

6th Grade Suggested Reading List

WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS AT DURHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL TO READ A VARIETY OF MATERIALS. STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO READ ANY BOOK THAT INTERESTS THEM; IF A STUDENT NEEDS SOME SUGGESTIONS, THIS LIST CONTAINS SOME GOOD BOOKS TO TRY. **THIS LIST IS NOT REQUIRED READING!**

Fiction

*Challenging

Adams, Douglas THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
The funny and famous science fiction must-read.

Alvarez, Julia BEFORE WE WERE FREE *2004 Pura Belpré Medal
Winner

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

Avi. CITY OF LIGHT, CITY OF DARK. (NP)

This modern-day myth is written in comic book format. Asterel faces many dangerous adventures as she races against time to locate and return the elusive power source to the Kurbs before they freeze the city.

Avi. THE BARN (670L)

Benjamin has to leave school because of his father's grave illness. He works with his brother and sister to give his father a reason to live.

Babbitt, Natalie. TUCK EVERLASTING (770L)

Winnie Foster longs for adventure until she meets the Tuck family and learns their secret of everlasting life.

Bloor, Edward. TANGERINE. (680L)

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness, and is able to discover a haunting truth when his family moves to Tangerine, Florida.

Brink, Carol Ryrie. *CADDIE WOODLAWN* (890L)

An 11-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the 1800s experiences many adventures.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *THE SECRET GARDEN*. (970L)

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors. She discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Byars, Betsy. *SUMMER OF THE SWANS* (830L)

When Sara's brother disappears, her daylong search for him helps her to understand herself better.

Byars, Betsy. *THE MOON AND I* (870L)

While describing her humorous adventures with a blacksnake named Moon, Betsy Byars tells stories from her childhood and explains how she uses the "good scraps" from her life to create a book.

Byars, Betsy. *TORNADO* (500L)

As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy

Calvert, Patricia. *BIGGER* (1040L)

When his father disappears near the Mexican border at the end of the Civil War, 12-year-old Tyler decides to find him and bring him home, acquiring on the journey a strange dog that he names Bigger

Cameron, Ann *COLIBRI* (730L)

Kidnapped when she was very young by an unscrupulous man who has forced her to lie and beg to get money, a twelve-year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing she could return to the parents she can hardly remember.

Carroll, Lewis *ALICE IN WONDERLAND** (950L)

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

Catling, Patrick. THE CHOCOLATE TOUCH (770L)

John Midas is delighted that a magical gift turns everything that touches his lips into chocolate

Cisneros, Sandra CARAMEO (not listed)

A multi-generational story of a Mexican family whose voices create a dazzling weave of humor, poignancy, and passion from Chicago to Mexico City to San Antonio, Texas.

Clements, Andrew. FRINDLE (830L)

When he decides to turn his teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control

Coerr, Eleanor. SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES (630L)

This book tells the story of Sadako Sasaki, who was two when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. As a result of radiation from the bomb, Sadako developed leukemia

Conrad, Pam. PEDRO'S JOURNAL (1030L)

This book, written in diary format, chronicles the story of Christopher Columbus's journey from Spain to the Americas in 1492.

Coville, Bruce. ALIENS ATE MY HOMEWORK (730L)

Rod Allbright is enlisted for a secret mission by two aliens who convince him that intergalactic peace is in danger

Creech, Sharon GRANNY TORELLI MAKES SOUP (not listed)

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend Bailey, the boy next door.

Curtis, Christopher. BUD, NOT BUDDY. (950L)

During the Great Depression, motherless Bud sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway

Delacre, Lulu SALSA STORIES (760L)

Guests at a party recall other celebrations they've attended in various Latin American countries. Includes recipes!

Dewey, Jennifer MINIK'S STORY (not listing)

Minik, an adolescent Inuit girl, relates the conflicts brought into her tribe by the arrival of a priest from a whaling ship in the late nineteenth century.

DiCamillo, Kate. BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE. (610L)

Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, ten-year-old Opal learns things about her long-gone mother from her preacher father.

DiCamillo, Kate THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX *2004 Newbery Award Winner (670L)

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Dorris, Michael. MORNING GIRL (980L)

Morning Girl's Taino culture encounters Columbus on her Bahamian island in 1492

DuPrau, Jeanne. CITY OF EMBER. (680L)

The year is 241. Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger and finds part of an ancient message she feels sure will help save her decaying city.

Farmer, Nancy THE EAR, THE EYE, AND THE ARM (not listed)

In Zimbabwe in the year 2194, General Matiska calls in Africa's most unusual detectives- the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm- to find his missing children.

Farmer, Nancy. HOUSE OF THE SCORPION. (660L)

Matt is the young clone of El Patron, the 140 year old leader of a corrupt drug empire located between Mexico and the United States.

Fleischman, Sid. *THE WHIPPING BOY*. (570L)

This humorous adaptation of "The Prince and the Pauper" includes a bratty prince and his whipping boy, who are kidnapped by a couple of bumbling roughnecks.

Fox, Paula. *WESTERN WIND* (740L)

Twelve-year-old Elizabeth is angry about spending the summer in Maine with her grandmother, but nothing can prepare her for what is to come.

Fritz, Jean. *THE CABIN FACED WEST* (860L)

Ten-year-old Ann overcomes loneliness and learns to appreciate the importance of her role in settling the wilderness of western Pennsylvania.

Fritz, Jean; Katherine Paterson; Patricia and Frederick McKissack; Margaret Mahy; and Jamake Highwater. *THE WORLD IN 1492* (not listed)

This collection contains information about people, places, and events of this time period from several areas in the world

Funke, Cornelia *INKHEART* (780L)

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," tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Gantos, Jack. *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*. (970L)

Joey has ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and is trying to get a grip on his behavior. His life is a roller coaster ride with mishaps at home and school including a swallowed key.

George, Jean Craighead. *MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN*. (810L)

A boy builds a treehouse in the mountains and learns to survive on his own.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *LILY'S CROSSING* (720L)

During a summer spent at the beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with Albert, a young Hungarian refugee, causes her to see the war and her own world differently

Greenfield, Eloise. *HONEY, I LOVE* (NP)

This is a book of poems by an African American poet that tells about the simple joys of everyday life as seen through the eyes of a child.

Gutman, Dan *MILLION DOLLAR GOAL* (720L)

Twins Dawn and Dusk learn to admire their crotchety old grandmother when they take on the task of training her to play hockey after she wins a chance to shoot a goal for a million dollars; but when she dies before the contest, they must decide who is going to take her place.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *STEPPING ON THE CRACKS* (780L)

Eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully when she finds him hiding his brother, an Army deserter.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *TIME FOR ANDREW* (710L)

Eleven-year-old Drew is drawn 80 years into the past to trade places with his namesake, his great-great-uncle Andrew.

Henry, Marguerite. *MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE* (750L)

Paul and Maureen capture and tame Phantom, a beautiful wild mare, and her foal, Misty

Hobbs, Will. *JASON'S GOLD*. (860L)

When 15-year-old Jason Hawthorn sets off from Seattle to the newly discovered gold fields, he has no idea of the difficulties that lie ahead. A husky, which Jason names King, becomes essential to the boy's survival.

Howe, Deborah, and James Howe. *BUNNICULA* (770L)

Harold, a dog, and Chester, a cat, resort to hilarious antics to alert their family that the newly adopted bunny may actually be a vegetable vampire

Jimenez, Francisco *BREAKING THROUGH* (750L)

Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education.

Kehret, Peg. EARTHQUAKE TERROR (690L)

Jonathan and Abby's parents have just rushed to the emergency room, leaving their children alone when an earthquake strikes the island where they are camping. The book recounts the children's survival efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake

Koller, Jackie French. NOTHING TO FEAR. (730L)

When his father moves away to find work and his mother becomes ill, Danny struggles to help his family by starting a shoeshine business during the Great Depression.

Konigsburg, E.L. THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY (870L)

Four hilariously different students develop a special friendship and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Konigsburg, E.L. FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER (700L)

Claudia and her brother run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and discover the answer to a longtime question about a statue.

Lauber, Patricia. PAINTERS OF THE CAVES (860L)

Mammoths, bison, horses, bears, and lions leap to life across the cave walls depicted on the pages of this book. These animals and their artists lived 32,000 years ago. The works of these early Europeans were recently discovered in caves in southern France.

Lawson, Robert. BEN AND ME (1010L)

Benjamin Franklin's companion, Amos the mouse, recounts how he was responsible for Franklin's inventions and discoveries.

L'Engle, Madeleine. A WRINKLE IN TIME. (740L)

Meg Murray's father had been experimenting with time travel when he suddenly disappeared. Will the Murray children and their friend, Calvin, outwit the forces of evil as they search through space for their father?

Lewis, C.S. *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE** (940L)
Four children open a magical wardrobe and fall into another world.

Lowry, Lois. *NUMBER THE STARS* (670L)

The Nazi takeover of Denmark impacts 10-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend, Ellen. Ellen, a young Jewish girl, pretends to be part of the Johansen family in order to hide from the Nazis. Will the Johansen family be successful in reuniting Ellen with her family before the Nazis discover their secret?

MacLachlan, Patricia. *SARAH PLAIN AND TALL* (560L)

A widowed father of three in Kansas advertises for a wife. Sarah, a woman from Maine, responds to the ad.

Montgomery, L. M. *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES** (850L)

This beloved classic involves an aging brother and sister who wish to adopt a boy, but end up with Anne instead.

Myers, Walter Dean. *ME, MOP, AND THE MOONDANCE KID* (640L)

TJ and his younger brother, Moondance, are involved with their friend Mop's relentless attempts to become adopted and to take the championship from their baseball rivals, the obnoxious Eagles.

Namioka, Lensey. *YANG THE YOUNGEST AND HIS TERRIBLE EAR*. (700L)

Recently arrived in Seattle from China, musically untalented Yingtao is faced with giving a violin performance to attract new students for his father when he would rather be making friends and playing baseball.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *BEETLES LIGHTLY TOASTED* (950L)

In this humorous story, fifth grader Andy Moller is determined to win the essay contest on conservation.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. *SEARCH FOR SHADOWMAN* (not listed)

When 12-year-old Andy Thomas is given an assignment to research his family history, he is not thrilled. He starts asking questions about his ancestors and discovers that there is a secret that no one will talk about.

O'Dell, Scott. *SING DOWN THE MOON*. (820L)

In June 1863, Kit Carson is sent to Arizona to force the Navahos to surrender and to take them to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Bright Morning tells the story of her people as they endure "the long walk."

Park, Barbara. *SKINNYBONES* (590L)

Alex's sense of humor helps him to get along with the school braggart, make the most of his limited athletic ability and small size, and cope with life.

Paulsen, Gary, editor *SHELF LIFE-STORIES BY THE BOOK* (730L)

Ten short stories in which the lives of young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.

Peck, Richard *A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO* (750L)

Joey's larger than life Grandma provides endless entertainment during the Great Depression.

Peck, Richard. *A YEAR DOWN YONDER*. (610L)

Mary Alice is sent from Chicago to live with her eccentric grandmother Dowdel while her family tries to make ends meet during the Great Depression

Pinkwater, Daniel. *FAT MEN FROM SPACE* (810L)

In this humorous story, William receives bulletins about an invasion from outer space through the filling in his tooth. He's taken captive aboard a spacecraft of fat spacemen who plan to invade Earth.

Rawlings, Marjorie *THE YEARLING** (750L)

A story of backwoods Florida, a young boy, and his tame fawn.

Rhoads, Dorothy. *THE CORN GROWS RIPE* (750L)

A Mayan boy's strength and courage grow as he shoulders his injured father's responsibilities

Robinson, Barbara. *THE BEST SCHOOL YEAR EVER*. (1020L)

In this sequel to *THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER*, the six horrible Herdmans cause mayhem throughout the school year

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *ESPERANZA RISING*. (750L)

After her father is murdered, Esperanza Ortega is forced to flee her beloved El Rancho de las Rosas in Mexico to a migrant camp in California.

Solheim, James. *IT'S DISGUSTING AND WE ATE IT: TRUE FOOD FACTS AROUND THE WORLD AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY* (1010L)

Take a lot of interesting facts about eating habits from around the world, blend in fun poems, and sprinkle in great illustrations to cook up a good read about food.

Soto, Gary. *BASEBALL IN APRIL AND OTHER STORIES*. (830L)

This book focuses on growing up poor as a Mexican American in the land of opportunity.

Speare, Elizabeth George. *SIGN OF THE BEAVER* (770L)

Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in 18th century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until Native Americans teach him their skills

Steig, William. *ABEL'S ISLAND* (920L)

When Abel, a mouse, is unexpectedly swept away by floodwaters and dumped on an island, he is forced to use all his resourcefulness to survive and to find his way home.

Taylor, Mildred. *SONG OF THE TREES* (710L)

Cassie's family is deeply attached to the forest on the land where they live. While Cassie's father is away, the family tries to save the trees from being destroyed by an unscrupulous man.

Tolan, Stephanie *SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES* (820L)

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *THE LORD OF THE RINGS* (trilogy) (not listed)

Frodo, the hobbit, and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.

Ullman, James Ramsey. BANNER IN THE SKY (680L)

Rudi Matt's father perished in his attempt to reach the last great summit of the Alps, the Citadel. At sixteen, Rudi is determined to pay tribute to the father he never knew by completing the quest that claimed his father's life. Rudi must search deep within himself to find the strength for the final ascent to the summit to plant his banner in the sky.

Whelan, Gloria. NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON (660L)

Libby, a young pioneer girl, enjoys visiting her friend Fawn at the Potawatomi Indian Village. When she is mistaken for a member of the tribe and taken captive by soldiers, Libby fears she will never see her family again. This story is based on true accounts of the Potawatomi Indians' forced migration in 1840.

White, E. B. STUART LITTLE (920L)

This book tells the adventures of a debonair mouse named Stuart Little as he seeks his dearest friend.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE (760L)

The Ingalls family moves by covered wagon from Wisconsin to Kansas in the 1800s. Plowing, planting, hunting, and even wolves keep them busy until their next move west

Williams, Barbara. TITANIC CROSSING

In 1912, 13-year-old Albert is returning to the United States aboard the Titanic. When it hits an iceberg, he is forced to make the most important decision of his life.

Woodson, Jacqueline LOCOMOTION *2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 2003 National Book Award Honor Book

Inspired by his teacher, eleven-year-old Lonnie begins to write about his life in a series of poems in which he discusses his feelings about his friends, his foster mom, his little sister Lili, and the death of his parents.

Yep, Lawrence DRAGONWINGS

A boy comes from China to live with his father in early 1900's California, and helps create a flying machine.

Zindel, Paul. *THE GADGET*.

It is 1945 and Stephen has moved to the top secret military base in Los Alamos, New Mexico, to join his father, a famous physicist, who is working on a project he is forbidden to discuss. Stephen is determined to find out the true nature of "the gadget."