



Welcome 6th Grade Readers!

Anytime is a great time for reading. Research says that children who read daily are more apt to be successful in school and score better on reading achievement tests. They practice important skills that support learning and thinking. Reading fosters confidence and independence. Besides, it's fun!

Here are some thoughts to encourage your readers:

- Visit the library! Encourage your children to read for pleasure.
- Books that are “just right”, not too hard or not too easy, are best for independent reading.
- There's a wealth of books for tweens with great variety in theme and content. Books are not one size fits all. Talk to your children about what he or she is reading.
- 6th graders read to learn. They read increasingly more complex texts in a variety of genres and subjects at school and home. They understand how the central theme is supported and developed through details and can use them to draw inferences about plot and characters. They can relate the author's and character's viewpoints to their own and see the similarities and differences. Their vocabulary and critical thinking expand. Reading influences their own writing as well.
- Older children still enjoy being read to. Great discussions often follow!

Working with your children has been my great pleasure. Happy Reading!

Cheryl Miller, CTA Library 2020

Fiction

Here's only a small selection of the many books available for upper elementary and middle school ages.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko 2007 Newbery Honor Moving to Alcatraz Island, where his dad's a guard, isn't what Moose wants. Read the series.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Petersen Haddix 2000 First in *The Shadow Children* series about a society that allows just 2 children in a family. Luke, age 12, is a third child. He must never go outside. His only contacts are his parents and 2 older brothers. Is life fair? Great Ohio author!

Arcady's Goal by Eugene Yelchin 2014 From the author of *Breaking Stalin's Nose*, here's another story of Soviet Russia. For Arcady, sent to a children's home after his parents are declared enemies of the state, soccer is a means of survival and, maybe, a chance to leave.

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass 2011 Four kids compete to create the most delicious new candy. Sequel: *The Candymakers and the Great Chocolate Chase*.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett 2004 This book “is a puzzle, wrapped in a mystery, disguised as an adventure, and delivered as a work of art”. The story revolves around 6th graders Petra and Calder and their search for a missing Vermeer painting.

Classic Stories for children like *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain; *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll; *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery; *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell; *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett; *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss; *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson; *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne.

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen 2012 Wahoo Cray is assistant to his animal wrangler dad. They get a job on Expedition Survival, a reality show. When the show's star gets bitten by a bat and wanders off, guess who must search the Florida Everglades for him.

Dear America series Various authors Written in a diary format, researched from actual letters and diaries, these stories let readers experience the lives of girls from different times in American history. *My Name Is America* is a series that follows the adventures of boys through history

Drop of Hope by Keith Calabrese 2019 Something strange is happening in Cliffs Donnelly, Ohio. An old well grants wishes and only three 6th graders know why. A story of kindness and hope

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein 2013 Game maker, Luigi Lemoncello has designed a state-of-the-art library and 12 lucky 7th graders get to stay the night before its opening. They have 24 hours to win a prize. Lock the doors and let the games begin! Read all the sequels including the newest, ***Mr. Lemoncello's All-Star Library Breakout Game***.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt Heartwarming story of Ally's struggle to hide her dyslexia until her quirky friends and a special teacher help her see just how smart she really is.

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, their lives and dreams brought together by Ashley Bryan 2017 Newbery Honor Using real documents from a plantation, this book realistically contrasts slavery with the lives and dreams of the slaves.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsberg 1967 Newbery Medal Twelve-year-old Claudia and her brother run away to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There they get caught up in the mystery of a statue that may, or may not, be the work of Michelangelo.

The Girl with the Glass Bird by Esme Kerr 2015 Fancy Knight's Haddon boarding school is for rich kids, not Edie. But she's sent there with a secret task and mystery to solve! Sequel ***Mischief at Midnight***, too. Two great stories of friendship and mystery!

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly 2018 Newbery Medal Shy Virgil wants the courage to talk to Valencia, who is confident, independent, and deaf. Kaori is a psychic. And Chet Bullens is the bully. One summer day their lives intersect in a race to save one of them.

Holes by Louis Sachar 1999 Newbery Medal Unjustly accused of a crime and sent to Camp Green Lake, Stanley Yelnats is forced to dig holes as rehabilitation, or is there another reason?

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai 2012 Newbery Honor 10-year old Ha' and her family flee Vietnam, eventually living in Alabama. Written in verse, it's a story of growing up and fitting in.

Jacky-Ha-Ha by James Patterson 2016 Twelve-year old Jackie Ha-Ha Hart is the class clown, but her pranks aren't always funny. Read all the author's hilarious middle school books.

The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis 2018 12-year-old Charlie is alone and down on his luck. To pay a family debt he agrees to help Cap'n Buck catch fugitives who he claims stole from him. But then he discovers who the people they're hunting really are and must make a big decision.

The Land of Stories series by Chris Colfer A magical book takes twins, Alex and Conner, into the fairy tale world. Series includes: ***The Wishing Spell, The Enchantress Returns, A Grimm Warning, Beyond the Kingdoms, An Author's Odyssey, and World's Collide***.

Lemonade Girls Forever Sara Miriam Gross 2014 Chavi, Devorah, Shiffy, and Avigayil are the Lemonade Girls. They're good friends who love to solve problems with creative solutions. Their motto, "When you have lemons, make lemonade"!

Lunch Money by Andrew Clements 2007 6th grader Greg Kenton is great at making money but what happens when his rival, Maura, competes with him. Author of many great "school stories".

Making Bombs for Hitler by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch 2017 Inspired by real life, this story, and its sequels, ***Stolen Girl*** and ***The War Below*** recount the experiences of Ukrainians during WWII.

Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina 2019 Newbery Medal Merci Suarez isn't like other kids at her school. Her family doesn't live in a big house or have a boat. Problems with a "mean girl" at school and concern about her beloved grandfather make this 6th grader worry.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George 1960 Newbery Honor In this modern classic, Sam Gribbley, leaves his family's crowded New York City apartment and runs away to the Catskill Mountains. There, with Frightful his pet peregrine falcon, Sam learns to survive on his own.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart 2007 "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" Many apply but only four go to the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened.

The New Kid by Jerry Craft 2020 Newbery Medal Jordan wanted to go to Art School, but his parents send him to a fancy private school where he's one of a few Black 7th graders. How can he be true to his school *and* neighborhood friends?

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry 1990 Newbery Medal On Sept. 29, 1943, word spread in Nazi-held Denmark that Jews would be sent to the death camps. This is a story of a girl whose family hides her best friend's family. Although fiction, it shows how the Danes helped 7,000 Jews escape to Sweden.

The One and Only Bob by Katherine Applegate 2020 Bob takes a journey in search of his long-lost sister with the help of his two best friends, Ivan and Ruby. As a hurricane approaches Bob finds courage and learns the importance of friends and family. Sequel to ***The One and Only Ivan***. Have you read it?

Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson 2018 Coretta Scott King Honor Candice finds a letter once written to her grandmother. It describes a young woman and an injustice that happened in the 1950s. It involves a mystery and a prize. So, with her friend Brandon she tries to solve the puzzle.

Pax by Sara Pennypacker 2016 In this story of loss, love and the struggle to find each other, a boy and his pet fox are separated. Their journeys are told in alternating voices.

Rick Riordan series Beginning with his first series ***Percy Jackson and the Olympians*** the author has thrilled fans of fantasy and mythology series. Greek series: ***Heroes of Olympus*** and ***Trials of Apollo***. Other series: ***Kane Chronicles*** is set in Ancient Egypt and ***Magnus Chase*** explores Norse mythology.

Refugee by Alan Gratz 2017 The stories of a Jewish boy from Germany during World War II, a Cuban girl in the 1990s and a Syrian boy in 2015 connect as all three refugees flee their homelands.

Save Our School by Sara Wiederblank 2006 Meet Class 6A, the funniest and most caring group of girls you can imagine. Their projects usually end in disaster but now their mission is to save their school! Also read ***Seven Up*** by the author.

Slacker by Gordon Korman 2017 Cameron Boxer loves avoiding homework, hanging out with his friends, and gaming for hours in his basement. But he's forced to change so he becomes president of a fake do-gooder club that some kids think is real!

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger 2010 When Dwight comes to school with a weird finger puppet it's up to Tommy and his friends to figure out if it really has unusual powers. Series

A Tangle of Knots by Lisa Graff 2013 In this magical town people have Talent. Cady can bake just the right cake for you. Miss Mallory matches children with parents but can't find one for Cady. And then there's the talent thief! Plots and sub-plots eventually meet with lots of suspense.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage 2013 Newbery Honor 6th grader Mo washed up ashore eleven years ago and lives with the Colonel and Miss Lana. When a lawman inquires of a crime, Mo and her best friend set off to solve it. Sequels: ***The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing*** & ***The Odds of Getting Even***

Travel Team by Mike Lupica 2005 Danny is the smallest kid on the basketball team but plays with heart. When he's cut from the team that his dad made famous, he finds a way to follow his own basketball dreams. Read ***Million Dollar Throw*** and this author's other sports fiction.

Ungifted by Gordon Korman 2012 When Donovan pulls a prank at school, he's in trouble but a mix up sends him to a school for the gifted and talented. How does he fit in? 2018 Sequel ***Supergifted***

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley 2015 Ada was born with a twisted foot. She doesn't go out but, because of the bombing in London, she and her brother leave for the countryside. There her life changes in ways she never dreamed of. Sequel: ***The War I Finally Won*** 2017

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan 2017 Julia is tiny for her age and lacks confidence but she's decided to just get over it. But at an audition for Wizard of Oz, she's cast as a munchkin! How does that work out?

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead 2010 Newberry Medal As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's TV show "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of mysterious notes that seem to defy laws of time and space.

When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin 2016 Pinmei's loving grandmother is a great storyteller. The Emperor's kidnaps her when his search for the Luminous Stone fails so Pinmei searches to free her. Also read ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*** 2011 Newbery Honor & ***Starry River of the Sky*** 2012.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio 2012 August Pullman was born with a facial deformity. He has always been homeschooled but now he's starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep and wants to be treated like any other kid.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick 2011 In the format of his award-winning, ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret***, two stories, 50 years apart, are told simultaneously, through words or pictures.

Nonfiction

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone 2009 To be an astronaut it takes expert flying, courage, intelligence, top physical shape, and, in 1958, being a man! The Mercury 13 women proved they had what it takes but were blocked by prejudice from achieving their dream.

A Black Hole is Not a Hole by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano 2013 Discover black holes and what causes them.

Blizzard by Jim Murphy 2000 Learn about the massive storm of March 1888 and how it paralyzed the Northeastern part of the U.S. The story is told through first person and newspaper accounts.

Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin 2013 Newbery Honor, Sibert Medal and YALSA Award in Nonfiction The story of the creation, arms race and subsequent espionage involving the atom bomb.

The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson 2013 The author was only 10 when Nazis invaded Poland. As the youngest member of Schindler's List, he was able to survive the Holocaust.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson 2015 Newbery Honor Written in verse, this is the author's story. From her birth in Columbus to life in South Carolina and Brooklyn, we learn what life for a black girl growing up in the 1960s was like.

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles 2014 YALSA Honor The story of America's first African American Paratroopers and how they fought Hitler's army overseas and segregation at home.

DK Eyewitness Books various authors More than 100 Eyewitness books support non-fiction interests like Rocket Science, Ancient Egypt, chemistry, Titanic, animals, American Revolution and much more.

Escape from Iran by Shira Yehudit Dijalilmand 2018 1980s Iran is dangerous for Jews. Twin sisters Pari and Maheen have a chance to leave home for a better life in the West. But it means saying goodbye to everyone important to them and taking a harrowing journey. True story. Read the series.

Hanna's Suitcase: A True Story by Karen Levine 2002 The story of Hanna Brady, who died in Auschwitz, and of a teacher and director of a Holocaust education center in Tokyo. The arrival of Hanna's suitcase and his students' questions led Fumiko Ishioka to unite them with Hanna's brother.

Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition) Margot Lee Shetterly 2016. The story of four African American women mathematicians who fought discrimination within NASA and were important to some of the greatest successes of the U.S. space program.

The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey by Louise Borden 2010 It's 1940 and the Reys flee Paris and the approaching German army. Among their possessions are the precious manuscripts with the lovable chimp we all know.

Legends: The Best Players, Games and Teams in Basketball by Howard Bryant 2017 From Magic Johnson to Michael Jordan to LeBron James to Steph Curry, the author highlights the best players and teams in basketball. Great for sports fans.

My Life with Chimpanzees by Jane Goodall 1996 Jane always wanted to work with animals. At age 26 she got the chance and went to Africa to observe chimpanzees. This became her life's work!

Neighborhood Sharks by Katherine Roy 2015 Sibert Honor The author visits California's Farallon islands where scientists study great whites living on the islands' rocky coasts.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet 2014 Read about the life of Peter Roget, a boy who compiled lists, became a successful doctor, and created one of the most important reference books. Wonderfully illustrated and informative.

Silent Days, Silent Dreams by Allen Say 2018 Schneider Family Award James Castle was born on Sept. 25, 1899 in Garden Valley, Idaho. He was deaf, mute, and autistic. He would never learn to speak, write, read, or use sign language. Yet, today his artwork hangs in major museums throughout the world.

Smile by Raina Telgemeir 2010 Raina's just a normal 6th grade girl until one day a traumatic accident injures her front teeth. Harrowing treatments and unexpected interrupt her life! Graphic Novel

The Way Things Work Now by David Macaulay 2016 The latest developments in technology. Information on how things work from windmills to Wi-Fi and more.

Lots of great nonfiction is available for kids. Let the readers' interests be a guide to making selections.