



Nyack Middle School Library's

Suggested Summer Reading
GRADE 6

Middle School Library's Summer Reading List

GRADE 6 Classic Fiction

Barrie, James

(Classic Fiction)

Peter Pan

J.M. Barrie's classic children's novel about a young boy, Peter Pan, who never grows up, and his adventures in Never Never Land with the three Darling children.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

(Classic Fiction)

The Secret Garden

First published in 1911. Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Leroux, Gaston

(Classic Fiction)

The Phantom of the Opera

Translation of: Le fantome de l'Opera; Presents the classic story about a viscount who seeks to unravel the mystery of the Paris Opera House and rescue the woman he loves from the threat of the phantom of the opera.

Sewell, Anna

(Classic Fiction)

Black Beauty

First published in 1877. A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.

Stevenson, Robert Louis

(Classic Fiction)

Treasure Island

First published in 1883. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune as well as great danger.

Wells, H. G. (Herbert George)

(Classic Fiction)

The Invisible Man

First published in 1897. A scientist, who has discovered how to make his body invisible, becomes violently insane when he realizes he cannot change back to visible form.

GRADE 6 Contemporary Fiction * indicates latest titles

Anderson, R.J.

A Pocket Full of Murder*

(Contemporary Fiction)

A determined young girl joins forces with an adventure-loving street boy to save her father's life in this "thoroughly entertaining" magical murder mystery.

Twelve-year-old Isaveth is poor, but she's also brave, loyal, and zealous in the pursuit of justice—which is lucky, because her father has just been wrongfully arrested for murder. Quiz, the eccentric, eye patch-wearing street boy who befriends her, swears he can't resist a good mystery. Together they set out to solve the magical murder of one of Tarreton's most influential citizens and save Isaveth's beloved Papa from execution.

Bancks, Tristan

(Contemporary Fiction)

Mac Slater Hunts the Cool

Mac, an Australian youth, has one week to prove that he can be a "coolhunter," identifying emerging trends and posting images on a Web site, but he is competing against a classmate on whom he has a crush and dealing with resistance from his best friend and his own confusion over what "cool" means.

Blue Balliett

(Contemporary Fiction)

Chasing Vermeer

A priceless Vermeer painting is missing and it is up to Petra and Calder to find it following the thief's trail of clues printed in the newspaper.

Blackwood, Gary

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Shakespeare Stealer

No matter that few of its young readers will be Shakespeare buffs; this fast-paced story showcasing life behind the scenes at the Globe Theatre in its heyday artfully sets the stage for future reading and play-going.

Blume, Judy

(Contemporary Fiction)

Are You There God, It's Me Margaret

Faced with the difficulties of growing up, and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker
The War that Saved My Life *

(Contemporary Fiction)

“This book examines WWII through the eyes of a disabled child eager to escape her life of neglect and abuse. With the threat of German bombs being dropped on London, most parents are anxious to get their children out of the city. But Ada's mother, shamed by her daughter's deformed foot, doesn't seem to care. Ada takes it upon herself to board an evacuee train with her younger brother and, without their mother's (Mam) knowledge; they arrive in a country village with a crowd of students. Malnourished and filthy, the siblings are placed with Miss Smith, a woman lacking any experience with children, who claims she isn't "nice." . . . Proving that her courage and compassion carry far more power than her disability, Ada earns self-respect, emerges a hero, and learns the meaning of home. “ Publisher's Weekly

Buckley-Archer, Linda

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Time Travelers : book one in the Gideon trilogy (a.k.a. *Gideon the Cutpurse*)

Ignored by his father and sent to Derbyshire for the weekend, twelve-year-old Peter and his new friend, Kate, are accidentally transported back in time to 1763 England where they are befriended by a reformed cutpurse (a.k.a. pickpocket.) They encounter the evil “Tarman” and very nearly perish.

Matthew Cody

(Contemporary Fiction)

Powerless

Soon after moving to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Daniel learns that his new friends have super powers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brain power to protect them.

DiCamillo, Kate

(Contemporary Fiction)

Flora & Ulysses : the illuminated adventures

A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.

Gibson, Julia Mary
Copper Magic

(Contemporary Fiction)

The year is 1906, and on the shores of Lake Michigan twelve-year-old Violet Blake unearths an ancient talisman—a copper hand. Violet’s touch warms the copper hand and it begins to reveal glimpses of another time. Violet is certain that the copper hand is magic—and if anyone is in need of its powers, it’s Violet. . . Surely the magic of the copper hand can make things right for Violet and restore her fractured family. Violet makes a wish. But her ignorant carelessness unleashes formidable powers—and her attempts to control them jeopardizes not only herself, but the entire town of Pigeon Harbor.

Grabenstein, Chris
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's library

(Contemporary Fiction)

Billionaire game-maker Luigi Lemoncello wants to pay homage to his childhood library by constructing a technological marvel in his hometown that went without a library for 12 years. He invites a dozen 12-year-olds to a lock-in at the new building, and when they arrive they find the eccentric game-maker has offered them a further challenge—if they can find their way out using only what's in the library—they will become the new spokesperson for Mr. Lemoncello's company.

Gutman, Dan
Honus and Me : A Baseball Card Adventure

(Contemporary Fiction)

While 12-year-old Joe Stoshack is cleaning out Miss Young's attic for spending money, he finds the world's most valuable baseball card, picturing Honus Wagner. She had instructed him to throw out all the junk in the attic, and he knows the money raised from selling the card would help his single mother. That night, Joe wakes up to see Wagner in his bedroom, and they eventually travel back in time to the 1909 World Series.

Hale, Bruce
The Big Nap : from the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye

(Contemporary Fiction)

In this Chet Gecko adventure, "The best lizard detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary," recounts a truly scary case: his classmates are doing homework without complaint and being quiet in class. In short, they have become model students. Something is afoot, and the tough-talking, wisecracking PI wants to know what's going on. Suspects and red herrings abound: the new librarian, groovy Cool Beans, knows an awful lot about zombies; and what about slick Sammy Weasel? Fueled by ample snacks, Chet and Natalie Attired (a mockingbird) are on the case.

Jones, Kelly

(Contemporary Fiction)

Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*

Told in letters: to deceased relatives & friends and to a poultry company, etc., “Sophie Brown is new to farm life, new to being one of the only “brown people” in town (the others being her mother and Gregory, the mailman), and definitely new to caring for chickens—and these are some challenging chickens . . . how will she protect chickens that are capable of levitating their own coop, becoming invisible, and turning enemies to stone? And why does the town's resident chicken expert, Ms. Griegson, seem intent on stealing Sophie's brood? Told in letters, quizzes, newspaper clippings, and delicious ink drawings . . . this middle grade . . . novel has a little magic and a lot of warm family humor.

Kerr, Phillip

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Akhenaten Adventure (Children of the Lamp series)

When twelve-year-old twins Philippa and John discover that they are descended from a long line of djinn, their mother sends them away to their Uncle Nimrod, who takes them to Cairo where he teaches them about their extraordinary powers.

Korman, Gordon

(Contemporary Fiction)

Schooled

Homeschooled on an isolated “alternate farm commune” that has dwindled since the 1960s to 2 members, 13-year-old Cap has always lived with his grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent—like a lamb to slaughter—to middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced (he learned to drive on the farm, but he has never watched television), long-haired Cap soon becomes the butt of pranks. He reacts in unexpected ways and, in the end, elevates those around him to higher ground.

Lord, Cynthia

(Contemporary Fiction)

Rules

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from “A peach is not a funny-looking apple,” to “Keep your pants on in public,”---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for; she begins to question her idea of normal, and will begin to see things in an entirely different way. Set in coastal Maine, this sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.

Lupica, Mike
Travel Team

(Contemporary Fiction)

Danny Walker is crushed when he doesn't make the Vikings, the seventh-grade basketball team. He is told that he is too short, but he suspects that the real reason has something to do with the bad blood between his father (a former NBA star whose career was cut short by a car accident) and Mr. Ross, the father of the team's best player. Then Danny's father announces that he is starting his own youth team, but unexpected setbacks sideline his dad and the team until Danny steps in and coaches the team himself to the climatic game against their arch rivals.

Myracle, Lauren
Eleven

(Contemporary Fiction)

The year between turning eleven and turning twelve brings many changes. The year Winnie turns eleven is full of tumult as friendships shift. She learns to appreciate a girl she had previously overlooked and to stand up for her opinions. Winnie's growing pains are heartfelt, and the balance of funny and bittersweet makes the novel realistic and readable.

McCaughrean, Geraldine
The Kite Rider

(Contemporary Fiction)

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

Oppel, Kenneth
The Boundless

(Contemporary Fiction)

All aboard for an exciting tale of steam-powered automatons, a bloodthirsty Sasquatch, colorful circuses, and magical paintings. Aspiring artist Will Everett knows he's not cut out to follow in the footsteps of his railroad manager father, but his pampered life leaves little opportunity for adventure. Then he boards *The Boundless*, the world's largest and most luxurious train. After acquiring the key to the railway owner's funeral car, Will is running for his life, pursued by deadly enemies who will do anything to possess the car's valuable contents.

Paulsen, Gary

(Contemporary Fiction)

Family ties: the theory, practice, and destructive properties of relatives

(* or ANY of the “Kevin” series, Liar, Liar, Crush, etc.)

Hoping to impress designated girlfriend, Tina, with his future-husband potential, legend-in-his-own-mind Kevin tries to engineer reconciliation between his solid-citizen dad and a train-wreck uncle. Following a course set in Liar, Liar (2011) and its sequels, events rapidly spiral to the glittering edge of chaos as hasty preparations for not one but two backyard weddings fill the house with colorful relatives and acquaintances. Even unenthusiastic readers will be swept into the hilarious hubbub, as presented by a young hustler who may not be the most reliable narrator but isn't too self-absorbed to accept help when it's offered.

Riordan, Rick

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Red Pyramid

(or just about any Rick Riordan title/series)

This fun, if formulaic, start to the Kane Chronicles series opens with a signature Riordan move: an explosion. Siblings Carter and Sadie have been living apart since their mother's mysterious death. On Christmas Eve, archeologist Julius Kane and son Carter, 14, show up in England for one of their two days a year with Sadie. Julius ushers his children to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone, unleashing five Egyptian gods and causing his own disappearance.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

(Contemporary Fiction)

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza, the daughter of an affluent Mexican rancher, she had been taught by her father to believe that the, "Land is alive," that she could lie down beneath the arbors in her family's vineyards, press her ear to the ground, and hear a heartbeat. Yet can this still hold true for Esperanza when she no longer reigns as queen of the harvest but labors in the fields of a foreign country, picking grapes on someone else's land for pennies an hour?

Sachar, Louis

Fuzzy Mud*

(Contemporary Fiction)

When fifth-grader Tamaya Dhilwaddi and seventh-grader Marshall Walsh cut through the woods to avoid school bully Chad Hilligas, they unwittingly set off a chain of events that threatens global catastrophe. What exactly is that pool of mud that Tamaya notices in the woods--gooey, tarlike muck with a sheen of fuzzy, yellow-brown scum on top? Whatever it is, it comes in handy when Chad attacks Tamaya and Marshall, and Tamaya scoops up a handful and shoves it into his face. But that evening, she notices a terrible rash on her hands, and Chad doesn't show up for school the next day.

The threat of mutations and "frankengerms" had been considered negligible, but now a walk in the woods has led to the quarantine of the whole Pennsylvania town as an epidemic has spread, the airport and railroad stations have been closed, and the Pennsylvania National Guard has been called in

Smith, Jeff

(Contemporary Fiction)

Bone- Out from Boneville (Graphic Novel- uses artwork panels to tell a full-length story.)

Meet plucky Fone Bone, scheming Phony Bone, and easygoing Smiley Bone who leave their home in Boneville and are swept up in a Tolkienesque epic of royalty, dragons and unspeakable evil forces out to conquer mankind.

Spinelli, Jerry

(Contemporary Fiction)

Loser

Once again, Newbery Medal-winning author Jerry Spinelli uses great wit and humor to create the unique story of Zinkoff as he travels from first through sixth grades. *Loser* is a touching book about the human spirit, the importance of failure, and how any name can someday be replaced with, "Hero."

Springer, Nancy

(Contemporary Fiction)

The Case of the Left-Handed Lady: An Enola Holmes Mystery

Pursued by her much older brother, famed detective Sherlock Holmes, fourteen-year-old Enola, disguised and using false names, attempts to solve the kidnapping of a baronet's sixteen-year-old son in nineteenth-century London.

Stewart, Trenton Lee
The Mysterious Benedict Society

(Contemporary Fiction)

After Reynie Muldoon responds to an advertisement recruiting "Gifted children looking for special opportunities," he finds himself in a world of mystery and adventure.

Van Draanen, Wendelin
Flipped

(Contemporary Fiction)

The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. That was the second grade, but not much has changed by the seventh. She says: "My Bryce. Still walking around with my first kiss." He says: "It's been six years of strategic avoidance and social discomfort." But in the eighth grade everything gets turned upside down. And just as he's thinking there's more to her than meets the eye, she's thinking that he's not quite all he seemed.

Vawter, Vince
Paperboy

(Contemporary Fiction)

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.

GRADE 6 Non-Fiction

Downer, Ann

*Smart and Spineless : Exploring Invertebrate Intelligence** (Non-Fiction)

Can invertebrates, animals without spines, be smart? This book explores what it means to be intelligent and looks at some of the feats of learning, memory, and problem-solving invertebrate creatures carry out with their tiny brains.

Heos, Bridget

Stronger than Steel : Spider DNA and the Quest for Better Bulletproof Vests, Sutures, and Parachute Rope

Learn how this amazing material might someday be used to repair or replace human ligaments and bones, improve body armor, strengthen parachute rope, and even tether an airplane to an aircraft carrier!

Markle, Sandra

(Non-Fiction)

Animals Marco Polo Saw : An Adventure on the Silk Road

Generously illustrated short chapters describe Marco Polo's journey from Italy to the court of Kublai Khan with his merchant father and uncle. Each double-page spread features a full-page painting; spot art accompanies boxed information, usually about an animal. A useful, "Map of Marco Polo's Travels," is appended.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler

(Non-Fiction)

Boys Of Steel : The Creators Of Superman

Ask kids where the Man of Steel comes from, and they may answer "Metropolis" or "Krypton." In fact, he came from Cleveland, the invention of two "meek, mild and myopic" Depression-era teenagers. Drawing incidents and dialogue directly from a range of published interviews and other accounts, Nobleman shows how Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster parlayed a steady diet of Tarzan, Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon into a new kind of Hero, with superhuman abilities and a secret identity not so different from, well, themselves.

GRADE 6 Non-Fiction cont'd

Pringle, Laurence

(Non-Fiction)

Ice! : the amazing history of the ice business

Iceboxes, icehouses, icemen, and-brrr-more about the history of the harvesting, storage, and delivery of ice are covered in this slim, abundantly illustrated volume. Pringle begins his narrative by asking readers to imagine life before chilled beverages and frozen desserts. He briefly covers early food preservation (think cool streams and underground cellars) before delving into the rise of the ice industry in the early 1800s, and, in particular, the harvesting of the frozen stuff at pristine Rockland Lake in New York.

Thimmesh, Catherine

(Non-Fiction)

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 On The Moon

Here is a rare perspective on a story we only thought we knew. For Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. It belongs to the seamstress who put together twenty-two layers of fabric for each space suit; to the engineers who created a special heat shield to protect the capsule during its fiery reentry. It belongs to the flight directors, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators. This is the story of the team that worked to first put man on that great gray rock in the sky with dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance.

Yousafzai, Malala

(Non-Fiction)

I am Malala

Gr 6 Up-In this young readers edition of Yousafzai's best-selling memoir, the Nobel Peace Prize winner retells her experiences at home and at school and discusses the impact of the Taliban presence in Pakistan. Her strong voice and ideals come across on every page, emphasizing how her surroundings and supportive family helped her become the relevant figure she is today. Yousafzai highlights the importance of school and how it was the only space where she felt empowered. Although at times the transitions between personal accounts and historical background feel abrupt, Yousafzai effectively summarizes her story and her advocacy for girls' education, peace, and human rights. Above all, she stresses that she doesn't want to be known as the girl shot by the Taliban but rather as a young person who actively fought for education. *Sujei Lugo, Somerville Public Library, MA*