



Hello super 6th graders!

Summer is here and with its arrival comes the opportunity to plan for great vacation reading choices. Reading consistently over the summer is crucial to developing lifelong readers. My reading goal is to invite students to read widely and to discover new areas of interest over the summer. The books and authors in this reading list are suggestions only. However, I hope that parents will be active participants in your sixth grader's summer reading and will encourage setting individual goals. If none of these books sound appealing to you, access books digitally through the variety of available providers online, and select one that suits your interests. Reading will be able to take you to times and places you could even dream about going for a summer vacation! Happy reading!

Smiles, Mrs. Marti

FICTION

★Adventure / Survival★

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley. Pearson Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead .George A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature and animal friends and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Alabama Moon by Watt Key. After the death of his father, 10-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love and humanity.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor. Shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island, Philip must overcome his prejudice towards Timothy, the old black sailor who becomes the key to his survival.

★Fantasy / Science Fiction★

Legend Trilogy by Marie Lu. A dystopian young adult novel that is the first book in the *Legend* trilogy, followed by *Prodigy* and *Champion*. It is set in a flooded, fortified Los Angeles, ruled by the totalitarian Republic. The novel centers around Day and June, two 15-year-olds on opposite sides of the economic spectrum.

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer. After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Savvy by Ingrid Law. Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose 13th birthday has revealed her "savvy" -- a magical power unique to each member of her family -- just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Wildwood by Colin Meloy. When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, seventh-grader Prue McKeel ventures into the forbidden Impassable Wilderness -- a dangerous and magical forest at the edge of Portland, Oregon -- and soon finds herself involved in a war among the various inhabitants.

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini. In Alagaesia, a 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters.

Magyk (Septimus Heap, Book One) by Angie Sage. Ten-year-olds Septimus Heap, the seventh son of the seventh son, and Jenna, the little girl Septimus's father found abandoned in the snow the night Septimus was born and taken away, are threatened by the evil wizard DomDaniel, who intends to finish off the entire royal line.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

Emerald Atlas by John Stephens. After years of moving from one orphanage to another following their parents' disappearance, Kate, Michael, and Emma learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy.

Liesl and Po by Lauren Oliver. A magical mix-up has tremendous consequences for Liesl, an orphan who has been locked in an attic; Will, an alchemist's runaway apprentice; and Po, a ghost, as they are pursued by friend and foe while making an important journey.

★Historical Fiction★

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai. Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck. A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus. In 1841, after he is rescued from a remote island by an American whaler, teenage Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool. Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

Listening Slowly by Thanhha Lai. Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt. This is a wonderfully witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–1968 school year in Long Island, New York, while the Vietnam War is going on.

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine. As twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, it feels like her whole world is falling apart. Until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back.

A Diamond in the Desert by Kathryn Fitzmaurice. Twelve-year-old Tetsu eats, sleeps and breathes baseball. It's all he ever thinks about. But after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tetsu and his family are forced from their home into an internment camp in the Arizona desert with other Japanese Americans, and baseball becomes the last thing on his mind.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia. Tells the story of three sisters who travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to meet the mother who abandoned them.

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen. With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home.

★Mystery★

City of Orphans by Avi. In 1893 New York, 13-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd. 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.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, 12-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead. Moving into an apartment when his father loses his job, Georges befriends Safer, a 12-year-old coffee-drinking loner and self-appointed spy, who recruits Georges into the world of espionage so that they can investigate a mysterious neighbor who lives on the top floor.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

★Realistic Fiction★

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Heather Vogel Frederick. The mothers of four very different sixth-grade girls pressure them into forming a book club and find, as they read the classic novel "Little Women," that they have more in common than they thought. (Sequels: Much Ado About Anne; Dear Pen Pal; Pies Prejudice; Home for the Holidays; Wish You Were Eyre)

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes. On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, her relationship with her grandmother, her feelings for an older boy and her plans to be a writer.

Love, Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur. While living with her Gram in Vermont, 11-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother.

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass. When four 12-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents' Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin. Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

Sports

Great by Tim Green. All 12-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball, but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences.

Football Genius by Tim Green. Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

NONFICTION

Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos. Traces the panoramic story of the sweet substance and its important role in shaping world history.

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert by Marc Aronson. Describes the rescue of 33 miners trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile and how experts from around the world, from drillers, to astronauts, to submarine specialists, came together to make their remarkable rescue possible.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Differently: A Biography by Karen Blumenthal. Presents the life and career of the computer industry visionary, from his early life and creation of Apple Computer at the age of twenty to his accomplishments in technology and design.

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown. Celebrates the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team -- nine working class boys who transformed the sport and earned the attention of millions of Americans.

The World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller by Joan Dash. Biography of Helen Keller who, despite being both deaf and blind, thrived under the tutelage of Annie Sullivan, graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College, and became famous for remaining strong and successful through adversity.

Throwing Strikes: My Quest for Truth and the Perfect Knuckleball by R.A. Dickey. Relates the author's unlikely journey to the big leagues after his athletic dream was nearly destroyed, and how he was sustained by his Christian faith and the love of his family before emerging as one of the National League's premier pitchers.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. (YA edition) A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose. Presents the life of the Alabama teenager who played an integral but little-known role in the Montgomery bus strike of 1955-1956, once by refusing to give up a bus seat, and again, by becoming a plaintiff in the landmark civil rights case against the bus company.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip M. Hoose. Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird that has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline.

Hoop Dreams: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph by Ben Joravsky. A study of the struggles of Arthur Agee and William Gates to win college scholarships and positions on professional teams follows the stories of their families, relationships, and personal aspirations.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer. The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery. An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother.

The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat by Michael Pollan, adapted by Richie Chevat. Delves into facts about food, life expectancy as it relates to consumption, and global health implications resulting from food choices made by people around the world, encouraging readers to consider their food choices and eating habits.

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser. Examines the fast food industry with facts about its evolution and practices, the effects of fast food consumption on public health, and the international success of fast food.

Almost Astronauts: The True Story of the "Mercury 13" Women by Tanya Lee Stone. Presents the story of the 13 women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow.

Courage Has No Color by Tanya Lee Stone. Tells the story of America's first black paratroopers during World War II.

"The President Has Been Shot!" The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James L. Swanson. Recounts the 35th president's assassination and details key events while sharing informative back matter and archival photographs.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. "The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South." --Provided by publisher

I Am Malala (Young Adult edition) by Malala Yousafzai. Documents the educational pursuits of the Nobel Peace Prize winner who became an international symbol of hope and inspiration when she challenged the traditions of her Pakistani community, offering insight into the influential role of her courageous father.

Hidden Figures (Young Readers edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly. A powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.



