buck McHenry** by Alfred Slote

Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian Mack Henry to be Buck McHenry, a famous pitcher from the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.

**Flush** by Carl Hiaasen

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

**Frozen Stiff** by Sherry Shahan

Cousins Cody and Derek take a kayak trip in Alaska and find themselves battling the raw elements of an untamed wilderness.

**Game Day: My Life on and Off the Field** by Derek Jeter

Derek Jeter, a shortstop with the New York Yankees, presents an inside look at his personal and professional life over the course of the baseball season, featuring photographs and text in which he shows how he prepares for spring training, how he handles the grueling schedule, and how he approaches each game in the postseason.

**Getting Near to Baby** by Audrey Couloumbis

Although thirteen-year-old Willa Jo and her Aunt Patty seem to be constantly at odds, staying with her and Uncle Hob helps Willa Jo and her younger sister come to terms with the death of their family's baby.

**Goddesses: A World of Myth and Magic** by Burleigh Muten

A collection of stories about goddesses from various countries, including information about where each comes from, her powers, anecdotes, and her nature, and details about her sacred animal.

**Gossamer** by Lois Lowry

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteds.

**Grand Escape** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

After years of being strictly house cats, Marco and Polo escape into the wonderful, but dangerous outside world and are sent on three challenging adventures by a group of cats known as the Club of Mysteries.

**Heaven** by Angel Johnson

Fourteen-year-old Marley's summer is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

**The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien

The adventures of hobbit Bilbo Baggins in a land inhabited by dwarfs, elves, goblins, dragons, and humans. He sets off to recover a stolen treasure from the great dragon Smaug, the terror of an entire countryside.

**Homeless Bird** by Gloria Whelan

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

**Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

**The Human Story: Our Evolution From Prehistoric Ancestors to Today**

by Christopher Sloan

Explores the origins of humans, including how such developments as Linnaeus' classification system and recent understanding of the human genome have improved scientists' comprehension of evolution.

**Joey Pigza Loses Control** by Jack Gantos

Sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he had never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

**Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: World War II Soldier** by Walter Dean Myers

A seventeen-year-old soldier from central Virginia records his experiences in a journal as his regiment takes part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and subsequent battles to liberate France.

**Kira, Kira** by Cynthia Kadohata

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

**Lily's Crossing** by Patricia Reilly Giff

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

**Lincoln: A Photobiography** by Russell Freedman

Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

**A Message from the Match Girl** by Janet Taylor Lisle

Georgina and Poco try to help their friend Walter who is suffering from an identity crisis and receiving strange messages from his dead mother.

**The Midnight Fox** by Betsy Byars

A young boy saves the life of a fox that has been raiding his uncle's farm.

**Midnight Magic** by Avi

In Italy in 1491, Magnus the Magician and his apprentice are summoned to the castle of King Claudio to determine if his daughter is indeed being haunted by a ghost.

**My Louisiana Sky** by Kimberly Holt Willis

Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

**The Moon and I** by Betsy Byars

While describing her humorous adventures with a blacksnake, Betsy Byars recounts childhood anecdotes and explains how she writes a book.

**Numbering All the Bones** by Ann Rinaldi

Thirteen-year-old Eulinda, a house slave on a Georgia plantation in 1864, turns to Clara Barton, the eventual founder of the American Red Cross, for help in finding her brother Neddy who ran away to join the Northern war effort and is rumored to be at Andersonville Prison.

**On the Halfpipe with Tony Hawk** (A Matt Christopher Book) by Glenn Stout

Profiles champion skateboarder Tony Hawk and his achievements.

**Our Sixth-Grade Sugar Babies** by Eve Bunting

Vicki and her best friend fear that their sixth grade project, carrying around five-pound bags of sugar to learn about parental responsibility, will make them look ridiculous in the eyes of the seventh grade boy they both love.

**Road to Paris** by Nikki Grimes

Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.

**Ruby Holler** by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

**Sixth-Grade Nickname Game** by Gordon Korman

Eleven-year-old best friends Jeff and Wiley, who like to give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl Cassandra, while adjusting to the football coach who has become their new teacher.

**Song of the Trees** by Mildred Taylor

During the Depression, a rural black family deeply attached to the forest on their land tries to save it from being cut down by an unscrupulous white man.

**Stuart Little** by E.B. White

The adventures of the mouse Stuart Little as he sets out in the world to seek out his dearest friend, a little bird who stayed a few days in his family's garden.

**The Same Stuff as Stars** by Katherine Paterson

When Angel's self-absorbed mother leaves her and her younger brother with their poor great-grandmother, the eleven year old girl worries not only about her mother and brother, her imprisoned father, the frail old woman, but also about a mysterious man who begins sharing with her the wonder of the stars.

**The Secret Soldier: The Story of Deborah Sampson** by Ann McGovern

A brief biography of the woman who disguised herself as a man and joined the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

**The Upstairs Room** by Joanna Reiss

A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

**Wabi: A Hero's Tale** by Joseph Bruchac

After falling in love with an Abenaki Indian woman, a white great horned owl named Wabi transforms into a human being and has several trials and adventures while learning to adapt to his new life.

**Warriors** by Joseph Bruchac

An Iroquois boy known on the reservation for his talent at the sacred game of lacrosse moves to Washington, D.C., with his mother and grows frustrated with the misleading statements about Native Americans that his new lacrosse coach makes.

**A Week in the Woods** by Andrew Clements

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

**Series**

**A Series of Unfortunate Events** by Lemony Snicket

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

**The Redwall Series** by Brian Jaques

A popular fantasy series about a kingdom of mice that has gripped the imagination of readers. In the first title **Redwall**, the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

**Mysteries in Our National Parks Series** by Gloria Skurzynski

First Title: **Wolf Stalker**

Science and survival techniques are combined in this hair-raising thriller. Twelve-year-old Jack Landon and his younger sister Ashley visit their wildlife veterinarian mother and photographer father when they begin to investigate the mystery of a wounded wolf in Yellowstone National Park. Each title is set in a different American National Park and each title includes a park map.