

Sixth Grade

In order to prepare for class activities in August, as well as encourage reading during the vacation, incoming sixth grade students will be expected to read at least two books over the summer that they have **not** read previously. These books may be bought or borrowed. One of the books **must** be from the reading list. Read another full-length book of the student's choice. This may be a book also on the reading list from another recommended sixth grade reading list, or any other book the student is interested in reading. Be prepared to discuss your choices in small groups.

California Young Reader Medal – 2006 Nominees

Bauer, Joan Stand Tall

Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school.

Corbett, Sue 12 Again

Bernadette, having wished on the eve of her fortieth birthday to be young again, wakes up the next morning as a twelve year-old, and enrolls in her son Patrick's class in hopes of somehow enlisting his help in returning to her old self.

Giff, Patricia Pictures of Hollis Woods

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

Classics

Doyle, Arthur Conan The Complete Sherlock Holmes

Presents all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works featuring the detective Sherlock Holmes, including fifty-six short stories and four novellas, and includes Christopher Morley's well-known preface.

Grahame, Kenneth The Wind in the Willows The escapades of four animal friends who live along a river in the English countryside--Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.

London, Jack The Call of the Wild The story of Buck, a part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Milne, A.A. The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh

Contains the complete and unabridged texts of all the Pooh stories with original illustrations by Ernest H. Shepard.

Packer, Tina Tales from Shakespeare

Presents prose retellings of ten familiar Shakespeare comedies and tragedies, including "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Othello," and "Romeo and Juliet," each with illustrations by an award-winning artist.

Swift, Jonathan *Gulliver's Travels* The voyages of an Englishman carry him to a land of people six inches high, a land of giants, an island of sorcerers, and a land where horses are masters of human-like creatures.

Contemporary

Bode, N. E. *The Anybodies* After learning that she is not the biological daughter of boring Mr. and Mrs. Drudger, Fern embarks on magical adventures with her real father and finally finds "a place that feels like home."

Cooney, Caroline *Flight 116 Is Down*

Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.

Creech, Sharon *Heartbeat* Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Hautman, Pete *Godless*

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

Peck, Robert Newton *Soup (or any of the Soup books)*

The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town.

Philbrick, Rodman *Freak the Mighty*

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer *Bat 6*

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Fantasy/Science Fiction

Allende, Isabel *City of the Beasts* and its sequel *Kingdom of the Golden Dragon*

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians. In the sequel, Alex, now 16, journeys to the remote Himalayas to help locate a sacred statue.

Barron, T.A. *Tree Girl*

Nine-year-old Rowanna is drawn to the forest and a huge tree, despite the warnings of the old man with whom she has always lived at the edge of the sea--especially after she befriends a bear/boy who is in reality a tree spirit.

Billingsley, Franny Folk Keeper

Orphan Corinna disguises herself as a boy to pose as a Folk Keeper, one who keeps the Evil Folk at bay, and discovers her heritage as a seal maiden when she is taken to live with a wealthy family in their manor by the sea.

DuPrau, Jeanne The City of Ember and its sequel The People of Sparks In the city of Ember, 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. Lina and Doon are thrilled to see their people join them in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other.

Farmer, Nancy The Sea of Trolls After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Funke, Cornelia Caroline Dragon Rider After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.

Hoban, Russell The Mouse and His Child

Two discarded toy mice survive perilous adventures in a hostile world before finding security and happiness with old friends and new.

Langrish, Katherine Troll Fell Forced to move to Troll Fell to live with his uncles, Baldur and Grim, after his father's death, young Peer Ulfsson learns of his uncles' sinister plan to sell children to the trolls and sets out with an adventurous neighbor girl named Hilde to stop them.

Oppel, Kenneth Airborn Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Stahler, David Truesight

In a distant frontier world, thirteen-year-old Jacob is uncertain of his future in a community that considers blindness a virtue and "Seers" as aberrations.

Stroud, Jonathan The Amulet of Samarkand and its sequel The Golem's Eye Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland. In their continuing adventures, magician's apprentice Nathaniel, now fourteen years old, and the djinni Bartimaeus travel to Prague to locate the source of a golem's power before it destroys London.

Turner, Megan Whalen The Thief

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

Yolen, Jane Dragon's Blood

Jakkin, a bond boy who works as a Keeper in a dragon nursery on the planet Austar IV, secretly trains a fighting pit dragon of his own in hopes of winning his freedom.

Historical Fiction

Choldenko, Gennifer Al Capone Does My Shirts *2005 Newbery Honor Book A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Fleischman, Sid The Giant Rat of Sumatra, or, Pirates Galore A cabin boy on a pirate ship finds himself in San Diego in 1846 as war breaks out between the United States and Mexico.

McCaughrean, Geraldine Stop the Train!

Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Runner Railroad in 1893, the new settlers of Florence, Oklahoma, are determined to build a real town.

Humor

Klise, Kate Regarding the Sink

A series of letters reveals the selection of the famous fountain designer, Florence Waters, to design a new sink for the Geyser Creek Middle School cafeteria, her subsequent disappearance, and the efforts of a class of sixth-graders to find her.

Peck, Richard The Teacher's Funeral. A Comedy in Three Parts 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."

Wardlaw, Lee 101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher

Steve "Sneeze" Wyatt attempts to thwart his parents' plan to have him skip eighth grade, but he has bigger problems when his friends disapprove of his new list and Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

Mystery/Suspense/Horror

Bruchac, Joseph The Dark Pond

After he feels a mysterious pull drawing him toward a dark, shadowy pond in the woods, Armie looks to old Native American tales for guidance about the dangerous monster lurking in the water.

Ibbotson, Eva The Star of Kazan Annika, a twelve-year-old foundling in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

Lyon, George Ella Sonny's House of Spies In a small Alabama town in 1947-1956, Sonny searches for answers about his father's disappearance, "Uncle Marty," who looks after the family, and Mamby, their black housekeeper.

Updale, Eleanor Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?

In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.

Wooding, Chris Haunting of Alaizabel Gray

As Thaniel, a wych-hunter, and Cathaline, his friend and mentor, try to destroy the terrible creatures that infest the alleys of London's Old Quarter, their lives become entwined with that of Alaizabel Cray, a woman who may be either mad or possessed.

Non-Fiction

Allen, Thomas B. George Washington, Spymaster : How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Bausum, Ann With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's

Right to Vote Chronicles the long history of the fight for women's voting rights, beginning in 1848, with a focus on the years between 1913 and 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment was passed, and includes profiles of notable women in the struggle.

Bolden, Tonya Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of Black American Artists

Explores the lives and creations of a select number of notable African-American men and women who have contributed to the American art scene.

Bruchac, Joseph Code Talker's Story After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Freedman, Russell The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights *2005 Newbery Honor Book Tells the life story of singer Marian Anderson, describing her famous 1939 Lincoln Memorial performance and explaining how she helped end segregation in the American arts after being refused the right to perform at Washington's Constitution Hall because of the color of her skin.

Jackson, Donna M. In Your Face: The Facts About Your Features Presents an extensive study of the face and discusses how facial recognition technology can help find missing persons as well as how different cultures define beauty.

Janeczko, Paul Top Secret: a Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing Presents a guide to codemaking, codebreaking, and their role in history, describing different types of codes and ciphers, discussing codebreaking and concealment techniques, and including brief stories about exciting moments in the history of the art.

Schroeder, Andreas Scams: Ten Stories that Explore Some of the Most Outrageous

Swindlers and Tricksters of All Time

A collection of true stories about some of the most outrageous scams in history.

Sports

Any books by Chris Crutcher or Thomas Dysgard.

Gutman, Dan The Million Dollar Strike

Best friends Ouchie and Squishy, who love bowling and horror movies respectively, meet the eccentric owner of a local bowling alley and try to help him save Bowl-A-Rama from the wrecking ball and a destructive psychotic lunatic.

Hirschfeld, Robert Goalkeeper in Charge

Shy Tina Esparza is upset when her coach decides she will be the goalkeeper a position in which she will be too noticeable.

Lupica, Mike Travel Team After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Swan, Bill Corner Kick

Michael Strike learns a lesson on friendship when fellow soccer player Miriah befriends Zahir, an immigrant from the Middle East, whom Michael sees as a rival until he finds out that Zahir is an excellent chess player.

Addition to the 6th Grade Summer Reading List

Title	Author	Reading Level	Fiction/Nonfiction
I, Houdini	Lynne Reid banks	5.8	fiction
The House with a Clock in its Walls	John Bellairs	6.2	fiction
The Grey King	Susan Cooper	7.1	fiction
Boy	Roald Dahl	6.7	fiction
The Secret Garden	Frances Burnett	7.5	fiction
The Landry News	Andrew Clements	6.0	fiction
Incident at Hawk's Hill	Allan Eckert	7.5	fiction
Two Tickets to Freedom	Florence B. Freedman	6.8	Non-fiction
On the Far Side of the Mountain	Jean Craighead George	6.5	fiction