

## 6th Grade Reading List

Students are expected to read at least FIVE books from this list, including the core novel, which will be discussed in their English classes. A reading log must be signed and turned in to advisors during the first week of class.

**Jacqueline Woodson. Hush** (core novel to be read by all incoming Sixth Graders)

After Toswiah Green's father testifies against a fellow police officer in a murder case, the Greens are forced to enter the Witness Protection Program and give up all traces of their past.

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**Avi. Crispin:** the Cross of Lead; Crispin: At the Edge of the World. (only one from this series can count)

Falsely accused of theft and declared a 'wolf's head' (whom any man may kill) after his mother's death, humble, pious Crispin flees the feudal village where he was raised and the steward who wants him dead. Taken in as an apprentice by a massive, red-haired, itinerant juggler who calls himself Bear, Crispin learns about music and mummery, about freedom and questioning fate, and about his own mysterious parentage that seems to be the reason behind the steward's continuing pursuit of him. Set in fourteenth century England. Newbery Award 2002

**Ann Cameron. Colibri.**

She was little and quick and pretty. Her mother nicknamed her Colibrí, Spanish for 'Hummingbird.' At age four she was kidnapped, torn from her parents on a crowded bus in Guatemala City. Since then she's traveled with 'Uncle,' the ex-soldier and wandering beggar who has renamed her Rosa. Uncle has always told Rosa that he searched for her parents but had no success. There's almost no chance Rosa will ever find them – but Rosa still remembers and longs for them.

**Pam Conrad. My Daniel.**

Ellie and Stevie learn about a family legacy when their grandmother tells them stories of her brother's historical quest for dinosaur bones on their Nebraska farm.

**Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. The Conch Bearer;** The Mirror of Fire and Dreaming. (only one from this series can count)

In a dingy shack in the less-than-desirable Indian neighborhood he calls home, twelve-year-old Anand is entrusted with a conch shell that possesses mystical powers. His task is to return the shell to its rightful home many hundreds of miles away. Accompanying him are Nisha, a headstrong but resourceful child of the streets, and a mysterious man of indeterminate age and surprising resources named Abadhyatta. His quest will take him farther from home than he's ever been and will

teach him more than he ever imagined -- and it will force him to make a poignant decision that will change him forever.

**Michael Dorris. Morning Girl.**

This novel alternates between the first-person voices of twelve-year-old Morning Girl and her younger brother, Star Boy, who are Taino Indians living on a Bahamian island in 1492.

**John Feinstein. Last Shot: a Final Four Mystery; Vanishing Act; Mystery at the U.S. Open, Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl. (only one in this series can count)**

As winners of a writing contest, eighth-graders Steven Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson travel to the NCAA Final Four as journalists. In addition to meeting college basketball celebrities, the two also uncover a plot to fix the championship game. This is a fast-moving mystery takes the reader to a behind-the-scenes look at the Final Four.

**Sid Fleischman. Bo & Mzzz Mad.**

When his father dies, Bo Gamage warily moves to the Mojave Desert home of his distant and estranged relatives, the Martinkas, and finds that "Mad" lives up to her name, Paw Paw despises him, and Aunt Juna hopes he'll help search for the gold mine that started a family feud.

**Cornelia Funke. 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.

**Jack Gantos. Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key; Joey Pigza Loses Control; What Would Joey Do?; I Am Not Joey Pigza. (only one from this series can count)**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

**Jean Craighead George. Who Really Killed Cock Robin? An Ecological Mystery.**

When the robin that has been nesting on the mayor's porch dies suddenly, eighth grader Tony Isidoro follows a trail of ecological clues--including fumes coming from the town dump-- to find out what killed the robin.

**Kimberly Willis Holt. Dancing in Cadillac Light.**

In 1968, eleven-year-old Jaynell's life in the town of Moon, Texas, is enlivened when her eccentric Grandpap comes to live with her family.

**Anthony Horowitz.** Stormbreaker; Point Blank; Eagle Strike; Scorpia; Skeleton Key; Ark Angel; Snakehead. (only one can count)

When his uncle is mysteriously killed in a car crash, fourteen-year old Alex sees his prep-school world overturned in an instant. Police explain in funeral voices that Ian Rider's death was the result of not wearing his seat belt, but that doesn't explain the fresh spray of bullet holes across the car's battered windshield. Finding out what really killed his uncle and "saving England" become young Alex's new life mission.

**Madeleine L'Engle.** A Wind in the Door; Many Waters; A Swiftly Tilting Planet. (only one in this series can count)

### **Companion books to A Wrinkle in Time.**

**David Lubar. 2008 Kyle Likover Memorial Visiting Author.** (only one can count)

### **Wizards of the Game.**

Eighth grader Mercer, whose passion is the fantasy role-playing game Wizards of the Warrior World, hopes to use a fund raiser to bring a gaming convention to his middle school, but instead he attracts four genuine wizards who are trapped on Earth and want his help in returning to their own world.

*Or*

### **Flip**

Eighth-grade twins Taylor and Ryan are complete opposites and seem to have nothing in common, until they find a set of mysterious disks that magically allow them to transform into legendary figures from the past.

### **Chris Lynch. Gold Dust.**

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox.

### **O. T. Nelson. The Girl Who Owned a City.**

When a plague sweeps over the earth killing everyone except children under twelve, ten-year-old Lisa organizes a group to rebuild a new way of life.

**Gary Paulsen. Mr. Tucket;** Call Me Francis Tucket; Tucket's Ride; Tucket's Gold; Tucket's Ride. (only one from this series can count)

In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild.

**Gary Paulsen. The Time Hackers.**

When someone uses futuristic technology to play pranks on twelve-year-old Dorso Clayman, he and his best friend set off on a supposedly impossible journey through space and time trying to stop the gamesters who are endangering the universe.

**Richard Peck. 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.'

**Tamora Pierce. Alanna: the First Adventure;** In the Hand of the Goddess; The Woman Who Rides Like a Man; Lioness Rampant. Song of the Lioness series. (only one from this series can count)

Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, a learning many hard lessons along her path to high adventure.

**Philip Pullman. I Was a Rat.**

A little boy turns life in London upside down when he appears at the house of a lonely old couple and insists he was a rat.

**Rick Riordan. The Lightning Thief;** The Sea of Monsters; Titan's Curse. Percy Jackson & the Olympians series (only one from this series can count)

There is no such twelve-year-old boy as Perseus 'Percy' Jackson. The Greek gods are nothing more than old myths. They certainly never have children with mortals in the 21st century, nor is there any such place as Half Blood Hill, a summer camp for demigods on eastern Long Island. Percy never met a satyr or a daughter of Athena. They most emphatically did not take a quest together across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

**Nancy Springer. Rowan Hood: Outlaw Girl of Sherwood Forest.** Outlaw Princess of Sherwood, a Tale of Rowan Hood. Lionclaw: A Tale of Rowan Hood. Outlaw princess of Sherwood, a tale of Rowan Hood. Rowan Hood returns --the Final Chapter. (only one from this series can count)

She has never met her father--the outlaw folks call Robin Hood. But with her mother murdered and no one to care for her, thirteen-year-old Rowan has no choice but to track him down. Disguised as a boy, she picks up a band of followers, including Lionel, the gentle giant, and Ettarde, the runaway princess.

**Trenton Lee Stewart. The Mysterious Benedict Society;** The Mysterious Benedict --Society and the Perilous Journey. (only one can count)

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Lisa Yee.** (only one can count) **Millicent Min,** Girl Genius.

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

OR

**Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time.**

After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer-school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father.

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