

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Biography

Jurmain, S. **The Forbidden Schoolhouse**

Exciting and eye-opening, this account of the heroine of Canterbury, Connecticut, and her elegant white schoolhouse at the center of town will give readers a glimpse of what it is like to try to change the world when few agree with you.

Paulsen, P. **How Angel Peterson Got His Name**

The accounts for his 13th year "of wonderful madness" when he and his friends tried to shoot a waterfall in a barrel, break the world record for speed on skis, hang glide with an Army surplus parachute, and perform other daredevilish stunts.

Tunis, J. **Rookie of the Year**

Dodger manager Spike Russell's efforts to rally his team to a pennant victory are threatened by a scheming club secretary and the seeming irresponsibility of a star rookie pitcher.

White, R. **Ryan White: My Own Story**

Ryan White describes how he got AIDS, engaged in a legal battle to return to school, and became a celebrity and spokesman for issues concerning the deadly disease.

Family Stories/Memoirs

Choldenko, G. **Al Capone Does My Shirts**

Murderers, mob bosses, and convicts . . . these guys are not your average neighbors. Unless you live on Alcatraz. It's 1935 and twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family have just moved to the infamous island that's home to criminals like notorious escapee Roy Gardner, Machine Gun Kelly, and of course, Al Capone.

Creech, S. **Absolutely Normal Chaos**

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up considerably during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

Creech, S **Grandma Torelli Makes Soup**

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Levy, E. **Tackling Dad**

When Cassie tries out for the middle school football team, she faces unexpected opposition from her father, a former professional football player.

Rylant, C. **The Islander**

Living with his grandfather on an island off British Columbia, orphaned ten-year-old Daniel feels deep loneliness until the night he meets a mermaid whose identity he tries to learn.

Tillage, L. **Leon's Story**

The son of a North Carolina sharecropper recalls the hard times faced by his family and other African Americans in the first half of the twentieth century and the changes that the civil rights movement helped bring about.

FICTION

Avi **Crispin**

Winner of the 2003 Newbery Medal, Avi's action-packed adventure, *Crispin*, transports us back to 14th-century England, where a young serf on the run from his miserable past comes to discover not only his true identity but a sense of self-worth.

Ellis, D. **The Breadwinner**

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

Fletcher, R. **Spider Boy**

After moving to another state, seventh grader Bobby deals with the change by telling people at school made-up stories and then retreating into his world of pet spiders and books about spiders.

Friend, N. **Perfect**

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

Hesse, K. **Stowaway**

A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook.

Paulsen, G. **Brian's Hunt**

Two years after having survived a plane crash into the Canadian wilderness, a sixteen-year-old returns to the wild to befriend a wounded dog and hunt a rogue bear.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Rylant, C. **Missing May**

After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

Historical Fiction

Avi **The Barn**

In an effort to fulfill their dying father's last request, nine-year-old Ben and his brother and sister construct a barn on their land in the Oregon Territory.

Avi **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

Colum, P. **The Children's Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy**

A retelling of the events of the Trojan War and the wanderings of Odysseus based on Homer's Iliad and Odyssey.

Gregory, K. **Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile**

While her father is in hiding after attempts on his life, twelve-year-old Cleopatra records in her diary how she fears for her own safety and hopes to survive to become Queen of Egypt some day.

Hesse, K. **Letter from Rifka**

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

Hesse, K. **Out of the Dust**

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Osborne, M. **The Gray-Eyed Goddess (Tales from the Odyssey series)**

Odysseus is now trapped on the island of the sea goddess Calypso. Back in Ithaca, his wife, Penelope, and their son, Telemachus, are warding off suitors who want to marry Penelope and control Odysseus's kingdom.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Peck, R. **The Teacher's Funeral**

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Spinelli, J. **Milkweed**

Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable -- Nazi-occupied Warsaw of World War II -- and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young orphan.

Yumoto, K. **The Friend**

Curious about death, three sixth-grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends.

Mystery

Abrahams, P. **Down the Rabbit Hole**

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown of Echo Falls.

Feinstein, J. **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery**

Danny Jordan is one of two lucky winners of the US Basketball Writer's Association's contest for aspiring journalists. His prize? A trip to New Orleans and a coveted press pass for the Final Four. It's a basketball junkie's dream come true!

Springer, N. **The Case of the Missing Marquess**

When Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared—on her 14th birthday nonetheless—she knows she alone can find her.

New Fiction

Bartoletti, S. **Hitler Young**

Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people. Her research includes telling interviews with surviving Hitler Youth members.

Corbett, S. **Free Baseball**

Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Cussler, C. **The Adventures of Vin Fiz**

Bestselling adult novelist Clive Cussler conjures up a hypnotic, charmingly nostalgic tale about a pair of ten-year-old twins who get their wish to explore the wide world beyond their parents' California farm.

Lupica, M. **Heat**

Michael Arroyo has a dream of pitching in the Little League World Series, and a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But that firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life.

Newbery Award 2006

Perkins, L. **Criss Cross**

Through narrative that has the flavor of stream-of-consciousness writing but is more controlled and poetic, Perkins captures the wistful romantic yearnings of three friends on the brink of adolescence. There's Debbie, who makes a wish that "something different would happen. Something good. To me." There's Hector, who hears a guitarist and quite suddenly feels inspired to learn how to play the instrument. Then there's mechanical-minded Lenny who feels himself drawn to Debbie.

Newbery Honor Books

Choldenko, G. **Al Capone Does My Shirts**

Murderers, mob bosses, and convicts . . . these guys are not your average neighbors. Unless you live on Alcatraz. It's 1935 and twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family have just moved to the infamous island that's home to criminals like notorious escapee Roy Gardner, Machine Gun Kelly, and of course, Al Capone.

Hale, S. **Princess Academy**

Miri lives on a mountain where, for generations, her ancestors have quarried stone and lived a simple life. Then word comes that the king's priests have divined her small village the home of the future princess. In a year's time, the prince himself will come and choose his bride from among the girls of the village. The king's ministers set up an academy on the mountain, and every teenage girl must attend and learn how to become a princess.

Henkes, K. **Olive's Ocean**

Martha is bothered by the death of a girl, Olive, whom she barely knew. In this story that takes place in about a week, she manages to remember Olive in a way that will let her go on.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Schmidt, G. **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy**

Not only is Turner Buckminster the son of the new minister in a small Maine town, he is shunned for playing baseball differently than the local boys. Then he befriends smart and lively Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from Malaga Island, a poor community founded by former slaves.

Non-Fiction

Freedman, R. **The Voice That Challenged a Nation**

Newbery medalist Freedman (Lincoln: A Photobiography) succinctly traces the career of renowned contralto Marian Anderson (1897-1993) from her Philadelphia childhood, when she first revealed her extraordinary voice in church choirs. Throughout, the author describes the racial discrimination Anderson frequently encountered as an African-American artist, as well as her role in the struggle for civil rights, a role defined by her dignified yet determined response to racism.

Philbrick, N. **In the Heath of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Waleship Essex**

In the stirring climax to Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*, the whaleship *Pequod* is sunk in an epic battle with a giant white whale. Contemporary readers, however, might not realize that Melville's fiction was based on an actual event: the 1821 sinking of the Nantucket whaleship *Essex* by an enormous sperm whale. Nathaniel Philbrick's *In the Heart of the Sea* details the ill-fated journey of the *Essex*, illuminating a terrifying drama not included in *Moby-Dick* -- the fate of the survivors after their ship was sunk.

Walker, S. **Secrets of a Civil War Submarine**

Sally Walker brings a little-known story of the Civil War to life in this fascinating book. When the Union blockade of all ports in the South stopped supplies from reaching the Confederate Army, Horace L. Hunley decided to create a submarine that would be able to sneak up on enemy ships and blow them up. The archaeological process is well documented in both words and pictures, and the conclusions are interesting and even surprising.

Poetry & Novels in Verse

Carvell, M. **Sweetgrass Basket**

In prose poetry and alternating voices, Marlene Carvell weaves a heartbreakingly beautiful story based on the real-life experiences of Native American children. Mattie and Sarah are two Mohawk sisters who are sent to an off-reservation school after the death of their mother. Subject to intimidation and corporal punishment, with little hope of contact with their father, the girls are taught menial tasks to prepare them for life as domestics. How Mattie and Sarah protect their culture, memories of their family life, and their love for each other makes for a powerful, unforgettable historical novel.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Cheech, S. **Love That Dog**

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Nelson, M. **Carver: A Life in Poems**

This collection of poems assembled by award-winning writer Marilyn Nelson provides young readers with a compelling, lyrical account of the life of revered African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

Armstrong, A. **Whittington**

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

Bujor, F. **The Prophecy of the Stones**

Three girls, known as the Stones of Prophecy, are drawn to a land called Fairytale, where they and a man called the Chosen One seek Oonagh, a magical creature who explains their role in a battle between Good and Evil.

Cooper, S. **The Boggart**

After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning home to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

Duprau, J. **The City of Ember**

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.

Funke, C. **Inkheart**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

Funke, C. **Inkspell**

A year has gone by, but Meggie still ponders daily about *Inkheart*, a book whose characters leap into being. For the fire-eater Dustfinger, though, these magical transformations have a desperate downside: He is unable to return to the tale from whence he came. Finally, he finds a crooked storyteller with the ability to read him back into the medieval story.

SUMMER READING LIST – GRADE 6 - 2007

Paolini, C. **Eragon**

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Wrede, P. **Dealing with Dragons**

A feisty princess with a mind of her own shuns regal training and protocol, preferring to volunteer herself as a dragon's servant and companion. It's a spirited, rollicking story with clever fairy tale references subtly tied to elements of magic, wizardry, and the satisfying triumph of good over evil.

Sports Stories

Bruchac, J. **Sports Shorts**

Sports Shorts gathers eight "semi-autobiographical" tales in an eye-catching paper-over-board book, including Joseph Bruchac's "Bombardment," which describes a kind of dodgeball game that, "with its simple, violent, semi-controlled chaos, was my only release," and which wins Bruchac the approval of his peers.

Tunis, J. **Rookie of the Year**

Dodger manager Spike Russell's efforts to rally his team to a pennant victory are threatened by a scheming club secretary and the seeming irresponsibility of a star rookie pitcher.

Wallace, R. **Fast Company**

Manny Ramos is the fastest guy on the Hudson City Youth football team—maybe even the fastest in his school—so the new track club seems perfect for him. His light weight could finally be a benefit instead of a curse! When he first sees the enormous indoor sporting complex where he'll race some of the fastest guys around, Manny is awed. Will his time in the 800 meters be any competition for guys who've been racing for years? Manny is determined to put in the time and effort to be a track contender He's finally found his sport.