

6th Grade Summer Reading List

Title & Author	AR Level	What's It All About?
Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez	5.6	Anita's father is plotting to overthrow their country's cruel dictator. Now Anita has become a prisoner in her own house. Not even her diary is safe! What will happen now that everything has gone wrong?
Coraline by Neil Gaiman	5.1	Coraline is bored in her family's huge old house, but then she finds a door that leads to another world. There she finds parents who look just like hers, but with some very scary differences.
Trouble Don't Last by Shelley Pearsall	4.8	Eleven-year-old Samuel has been a slave all his life. Late one night, a slave named Harrison pulls Samuel from his bed. Together, they run north to Canada and freedom. Their journey is one of joy and fear.
The Kidnapped Prince: Life of Olaudah Equiano by Olaudah Equiano	5.7	Olaudah Equiano was just a little boy when he was stuffed into a sack and made a slave. Eleven years later he had won his freedom and gone on to write an autobiography that helped end slavery.
The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg	5.9	Nobody knows how Mrs. Olinski chose the four students on her sixth-grade academic bowl team, or what the secret to their success is. What connects these four students' lives and helps them unite as a real team?
When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt	4.5	When Zachary Beaver, the world's fattest boy stops in Antler, Texas, Toby lines up to gawk at him. Zachary is snobby and rude and huge, but there's something else about him that will change Toby forever.
The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford	7.6	When the Hunters left their pets with a friend, they never suspected one of the dogs would get so homesick that he would try to return home. Can two dogs and a cat survive a 250-mile trek through the wilderness to get back to the family they love?
Tae's Sonata by Haemi Balagassi	4.4	Taeyoung, an eighth-grade Korean American, want to be like everyone else. She's embarrassed when she's assigned to work on a South Korea report with Josh, the most popular boy in school.
The Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett	4.7	Tiffany's little brother has been kidnapped by an evil queen. Armed with only a frying pan and a lot of common sense, Tiffany marches into Fairyland to fight its monsters, rescue her brother, and save her world.

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis	4.5	Parvana is only 11 when the Taliban orders all the girls and women in Afghanistan to stay in their houses. When her father is arrested, someone must feed her family. Will Parvana be able to do it?
Heck, Superhero by Martine Leavitt	4.2	Heck's mom needs a hero to help her out. But Heck is only a kid, and sometimes even the most wonderful good deed in the world can't change a boy into a superhero-or can it?
A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park	6.6	Tree-ear, an orphan in 12th century Korea, is a potter's apprentice. When something goes wrong on a journey to the King's Court, Tree-ear must learn that there's more than one way to show true courage.
Lupita Manana by Patricia Beatty	4.7	Lupita's family enters California illegally and she tries to support her family by finding a job. Lupita's search is full of obstacles as she struggles toward maturity in a place where simply growing up is a difficult, uncertain process.
The Heart of a Chief by Joseph Bruchac	4.7	Chris Nicola, an eleven-year-old Pennacook boy, has a harsh life on a reservation. Despite the conditions Chris must deal with, his inner qualities and family traditions help him to recognize his potential
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi	5.3	When Charlotte boards a ship bound for Rhode Island, she has no idea that she'll be the only female on board. She soon finds herself caught up in a conflict between a ship captain and his better crew.
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer	5.0	Twelve-year-old Artemis is the genius son of a criminal mastermind. He decides to steal the fairies' gold to restore his family's fortune and finance his father's rescue operation - if his father is still alive.
Bird by Angela Johnson	4.2	What would you do to get your father back? Bird leaves her mother and takes a bus to Acorn, Alabama, to hid out in a shed and spy on her stepfather. Will she get him to come home?
The Mouse and His Child by Russell Hoban	6.6	Does a wind-up mouse need a mother? This one thinks he does. Follow a toy mouse and his father as they hide from the evil Manny Rat and search for a family all their own.
The Color of My Words by Lynn Joseph	5.1	Anna Rosa is only 12, but she knows she's a writer. She soon learns that writing is powerful as well as dangerous. She also realizes that writing someone's story will help keep his memory alive.
Locomotion	4.7	Lonnie's parents are dead and he can't live with his sister. Everything seems bad - but every day, in Ms. Marcus's class, he writes poems

by Jacqueline Woodson		about the people he loves so he'll never forget them. Slowly, things begin to get better.
Up on Cloud Nine by Anne Fine	4.6	Stolly is in a coma and Ian can't help him, so Ian sits next to his friend's bed and starts writing down everything he remembers about Stolly's life. Will Ian's memories help Stolly understand his past when he wakes up?
Gregor, the Overlander By Suzanne Collins	4.8	Gregor is so bored that a trip to the laundry room in the basement seems exciting. Before their clothes are dry, however, he and his sister are sucked into the Underland and have to fight their way back home.
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen	5.7	Brian is on a small plane going to visit his father the summer after his parents' divorce. Suddenly, the pilot has a heart attack and Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness. How will he survive?
Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson	5.6	Maia is nervous and excited when she sets off from England to live with relatives in Brazil. She doesn't realize that her sea voyage and a trip on the Amazon are only the beginning of a bigger adventure.
The Fire-Eaters by David Almond	3.6	Bobby's life has just gone bad: He has cruel teachers, a sick father, and the United States is about to enter a nuclear war. Theb Bobby meets McNulty, a fire-eater. Can believing in miracles help Bobby see hope for the future?
Gentle's Holler by Kerry Madden	5.1	Dreaming of the future, Livy sees herself standing on the Great Wall of China, not up in a tree in North Carolina watching her little sisters. After a terrible accident, Livy has to decide if her dreams are more important than her family.
Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan	5.7	When her parents die during an epidemic in Africa, Rachel's deceitful neighbors send her to England in their dead daughter's place. Will Rachel be stuck living a lie or will she be able to return to the country she loves?
Missing May by Cynthia Rylant	5.3	Six months after Aunt May's death, 12-year-old Summer worries that sadness will pull her little family apart. Together, she and Uncle Ob search for a message from May, some sign that will tell them how they can live without her.
Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff	4.4	Hollis always wanted to be part of a family. But when she got one, she messed it up. She only has her drawings to remember how happy she was. Now she has a second chance, and she'll do anything to make it work.

Samir and Yonatan by Daniella Carmi	5.0	Samir, a Palestinian, lies in an Israeli hospital waiting for an operation. All day long he's angry, homesick and lonely. But every night Yonatan, an Israeli in the next bed, whispers stories to him about Mars. Will the stories bring Samir peace?
The Crow-Girl by Bodil Bredsdorff	5.2	Before the Crow-Girl's grandmother died, she told the girl that some people feed you by looking at you, but other leave you ice-cold even in front of a roaring fire. Now that the girl is alone, will her grandmother's advice help her survive?
Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems by John Grandits	3.4	Robert is an ordinary boy with extraordinary ideas. One time he re-created Galileo's gravity experiment by using a tomato and a concrete block. It really wasn't his fault that the experiment went wrong.
The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale.... by Jeanne Birdsall	4.7	When four eccentric sisters, their naturalist father, a canine escape-artist, two rabbits, a boy, and a gardening competition all come together, it's a summer no one can forget - even if Mrs. Tifton wishes she could.
Goddess of Yesterday by Caroline B. Cooney	5.1	Anaxandra pretends to be a princess when she is rescued by King Menelaus. Now she is trapped within the walls of Troy as Menelaus's army arrives to reclaim his wife, Helen. Anaxandra soon finds that the lives of many people depend on her.
Stand Tall by Joan Bauer	3.9	At six feet three inches tall, Tree is the tallest 12-year-old most people have met. Because of his size, many people expect too much of him. But when disaster strikes his family and town, Tree surprises everyone, even himself.
The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer	4.7	Jack is only 13 when Norse warriors called the berserkers kidnap him and his sister. After they are taken to a cruel half-troll queen, Jack sets out on a dangerous quest in order to save his sister's life.
Don't Hold Me Back by Winfred Rembert	4.9	He didn't lead marches, but Winfred Rembert was part of the Civil Rights Movement. He and his parents were farm workers and often treated like slaves. But Rembert's paintings record stories of courage and hope.
Girls Think of Everything by Catherine Thimmesh	7.4	Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper after a terrifying streetcar ride. Grace Hopper created the first computer language that used English. Female inventors are responsible for many of the things we use every day.

<p>The Lost Garden by Laurence Yep</p>	<p>7.1</p>	<p>As a boy in 1950s San Francisco, Laurence Yep didn't fit in. He felt American, but the other kids said he wasn't. He hated going to Chinatown because he couldn't speak Chinese. Writing helped him find his place.</p>
<p>Phineas Gage by John Fleischman</p>	<p>7.4</p>	<p>In 1848, an iron rod shot straight through Phineas Gage's brain. He survived, but his family said he wasn't the same man afterward. Doctors studied Phineas to find out more about how the human brain works.</p>
<p>Remember: The Journey to School Integration by Toni Morrison</p>	<p>5.0</p>	<p>Imagine having to walk through an angry mob just to go to school. This is what life was like for thousands of children when the Supreme Court ended segregation in 1954.</p>
<p>Where the Action Was by Penny Colman</p>	<p>7.9</p>	<p>During World War II, women weren't allowed near combat. However, 127 brave female journalists managed to get around the rules and report on some of the most important events during the war.</p>