

Suggested Summer Reading List Grade 6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793*. Aladdin paperbacks, 2002. *Fever 1793* is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 5,000 people – or 10 percent of the city's population – in three months. During the hot mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire, killing people overnight.

Avi. *What Do Fish Have to Do with Anything?: and Other Stories*. Candlewick Press, 2004. Here is a superior collection of seven stories about and for 10 to 12-year old students. These short stories affirm the ability of their main characters to choose their fate.

Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*. Harcourt, 1997. Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, failing to notice as Paul fights for the right to play soccer when disqualified for his bad eyesight.

Broome, Errol. *Magnus Maybe*. Aladdin paperbacks, 2002. The arrival of this chipper tale of kindly mice under duress (first published in Australia) will be just the ticket for readers who can't get enough of talking rodents.

Clements, Andrew. *The Laundry News*. Aladdin paperbacks, 2000. A fifth grade student's scathing editorial criticizing her burned-out teacher spurs him to take his duties seriously. A terrific read about free speech, the power of the pen, and the need to temper truth with mercy.

Clements, Andrew. *The Report Card*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, 2004. Fifth-grader Nora Rowley has a problem with grades, and her latest report card, with five Ds and one C, proves it. What nobody knows because she's kept it a secret is that she is really a genius and has earned those low marks on purpose because of her friend Stephen.

Farmer, Nancy. *A Girl Named Disaster*. Puffin Books, 1998. This 1997 Newbery Honor book, which is set in Africa, is both a survival story and a spiritual voyage. For Nhamo, an 11-year-old Shona girl living in Mozambique in 1981, life is filled with the traditions of her village people. When family circumstances, a ngozi (angry spirit), and a cholera epidemic force her into a horrible marriage, she flees with only her grandmother's blessings, some gold nuggets, and many survival skills.

George, Jean Craighead. *Dipper of Copper Creek*. Puffin Books, 1996. Prospecting for gold with his grandfather in the Colorado Rockies, Doug encounters the strangest bird he has ever seen, a water ouzel, and is forced to save the bird when an avalanche destroys its home.

Henke, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean*. Greenwillow, 2003. More than anything Martha wants to be a writer. The problem is that her father does, too. Is there room for two writers in a single family? This is only one of the many questions that beg to be answered during Martha's twelfth summer.

Hesse, Karen. *Aleutian Sparrow*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2003. In June, 1942, Japanese forces attacked the Aleutian Islands. Within days of the attack, the U.S. military removed the native people of these islands to relocation centers in Alaska's southwest, supposedly for their own protection. Conditions in these camps were deplorable. The Aleuts were held for approximately three years, and many of them died. In a series of short, unrhymed verses, Hesse tells this moving story through the eyes and voice of a girl of Aleut and Caucasian heritage.

Hobbs, Valerie. *Carolina Crow Girl*. Bt Bound, 2001. Although she loves her caring but naive mother and baby sister, Carolina longs to live in a house like other sixth graders instead of on a school bus parked on the edge of a rich family's property. And in this contemporary fairy tale, Carolina gets her wish, which helps her realize how much she wants and needs her own family, however imperfect and impoverished they are.

Hoeye, Michael. *The Sands of Time*. Puffin Books, 2003. Fresh from his first adventure (*Time Stops for No Mouse*), Hermux Tantamoq, watchmaker, amateur sleuth and intrepid mouse about town, finds himself drawn into another intrigue when his artist friend Mirrin Stentrill's exhibit of cat paintings incites a riot.

Hunter, Erin. *Warriors #1: Into the Wild*. HarperCollins, 2003. For generations, four clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by the powerful ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger.

- Johnson, Angela. *A Cool Moonlight*. Dial Books, 2003. With breathtaking lyricism, Angela Johnson shares the thoughts and dreams of an extraordinary girl named Lila. Born with an unusual and dangerous allergy to the sun, nine-year-old Lila can only be outside at night.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*. Atheneum Books, 2004. Katie Takeshima worships her older sister, Lynn, who knows everything and takes care of Katie while their parents are working long hours in their small Georgia town in the late 1950s. It's Lynn who shows Katie the glittering beauty (*kira-kira*) of the stars and who prepares Katie for the prejudice she will encounter as one of the few Japanese American kids in their school.
- Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*. HarperTrophy, 1998. At her birth, Ella of Frell was the unfortunate recipient of a foolish fairy's gift--the "gift" of obedience. Ella must obey any order given to her, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day and a half, or chopping off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. Against a bold backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse once and for all.
- Levine, Gail Carson. *The Wish*. HarperTrophy, 2001. From the author of the Newbery Honor book *Ella Enchanted*, this modern-day fairy tale shows a very real girl in a very unusual predicament, and along the way it reveals some painful truths about whether or not we really want to be liked for who we are.
- Lowry, Lois. *Gathering Blue*. Laurel-Leaf Books, 2002. Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. She fears for her future until she is spared by the all-powerful Council of Guardians. Kira is a gifted weaver and is given a task that no other community member can do. While her talent keeps her alive and brings certain privileges, Kira soon realizes she is surrounded by many mysteries and secrets. No one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world and see what places exist beyond.
- Lowry, Lois. *Messenger*. Walter Lorraine Books, 2004. Like Lowry's hugely popular Newbery winner, *The Giver* (1993), this story dramatizes ideas of utopia gone wrong and focuses on a young person who must save his world.
- Lowry, Lois. *The Silent Boy*. Walter Lorraine Books, 2003. A book for young people with an oddly adult spin, *The Silent Boy* revolves around Katy Thatcher's reminiscence of her early years. The privileged daughter of the

town doctor, she observes the intersection between that life of privilege and the working-class realities of her family's hired girls.

Nickerson, Sara. *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*.

HarperTrophy, 2003. Margaret Clairmont, 12, can barely remember her father or the last time her mother woke up long enough to take them somewhere beyond the grocery store and laundromat. Their sudden unexpected visit to place a "For Sale by Owner" sign on a dilapidated mansion on an island in the Pacific Northwest is the basis of this interesting mystery. The resolution of a long-standing family tragedy is slowly pieced together in this novel.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Firewing*. Aladdin Paperbacks, 2004. Griffin, a young bat, is sucked into the "Underworld," and his father follows to rescue him.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Silverwing*. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1999. This "gripping" epic starring a bat has been compared to *Watership Down* for the author's use of animal characters in his investigation of tolerance, intellectual freedom, and other social concerns.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. Yearling Books, 2003. Tree-ear is an orphan boy in a 12th-century Korean potters' village. For a long time he is content living with Crane-man under a bridge barely surviving on scraps of food. All that changes when he sees master potter Min making beautiful pottery.

Peck, Richard. *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*. Puffin Books, 2000. Each summer over the nine years of the Depression, Joey and his sister, Mary Alice – two city slickers from Chicago – make their annual summer visit to Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town. Soon enough, they find that it's far from sleepy... and Grandma is far from one's typical grandmother.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Loser*. HarperTrophy, 2003. Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2002. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense,

emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

Spinelli, Jerry. *The Library Card*. Scholastic, 1998. Jamie "Mongoose" Hills finds the little blue card among the candy he's shoplifted. Brenda is saved by the card during the Great TV Turn-Off. April Mendez takes a ride in a bookmobile unlike any other. Four unforgettable stories from a master storyteller.

Tolan, Stephanie. *Surviving the Applewhites*. HarperTrophy, 2003. In this laugh-out-loud novel, a young teen on the fast track to the juvenile detention center suddenly finds himself living in rural North Carolina with the outrageously eccentric Applewhite clan.