

Summer Reading Assignment

6th Grade Summer Reading Recommendations

Is it OK to read more than one book on this list? YES!!!!

A = indicates the book has won major awards and honors

S= indicates the book has sophisticated style and/or content. Although all books on this list are appropriate for sixth grade readers, books marked with an S may be best suited for readers seeking a challenge.

***Among the Hidden*, Margaret Peterson Haddix A**

Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows — does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?

***Alex Rider: Stormbreaker*, Anthony Horowitz**

They told him his uncle died in an accident. He wasn't wearing his seatbelt, they said. But when fourteen-year-old Alex finds his uncle's windshield riddled with bullet holes, he knows it was no accident. What he doesn't know yet is that his uncle was killed while on a top-secret mission. But he is about to, and once he does, there is no turning back. Finding himself in the middle of terrorists, Alex must outsmart the people who want him dead. The government has given him the technology, but only he can provide the courage. Should he fail, every child in England will be murdered in cold blood.

***Chains*, Laurie Halse Anderson A**

Slaves Isabel and younger sister Ruthie are sold to harsh Loyalists at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Isabel must decide to be loyal or spy for the American patriots.

***Chasing the Falconers*, Gordon Korman**

Two kids break out of a juvenile detention center and become fugitives in order to clear their convicted parents' names. Aidan and Meg Falconer are their parents' only hope. The Falconers are facing life in prison -- unless Aidan and Meg can follow a trail of clues to prove their innocence. The problem? Right now they're trapped in a juvenile detention center. Until they escape one night -- and find themselves on the run, both from the authorities and from a sinister attacker who has his own reason to stop them. The Falconers must use their wits to make it across the country ... with plenty of tests along the way.

***City of Ember*, Jeanne DuPrau A**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. The sequels are *The People of Sparks* and *The Prophet of Yonwood*.

***Close to Famous*, Joan Bauer**

It's midnight and Foster McFee and her mother are being chased out of Memphis by an Elvis impersonator. Where are they heading? *Somewhere*. Foster was hoping for a location you can find on a map. She has a lot of hopes, this girl. And one of them is to make the world a better place, one cupcake at a time... Hidden somewhere on this site is a secret link that will give you the recipe for a brand new kind of cupcake: Malted Milk. Yes, you heard that right. Malted Milk. My daughter created the recipe.

***Flush*, Carl Hiaasen A**

The story of what happens after Paine Underwood pulls the plug on the Coral Queen, gets arrested for this act, and how this spurs his family and community to take action.

***Flipped*, Wendelin Van Draanen**

Flipped is a story told in alternating voices. The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped. The first time Bryce saw Juli, he ran. That's pretty much the pattern for these two neighbors until the eighth grade, when, just as Juli is realizing Bryce isn't as wonderful as she thought, Bryce is starting to see that Juli is pretty amazing. How these two teens manage to see beyond the surface of things and come together makes for a comic and poignant romance.

***Kaleidoscope Eyes*, Jen Bryant A**

When Lyza helps her dad clean out her late grandfather's house, a mysterious surprise brightens the sad task. In Gramps's dusty attic, Lyza discovers three maps, carefully folded and stacked, bound by a single rubber band. On top, an envelope says "For Lyza ONLY." It takes the help of her two best friends, Malcolm and Carolann, to figure out that the maps reveal three possible spots in their own New Jersey town where seventeenth-century pirate Captain Kidd may have buried a treasure. In a tale inspired by a true story of buried treasure, Jen Bryant weaves an emotional and suspenseful novel in poems, all set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War during a pivotal year in U.S. history.

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), C. S. Lewis**

Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, step through a magic wardrobe into Narnia, once the peaceful land of Talking Beasts, dwarfs, giants and fauns, but now frozen into eternal winter by the evil White Witch.

***Peak*, Roland Smith A**

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent—told in his own words—is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.

Shakespeare's Secret, Elise Broach **A**

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

Thieves of Ostia: A Roman Mystery, Caroline Lawrence

In Rome in the year 79 A.D., a group of children from very different backgrounds work together to discover who beheaded a pet dog - and why.

Travel Team, Mike Lupica

Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.

Tuck Everlasting, Natalie Babbitt

Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.