

# 6TH GRADE SUMMER (SUGGESTED) READING LIST

Realistic/Contemporary Fiction

## Ungifted

A hilarious and heartfelt novel in which one middle-school troublemaker accidentally moves into the gifted and talented program—and changes everything. For fans of Louis Sachar and Jack Gantos, this funny and touching underdog story is a lovable and goofy adventure with robot fights, middle-school dances, live experiments, and statue-topping pranks!

## The Batboy

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a bat boy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

## Brian's Winter

Companion book to: Hatchet and The river. Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

## Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

## Girl Stolen

Sixteen year-old Cheyenne Wilder is sleeping in the back of a car while her mom fills her prescription at the pharmacy. Before Cheyenne realizes what's happening, their car is being stolen—with her inside! (Young Adult)

## Fish in a Tree

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read

**Korman, Gordon.**

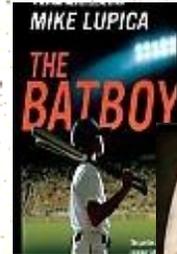
**Lupica, Mike.**

**Paulsen, Gary.**

**Sonnenblick, Jordan.**

**Henry, April.**

**Hunt, Linda M.**



## Historical Fiction

### Paperboy by Vawter, Vince.

An 11-year-old boy living in Memphis in 1959 throws the meanest fastball in town, but talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering, not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he knows he'll be forced to communicate with the different customers, including a housewife who drinks too much and a retired merchant marine who seems to know just about everything.



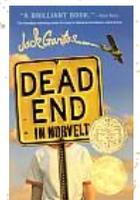
### Seer of Shadows by Avi.

Photographer Horace Carpetine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengeance on those who killed her.



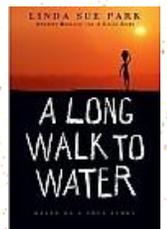
### Dead End in Norvelt by Gantos, Jack.

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.



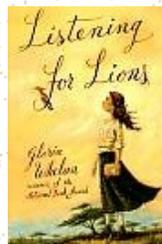
### Long Walk to Water by Park, Linda Sue.

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.



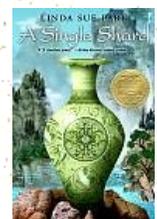
### Listening for Lions by Whelan, Gloria.

Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

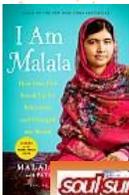


### Single Shard by Park, Linda Sue.

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.



## Continued...



### Informational/ Narrative Non Fiction/ Memoir

#### ***I Am Malala* by Yousafzai, Malala .**

Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

#### ***Soul Surfer* by Hamilton, Bethany.**

Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

***Chew on This* by Schlosser, Eric.** The author of *Fast Food Nation* serves up a stinging, often startling expose on this country's pervasive, lucrative fast-food industry. A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies.

***Within Reach: My Everest Story* by Pfetzer, Mark.** The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

#### ***Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savana* by Lekuton, Joseph.**

A firsthand look at growing up in Kenya as a member of a tribe of nomads whose livelihood centers on the raising and grazing of cattle. Readers share Lekuton's first encounter with a lion, the epitome of bravery in the warrior tradition. They follow his mischievous antics as a young Maasai cattle herder, coming-of-age initiation, boarding school escapades, soccer success, and journey to America for college. Lekuton's riveting text combines exotic details of nomadic life with the universal experience and emotions of a growing boy.

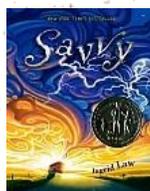
#### ***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Woodson, Jacqueline.**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world.

#### ***Guts : the true stories behind Hatchet and the Brian books* by Paulsen, Gary.**

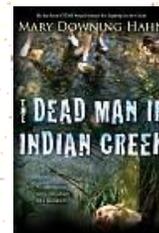
The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

**Fantasy: *Savvy Game* by Law, Ingrid.** For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy"--a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day.



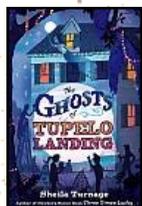
#### **Mystery: *Dead Man in Indian Creek* by Hahn, Mary Downing.**

When Matt and Parker find a dead man at the edge of Indian Creek, and learn the body they found may be a drug-related death, they fear Parker's mother, Pam, and her new boyfriend, Evans, may be involved.



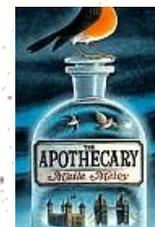
#### **Mystery: *Ghosts of Tupelo Landing (sequel to Three Times Lucky)* by Turnage, Sheila.**

When Miss Lana accidentally buys a haunted inn at the Tupelo Landing town auction, Desperado Detectives--aka Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale- opens up a paranormal division to solve the ghost's identity before the town's big 250th anniversary bash.



#### **Fantasy: *The Apothecary* by Meloy, Maile**

Fourteen-year-old Janie Scott, newly arrived in London from Los Angeles in 1952, becomes friends with a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows, and is drawn into a dangerous adventure with Benjamin when his father is kidnapped and Russian spies try to steal his book of secrets.



#### **Mystery: *Westing Game* by Raskin, Ellen.**

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.



#### **Fantasy: *The Alchemyst (series)* by Scott, Michael.**

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. (Young Adult)

