

Reading List Grade 6



Below are examples of books 6th graders can read over the summer break. It is suggested that students entering 6th grade read 3 or more books from differing genres, but the books need not be chosen from this list exclusively, as it is by no means exhaustive.

Adventure & Mystery

Aiken, J. *Wolves of Willoughby Chase*

A wicked governess, along with the wolves, makes this a compelling Victorian melodrama.

Avi *Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Charlotte, a 13-year-old passenger on the Seahawk in 1832, has been accused of murder and found guilty. This is her account of that terrifying voyage.

Brittain, B. *The Wish Giver*

This suspenseful story tells what happens when wishes are granted to three young adults.

Burnford, S. *The Incredible Journey*

The adventures of two dogs and a cat who set out to cross 300 rugged miles of northern Ontario are found in this exciting book.

Eckert, A. *Incident at Hawk's Hills*

A six-year old boy wanders away from home and is nurtured and protected by a badger.

George, J. C. *Julie of the Wolves*

After running away from home, Julie, a twelve-year-old Eskimo girl, becomes hopelessly lost. She survives with the help of a pack of Arctic wolves.

O'Dell, S. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

An Indian girl spends eighteen years alone on a rocky island off the coast of California.

Paulsen, G. *Canyons*

After finding the weathered skull of an Indian boy, Brennan Cole becomes curious to learn about its owner.

Peck, R. *Secrets of the Shopping Mall*

After taking up residence in a shopping mall, two girls discover that they are not alone.

Raskin, E. *The Westing Game*

The will of an eccentric multi-millionaire stipulates that the sixteen heirs will inherit his fortune only if they can use the clues given to solve a mystery.

Yep, L. *Dragonwings*

Moon Shadow leaves his Chinese village in 1903 and goes to live with his father in San Francisco where the two work toward their dream of creating a dragon-like flying machine.

Animals

Byars, B. *Midnight Fox*

When Tom spends two months on a farm with his aunt and uncle, he never expects that a black fox will become the focus of his life.

Kjelgaard, J. *Big Red*

A trapper's son and a champion Irish Setter have many exciting adventures together.

Classics

Burnett, F. H. *A Little Princess*

Arriving at a London boarding house like a "little princess," Sara Crewe is left penniless following a sudden misfortune. Though her spirit is never broken, her life is once again transformed when a mysterious Indian gentleman moves in next door.

Montgomery, L. *Anne of Green Gables*

Eleven year old Anne Shirley wins the heart of her foster mother.

Rawlings, A. *The Yearling*

In this book, you'll find the timeless story of backwoods Florida and the tender relationship of a young boy and his tame fawn.

Roth, A. *Iceberg Hermit*

This survival story is based on the true account of a young boy who is trapped on an iceberg after his whaling ship sinks with the entire crew.

Swell, A. *Black Beauty*

Told from the point of view of the main character, Black Beauty takes the reader through the horse's carefree colt days to his horrible mistreatment by humans. While teaching readers the lessons of kindness and generosity through pointing out the cruelty of others, the author creates unforgettable characters in this first-rate story.

Historical Fiction

Pullman, P. *The Ruby in the Smoke*

A 16 year old girl, whose father has died, struggles to solve the mystery of her father's death, the illegal activities of her father's firm, and the location of a precious ruby.

Reiss, J. *The Upstairs Room*

When the Germans attack Holland in World War II, two Jewish girls are hidden in a Dutch family's small farmhouse, even while German soldiers occupy the house.

Speare, E. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

While Kit Tyler of Barbados visits her Puritan aunt in colonial Connecticut, she becomes friendly with Hannah, the witch of Blackbird Pond. The friendship causes a terrifying witch-hunt and a suspenseful trial.

Humor

Dahl, R. *Revolting Rhymes*

This is a book of humorous poems written as only Roald Dahl can write.

Silverstein, S. *Where the Sidewalk Ends*

From the author of *Light in the Attic*, here is another collection of original poems by a contemporary master poet and artist.

Imaginative & Science Fiction

L'Engle, M. *Wrinkle in Time*

A provocative, imaginative tale of a brother and sister in search of their father who is lost in the fifth dimension.

Lewis, C. S. *The Chronicles of Narnia*

Enter the enchanted land of Narnia through any of these six books. If you would like to meet Aslan, the noble, talking lion, who frees Narnia from an evil spell, start with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

O'Brien, R. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh*

A widowed mouse, Mrs. Frisby, attempts to save her family by acquiring some help from the well-taught rats of Nimh.

Nonfiction

Filipovic, A. *Zlata's Diary*

For two years, beginning in September 1991, Zlata Filipovic writes of her feelings and experiences surviving in war-torn Sarajevo.

Gordon, S. *Waiting for the Rain: A Novel of South Africa*

The friendship of two boys is strained by injustice and turmoil arising from wealth and class privilege.

Macaulay, D. *Castles*

David Macaulay, author and artist, explores the architectural structure of 13th century castles in this Caldecott Honor Book. The reader will go through the steps in planning and constructing a castle with the aide of Macaulay's clearly presented information and detailed illustrations.

Realistic Fiction

Armstrong, C. *Souder*

After a young boy's world is shattered when his father, a black sharecropper, is jailed for stealing food for his family, the boy grows in courage with his devoted dog Souder at his side.

Blume, J. *Tiger Eyes*

A young girl must make painful adjustments after her father's death.

Cleaver, V. *Where the Lilies Bloom*

When her father dies, Mary Call must take care of her two siblings and keep the family together.

Danziger, P. *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*

With the help of her teacher, a ninth grade girl develops a better attitude towards herself. She then helps to organize a campaign to reinstate this teacher who has since been fired.

Fox, P. *One-Eyed Cat*

Ned is forbidden to shoot his air rifle, but after disobeying this rule, he wounds a cat and the results gnaw at his conscience.

Lord, B. *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*

The world of baseball and Jackie Robinson help a young Chinese girl to adjust to a new life in America.

North, S. *Rascal*

Twelve years old Sterling North's baby raccoon, Rascal, lives with him for a year in a Wisconsin village. After a year of fun being together, Sterling realizes he must free Rascal forever.

Rawls, W. *Where the Red Fern Grows*

A young boy's dogs win the gold cup in a contest, but tragedy strikes.

Taylor, T. *The Cay*

Blinded as the result of a shipwreck, a young boy is saved by an older West Indian man who teaches the boy to cope with his handicap while they survive on a desert island.

Voight, C. *Dacey's Song*

The four Tillerman children come to live with their grandmother in the Chesapeake Bay area. In the face of tragedy, they work hard to make ends meet and to adjust to their new way of life.

Yep, L. *Child of the Owl*

When young Casey moves from her seedy California hotel to her grandmother's San Francisco home, she begins to experience a brand new world.

Additional Fiction

- Baum, L. Frank. *The Wizard of Oz*
- Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*
- Byars, Betsy. *The Pinballs*
- Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona Quimby, Age Eight*
- Dahl, Roald. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
- Davis, Jim. *Garfield Counts to Ten*
- DeClements, Barthe. *Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade*
- Farley, Walter. *The Black Stallion*
- Fitzgerald, John D. *The Great Brain*
- Gipson, Fred. *Old Yeller*
- Hiller, B.B. *The Karate Kid*
- Howe, Deborah and James. *Bunnicula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery*
- Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
- Paterson, Katherine. *The Bridge to Terabithia*
- Rawls, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*
- Rockwell, Thomas. *How to Eat Fried Worms*
- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter* (any of those published)
- Sewell, Anna. *Black Beauty*
- Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends*
- Sobol, Donald J. *Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective*
- Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- Warner, Gertrude. *Boxcar Children*
- White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*
- Wilder, Laura I. *Little House on the Prairie*