

Suggested Summer Reading List for Incoming Grade 6

Babylon Memorial Grade School 2010

Alexander, Lloyd

The Prydain Chronicles

The Book of Three; the Black Cauldron; the Castle of Llyr; Taran Wanderer; the High King; the Foundling and other Tales of Prydain.

Avi

The Book Without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic

Sybil is a servant girl working for Thorston, an alchemist, who has spent his life trying to figure out the secret to immortality which can be found in *The Book Without Words*. Just as he is about to succeed he drops dead, leaving Sybil and Odo, a talking raven, to reap the rewards of his work.

The Seer of Shadows

In this intriguing historical ghost story, which is set in New York City in 1872, Horace Carpetine becomes an apprentice to a local society photographer and learns more about deception, ghosts, and photography than he could ever have imagined.

Birdsall, Jeanne

*The Penderwicks, A Summer Tale of Four Sisters,
Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.*

Four lovable sisters and their father spend their summer vacation in the Berkshire Mountains. While there, they share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of their snobbish mother.

Broach, Elise

Shakespeare's Secret

Hero moves into a new town and finds she is living in an old house with an unusual past. With the help of the police chief's son and her neighbor, Hero tries to unravel the mystery.

Clements, Andrew

The Jacket

When Phil sees another kid wearing his brother's jacket, he assumes the jacket was stolen. It turns out he was wrong, and Phil has to ask himself the question: Would he have made the same assumption if the boy wearing the jacket hadn't been African American?

Things Hoped For (sequels)

Gwen, who has been living in Manhattan while she attends music school, joins up with another music student to solve a mystery when her grandfather suddenly goes missing.

Collins, Suzanne *Gregor the Overlander* (sequels)
When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by an ancient prophecy.

Coville, Bruce *The Monster's Ring* (sequels)
A timid boy, eager to frighten the school bully on Halloween night, acquires a magic ring and the power to change himself into a hideous monster.

Cushman, Karen *Rodzina*
A twelve-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.

Dowd, Siobhan *The London Eye Mystery*
When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together—Ted with his brain that is “wired differently” and impatient Kat—to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Fleischman, Paul *Seedfolks*
One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

Fleischman, Sid *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*
Fleischman looks at Houdini's life through his own eyes, as a fellow magician. Guarding the secrets, yet entertaining readers, he tells the rags-to-rags story of a poor Jewish boy names Ehrich Weiss, who longed to be like his idol, French magician Robert-Houdin.

Funke, Cornelia *Inkheart* (sequels)
Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

Gaiman, Neil *The Graveyard Book*
Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. A Newbery Winner!

Gantos, Jack*Joey Pigza (series)*

Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

George, Jean Craighead*My Side of the Mountain (and sequels)*

A New York City boy runs away from home, and spends a year all by himself, "living off the land," in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

Grogan, John*Marley: A Dog Like No Other*

Follows the life story of an exuberant Labrador retriever who gets into perpetual trouble and experiences a range of inspiring adventures. An adaptation of *Marley & Me*.

Hahn, Mary Downing*Closed for the Season*

When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

Henkes, Kevin*Olive's Ocean*

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

Hesse, Karen*Brooklyn Bridge*

In 1903 Brooklyn, fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom's life changes for the worse when his parents, Russian immigrants, invent the teddy bear and turn their apartment into a factory, while nearby the glitter of Coney Island contrasts with the dismal lives of children dwelling under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Hiaasen, Carl*Scat*

Nick and Marta are determined to find what happened to the biology teacher after she disappears on a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp resulting in a fast paced ecological mystery involving the Florida Panther and a cast of unique characters.

Flush

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Jacques, Brian*Redwall (series)*

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

Jones Charlotte*Mistakes that Worked*

-Presents the stories behind forty things that were invented or named by accident, including aspirin, X-rays, Frisbees, Silly Putty, and Velcro.

Jones, Kimberly*Sand Dollar Summer*

When twelve-year-old Lise spends the summer on an island in Maine with her self-reliant mother and bright--but oddly mute--younger brother, her formerly safe world is complicated by an aged Indian neighbor, her mother's childhood friend, and a hurricane.

Kinney, Jeff*Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Rodrick Rules (sequels)*

Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother Rodrick from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

Lawrence, Iain*The Wreckers (sequels)*

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded.

Lewis, C.S.*The Chronicles of Narnia (series)*

1. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe -- 2. Prince Caspian -- 3. The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader" -- 4. The Silver Chair -- 5. The Horse and his Boy -- 6. The Magician's nephew -- 7. The Last Battle.

London, Jack*Call of the Wild*

The story of a dog, brutalized by men in the Klondike, whose primeval instincts gradually returned until, after the brutal murder of his master, he joined a pack of wolves.

Martin, Ann*The Doll People (sequels)*

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*
Chronicles how writer Jerry Siegel and illustrator Joe Shuster created the character of Superman and, after being turned down by several editors, finally published their first comic book featuring the Man of Steel in 1938.

O'Connor, Barbara *How to Steal a Dog: A Novel*
Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

Paulsen, Gary *Hatchet* (and sequels)
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Peck, Richard *On the Wings of Heroes*
A boy in Illinois remembers the home front years of World War II, especially his two heroes—his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

Rodda, Emily *Rowan of Rin* (series)
Because only he can read the magical map, young, weak and timid Rowan joins six other villagers to climb a mountain and try to restore their water supply, as fears of a dragon and other horrors threaten to drive them back.

Sachar, Louis *Small Steps*
This sequel to *Holes* focuses on Armpit, an African-American former resident of Tent D at Camp Green Lake. It's two years after his release, and the 16-year-old is still digging holes, although now getting paid for it, working for a landscaper in his hometown of Austin, TX. He's trying to turn his life around, knowing that everyone expects the worst of him and that he must take small steps to keep moving forward.

Schusterman, Neal *Downsiders*
When fourteen-year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers the Downsiders world which had evolved from the subway built in New York in 1867 by Alfred Ely Beach, she and her new friend experience the clash of their two cultures.

Sleator, William

The Duplicate

Sixteen-year-old David, finding a strange machine that creates replicas of living organisms, duplicates himself and suffers the horrible consequences when the duplicate turns against him.

Smith, Roland

Tentacles

After the mysterious disappearance of their parents, Marty and Grace go to live with their scientist uncle and accompany him on what soon becomes an increasingly dangerous expedition to New Zealand to track a giant squid.

Spinelli, Jerry

Love, Stargirl (sequels)

Still moping months after being dumped by her Arizona boyfriend, 15 year-old Stargirl, a home-schooled free spirit, writes “the world’s longest letter” to Leo, describing her new life in Pennsylvania.

Wringer

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.

Stead, Rebecca

When You Reach Me

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980’s television game show, “The \$20,000 Pyramid,” a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy laws of time and space. Newbery Winner!

Van Draanen, Wendelin

Sammy Keyes (series)

Seventh-grade sleuth Sammy Keyes investigates mysterious happenings.

Whitehouse, Howard

The Strictest School in the World: Being the Tale of a Clever Girl, a Rubber Boy and a Collection of Flying Machines, Mostly Broken

This is a story about a world gone by-- a place of wonder and fantasy and weird inventions. A place where science and strange new ways of doing things collide in a heap with ancient beliefs and strange old ways of doing things.

Woodruff, Elvira

Fearless

In late seventeenth century England, eleven-year-old Digory, forced to leave his hometown after his father is lost at sea, becomes an apprentice to the architect Henry Winstanley, who built a light house on the treacherous Eddystone Reef—the very rocks that sank Digory’s grandfather’s ship years before.

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