

6th Grade Summer Reading List

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (Historical Fiction)

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943, and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. When the Nazis begin "relocating" the Jews of Denmark, Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. And as Annemarie helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis and embarks on a dangerous mission, she learns how to be brave and courageous -- to save her best friend's life.

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech (Realistic Fiction)

A prequel to the Newbery Medal-winning *Walk Two Moons*, this book chronicles the daily life of 13-year-old Mary Lou Finney during her most chaotic and romantic summer ever. Mary Lou's summer journal -- which she begins grudgingly as a dreaded assignment for school -- becomes a hilarious chronicle of the circle of people and events that make her summer. There is Carl Ray, the mysterious and troublesome cousin that comes to visit; Beth Ann Bartels, her best friend who's recently gone boy crazy; Alex Cheevy, the boy that makes Mary Lou's brains "mushy;" and, of course, the Finney clan, her "normally strange family." What follows is the story of a summer filled with lessons and observations on love, death, friendship, and family.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J. K. Rowling (Fiction)

Orphaned as a baby, Harry Potter has spent 11 awful years living with his mean aunt, uncle, and cousin. But everything changes for Harry when an owl delivers a mysterious letter inviting him to attend a school for wizards. At this special school, Harry finds friends, fun, and magic in everything from classes to meals, as well as a great destiny that's been waiting for him...if Harry can survive the encounter. Fans of C. S. Lewis and Roald Dahl will love this enchanting, funny book! Also recommended: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

The Island by Gary Paulsen (Fiction)

Every morning 15-year-old Wil Neuton gets up, brushes his teeth, leaves the house, and rows away from shore. He's discovered the island, a place where he can go to be alone and learn to know nature -- and himself. On the island he watches the loons and the fish in the lake, and he writes and paints. It feels good to get away from the tension rising between his parents -- tension brought on by yet another move to a new town. But Wil can't stay away from the outside world forever. He must face Ray Bunner, the bully determined to challenge him, and his parents, who worry when Wil decides to stay on the island indefinitely. Can Wil bridge the growing gap between himself and the rest of the world?

Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently by Patricia Lakin (Biography)

Everyone knows that Steve Jobs was an entrepreneur and a visionary. This book discusses Jobs' triumphs, but it also lets us see his human side. Readers are reminded that people who dare to dream can change the world.

The Polar Bear Scientists Peter Lourie (Nonfiction)

Young readers can follow scientists as they scan the Alaskan wilderness for these magnificent creatures. Full color.

Shooting Kabul N.H. Senzai (Fiction)

Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier (Fiction-Graphic Novel)

Raina trips and severely injures her two front teeth. She copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (Historical Fiction)

Moose Flanagan lives on Alcatraz, the small island in San Francisco Bay that was a maximum security prison. Having the famous gangsters of the 1930s as neighbors may seem to give his life a little glamour, but it is balanced out by challenging family problems, the dangerous schemes of the warden's daughter, and the isolation of his life. Be sure to check out the sequels *Al Capone Does My Homework* and *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*.

Parthenon by Lynn Curlee (Nonfiction)

With exquisitely precise acrylic paints and clear, concise text, the author discusses all the aspects of ancient Greek culture and society that came into the building, and later the restoration, of the Parthenon. He covers the ongoing controversy surrounding the Elgin Marbles, now housed in the British Museum, but once an integral part of the finest accomplishment of Greek art and architecture.

Book of Greek Myths by Edgar Parin and Ingri D'Aulaire (Nonfiction)

This oversized, lavishly illustrated collection of Greek myths is a long-time favorite. It provides a solid, unforgettable, easily attained knowledge of Mt. Olympus and its inhabitants. This is highly recommended background reading for the sixth grade curriculum.

Curse of the Pharaohs by Zahi Hawass (Nonfiction)

The author, who is the head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt, takes readers behind the scenes to share his many adventures and discoveries. His fascinating narrative is organized around a discussion of the belief that those who touch ancient tombs run the risk of retribution.

Black Ships Before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliff (Nonfiction)

Primarily known for her historical fiction, the author applies her considerable gifts for recreating another time to a retelling of the Trojan War. Those who love legend and myth will find the storytelling absorbing.

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo (Realistic Fiction)

Because of Winn Dixie, a big, ugly happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns 10 things about her long-gone mother from her preacher father. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal makes new friends among the somewhat unusual residents of her new hometown. Because of Winn Dixie, Opal begins to find her place in the world and to let go some of her sadness.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (Realistic Fiction)

This satire features middle schoolers -the new kid, Roy, joining forces with tough Beatrice and the elusive Mullet Fingers to defeat a bully, thwart an avaricious corporation, Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House, and save a coolly of burrowing owls. (ALA) Newbery Honor