

Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Below is a list of great books that your child can enjoy this summer. Reading is a great way to relax and it helps keep your child's mind active and exercised over the summer break too. ENJOY!

## SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST



### ***Absolutely Normal Chaos***

**by Sharon Creech**

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.

### ***Belle Prater's Boy***

**by Ruth White**

When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin, and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.



### ***Bridge to Terabithia***

**by Katherine Paterson, Donna Diamond (illus.)**

An extraordinarily powerful tribute to friendship, this Newbery Award-winning novel recounts the unlikely friendship of a country boy, Jess, and his neighbor, an uprooted city girl named Leslie. When Leslie is killed during a storm while trying to reach Terabithia, their secret hiding place, Jess must gather all his strength to come to terms with his loss and find a way to heal.



### ***Catherine, Called Birdy***

**by Karen Cushman**

Catherine, the spirited and inquisitive daughter of an English country knight, narrates in diary form the story of her 14th year -- in the year 1290. Here, she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

***The Complete Chronicles of Narnia***  
**by C. S. Lewis, Chris Van Allsburg (illus.)**

Enter the magical land of Narnia, where enchanted creatures live and battles are fought between good and evil! The seven volumes of C. S. Lewis's famed fantasy series come boxed in a

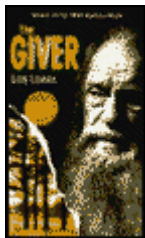


hardcover case.



***The Egypt Game***  
**by Zilpha Keatley Snyder, Alton Raible (illus.)**

Even to Melanie, who knew that you could never predict what a new kid would be like, April Hall was something of a surprise. One look at her stringy upswept hair, false eyelashes, and ragged fox-fur collar, convinced Melanie that April was not going to be easy to integrate into the sixth grade at Wilson School. Within a month, April and Melanie had developed a common interest in ancient Egypt and had begun to develop a land of Egypt in an abandoned storage yard. Complications arose when other people joined the original Egyptians, when a murderer ranged the neighborhood, and when an oracle predicted strange things. But it was all in the game, which gave even April a fall and winter to remember.



***The Giver***  
**by Lois Lowry**

Eleven-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. There is no war or pain, and there are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. When Jonas turns 12, he is chosen to receive special training from The Giver himself -- a man who alone holds the key to the true pain and pleasure of life: memories. Now it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. What will Jonas do once he experiences the power of deep emotions? This gripping and provocative Newbery Award-winning novel keeps readers turning the pages and exploring the special qualities that make us each human.



***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone***  
**by J. K. Rowling**

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*.



***I Heard the Owl Call My Name***

**by Margaret Craven**

Amid the grandeur of the remote Pacific Northwest stands Kingcome, a village so ancient that, according to Kwakiutl myth, it was founded by the two brothers left on earth after the great flood. The Native Americans who still live there call it Quee, a place of such incredible natural richness that hunting and fishing remain primary food sources. But the old culture of totems and potlatch is being replaced by a new culture of prefab housing and alcoholism. Kingcome's younger generation is disenchanted and alienated from its heritage. And now, coming upriver is a young vicar, Mark Brian, who has two years to live. Sent to this Indian parish in British Columbia, Mark embarks on a journey of discovery that can teach him -- and us -- about life, death, and the transforming power of love.



***The Island***

**by Gary Paulsen**

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?



***Maniac Magee***

**by Jerry Spinelli**

When Jeffrey Lionel Magee wanders into Two Mills, Pennsylvania, a legend is in the making. Before too long, stories begin to circulate about how fast and how far he can run and about feats so incredible they earn him the nickname "Maniac."



***The Midwife's Apprentice***

**by Karen Cushman**

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she wants most: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

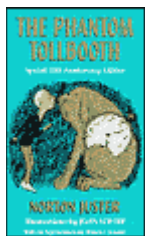


***Number the Stars***

**by Lois Lowry**

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.



***The Phantom Tollbooth***

**by Norton Juster, Jules Feiffer (illus.)**

This ingenious fantasy centers around Milo, a bored ten-year old who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth's gates and begins a memorable

journey. He meets such characters as the foolish yet lovable Humbug, the Mathemagician, and the not-so-wicked "Which," Faintly Macabre, who gives Milo the "impossible" mission of returning two princesses to the Kingdom of Wisdom. Along his journey, Milo learns the importance of words and numbers -- and learns to appreciate life.



***The River***

**by Gary Paulsen**

In this exciting sequel to *Hatchet*, 15-year-old Brian Robeson, who survived alone in the wilderness for 54 days, returns to the wilderness at the request of a government survival

school. This time, however, he won't be alone: Derek Holtzer, a government psychologist, will accompany him to observe and take notes. But during a freak storm, Derek is hit by lightning and falls into a coma. Afraid that Derek will die of dehydration unless he can get him to a doctor, Brian's only hope is to build a raft and try to transport Derek a hundred miles down the river to a trading post.



***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***  
**by Mildred D. Taylor**

The Logans, a black family living in the South during the 1930s, are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand. It takes the events of one turbulent year -- the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she is black -- to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logans their courage and pride, for no matter how others may degrade them, the Logans possess something no one can take away.



***Summer of My German Soldier***  
**by Bette Greene**

The summer that Patty Bergen turns 12 is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart.

Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own. In Anton, Patty finds someone who softens the pain of her own father's rejection and who appreciates her in a way her mother never will. While patriotic feelings run high, Patty risks losing family, friends -- even her freedom -- for this dangerous friendship. It is a risk she has to take and one she will have to pay a price to keep.

***Where the Red Fern Grows***  
**by Wilson Rawls**

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. Together, the three of them experience danger, adventure, love, and sorrow.



***The Wish Giver, Three Tales of Coven Tree***  
**by Bill Brittain, Andrew Glass (illus.)**

The people of Coven Tree are no strangers to magic. In fact, the town's very name comes from a gnarled old tree where covens of witches used to gather. Even now, imps and fiends continue to appear, frightening the townfolk with their devilish pranks. Usually these creatures are easy to spot. They have a particular smell, sound, or way of moving that betrays their dark nature. But

Thaddeus Blinn showed none of these signs when he came to Coven Tree. He was just a funny little man who drifted into town with a strange tale about being able to give people whatever they wished -- for only 50 cents. There was nothing scary about him. At least, not until the wishing began....

***Words of Stone***  
by Kevin Henkes

While exploring the countryside outside of his home, 10-year-old Blaze Werla spots a devastating message on the side of a hill. Ultimately, Blaze's summer takes a turn toward mystery

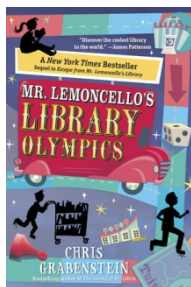


and adventure when he meets the boisterous and irresistible Joselle.



***Wringer***  
by Jerry Spinelli

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

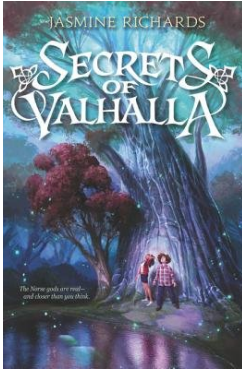


[Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics](#)

by Chris Grabenstein

The sequel to [Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#) is here! Puzzle lovers take note: Mr. Lemoncello is back with more brain-bending games and another mystery to solve.

(Available: January 5, 2016)

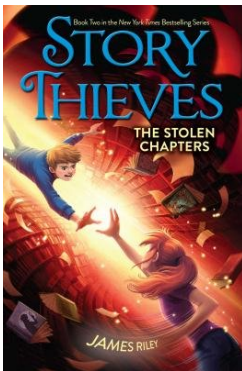


### [Secrets of Valhalla](#)

by Jasmine Richards

If your son or daughter isn't old enough for Rick Riordan's re-telling of the ancient myths, *Secrets of Valhalla* is a wonderful substitute. When Buzz and Mary wake up to meet the Norse god Sunna, their lives get turned upside down. Now these two friends are off on a quest to collect the Runes of Valhalla and save the Earth from repeating the same day over and over again.

(Available: January 19, 2016)

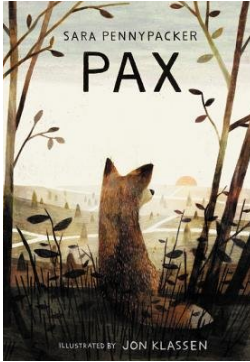


### [Story Thieves: The Stolen Chapters](#)

by James Riley, illustrated by Chris Eliopoulos

Owen Connors can jump into stories and is friends with half-fictional and fully fictional kids. His life is pretty incredible ... until he wakes up inside a mystery with his memory erased. This sequel to *Story Thieves* is worth the wait.

(Available: January 19, 2016)

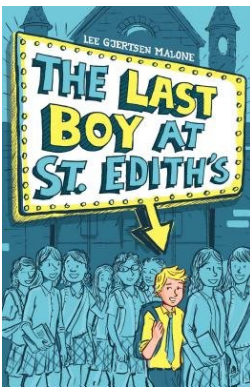


## [Pax](#)

by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Jon Klassen

This book shattered me into little pieces and then put me back together again. I spent every page hoping that a boy and his pet fox, separated by life circumstances that neither understands, would find each other again. This is the kind of masterful story that captures the wrenching beauty of [Where the Red Fern Grows](#) and combines it with a searing, truthful writing style to create what I hope will be an instant classic.

(Available: February 2, 2016)



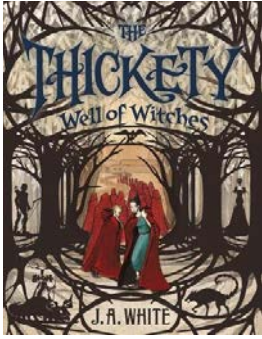
## [The Last Boy at St. Edith's](#)

by Lee Gjersten Malone

Jeremy Miner has a problem with girls. A big problem. He's the only boy left at St. Edith's school. Yep, it's just Jeremy and 476 girls and Jeremy wants out. He'll stop at nothing to get expelled so he can end up at a school where he thinks he'll fit in. But Jeremy learns that sometimes fitting in isn't the only thing that matters.

(Available: February 23, 2016)



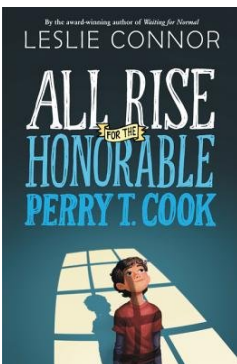


• [\*The Thicket: Well of Witches\*](#)

by J.A. White, illustrated by Andrea Offermann

The next installment in the wonderful and engrossing Thickety series, *Well of Witches* follows Kara and Taff on their latest adventure. The plot is as circuitous and compelling as ever and the suspense will keep you reading until the very last page.

(Available: February 23, 2016)

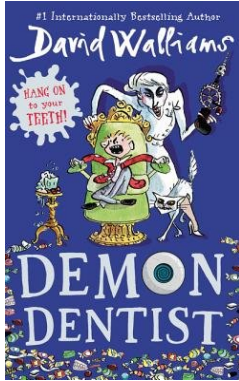


• [\*All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook\*](#)

by Leslie Connor

The most unusual ideas can lead to the most remarkable stories, as Leslie Connor discovered when she asked what would happen if a little boy was born in prison and grew up there with his mother. Meet Perry T. Cook, an amazing young boy in a novel that explores what home and family really mean.

(Available: March 1, 2016)

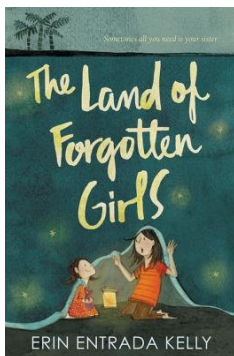


[\*The Demon Dentist\*](#)

by David Walliams, illustrated by Tony Russ

Roald Dahl fans rejoice! David Walliams is an appropriate heir to Dahl's quirky, slightly demented, but always entertaining legacy. Finally, American children can see what would happen if Charlie never went to the dentist and Willy Wonka was a much darker, bone-loving witch.

(Available: March 1, 2016)

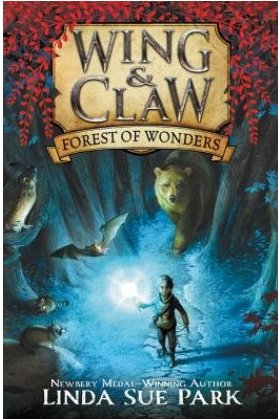


[\*The Land of Forgotten Girls\*](#)

by Erin Entrada Kelly

Of course there's an evil stepmother, but there's nothing else predictable about this story of two sisters from the Philippines living in a small town in Louisiana. As they discover, when "truth has a thousand voices," you and you alone get to decide which voice you'll listen to.

(Available: March 1, 2016)

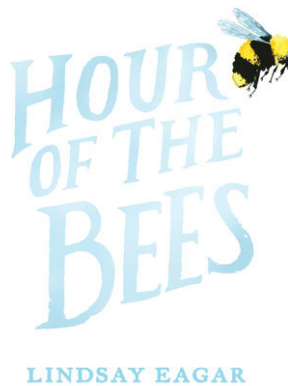


• [Wing and Claw: Forest of Wonders](#)

by Linda Sue Park

The first in a planned fantasy trilogy, *Forest of Wonders* introduces readers to young apothecary Raffa, who has a unique connection to the animals and powerful plants in the Forest of Wonders. When he heals a wounded bat, he unleashes an unexpected chain of events that may threaten everything he loves.

(Available: March 1, 2016)

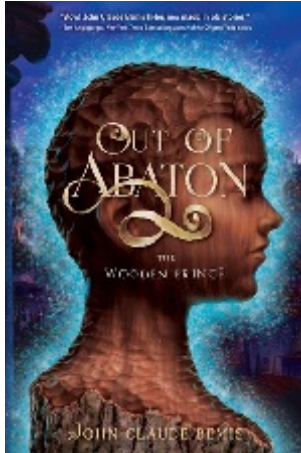


• [Hour of the Bees](#)

by Lindsay Eagar

Twelve-year old Carol isn't going to spend her summer at the pool with her friends. Instead, she's going to help her family move her grandfather into an assisted living facility for people with dementia. Her summer in New Mexico starts as a chore, but turns into something more magical as her grandfather begins telling her fantastical stories about healing trees, and green-glass lakes, and bees with the power to end a drought.

(Available: March 8, 2016)



[\*Out of Abaton: The Wooden Prince\*](#)

by John Claude Bemis

This book has a little bit of everything. An old fairy tale. An ancient city. A quest. Criminals. Alchemists. A puppet. A princess. Danger. Intrigue. Friendship. Love. I dare you not to get excited.

(Available: March 15, 2016)

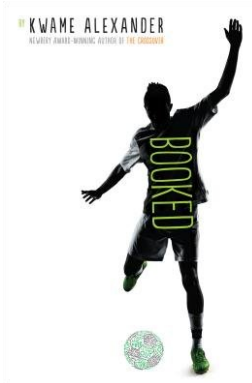


[\*The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle\*](#)

by Janet Fox

When Kat and her siblings are sent out of London during World War II, she doesn't expect that the Scottish castle she ends up at might prove more dangerous than the Blitz. Kat is convinced the castle is haunted, and that its owner may be harboring a Nazi spy, so she sets out to uncover the truth before it's too late.

(Available: March 15, 2016)

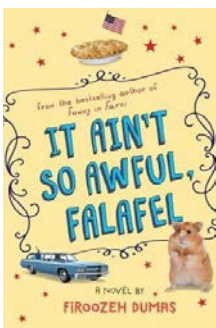


### [Booked](#)

by Kwame Alexander

Kwame Alexander's follow-up to [The Crossover](#) once again brings poetry to sports-loving boys. Alexander combines gorgeous verse with the intensely personal story of 12-year-old Nick as he struggles with problems at home, a bully, a girl, and his soccer dreams. Set against the backdrop of a World Cup match, middle grade readers will be hooked after the first line.

(Available: April 5, 2016)

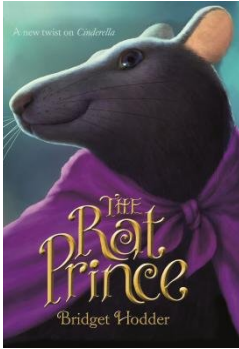


### [It Ain't So Awful, Falafel](#)

by Firoozeh Dumas

Based on her own experience emigrating from Iran to Newport Beach, California in the 1970's, *New York Times* bestselling author Firoozeh Dumas has written a funny, touching, and insightful middle grade novel about the challenges of fitting in and finding yourself in a new country.

(Available: May 3, 2016)



[The Rat Prince](#)

by Bridget Hodder

The rats in the Cinderella story never got a lot of credit and *The Rat Prince* aims to rectify that oversight. With a complex plot, a new take on a well-worn fairy tale, and a love story for the ages, Bridget Hodder's middle grade tale is bound to become a favorite.

(Available: August 23, 2016)

## 6th Grade Summer Assignment: Make the world a better place!

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Complete your choice of at least five assignments in a row for Tic-Tac-Toe! Have a parent sign it for you. Submit this signed form to your homeroom teacher on the first day of school.

Watch the news.	Tell someone how much they mean to you.	Do a household chore without being asked.	Dream about your future and decide what you need to do to get there.	Read a book by an author you've not heard of.
Sort out what you don't need and give it to charity.	Speak out when you see something you don't think is right.	Walk a journey that you would usually take by car.	Talk to an adult about an issue you think is important.	Lie on the grass in summer and stare at the clouds.
Watch a black and white film.	Learn a poem by heart.	Write a list of things you would like to accomplish by the time you are eighteen.	Cook a meal for a friend to make them happy.	Hand write a letter to someone special and share it with him/her.
Switch off your on-line presence and avoid all social media for three days.	Make a list of all the positive things that you can be thankful for.	Talk to an older relative about your family history.	Pick up someone else's litter.	Grow something that you can eat.
Bake a cake for someone.	Try a new food you can't pronounce.	Learn to play a song on a musical instrument.	Skim a stone.	Volunteer.

Parent's Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_