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Sixth Grade Recommended Reading List 2025-2026 | oppl.org/kids-lists

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.

Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *It's All or Nothing, Vale*. Valencia is coping with chronic pain from an accident. Once a nationally ranked fencer, she now faces a challenging return to the sport. If she can't leave her accident in the past, then what does she have to look forward to?

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.

Faruqi, Saadia. *The Partition Project*. Mahnoor's grandmother moves in, and as details of Dadi's life during the partition are revealed, Maha realizes she has a subject for her documentary project.

Formato, Jaime. *Roll for Initiative*. Twelve-year-old Riley steps out of her older brother's protective shadow and behind 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.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *Alebrijes*. When Leandro takes the fall for his sister and is exiled into an ancient drone, he embarks on a perilous journey beyond the city's walls and encounters mutant monsters, wasteland pirates, and fellow outcasts.

Holt, K.A. *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.

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.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Those Kids from Fawn Creek*. The middle schoolers at Fawn Creek School have been together all their lives. In this small town where everyone knows everything about everyone, that's not a great thing. Every day is exactly the same—until Orchid Mason arrives.

Khan, Hena. *Drawing Deena*. When aspiring artist Deena's anxiety reaches a breaking point, both she and her mother learn the importance of asking for help, and that, with the right support, she can create something truly beautiful.

Kramer, Kasper J. *The List of Unspeakable Fears*. In 1910 New York City, Essie's fear and anxiety grow uncontrollably. When she and her mother move to the island where Essie's new stepfather runs a quarantine hospital for the incurably sick, Essie imagines all manner of horrors, including the ghost of a little girl... but is she imaginary at 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.

Lincoln, Beth. *The Swifts*. When Shenigan Swift's aunt is murdered, she sets out to find the culprit and prove to the family that there is more to her than her name suggests. Great for fans of Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events*.

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.

Lukoff, Kyle. *A World Worth Saving*. A is a trans boy forced by his parents to attend weekly anti-trans meetings. With the help of friends, A. finds the courage to fight against the evils of their world, particularly a demon disguised as a doctor that is trying to suck the souls from trans children.

Marsh, Katherine. *Medusa*. Ava's parents send her to a boarding school especially for children who are descended from mythological monsters. But not everything at the Accademia is as it seems!

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *The Keeper*. James moves to a new state and starts getting mysterious letters from someone who claims to be watching him. He and his sister, Ava, are in danger. But the problem with having a history of playing practical jokes is that no one believes James—not even his parents.

Senf, Lora. *The Clackity*. Evie Von Rathe 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, Ali. *The Chance to Fly*. After moving across the country, 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.

Tak, Bibi Dumon. *My Presentation Today is about the Anaconda*. A classroom full of animals give oral presentations about other animals. What kind of facts do you think they find worth mentioning?

Watson, Renée. *All the Blues in the Sky*. Sage loses her best friend to a drunk driver on her thirteenth birthday. They were supposed to be celebrating with late night movies and watching the sunrise, but instead Sage is mired in grief and sadness. She attends a support group where she meets others like her—others who feel hopeless, angry, anxious, and lonely, but are still seeking out hope.

Wilde, Jen. *Paige Not Found*. In an effort to better understand and communicate with their autistic daughter, Paige's parents enrolled her in a study without her consent and a chip was implanted in her brain. Now the company is days away from merging with the most popular social network in the world, one that has a reputation for selling people's private information to the highest bidder. Can Paige and the other kids put a stop to it?

Williams, Alicia. *Mid-Air*. A tender-souled boy reeling from the death of his best friend struggles to fit into a world that wants him to grow up tough and unfeeling.

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Fiction cont.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Remember Us*. It seems like Sage's whole world is on fire this summer. As house after house burns down, her Bushwick neighborhood gets referred to as "The Matchbox" in the local paper. And while Sage prefers to spend her time shooting hoops with the guys, she's trying to figure out her place inside the circle of girls she's always known.

Yee, Lisa. *Maizy Chen's Last Chance*. Twelve-year-old Maizy discovers her family's Chinese restaurant is full of secrets, but the more Maizy 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.

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!

Bova, Dan. *This Day in History for Kids* (909 BOV). History comes alive in this beautifully illustrated book with bite-size facts and a touch of humor.

Brower, Kate Anderson. *The Hill: Inside the Secret World of the U.S. Capitol*. (973.5 BRO) The U.S. Capitol takes up more than 1.5 million square feet and has more than 600 rooms, plus its own subway system, barbershop, and dining options. Love peeks behind the scenes of our government? Check out *Exploring the White House* by the same author!

Donnelly, Rebecca. *Total Garbage* (628.44 DON). Americans throw out almost 300 tons of garbage a year, but even though it's "out of sight, out of mind" for many, waste does not disappear. This in-depth and thoughtful book allows readers to understand the many issues with our system and possibly come up with their own solutions.

Favreau, Marc. *Attacked!* (940.542 FAV). The attack on Pearl Harbor unfolds through the actions and perspectives of American, Japanese, and Hawai'ian leaders, soldiers, sailors, nurses, and civilians.

Fleming, Candace. *The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II* (Teen Nonfiction, 940.5486 FLE). A thrilling account of how teen girls helped break Nazi code intercepted during World War II. Through impeccable research and magnetic writing, Fleming uncovers the lives of young women who were recruited to live and work at Bletchley Park in the UK countryside, often leaving their homes for the first time, without knowledge as to how they would be aiding the war effort.

Jenkins, Steve. *Our World by the Numbers* (550 JEN). Get set to impress your family around the dinner table with this book jammed packed with facts, figures and comparisons, all colorfully detailed with infographics and illustrations. For example, an adult human heart beats 100,000 times a day and pumps enough blood to fill 32 55-gallon barrels a day!

Smith, Elliot. *Slavery and Reconstruction: The Struggle for Black Civil Rights* (323.119 SMI). 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.

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?

Graphic Novels

Armstrong, Jade. *Scout is Not a Band Kid*. Scout joins her middle school's band in order to go on the band's annual trip and meet her favorite author, but she is forced to face the music when the trombone section leader realizes Scout does not know how to play.

Chau, Alina. *Marshmallow and Jordan*. Jordan's days as star player for her school's basketball team ended when an accident left her paralyzed from the waist down. Her competition days seem to be behind her until a mysterious elephant helps Jordan discover a brand new sport.

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.

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *Are You Afraid of the Dark? The Witch's Wings and Other Terrifying Tales* (series). These three terrifying tales feature haunted buses, monstrous creatures, and spine-chilling mysteries guaranteed to have you reaching for the light switch!

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.

Ormsbee, Kathryn. *Turning Twelve*. Katie is turning twelve and instead of life being fabulous, her best friends move away, she starts to wear a bra and everyone is talking about crushes, periods and makeup. Can she still stay true to herself?

Palmer, Caroline. *Camp Prodigy*. Violaists Eli Violet and Tate are at Camp Prodigy for the summer—Tate to sharpen their skills and Eli to overcome their stage fright. When Eli offers to help Tate, the two become fast friends connected by their love of music.

Santat, Dan. *A First Time For Everything: A True Story*. Middle school is an awkward time for many people, now-successful authors included, but a trip to Europe changed Dan Santat's life.

Smith, Sherri. *Pearl*. Amy is a Japanese-American living in Hawai'i in 1941. She travels to visit family in Japan and can't return home after the attacks on Pearl Harbor. Forced into translating English radio transmissions for the Japanese army, Amy struggles with where her loyalty lies. In Japan, she's American, but in America, with the rumors of internment camps, she would be Japanese. Can she find hope amidst the rubble?

Steinkellner, Emma. *Nell of Gumbling: My Extremely Normal Fairy-Tale Life* (series). Seventh-grader Nell lives an ordinary life in the magical town of Gumbling, but yearns to land her dream apprenticeship and become an artist.

Weaver, Tony Jr. *Weirdo*. Tony loves comic books, anime, and video games, but his new classmates all think he's a weirdo. Bullied by his peers, Tony struggles with the hurt of not being accepted and tries to conform to other people's expectations. After a traumatic event shakes him to his core, he embarks on a journey of self-love that will require him to become the hero of his own story.

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. With her 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.

Williams, Jarrett. *Hip-Hop: The Beat of America* (Graphic Novel 781.649 WIL). From its humble origins at house parties in the Bronx, hip-hop quickly became a musical and cultural revolution!