

## 6th Grade Reading List

The titles listed below are suggested not required; however, next summer (2009), all middle school students will be required to take part in summer reading.

AUTHOR	TITLE	SUMMARY
Abrahams, Peter	Down the Rabbit Hole	Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth-grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve the murder of an eccentric local woman in her hometown of Echo Falls.
Auch, Mary Jane	Ashes of Roses	Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911, hoping to start a new life, but after most of her family is sent to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country and fend for herself and her younger sister.
Barker, Clive	Abarat	"With paintings by the author." Candy Quackenbush of Chickentown, Minnesota, journeys to the Abarat, an archipelago filled with strange wonders, and has a curious revelation: she has been here before, and it is her responsibility to save this mysterious place from the evil forces that threaten it.
Barry, Dave	Peter and the Starcatchers	Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.
Bauer, Joan	Stand Tall	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.
Cooney, Caroline	Driver's Ed	Three teenagers' lives are changed forever when they thoughtlessly steal a stop sign from a dangerous intersection and a young mother is killed in an automobile accident there.
Cooper, Susan	Victory	Molly, upset by her family's move from London to the U.S., is strangely drawn to an old book about the life of Admiral Lord Nelson, and soon finds her life intertwined with that of Sam, a boy her age who served with Nelson

		aboard the HMS "Victory" a century earlier.
**Crutcher, Chris	Athletic Shorts	A brief moment in the life of Angus Bethune -- The pin -- The other pin -- Goin' fishin' -- Telephone man -- In the time I get: a collection of short stories featuring characters from earlier books by Chris Crutcher.
DiCamillo, Kate	Tiger Rising	Rob, who passes the time in his rural Florida community by wood carving, is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger.
Fine, Anne	Flour Babies	When his class of underachievers is assigned to spend three torturous weeks taking care of their own "babies" in the form of bags of flour, Simon makes amazing discoveries about himself while coming to terms with his long-absent father.
George, Jean Craighead	Julie of the Wolves	Newbery Medal, 1973 While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.
Holt, Kimberly	When Zachery Beaver Came To Town	During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.
Horowitz, Anthony	Stormbreaker	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.
Jimenez, Francisco	The Circuit	Explores a migrant family's experiences moving through labor camps, facing poverty and impermanence, and discusses how they endure through faith, hope, and back-breaking work.
Nixon, Joan Lowery	Search for the Shadowman	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.
O'Dell, Scott	Island of the Blue Dolphins	Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Oppel, Kenneth	Airborn	Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.
Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard	'Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.
Paterson, Katherine	Lyddie	Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.
Paulson, Gary	My Life in Dog Years	The author describes how dogs have impacted his life from childhood through the present day, recounting the stories of his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.
Peck, Richard	A Year Down Yonder	Sequel to: <u>A Long Way from Chicago</u> . During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.
Philbrick, Rod	The Last Book in the Universe	After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future.
* Powell, Randy	Dean Duffy	Eighteen-year-old Dean, a former high school baseball star whose future has been ruined by a batting slump and a bad arm, is offered a college baseball scholarship and finds himself uncertain of whether to take it.
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanza Rising	Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.
VanDraanen, Wendelin	Sammy Keys and the Hotel Thief	Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.

Westerfeld, Scott	The Uglies	Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.
Wooding, Chris	Poison	When Poison leaves her home in the marshes of Gull to retrieve the infant sister who was snatched by the fairies, she and a group of unusual friends survive encounters with the inhabitants of various Realms, and Poison herself confronts a surprising destiny.
Zindel, Paul	Loch	Fifteen-year-old Loch and his younger sister join their father on a scientific expedition searching for enormous prehistoric creatures sighted in a Vermont lake, but it soon becomes obvious that the expedition's leaders aren't interested in preserving the creatures.

**\*\* Recommended for grades 8 and up/\* Out of Print**