**Sixth Grade Recommended Reading List 2023-2024** | oppl.org/kids-lists

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**Fiction**

Ahmed, Samira. *Amira and Hamza*. When her little brother Hamza opens the forbidden Box of the Moon, Amira must journey to a mystical land to prevent the moon, the barrier between realms, from unleashing a nightmare on Earth.

Dobbs, Alda P. *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna*. Based on a true story, the tale of one girl’s perilous journey to cross the U.S. border and lead her family to safety during the Mexican Revolution.

Formato, Jaime. *Roll for Initiative*. Twelve-year-old Riley steps out of her older brother’s protective shadow and helps the Dungeon Master’s screen, running D&D campaigns for her new friends and taking control of her own life.

Heidicker, Christian McKay. *Scary Stories for Young Foxes* (series). Fox kits Mia and Uly are separated from their litters, and discover a dangerous world. In order to find a den to call home, they must venture through it, facing unspeakable things that dwell in the darkness.

Holt, KA. *Jordan J and the Truth about Jordan J*. Jordan J is an opinionated middle schooler trying to find his place at school, at home, and on the dance floor. His goal: land a spot on his favorite TV dance show.

Johnson, Anna Rose. *The Star that Always Stays*. When fourteen-year-old Norvia moves from Beaver Island to Boyne City in 1914, she has to deal with a new school, a first crush, and a blended family, but she also must keep secret her parents’ divorce and her Ojibwe heritage.

Jung, Mike. *The Boys in the Back Row*. Best friends Matt and Eric are hatching a plan for one big final adventure together before Eric moves away: during the marching band competition at a Giant Amusement Park, they will sneak away to a nearby comic book convention and meet their idol, a famous comic creator.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Those Kids from Fawn Creek*. There are twelve kids in the seventh grade at Fawn Creek Middle School, who’ve been together all their lives. In this small factory town where everyone knows everything about everyone, that’s not necessarily a great thing. Every day is exactly the same—until Orchid Mason arrives.

Kim, Jessica. *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*. When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids’ comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part.

Kramer, Kasper J. *The List of Unspeakable Fears*. In 1910 New York City, ten-year-old Essie’s riddle for her new stepfather runs a quarantine hospital for the incurably sick, Essie imagines all manner of horrors, including the ghost of a little girl... which might not be imaginary after all.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Red, White, and Whole*. Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she’s the only Indian American student, and home, with her family’s traditions and holidays. When Reha finds out that her Amma is sick, she becomes determined to be the perfect daughter and save her mother’s life.

Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears*. Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances’s mother left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, but now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his “assets” of enslaved people, maybe even Emma.

LeZotte, Ann Clare. *Show Me a Sign* (series). It is 1855 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha’s Vineyard, where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but now she’s been kidnapped to use as a living specimen!

Lowe, Mari. *Aviva vs. the Dybbuk*. A long ago “accident.” An isolated girl named Aviva. A community that wants to help, but doesn’t know how. And a ghostly dybbuk, that no one but Aviva can see, causing mayhem and mischief that everyone blames on her.

Maldonado, Torrey. *What Lenn?*. Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends and learns about the Black Lives Matter movement.

Marks, Janae. *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* (series). Receiving an unexpected letter on her 12th birthday from the incarcerated father she has never met, Zoe prepares for a cooking show competition while scrambling to determine her father’s innocence.

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *The Keeper*. James moves to a new state and starts getting mysterious letters from someone who claims he’s the only one who can see the dead. But the problem with that is his parents don’t believe him—certainly not even his parents.

Ortega, Claribel A. *Ghost Squad*. Casting a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits that wreak havoc throughout St. Augustine, Lucely and Syd team up with Syd’s grandmother and Tabby cat to break the curse and save Lucely’s firefly spirits.

Reynolds, Jason. *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*. Ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings: complicated handshakes, boogers, jokes, skateboarding and more.

Senf, Lara. *The Clackity*. Evie Von Roth lives in the seventh most haunted town in America. To rescue her aunt from the ghost of a serial killer, Evie embarks on a journey into a strange world with hungry witches, ghosts, and a story thief, while trying to fulfill her deal with the Clackity.

Stroker, All. *The Chance to Fly*. After moving across the country, thirteen-year-old Natalie auditions for her new school’s play and overcomes her fears and insecurities about performing in a wheelchair.

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne* (series). On the run from her latest bank robbery, Scarlett McCain comes to the rescue of Albert Browne, the sole survivor of a horrific accident, and soon learns he may be the most dangerous threat of all.

Yee, Lisa. *Maisy Chen’s Last Chance*. Twelve-year-old Maisy discovers her family’s Chinese restaurant is full of secrets, but the more Maisy discovers, the more questions she has.

Youngblood, Leslie C. *Forever This Summer* (series). When eleven-year-old Georgie and her sister Peaches relocate to Bogalusa, Louisiana, with their mother to help their Great Aunt Vie, Georgie becomes involved in the search for the truth about her new friend Markie’s mother.

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Nonfiction

America's Test Kitchen, The Complete Cookbook for Young Scientists (641.5 AME). Why do some cheeses melt better than others? Why does popcorn "pop"? How does gelatin work? Answer these questions (and wow your friends and family) by cooking some amazing treats!


Larson, Margaret. Wood Shop: Hands Skills and Creative Building Projects for Kids (684.08 LAR). Grab a hammer, step up to the workbench, and get ready to measure, saw, drill, and make cool things!

Lowry, Lois. On the Horizon (940.54 LOW). The human stories behind World War II's Pearl Harbor attack and Hiroshima bombing help us to contemplate what victims share in common and the importance of bridging cultural divides.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. Cast Away: Poems for Our Time (811 NYE). Young People's Poet Laureate Nye shines a spotlight on the things we cast away, from plastic water bottles to those less fortunate. A deeply moving, sometimes funny, and always provocative poetry collection.

Partridge, Elizabeth. Seen and Unseen: What Dorothy Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams' Photographs Reveal about the Japanese American Incarceration (298.093 PAR). Three months after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Roosevelt ordered the incarceration of all Japanese and Japanese Americans living on the West Coast of the US. Legendary photographers came to photograph the incarceration camps, but with different approaches—and different results.

Smith, Elliot. Slavery and Reconstruction: The Struggle for Black Civil Rights (323.119 SM). With the freeing of four million enslaved people after the Civil War, the Reconstruction period brought new victories and challenges in the fight for Black rights.

Soontornvat, Christina. All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team (796.525 SQ). Firsthand interviews alongside scientific and cultural insights tell the story of the 2018 Thai cave rescue of the Wild Boars soccer team and the critical, sophisticated engineering operation that saved the lives of thirteen young people.

Thunberg, Greta. No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference (353.7 THU). The groundbreaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist who has become the voice of a generation.

Turner, Pamela S. How to Build a Human in Seven Evolutionary Steps (599.938 TUR). How, when, and why did we 1. stand up, 2. smash rocks, 3. get swelled heads, 4. take a hike, 5. invent barbecue, 6. start talking (and never shut up), and 7. become storytellers?

Walker, Nell. Marie Curie (B CURI). Marie Curie was one of the world's most celebrated women scientists, and changed the course of the world through her scientific discoveries.

Wallace, Sandra Neil. First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great (305.906 WAL). Celebrate the genius, diversity, and grit of immigrants and refugees. The people in this book represent nations from Somalia to Germany, Syria to Sweden, and more.

Chmakova, Svetlana. Be Wary of the Silent Woods (series). In the Night Realm, supernatural things passing for human prouly the streets...but they still have to go to school! When a shadow starts looming and a classmate gets all weird, Aliis and Na'ya are the first to notice.

Fajardo, Kat. Miss Quinces. Sue just wants to spend the summer reading and making comics at sleepaway camp with her friends, but instead gets stuck going to Honduras to visit relatives.

Hansen, Dustin. My Video Game Ate My Homework. Dewey Jenkins wants to have the top science project in class to win a state-of-the-art virtual reality video game, but after his friend accidentally breaks the console, they trigger the device, finding themselves transported inside a video game.

Johnson, Varian. Twins. Twins Maureen and Francine distinguish themselves for the first time by pursuing separate interests at the beginning of the sixth grade.

Levy, Kat. Snapdragon. When Snap's dog goes missing and turns up at the town witch's house, Snap will have to confront her. But is she really a witch? How does she know so much about Snap's family?

Mercado, Yehudi. Chunky (series). Hudi would rather do anything else than try out for sports, but then he meets Chunky, his imaginary friend and mascot.

Najem, Muhammad. Muhammad Najem, War Reporter. (Graphic Novel, B NAJEM). Muhammad Najem was only eight years old when the war in Syria began. He was thirteen when his beloved Baba, his father, was killed in a bombing while praying. By fifteen, Muhammad didn't want to hide anymore—he wanted to act. Armed with the camera on his phone and the support of his family, he started reporting on the war using social media.

Venables, Colleen A. F. Katie the Catsitter (series). Twelve-year-old Katie is dreading the boring summer ahead until she realizes the mysterious neighbor who hired her to catsit is one of the city's greatest supervillains.

Weir, Ivy Noelle. Anne of West Philly. In this modern retelling of Anne of Green Gables, Anne is fostered into the West Philly home of siblings Marilla and Matthew. Armed with a big personality and unstoppable creativity, Anne takes her new home by storm as she joins the robotics club, makes new friends in Diana and Gilbert, experiences first love, and turns the ordinary into the extraordinary.