

6

SIXTH GRADE RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2018-2019 | OPPL.ORG/KIDS

FICTION

Behar, Ruth. *Lucky Broken Girl*. This semi-autobiographical story about a multicultural girl's coming-of-age in the 1960s describes how Cuban-Jewish Ruthie emigrates from Castro's Cuba to New York, where a devastating accident challenges her perceptions about mortality and strength.

Benjamin, Ali. *The Thing About Jellyfish*. Suzy processes the loss of her friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she thinks caused her death.

Blejwas, Emily. *Once You Know This*. Fifth-grader Brittany struggles to plan, or even imagine, a future away from her mother's abusive boyfriend and the poverty and crime of Chicago's West Side.

Brallier, Max. *The Last Kids on Earth*. After a monster apocalypse hits town, average 13-year-old Jack Sullivan builds a team of friends to help slay the eerily intelligent monster known as Blarg.

Clarke, Cat. *The Pants Project*. Liv fights to change the middle school dress code requiring girls to wear a skirt and, along the way, finds the courage to tell his moms he is meant to be a boy.

Dumas, Firoozeh. *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*. Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up in Southern California during the 1970s Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis.

Fox, Janet. *The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle*. In 1940, Kat Bateson is sent to a school in a Scottish castle that is said to be haunted by dark magic from the past, but when some of her classmates disappear, she wonders if the magic exists very much in the present.

Gerber, Alyson. *Braced*. When Rachel learns that she will need to wear a back brace, she is afraid that she won't be able to play soccer and hide her condition from her friends and classmates.

Gidwitz, Adam. *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*. A peasant girl and her holy greyhound, an oblate on a mission from his monastery, and a young Jewish boy travel across medieval France to escape persecution and save holy texts from being burned.

Graff, Lisa. *Lost in the Sun*. As Trent struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little and starts to see things differently.

Grove, S.E. *The Glass Sentence* (series). In 1891, in a world transformed by the Great Disruption—when the continents were flung into different time periods—Sophia Tims searches for her kidnapped uncle.

Hashimi, Nadia. *One Half From the East*. When Obayda's father loses one of his legs in a bomb explosion, the family is forced to relocate from Kabul to a small village, where Obayda's aunt decides to invite good luck by dressing Obayda up as a boy, a bacha posh.

Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice*. A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

Knowles, Jo. *Still a Work in Progress*. Noah tries to navigate middle school and help his sister, Emma, cope with a family crisis.

Lim, Celeste. *Crystal Ribbon*. Li Jing, the daughter of a poor tea farmer, is sold as a bride to a wealthy family that treats her poorly until she is forced, with the help of animal friends, to run away.

Morrison, Megan. *Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella* (series). Ella Coach has one wish: revolution. Her mother died working in a sweatshop, and Ella wants every laborer in the Blue Kingdom to receive fairer treatment. But to make that happen, she'll need some high-level support.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. *A Night Divided*. When her family is abruptly divided by the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta harbors forbidden thoughts about freedom and reuniting with her loved ones before a coded message from her father inspires a plan.

Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost*. Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

Rundell, Katherine. *Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms*. Will must find her way after she's plucked out of a wonderful life in Zimbabwe and forced to go to boarding school in England.

Schwartz, Ellen. *Heart of a Champion*. Ten-year-old Kenny is secretly practicing despite a suspected heart condition so he can spend time with his baseball star brother, until his world is shattered by his family's placement in a Japanese internment camp in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor attacks.

continued on back



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6

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FICTION CONT.

Shabazz, Ilyasah. ***Betty Before X***. Raised as a child by her aunt, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.

Wetzel, Joanne Stewart. ***Playing Juliet***. Beth Sondquist dreams of playing the part of Juliet, but her hopes for an acting career come crashing down when the children's theater is slated to be closed.

NONFICTION

Claybourne, Anna. ***Don't Read This Book Before Bed: Thrills, Chills, and Hauntingly True Stories*** (133.1 CLA).

Clinton, Chelsea. ***It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired, and Get Going!*** (361.2 CLI).

Latham, Irene. ***Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendships*** (811 LAT).

Swanson, Jennifer. ***Brain Games: The Mind-Blowing Science of Your Amazing Brain*** (611.81 SWA).

Tougas, Mike. ***The Finest Hours: The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue*** (910.452 TOU). (6)

Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library*** (B SCHOMBUR).

Woodward, Kay. ***What Would She Do? 25 True Stories of Trailblazing Rebel Women*** (920.72 WOO).

Yousafzai, Malala. ***I Am Malala*** (BIO YOU).

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Broskol, Vera. ***Be Prepared***. All Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. There's one summer camp in her single mother's price range—Russian summer camp. Nothing could prepare her for all the “cool girl” drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!

Dwinell, Kim. ***Surfside Girls: The Secret of Danger Point***. While relaxing with her best friend on the first day of summer vacation, Samantha discovers an underwater cave and begins an investigation into a resort development that threatens her town.

Gill, Joel Christian. ***Tales of the Talented Tenth: True Adventures of Amazing African Americans*** (series). The amazing stories of Bass Reeves, an escaped slave who became one of the most successful lawmen of the Old West, and Bessie Stringfield, the woman who became The Motorcycle Queen of Miami!

Jamieson, Victoria. ***All's Faire in Middle School***. Homeschooled by Renaissance fair enthusiasts, 11-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

Larson, Hope. ***Goldie Vance*** (series). Goldie Vance lives at a Florida resort with her dad. Her mom works as a live mermaid at a club downtown. Goldie herself has an insatiable curiosity and dreams of becoming the hotel's in-house detective.

McCoola, Marika. ***Baba Yaga's Assistant***. Most kids won't brave a haunted wood to match wits with a witch, but Masha will.

Ostertag, Molly Knox. ***The Witch Boy***. In Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted, and he's still fascinated by witchery, no matter how forbidden it might be.

Tynion, James IV. ***The Backstagers*** (series). When Jory transfers to an all-boys private high school, he's taken in by the only ones who don't treat him like a new kid, the stage crew. Soon Jory is introduced to an entire magical, underground world that lives beyond the curtain.