

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Suggestions



Attached are lists of books organized by “Bingo” category. These are just meant to be **suggestions**. Please feel free to choose books that fit your interests and reading speed, as well as fitting the “Bingo” category description! Just be sure to get your parent’s approval before substituting any books on the list.

### Graphic Novels/Comic Books

#### ***Vogelein: Clockwork Faerie***

Vogelein, a tiny clockwork faerie, embarks on a desperate quest to find someone to trust when her Guardian of fifty years dies, leaving her with only five hours before she winds down forever

#### ***Bone*** by Jeff Smith (any of them)

The Bone cousins struggle to reach the city of Atheia. In their way is an ancient evil called the Locust.

#### ***Lizzie McGuire*** (any of them)

Lizzie suffers when her mom comes along as a chaperone on the overnight science trip and when her dad interferes in her first baby-sitting job, but depends on friends Miranda and Gordo to help her through it

#### ***The Hardy Boys: Undercover Brothers*** by Scott Lobel

A graphic novel in which Frank and Joe Hardy, Callie, and Lola must recover the Ocean of Osyria, an art treasure taken from a Middle Eastern museum, in order to save their best friend, Chet, who has been accused of stealing it.

#### ***Nancy Drew: Girl Detective*** by Stephan Petrucha

A graphic novel version in which Nancy, Bess, Ned, and George set out to find a little boy who suddenly turned up missing as well as locate a missing ancient Chinese artifact; but someone is determined to stop her.

#### ***Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind***.by Hayao Miyazaki (150)

Nausicaa teams up with Queen Kushana of Torumekia in the fight against the Doroks in order to save the world from destruction.

#### ***SpyBoy in the Deadly Gourmet Affair*** by Peter David

Bullied teenager Alex Fleming finally fights back, discovering amazing talents in the martial arts and meeting his destiny to become a superhero-style international spy.

#### ***Teen Titans: A Kid's Game*** by Geoff Johns

Collects the first seven issues of "Teen Titans" comics in which the young superheroes, reeling from the death of Troia and the disbanding of Young Justice, are taken in hand by Cyborg, Starfire, and Raven, who set out to prepare the teen champions for a confrontation with Deathstroke.

#### ***Yu-Gi-Oh*** by Kazuki Takahashi.

Contains several "Shonen Jump" adventures, including a showdown between Yugi and the Egyptian mystic Shadi, which decides the life or death of Yugi's best friends

## Around the World

***Homeless Bird*** by Gloria Whelan

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

***The not-so-star-spangled life of Sunita Sen.*** By Mitali Perkins

When her grandparents come for a visit from India to California, thirteen-year-old Sunita finds herself resenting her Indian heritage and embarrassed by the differences she feels between herself and her friends.

***The Breadwinner*** or ***Parvana's Journey*** by Deborah Ellis

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

or

With Kabul in ruins from the Taliban's control, Parvana dresses as a boy and sets out to leave Afghanistan in search of her family.

***Before We Were Free*** by Julia Alvarez

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

***Whale Rider*** by Witi Tame Ihimaera

As her beloved grandfather, chief of the Maori tribe of Whangara, New Zealand, struggles to lead in difficult times and to find a male successor, young Kahu is developing a mysterious relationship with whales, particularly the ancient bull whale whose legendary rider was their ancestor.

***Journey to Jo'burg*** by Beverly Naidoo

When their baby sister becomes dangerously ill, thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother make a journey to Johannesburg, where their mother works as a maid for a white family.

***The Other Side of the Truth*** by Beverly Naidoo

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria.

***Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*** by Suzanne Fisher Staples

Torn between allegiance to her family and her growing independence and strength, Shabanu tells the story of her life as a member of a nomadic tribe in the Pakistani desert.

***Heaven on earth: 100 places to see in your lifetime*** by Time-Life Books.

Describes 100 wonderful places around the world.

***Emeril's There's a Chef in my World!*** by Emeril Lagasse

Cooking tips and recipes from around the world brought to you by Emeril.

***Passport on a Plate*** by Diane Veza

Describes the culinary styles of twelve regions around the world and provides recipes for each, including Africa, the Caribbean and China

***Games*** by Godfrey Hall

Takes you on a play-filled adventure to the four corners of the Earth to explore the world's most popular games.

## Standing Up

***Bucking the Sarge*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

***Darby*** by Jonathon Scott Fuqua

In 1926, nine-year-old Darby Carmichael stirs up trouble in Marlboro County, South Carolina, when she writes a story for the local newspaper promoting racial equality.

***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*** by Gary Schmidt

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright 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.

***Under the Same Sky*** by Cynthia DeFelice

While trying to earn money for a motor bike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pedersen becomes involved with the Mexicans who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.

***Flush*** by Carl Hiassen

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

***Hope was Here*** by Joan Bauer

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways Diner, they become involved with the diner's owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

***Indigo's Star*** by Hilary McKay

Spurred on by his youngest sister, Rose, twelve-year-old Indigo sticks up for himself and an American boy who has replaced him as the primary target of the school bullies.

***Yankee Girl*** by Mary Ann Rodman

When her FBI-agent father is transferred to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964, eleven-year-old Alice wants to be popular but also wants to reach out to the one black girl in her class in a newly-integrated school.

***The doggy dung disaster & other true stories*** by Garth Sundam

Contains thirty, real-life stories about children doing heroic things, arranged by themes, including saving the environment, standing up for themselves, helping others, overcoming challenges, and using talents and creativity.

***Lead Now or Step Aside! The Ultimate Handbook for Student Leaders*** by Eric Chester  
Strategies, advice, and ideas from America's top speakers, trainers, and authors on youth leadership.

## School Days

***Stand Tall*** by Joan Bauer

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.

***Flipped*** by Wendelin Van Draanen

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

***The Girl with 500 Middle Names*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Janie's parents move to the suburbs so she can go to a better school, but when she discovers that all the other students are richer than she is, she feels out of place—until she realizes that there are more important things than money

***Loser*** by Jerry Spinelli

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

***Project Mulberry*** by Linda Sue Park

Julia, a Korean-American, and her friend Patrick learn about tolerance, friendship, and patience while working together on a project about silkworms.

***The Last Holiday Concert*** by Andrew Clements

Life is usually easy for popular sixth grader Hart Evans, but when his music teacher puts him in charge of the holiday concert, Hart must use all of his leadership skills to unite the other students

***Sahara Special*** by Esme Raji Codell

Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

***Adam Canfield of the Slash*** by Michael Winerip

Late for math club, late for jazz band, late for soccer — Adam Canfield has to be the most overprogrammed middle-school student in America. So when super-organized Jennifer coaxes him to be coeditor of the Slash — Harris Elementary/Middle School's student newspaper — he wonders if he's made a big mistake. Not only do editors get stuck with assigning stories (like an investigative report on the edibility of cafeteria food), but they also have to deal with annoying third graders like Phoebe, always pushing for a front-page slot. But when Phoebe's article on Eddie the janitor leads to a much bigger scoop — an eccentric woman's mysterious gift to the school — Adam and Jennifer rise to the challenge, risking their principal's wrath to uncover some shocking secrets.

***If you're not here, please raise your hand: poems about school*** by Kalli Dakkos

An illustrated collection of poems about a variety of elementary school experiences.

## Learning from the Past

### ***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*** by AVI

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

### ***Storm Warriors*** by Elisa Lynn Carbone

In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections.

### ***Ashes of Roses*** by Mary Jane Auch

Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911 in the hopes of starting a new life, but after most of her family is sent back to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country and fend for herself and her younger sister.

### ***Goddess of Yesterday*** by Caroline Cooney

Taken from her home on an Aegean island as a six-year-old girl, Anaxandra calls on the protection of her goddess while she poses as two different princesses over the next six years, before ending up as a servant in the company of Helen and Paris as they make their way to Troy.

### ***Jason's Gold*** by Will Hobbs

When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon Territory in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 10,000-mile journey to strike it rich.

### ***The Ravenmaster's Secret*** by Elvira Woodruff

The eleven-year-old son of the Ravenmaster at the Tower of London befriends a Jacobite rebel being held prisoner there.

### ***Hachiko Waits*** by Leslie Newman

Professor Ueno's loyal Akita, Hachiko, waits for him at the train station every afternoon, and even after the professor has a fatal heart attack while at work, Hachiko faithfully continues to await his return until the day the dog dies. Based on a true story.

### ***Crispin: Cross of Lead*** by AVI

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

### ***Milkweed*** by Jerry Spinelli.

A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in Warsaw ghetto which helps him weather the horrors of the Nazi regime.

### ***Kite Rider*** by Geraldine McCaughrean

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

### ***Hana's Suitcase*** by Karen Levine

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

### ***Secret's of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley*** by Sally M. Walker

The story of the Hunley' and the secrets it held.

## Mystery

***The Search for the Shadowman*** by Joan Lowery Nixon

While working on a genealogy project for his seventh grade history class, Andy Bonner becomes determined to solve the mystery surrounding a distant relative who was accused of stealing the family fortune.

***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*** by John Feinstein

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

***Vanishing Act*** by John Feinstein

Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

***Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception*** by Wendelin Van Draanen

Seventh-grade sleuth Sammy Keyes investigates mysterious happenings at a local art gallery.

***Star of Kazan*** by Eva Ibbotsen

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.

***The Falcon's Malteser*** by Anthony Horowitz

Tim Diamond, a poor-minded detective, is entrusted with a package worth five million dollars, until the owner of the package is murdered, and it is up to Tim and his brother, Nick, to outwit every crook in town who is trying to get the money.

***The Thief Lord*** by Cornelia Funke

Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

***The Last Treasure*** by Janet Anderson

Thirteen-year-old Ellsworth leaves his father to visit the relatives he has never met and eventually joins forces with Jess, his distant cousin, to uncover family secrets and search for their ancestor's hidden treasure

***Chasing Vermeer*** by Blue Balliett

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

***Wright 3*** by Blue Balliett

In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished.

***The Bone Detectives*** by Donna Jackson.

Explores the world of forensic anthropology and its applications in solving crimes.

## ***The Game of Life***

### ***Million Dollar Kick*** by Dan Gutman

Thirteen-year-old Whisper, who hates sports, is torn when she gets a chance to win a million dollars by kicking a goal against a local soccer hero.

### ***MadCat*** by Kathy Mackel

Fast-pitch softball catcher MadCat Campione's love for the sport is strained when her team competes on a national level and her best pal Jess puts the game before her friends.

### ***The Boy Who Saved Baseball*** by John Ritter

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gata.

### ***Travel Team*** by Mike Lupica

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.

### ***Heat*** by Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

### ***Millicent Min: Girl Genius*** by Lisa Yee

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

### ***Spike It!*** by Matt Christopher

Unhappy at having to share space and family with her new stepsister, Michaela, when her father remarries, thirteen-year-old Jamie is further dismayed when Michaela joins her volleyball team and becomes a star player.

### ***There's a Girl in my Hammerlock*** by Jerry Spinelli

Thirteen-year-old Maisie joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates.

### ***A Strong Right Arm*** by Michelle Y. Green

She looks the batter in the eye. Sizes him up for a curve- or fastball. Stretches her 5' 2" frame. And pops a surefire, windup, coming-right-at-ya pitch smack dab over the plate. One that lets the batter know that this "peanut of a girl" means business. Fueled by her passion for the game and buoyed by the inspiration of Jackie Robinson, Mamie Johnson is determined to be a professional baseball pitcher. From the time she insists on trying out for the all-male all-white Police Athletic League team until she becomes one of only three women to play in the Negro Leagues, Mamie Johnson's life shows that courage -- and a fierce curveball -- can make a childhood dream come true.

## **Other Worlds**

### ***The Sea of Trolls*** by Nancy Farmer

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.

### ***Once Upon a Marigold*** by Jean Ferris

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

### ***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

### ***The Spiderwick Chronicles*** by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black

The Field Guide (Book 1 )When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.

### ***Heir Apparent*** by Vivian Van Velde

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

### ***City of Ember*** by Jean DuPrau

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in herdecaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

### ***Inkheart*** (534) by Cornelia Funke

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

### ***Gregor the Overlander*** by Suzanne Collins

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

### ***Microaliens: dazzling journeys with an electron microscope*** by Howard Tomb

Text and photographs taken with an electron microscope examine such items as bird feathers, fleas, skin, mold, and blood.

### ***Owen & Mzee*** by Isabella Hatkoff

Illustrated text and full-color photographs tell the true story of the unusual relationship between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise.

## ***Any magazine or newspaper***

Really your choice... whatever you are interested in and have access too.

Sports Illustrated for Kids or Sports Illustrated Kids Discover  
Shonen Jump Zoo Books RC Modeler  
Scrapbooks,etc Neopets Skateboarding, Transworld  
Snowboarding, Transworld Biography Today Imagine

## **Adventure and Survival**

***Volcano!*** by Cynthia Pratt Nicolson

Kids can explore the ways volcanoes are created and learn about the chain of events that can set them off. This informative book contains amazing photos of volcanoes erupting, and includes creative hands-on activities and fascinating true-life stories of devastation and survival.

***Floods and mudslides : disaster & survival*** by Bonnie J. Ceban

Presents an introduction to floods and mudslides, in simple text with illustrations, including information how they happen, what causes them, and describes the damage they can inflict.

***Soul surfer: a true story of faith, family and fighting to get back on the board.***

by Bethany Hamilton

The amazing story of the thirteen-year-old surfer girl who lost her arm in a shark attack but never lost her faith--and of her triumphant return to competitive surfing.

***Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*** by Jennifer Armstrong

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic Expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

***Shackleton's Stowaway*** by Victoria McKernan

A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship Endurance was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of his toes to frostbite, during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

***Far North*** by Will Hobbs

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Indian friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness in the Northwest Territories.

***The Young Man and the Sea*** by Rodman Philbrick

After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge bluefin tuna.

***Overboard*** by Elizabeth Fama

Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith.

***Stormbreaker*** by Anthony Horowitz .

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

## “How to” Books

### ***Reader's Digest Crafts & Hobbies***

A step-by-step guide to creating projects from over forty craft areas. Includes specific examples.

### ***Kids Draw Anime*** by Christopher Hart

Provides illustrated, step-by-step instructions for drawing Japanese anime characters, animals, martial arts figures, and action heroes, and includes general information on drawing in anime style.

### ***The Kid's Guide to Digital Photography: how to shoot, save, play with & print your digital photo's*** by Jenni Binder

Presents a comprehensive full-color illustrated guide for kids in understanding digital photography and provides information on the basics and taking good pictures, software and the Internet, and interesting projects, gifts, and crafts to make.

### ***Bowling for Beginners: simple steps to strikes & spares*** by Don Nance

An introduction to bowling that focuses on basic information such as etiquette, safety and equipment as well as technique, strategy and developing a positive mental outlook.

### ***Better Homes and Gardens Snack Attack!***

42 fun, tasty recipes for you to make for yourself!

### ***Fashion Design Drawing Course*** by Caroline Tatham

Presents twenty-four lessons based on design school courses, teaching every step of the fashion design drawing process from finding inspiration to giving one's presentation flair.

### ***Caring for Your Turtle*** by Lynn Hamilton

Presents a guide to owning and caring for a turtle as a pet, featuring profiles of different types of turtles, providing information about pet selection, supplies, feeding, and health, and including discussion of turtle history, anatomy, life cycle, and behavior.

### ***Breathe: yoga for teens*** by Mary Kaye Chryssicas

A book and DVD which explains what yoga is, where it comes from, and exercises to try for yourself.

### ***Wrestling: rules, tips, strategy and safety*** by David Chiu

Traces the history of wrestling, examines the elements of a wrestling match, describes basic wrestling moves, and discusses equipment, preparation, safety considerations, and how to get involved in the sport.

### ***Horseback Riding*** by Gail Stewart

Introduces basics of horseback riding, including tips on getting started, what equipment is needed, and learning to ride.

### ***Techniques of Dance for Cheerleading*** by Craig Peters

Describes the techniques used by dancers that can be applied to cheerleading, from mental attitude to physical exercises to dance moves and choreography.

### ***Soccer: the Ultimate Guide to the Beautiful Game*** by Clive Gifford

Photographs and text provide an introduction to soccer, profiling the game's strongest players, describing the basic skills, and explaining the rules and regulations.