

SUMMER READING LIST 2021
GRADE 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

- Anderson, John David. ***Ms. Bixby's Last Day***. HarperCollins, 2016. When Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year, three students come up with a hilarious and heart-warming plan to tell her how much she means to them.
- Arce, Julissa. ***Someone Like Me: How One Undocumented Girl Fought for Her American Dream***. Little, Brown, 2018. Autobiography of a bright, hard-working young girl's struggle to overcome everyday problems of making the cheer squad while keeping the mean girls at a distance as she fears her legal status will be discovered and her family destroyed.
- Bausum, Ann. ***Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog***. National Geographic, 2014. Smuggled onto a naval ship heading to battle in France by his faithful human friend, Stubby earns his place in World War I history by warning troops of gas attacks, killing rats that plagued the soldiers' barracks, and even capturing a German soldier by biting the seat of his pants.
- Behar, Ruth. ***Letters from Cuba***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020. In 1938, eleven-year-old Esther joins her father in tropical, multicultural Cuba, where they toil together to rescue the rest of their Jewish family from persecution in Poland.
- Bragg, Georgia. ***Caught!: Nabbing History's Most Wanted***. Crown, 2019. A gripping, hilarious, nonfiction read, with brilliant illustrations, for even your most reluctant of readers, these brief (and factually accurate!) profiles of notorious criminals throughout history will have your readers pulling others over to read the stories and look at the pictures with them.
- Burgan, Michael. ***Olympic Gold 1936: How the Image of Jesse Owens Crushed Hitler's Evil Myth***. Capstone, 2017. Track star Jesse Owens won multiple gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games—his performance crushed Hitler's view of Aryan superiority in every way, showing the world that personal character and skill have nothing to do with race.
- Burt, Jake. ***Greetings from Witness Protection!*** Feiwel and Friends, 2017. Thirteen-year-old Nikki Demere is an orphan and a kleptomaniac, making her the perfect girl to portray the Trevors' daughter in witness protection; but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.
- Cherrix, Amy. ***Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. From the acclaimed series *Scientists in the Field*, this first contribution solely about weather covers a program using drones to learn more about hurricanes, plus a poignant narrative from Hurricane Sandy. *Series*

- Draper, Sharon. ***Out of My Mind***. Atheneum, 2010. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient, young girl with cerebral palsy discovers a way for her to speak for the first time.
- Farrell, Mary C. ***Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII***. Abrams Books, 2019. True stories of the African American women who enlisted as part of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to help with the World War II effort while fighting racism in the country they were helping to protect.
- Forde, Patricia. ***The List***. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2017. Letta, charged with collecting and saving words, uncovers a sinister plan to suppress language, robbing the people of Ark of the power of speech, and she realizes she must also save the culture itself.
- Fox, Janet. ***The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle***. Puffin, 2017. In 1940 during the London Blitz, Katherine, Robbie and Amelie Bateson are sent north to a private school at Rookskill Castle in Scotland, a brooding place, haunted by dark magic from the past--but when some of their classmates disappear, Katherine has to find out if the cause is hidden in the past or very much in the present.
- Gemeinhart, Dan. ***Good Dog***. Scholastic, 2018. Brodie was a good dog. And good dogs go to heaven. Except Brodie can't move on. Not just yet.
- Gibbs, Stuart. ***Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation***. Simon & Schuster, 2019. The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy. *Series*
- Green, Tim. ***The Big Game***. Harper, 2018. Danny Owens is dedicating his seventh-grade football season to his recently-deceased father, an NFL legend, but the pressure to succeed is magnified by his inability to read.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Under Their Skin***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. Twelve-year-old twins Nick and Eryn investigate why their mother and new stepfather are keeping secrets; why they are forbidden to meet their stepsiblings; and most importantly, why their lives are in danger. *Series*
- Hale, Nathan. ***Lafayette!*** Amulet Books, 2018. At age 19, Major General Marquis de Lafayette left the luxuries of French nobility for adventure overseas, where he joined the American Revolution and fought alongside Alexander Hamilton and George Washington. *Graphic novel, Series*
- Heiligman, Deborah. ***Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship."*** Holt, 2019. The harrowing true story of the *SS City of Benares*, which was attacked while transporting children to safety during WWII.

- Hernandez, Carlos. ***Sal & Gabi Break the Universe***. Disney-Hyperion, 2019. In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. *Series*
- Hicks, Deron R. ***The Van Gogh Deception***. Houghton Mifflin, 2017. When a young boy is discovered in Washington, DC's National Gallery of Art without any recollection of who he is, he must piece together the disjointed clues of his origins while using his limited knowledge to stop one of the greatest art frauds ever attempted.
- Jamieson, Victoria. ***All's Faire in Middle School***. Dial Books, 2017. In her quest to train as an official squire for the Renaissance Faire (her parents' passion), homeschooled Impy takes on the challenge of public middle school and discovers that fitting in is harder than she imagined. *Graphic novel*
- Jamieson, Victoria, and Omar Mohamed. ***When Stars are Scattered***. Dial Books, 2020. Brothers Omar and Hassan live together in a Kenyan refugee camp in this moving graphic memoir of education, family, and resilience. *Graphic novel, Schneider Family Honor winner*
- Johnson, Katherine. ***Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson***. Atheneum, 2019. Katherine Johnson's account of helping to launch Apollo 11 with NASA during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Johnson, Terry Lynn. ***Dog Driven***. Houghton Mifflin, 2019. McKenna, fourteen, is losing her vision to Stargardt's disease, but that will not stop her from competing in a rigorous new sled dog race through the Canadian wilderness.
- Johnson, Varian. ***The Parker Inheritance***. Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Twelve-year-old Candice, who is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, finds herself caught up in the mystery of a lost inheritance; tries to exonerate her grandmother who had the city tennis courts dug up looking for this treasure; and exposes an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.
- Kelly, Lynne. ***Song for a Whale***. Delacorte, 2019. Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.
- Kennedy, Caroline, ed. ***Poems to Learn by Heart***. Disney-Hyperion, 2013. A wonderful selection of poems -- some old favorites, some new -- arranged by everyday subjects like school, family, self, sports, etc., accompanied by watercolor illustrations charmingly painted by Jon J. Muth. A book to treasure and share!

- LeZotte, Ann Clare. ***Show Me a Sign***. Scholastic, 2020. It is 1805, and Mary Lambert has grown up in a community on Martha's Vineyard where sign language is widely used and being deaf is not unusual when she is kidnapped by a misguided scientist and thrust into a world she does not know.
- Lupica, Mike. ***Strike Zone***. Philomel, 2019. Twelve-year-old Nick García dreams of winning MVP of his summer baseball league, of finding a cure for his sister, of meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and of no longer living in fear of the government and ICE agents.
- Magras, Diane. ***The Mad Wolf's Daughter***. Kathy Dawson, 2018. When her Scottish war-lord father and cherished brothers are taken captive by invading knights, twelve-year-old Drest ignores her father's command to hide and courageously sets off to rescue them, taking a wounded knight along to ransom for her family. *Series*
- Marsh, Katherine. ***Nowhere Boy***. Putnam's, 2018. A story of second chances as thirteen-year-old American expat Max, living abroad in Belgium with his family, discovers a fourteen-year-old Syrian refugee hiding in his basement.
- McAnulty, Stacy. ***Millionaires for the Month***. Random House, 2020. Seventh-graders Benji and Felix are challenged to spend five million dollars in thirty days by a famous billionaire.
- Messner, Kate. ***The Exact Location of Home***. Bloomsbury, 2017. Believing his long-absent father is missing and leaving clues behind through geocaching, thirteen-year-old Zig, relies on his love of electronics, a garage sale GPS unit, and his best friend Gianna to search for answers.
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***The Mark of the Thief***. Scholastic, 2015. In this fast-paced historical fantasy, Nic is a slave in the Roman mines who finds a magical amulet that once belonged to Julius Caesar. He learns very quickly that there are others who seek the amulet who want to use its powers to overthrow the Emperor and control Rome. *Series*
- Nobel, Julia. ***Mystery of Black Hollow Lane***. Sourcebooks, 2019. Twelve-year-old Emmy investigates the connection between her father's disappearance and a secret society at her prestigious English boarding school. *Series*
- O'Connor, George. ***Apollo: The Brilliant One***. FirstSecond, 2016. This retelling of the classic Greek myth about the god of the sun, this most human of all the gods, so charming yet flawed, educates as well as entertains. *Graphic novel, series*
- Paterson, Katherine. ***My Brigadista Year***. Candlewick, 2017. A historical novel about a young Cuban teenager who volunteers for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign that taught those throughout the impoverished countryside to read.

- Pearsall, Shelley. ***The Seventh Most Important Thing***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. An angry encounter with the local Junk Man leads Arthur on a redemptive journey that ultimately allows him to come to terms with his loss and create art. Based on the work of folk artist James Hampton.
- Ramée, Lisa Moore. ***A Good Kind of Trouble***. Balzer + Bray, 2019. After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.
- Reynolds, Jason. ***Patina***. Atheneum, 2017. Patina needs more than blinding speed to thrive when diabetes disables her mom, leaving her to juggle big sister duties at her aunt and uncle's house, elite track team practices, and adjustments to a private school as best as she can. *Series*.
- Saeed, Aisha. ***Amal Unbound***. Nancy Paulsen, 2018. In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.
- Safina, Carl. ***Beyond Words: What Elephants and Whales Think and Feel***. Roaring Brook, 2019. An interesting look at the differences and similarities between humans and elephants and humans and killer whales.
- Schmidt, Gary D. ***Pay Attention, Carter Jones***. Clarion, 2019. In true Gary D. Schmidt fashion, this story is filled with humor, heart, endearing characters, and indelible life lessons, as the reader is exposed to loss and what it means to be family, all through the eyes of a 6th-grade boy whose family recently inherited a British butler.
- Sheinkin, Steve. ***Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race Across America***. Roaring Brook, 2019. You will learn about the early women pilots and their stories as they dared to fly across America in 1929 for the Women's Air Derby.
- Shusterman, Neal, and Eric Elfman. ***Tesla's Attic***. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. Nick and his friends must thwart the secret society of Accelerati from getting Tesla's mysterious inventions in this sci-fi action thriller. *Series*
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***Short***. Dial Books, 2017. Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a Munchkin in a summer regional theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*.
- Stevens, Robin. ***Poison is Not Polite***. Simon & Schuster, 2016. In 1930s England, schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home for the holidays when someone falls seriously, mysteriously ill at a family party. No one present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two--so the Detective Society must do everything they can to reveal the truth . . . no matter the consequences. *Series*

Thuras, Dylan, and Rosemary Mosco. ***The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid***. Workman, 2018. This nonfiction adventure takes the reader to 47 countries with facts and illustrations of 100 world wonders.

Williams, Alicia D. ***Genesis Begins Again***. Atheneum, 2019. Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is. *Newbery Honor Book, Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe for New Talent Author Award Winner, Morris Award Finalist*

Wolk, Lauren. ***Echo Mountain***. Dutton, 2020. When twelve-year-old Ellie and her family lose their livelihood and move to a mountain cabin in 1934, she quickly learns to be an outdoors woman and, when needed, a healer.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Before the Ever After***. Nancy Paulsen, 2020. ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career. *Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner*
