

6th Grade Summer Reading List 2013



FANTASY



The Tale of Despereaux, by Kate DiCamillo. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. **BL: 4.7 PTS: 5.0** ☺ 📖



Masterpiece, by Elise Broach. After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **BL: 4.8 PTS: 8.0** ☺ 📖



The Search for WondLa, by Tony DiTerlizzi. Living in isolation with a robot on what appears to be an alien world populated with bizarre life forms, a twelve-year-old human girl called Eva Nine sets out on a journey to find others like her. **BL: 5.2 PTS: 11.0**



The Kingdom Keepers: Disney after Dark, Disney at Dawn, Disney in Shadow, by Ridley Pearson. In these fantastical thrillers, five young teens tapped as models for theme park “guides” find themselves pitted against Disney villains and witches **that threaten both the future of Walt Disney World and the stability of the world beyond its walls.** **I. BL: 4.2 PTS: 9.0 II. BL: 5.2 PTS: 11.0 III. BL: 4.9 PTS: 16.0**



Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse, The Battle of the Labyrinth, The Last Olympian, by Rick Riordan. After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. **I. BL: 4.7 PTS: 13.0 II. BL: 4.6 PTS: 9.0 III. BL: 4.2 PTS: 10.0 IV. BL: 4.1 PTS: 12.0 V. BL: 4.3 PTS: 13.0**



SCIENCE FICTION



The City of Ember, by Jeanne DuPrau. In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. **BL: 5.0 PTS: 9.0 SERIES BOOK**



Memory Boy, by Will Weaver. Sixteen-year-old Miles and his family must flee their Minneapolis home and begin a new life in the wilderness after a chain of cataclysmic volcanic explosions creates dangerous conditions in their city. **BL: 4.4 PTS: 5.0** ☺

REALISTIC FICTION



Swindle, by Gordon Korman. After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker. **BL: 4.9 PTS: 5.0** 😊



Out of My Mind, by Sharon Draper. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. **BL: 4.3 PTS: 8.0** 😊



Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli. An orphaned adolescent boy with a legendary talent for running goes on a journey of self-discovery, leaving his aunt and uncle's unhappy home, bouncing from place to place, and learning about racism and what it means to belong. **BL: 4.7 PTS: 5.0**



Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka, by John Scieszka. How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner. **BL: 4.6 PTS: 2.0**



ADVENTURE



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. **BL: 5.2 PTS: 9.0** 😊
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Moon Over Manifest, by Clare Vanderpool. Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 12.0** 📖



The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi. Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger on a voyage from England to America in 1832, must take serious matters into her own hands when she learns that the captain is murderous. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 8.0** 😊 📖




Backwater, by Joan Bauer. While compiling a genealogy of her family of successful attorneys, sixteen-year-old history buff Ivy Breedlove treks into the mountain wilderness to interview a reclusive aunt with whom she identifies and who in turn helps her to truly know herself and her family. **BL: 5.1 PTS: 6.0** 😊

HISTORICAL FICTION



The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg, by Rodman Philbrick. Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. **BL: 5.6 PTS: 7.0**




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. **BL: 5.0 PTS: 8.0** 



A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl, by Patricia C. McKissack. Clotee, a twelve-year-old slave on a Virginia plantation in 1859, teaches herself to read and write while fanning the master's son during his daily lessons, and determines to use her secret knowledge to help herself and her friends reach freedom. **BL: 4.6 PTS: 5.0**



Chains, by Laurie Halse Anderson. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. **BL: 5.2 PTS: 11.0** 



SPORTS



Throwing Heat, by Fred Bowen. Eighth-grader Jack Lerner relies on pitching fast balls until a young college coach teaches him that throwing the heat may not be the best way to win games. **BL: 3.9 PTS: 2.0**



Mike Lupica's Comeback Kid Series: Hot Hand, Two-Minute Drill, Long Shot, Safe at Home, Shoot-Out (choose one) by Mike Lupica. In the wake of his parents' separation, ten-year-old Billy seems to have continual conflicts with his father, who is also his basketball coach, but his quiet, younger brother Ben, a piano prodigy, is having even more trouble adjusting, and only Billy seems to notice. **BL: 5.0 PTS: 4.0**



Football Genius, by Tim Green. Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players. **BL: 4.8 PTS: 7.0**



WORLD CULTURES



A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park. When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan. **BL: 5.0 PTS: 3.0** 😊



Three Cups of Tea: Young Reader's Edition by Sarah Thomson. An adaptation of the bestselling book about American Greg Mortenson's building of over 60 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. **BL: 6.1 PTS: 7.0**



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. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 5.0** 😊📖



Ties that Bind, Ties that Break, by Lensey Namioka. Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound. **BL: 5.5 PTS: 5.0** 😊



ANIMALS



Saving Zasha, by Randi Barrow. In 1945 Russia, those who own German shepherds are considered traitors, but thirteen-year-old Mikhail and his family are determined to keep the dog a dying man brought them, while his classmate Katia strives to learn his secret. **BL: 4.4 PTS: 6.0**



Shiloh, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner. **BL: 4.4 PTS: 4.0** 😊📖



Seekers: The Quest Begins, by Erin Hunter. Three young bears of different species--one black, one polar, and one grizzly--travel on a perilous **quest** to the Northern Lights, escorting a shape-shifting grizzly cub whose destiny will affect them all. **BL: 5.4 PTS: 12.0**



Where the Red Fern Grows, by Wilson Rawls. A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. **BL: 4.9 PTS: 11.0** 😊



NONFICTION



A Child Called "It", by David Pelzer. David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he survived his mother's brutality and triumphed over his past. **BL: 5.8 PTS: 5.0**



Ernest Shackleton: Shipwrecked at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance, by Jennifer Armstrong. Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land. **BL: 7.3 PTS: 6.0**



MYSTERY



Turtle in Paradise, by Jennifer L. Holm. In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida. **BL: 3.7 PTS: 4.0** 😊



Seer of Shadows, by Avi. In New York City in 1872, fourteen-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs, but when Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn. **BL: 5.2 PTS: 6.0** 📖



Deep and Dark and Dangerous, by Mary Downing Hahn. While spending the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home in Maine, thirteen-year-old Ali stumbles upon the secret to the childhood tragedy that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years. **BL: 4.0 PTS: 7.0**



Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer, by John Grisham. Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer. **BL: 5.2 PTS: 8.0**



On the Run Series, Chasing the Falcons, Book 1, by Gordon Korman. Aiden and Meg Falconer must escape from a juvenile detention center in order to prove their parents innocent of charges which would put them in jail for life. **BL: 4.9 PTS: 4.0**