

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 6th Graders
The Mellon Library, 2014

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Appelt, Kathi. *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp.* (c2013)

Twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J'miah try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch.

Burg, Ann E. *Serafina's Promise.* (c2013)

In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor--then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother as she promised.

Chainani, Soman. *The School for Good and Evil.* (c2013)

Every four years, two girls are kidnapped from the village of Gavaldon and sent to the School for Good and Evil, where they become fairy tale heroes or villains. Sophie, the most beautiful girl in town, has always dreamed of a place at the School for Good while her friend Agatha seems destined for the School for Evil. But when the two are kidnapped they find their fortunes reversed.

Fletcher, Susan. *Falcon in the Glass.* (c2013)

Eleven-year-old Renzo must teach himself to blow glass with the help of a girl who has a mysterious connection to her falcon.

Gale, Eric Kahn. *The Bully Book.* (c2013)

Eric Haskins feels like everyone is picking on him, but when he discovers a conspiracy theory about a bully book that reveals a framework for gaining power in the school by turning everyone against one kid known as a grunt, Eric finds himself on the trail of huge secrets at Arborland Elementary School.

Gewirtz, Adina. *Zebra Forest.* (c2013)

Annie and her younger brother are being raised by their Gran and are surrounded by family secrets, but everything changes when an escaped criminal shows up at their house and takes them all hostage.

Haskell, Merrie. *Handbook for Dragon Slayers.* (c2013)

Yearning for life in a cloistered scriptorium, thirteen-year-old Princess Matilda, whose lame foot brings fear of the evil eye, escapes her scheming cousin Ivo and joins her servant Judith and an old friend, Parz, in hunting dragons and writing about them.

Jones, Gareth. *Constable & Toop.* (c2012)

In the land of the dead, Lapewood is a clerk investigating why haunted houses are losing their ghosts. Sam Toop can see ghosts and he is asked to help the spirits make sense of the terrible things happening, like the Black Rot infecting their homes and the demon hound roaming the streets of London.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *The Thing About Luck.* (c2013)

Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

Matti, Truus. *Mister Orange.* (c2012)

World War II brings many changes to the life of Linus Muller in New York City when his brother, Albie, enlists in the army. He begins a new job at the family grocery store making customer deliveries and meets an artist known only as "Mr. Orange." Further, Linus imagines his brother as safe and a hero in the war, but he soon learns the truth about the fighting.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The Middle of Nowhere.* (c2013)

When her mother dies from a snake bite, Comity Pinny's life in the Australian outback changes for ever. Her father retreats into his work so Comity turns to Fred, the young Aboriginal yard boy and he becomes her only friend. A new assistant arrives who delights in playing cruel games. Soon Comity struggles to hold things together as events begin to spiral dangerously out of control.

Ursu, Anne. *The Real Boy.* (c2013)

A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magician becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster.

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 6th Graders
The Mellon Library, 2014

SERIES (or sequels or trilogies)

Angleberger, Tom. *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda.*

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.

Barnett, Mac. *The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity.*

Seventh-grader Steve Brixton has a national treasure to recover, a criminal mastermind to unmask, and a social studies report due Monday -- all while on the run from cops, thugs, and secret-agent librarians.

Barron, T.A. *The Lost Years of Merlin.*

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Blackwood, Sage. *Jinx: The Wizard's Apprentice.*

It's not every day that your evil stepdad abandons you in the deep, dark forest of the Urwald. And it's not every day that a wizard rescues you from the clutches of gnarly trolls. But for Jinx, this isn't turning out to be a very normal sort of day.

Cattell, Bob. *Bound for Glory.*

The Glory Gardens XI are now in the North County under thirteen league and the pressure is really on. Hooker, the captain, worries that the team won't be able to hold it together but the team are determined to win against all odds.

Craig, Joe. *Jimmy Coates: Killer.*

An 11-year-old boy discovers he has strange powers, and a future that holds mystery, adventure - and death.

Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt.*

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore.

Higgins, Simon. *Moonshadow: Rise of the Ninja.*

Moonshadow's future as agent of the Grey Light Order hangs in the balance when he receives his first mission--to steal the plans for a secret weapon developed by a power-hungry warlord who is threatening to use the device to plunge medieval Japan into civil war.

Kessler, Liz. *The Tail of Emily Windsnap.*

Emily lives on a boat, but her mother has always tried to keep her out of the water. It is only when she has her first swimming lesson that she discovers it is her natural element. When she finally gets into the sea, Emily grows a tail and soon begins to explore a glorious underwater world.

Meloy, Colin. *Wildwood.*

When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, Prue McKeel adventures with her friend Curtis deep into the Impassable Wilderness. There they uncover a secret world in the midst of violent upheaval, a world full of warring creatures, peace-loving mystics and powerful figures with the darkest intentions.

Sparkes, Ali. *Finding the Fox.*

Dax Jones is an ordinary schoolboy - until something extraordinary happens. Whilst frightened for his life, he inexplicably changes into a fox. Before long, both a government agent and an ambitious young journalist are on his tail.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer.*

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 6th Graders
The Mellon Library, 2014

OLD FAVORITES

Aiken, Joan. *Wolves of Willoughby Chase*. (1963)

Three children become involved in a series of adventures when left under the care of an evil detestable governess in the rural English manor of Willoughby Chase.

Alexander, Lloyd. *The High King (Chronicles of Prydain)*. (1968)

Taran, an assistant pig keeper, discovers his true identity after a climactic battle between good and evil.

Almond, David. *Skellig*. (1999)

Two lonely children form a bond when they secretly take on the care of a crusty, otherworldly old man living in a ramshackled garage. A mystical story of love and friendship.

Blume, Judy. *Tiger Eyes*. (1981)

Resettled in the "Bomb City" with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City.

Cleaver, Vera. *Where the Lilies Bloom*. (1969)

In the Great Smoky Mountains region, a fourteen-year-old girl struggles to keep her family together after their father dies.

Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher Collier. *My Brother Sam is Dead*. (1974)

During the American Revolution, one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Dahl, Roald. *The Witches*. (1983)

A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother together foil a witches' plot to destroy children by turning them into mice.

Danziger, Paula, with Ann M. Martin. *P.S. Longer Letter Later*. (1998)

Tara is outgoing and impulsive and likes to write, while Elizabeth is shy, quiet and prefers writing poetry. Even so, they are best friends. When Tara moves to Ohio, the girls continue their friendship through letters back and forth to each other.

Fletcher, Susan. *Shadow Spinner*. (1998)

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. (1989)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

McKinley, Robin. *The Hero and the Crown*. (1985)

Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthé and the help of the blue sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Kensuke's Kingdom*. (1999)

Michael is swept off his family's yacht and washes up on a desert island. He struggles to survive--until he finds he is not alone.

North, Sterling. *Rascal*. (1963)

Sterling and a baby raccoon are partners and best friends for a perfect year of adventure--swimming, fishing, exploring the countryside together--until Sterling realizes he must let Rascal go.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. (1998)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune that they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Homecoming*. (1981)

Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 6th Graders
The Mellon Library, 2014

CLASSICS

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*. (1868)

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

Bagnold, Enid. *National Velvet*. (1935)

A fourteen-year-old English girl wins a horse in a raffle, trains it, and rides it in the Grand National steeplechase.

***100 World Myths & Legends*. (retold by Geraldine McCaughrean. Orion Books, 1998)**

King Shahryar kills a new wife every night, because he is afraid she will stop loving him. But his new bride Shahrazad has a clever plan to save herself. Her nightly stories--of Sinbad the Sailor, Ali Baba, and many other heroes and villains--are so engrossing that King Shahryar has to postpone her execution again and again...

Pyle, Howard. *The Story of King Arthur and His Knights*. (1903)

Tells of King Arthur, his rise to the throne, the winning of his queen, and the stories of the three worthies of his court: Merlin, Sir Pellias, and Sir Gawaine.

Pyle, Howard. *Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*. (1883)

Follows Robin Hood as he becomes an outlaw after a conflict with foresters and through his many adventures and run-ins with the law.

Ransome, Arthur. *Swallows and Amazons*. (1930)

John, Susan, Titty and Roger begin a summer of battles, alliances, exploration and discovery.

Rawlings, Marjorie. *The Yearling*. (1939)

A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. (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.

Tolkien, J R R. *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*. (1937)

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

Verne, Jules. *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. (1869)

Retells the adventures of a French professor and his two companions as they sail above and below the world's oceans as prisoners on the fabulous electric submarine of the deranged Captain Nemo.

Wiggin, Kate. *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. (1903)

Talkative, ten-year-old Rebecca goes to live with her spinster aunts, one harsh and demanding, the other soft and sentimental, with whom she spends seven difficult but rewarding years growing up.

Wyss, Johann David. *The Swiss Family Robinson*. (1812)

When a Swiss couple and their four sons are shipwrecked on an isolated island, they adapt to their "New Switzerland" using many imaginative methods of farming and animal taming.

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 6th Graders
The Mellon Library, 2014

NONFICTION

Eamer, Claire. *The World in Your Lunch Box*. (Annick Press, 2012)

Contains historical and scientific facts about everyday foods.

Deem, James. *Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Rediscovery of the Past*. (Houghton Mifflin, 2008) Examines the science of glaciers and looks at some of the discoveries of the past as the ice masses move and melt, including the preserved frozen remains of Otzi, the oldest human mummy ever found in ice, believed to be at least 5,300 years old.

Galloway, Priscilla. *Adventures on the Ancient Silk Road*. (Annick Press, 2009)

Provides accounts of journeys undertaken by three men along the Silk Road, including seventh-century Buddhist pilgrim Xuanzang, Mongolian warrior Genghis Khan, and thirteenth-century merchant Marco Polo.

Hopping, Lorraine Jean. *Crime Scene Investigation*. (Ticktock, 2007)

A murder has been committed. There is a victim, but no murder weapon and the detectives can see no clues - it's time to call in the crime scene investigation team. Step inside the world of crime scene investigation and learn how careful recovery of trace evidence helps solve crimes.

Krull, Kathleen. *Albert Einstein*. (Viking, 2009)

An exploration of the life and times of physicist Albert Einstein, whose contributions to the field earned him a Nobel Prize.

Levy, Debbie. *The Year of Goodbyes: A True Story of Friendship, Family and Farewells*. (Hyperion Books, 2010) Debbie Levy reveals the story of her mother's life in 1938, the family's last year in Germany before they escaped Nazis.

Murphy, Glenn. *Robots, Chips and Techno Stuff*. (Macmillan Children's, 2011)

How can you stuff 1000 CDs into an mp3 player? Who built the Internet? How smart is the world's smartest robot? How do smartphones and TV remote controls work? The answers to these and other questions about technology can be found in this funny and fascinating book.

Sheinkin, Steve. *Lincoln's Grave Robbers*. (Scholastic Press, 2012)

An account of how counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd's gang stole the body of Abraham Lincoln and demanded Boyd's release from jail and two hundred thousand dollars as ransom and the efforts of the Secret Service to recover the remains.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream*. (Candlewick Press, 2009)

Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional astronauts.

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*. (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Chronicles the Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.

Tibballs, Geoff. *Enter If You Dare*. (Ripley Publishing, 2010)

Full of eye-popping, fact-filled oddities, Ripley's encyclopedic compendium is fun for kids of all ages. The various categories include "Extreme Sports," "Bizarre Mysteries," "Body Oddity," "Fantastic Food" and "Amazing Science."

Rees, Martin, general editor. *Universe*. (Dorling Kindersley, 2012.)

An out-of-this world journey across the universe from the fiery mass of the Sun's core to the black hole at the centre of the Milky Way, Universe takes you on the ultimate guided tour of the cosmos. Full of stunning out-of-this world images reflecting recent advances in space imagery, you'll go on a journey from our solar system all the way to the farthest limits of space. This is an encyclopedic-style book, so it is good for dipping into rather than reading cover to cover.