

Incoming 6th Grade Reading List

Bird Lake Moon by Kevin Henkes

Temporarily living with his mom at his grandparents' home on Bird Lake, 12-year-old Mitch Sinclair's plans to make the seemingly abandoned house next door his own are shattered when Spencer Stone arrives with his family.

Book of a Thousand Days by Shannon Hale

Lady Saren and her maid Dashti are imprisoned for seven years because of Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises. A forgotten, but classic, fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm is reimagined and reset on the central Asian steppes in this unique retelling filled with adventure and romance, drama and disguise.

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

While 13-year-old Catherine, the daughter of a knight, wishes she could be as free as the villagers, her family is planning to marry her to someone wealthy. However, Catherine's father is no match for her ability to frighten off prospective suitors. (Newbery Honor Book)

Counting on Grace by Elizabeth Winthrop

At first, 12-year-old Grace and her family are thrilled that she's leaving school to work in the mill. When Lewis Hines, photographer-reformer, comes to the mill, the lives of Grace and her friend Arthur change. They work secretly with the child labor commission to expose the conditions at the mill. This is a historical fiction set in 1910 Vermont.

Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine

Because he is so unhappy at the Hebrew Home for Boys, 11-year-old Dave sneaks out of the orphanage at night, discovering a fabulous world of music and culture in 1920's Harlem.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Elijah is the first freeborn child in Buxton, a Canadian community of escaped slaves, in 1860. He uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. (Newbery Honor Book)

Firegirl by Tony Abbot

Tom, a seventh grader, tells about the arrival of Jessica, a new student who was badly burned in a fire and is attending St. Catherine's while she gets treatments at a local hospital. The students in Tom's class are afraid of her because of her appearance, but little by little he develops a friendship with her that changes his life.

Goose Chase by Patricia Kindle

An act of kindness earns Alexandria, a 14-year-old caretaker of geese, incomparable beauty and enchanted golden hair. Unfortunately, she also becomes the sought-after bride for two undesirable suitors. Alexandria's geese attempt to save her.

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech

Twelve-year-old Annie loves to run, run, run. When she's barefoot and running, she can hear her heart beating...

Here Lies Arthur by Philip Reeve

Reeve places his Arthur in the Dark Ages of the sixth century where Murddin embellishes his story by creating a modern spin on this ancient tale that combines wishes, lies, and dreams into the now familiar legend. (2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

Letters from Wolfie by Patti Sherlock

Mark, 13, overshadowed by his older brother who is serving in Vietnam, impulsively volunteers to send his beloved dog there to impress the adults who are so taken with Danny.

Masterpiece by Elise Broach

An artistic beetle with a yen for adventure and a lonely 11-year-old boy team up to catch the thief who has stolen a priceless Albrecht Durer from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

Abandoned at birth, Hollis Woods has lived in about a half dozen homes and has always wished for a family. Follow her search for a place to belong.

Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon Hale and Dean Hale

In a vibrantly illustrated graphic novel set in a make-believe frontier land, an untraditional Rapunzel escapes the tower, uses her long braids as weapons, and takes revenge on the wicked Mother Gothel. (2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

Savvy by Ingrid Law

At the age of thirteen, Mibs Beaumont will discover her "savvy"- a magical power unique to each member of her family. But news of an accident sends the Beaumont siblings off on a wild adventure. (2009 Newberry Honor Book and 2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

Six Innings: A Game in the Life by James Preller

The heart stopping action of a little league baseball game frames a personal introduction to the players, the strategies, and twelve-year-old Sam, sidelined by cancer. (2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

The Letter Writer by Ann Rinaldi

Eleven-year-old Harriet Whitehead is an outsider in her own family. She feels accepted and important only when she is entrusted to write letters for her blind stepmother. Then Nat Turner, a slave preacher, arrives on her family's plantation and Harriet befriends him, entranced by his gentle manner and eloquent sermons about an all-forgiving God. When Nat asks Harriet for a map of the county to help him spread the word, she draws it for him—wanting to be part of something important. But the map turns out to be the missing piece that sets Nat's secret plan in motion and makes Harriet an unwitting accomplice to the bloodiest slave uprising in U.S. history.

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt

Intertwining stories of an embittered man, a loyal hound, an abandoned cat and a vengeful lamia sing of love, loss, loneliness and hope. (2009 Newberry Honor Book and 2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

Fifteen-year-old Bobby's whole world changes when he wakes up one morning and finds that he is invisible. He thinks his life will never be normal again until he meets Alicia. Together, they work to try to return his to the real world.

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor

Longing for the loving family life her younger half-sisters have with her former stepfather, resilient sixth-grader Addie copes with living in a trailer in Schenectady, NY with her neglectful mother. (2009 Schneider Family Book Award and 2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

Series

(Students may read any books from the following series)

Come Back Kids Series by Mike Lupica

Dive Series by Gordon Korman

Four kids are on a marine expedition for the summer, diving to explore an underwater habitat that's just been altered by a seismic event. What they find, though, is much more than fish - it's sunken treasure. Can they salvage it without anyone else getting to it first? Will the prospect of wealth set them against one another? And what about those sharksDIVE is another action-packed trilogy from Gordon Korman. The narrative will shift between an account of two kids caught in the shipwreck and the story of the four kids fighting over and desperately trying to get the treasure.

Island Series by Gordon Korman

Being on a sailboat in the warm waters of the Pacific with a bunch of kids the same age could sound like a vacation dream come true. However, when this month-long trip is part of a strict program called Charting a New Course, and each participant--or inmate--is there for disciplinary problems, things don't look quite as rosy. And then, of course, when a big storm strikes, and the captain and first mate disappear, and the boat seems to be sinking... the whole idea becomes less and less appealing. Still, for Luke, Will, Lyssa, J.J., Ian, and Charla, this is the way the cards have been dealt, and whatever problems they may have with each other, however much they don't want to be there, it's time to start working together to save their own lives.

The Birchbark House Series by Louise Erdrich

This series is set in 1852. The Omakaya family faces serious challenges as they move westward from land the U.S. government has claimed. (2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)