

Grade 5&6 Summer Reading

The suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The titles listed below are samplings of the works produced by these authors. You can also read other titles by these authors for your suggested reading.

For information about the Wakefield Public Schools' Summer Reading initiative and assignment updates, visit wakefieldreads.org.

Suggested Reading List For Students Entering Grades 5 and 6

Fiction

El Deafo by Cece Bell.

The author recounts her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."

The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett and Jory John.

Miles Murphy is not happy to be moving to Yawnee Valley, a sleepy town that's famous for one thing and one thing only: cows. In his old school, everyone knew him as the town's best prankster, but Miles quickly discovers that Yawnee Valley already has a prankster, and a great one. If Miles is going to take the title from this mystery kid, he will have to raise his game.

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea.

Seven fifth graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how rookie teacher, Mr. Terupt, changes their lives for the better.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya.

Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a big, epic fail?

The School Story by Andrew Clements.

After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novella, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.

Summerlost by Ally Condie.

Cedar and her family return to Iron Creek for the summer after Cedar's father and young brother die in an accident. Cedar follows Leo, a boy dressed in a costume, to the renowned Summerlost theatre festival. Soon, she finds a new friend in Leo, a job at the festival and a mystery to solve.

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.

The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Heather Vogel Frederick.

When the mothers of four sixth grade girls with very different personalities pressure them into forming a book club, they find that they have much more in common than they imagined.

Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess by Shari Green.

Macy's mom is getting married and a "For Sale" sign mars their front yard. Not to mention, her final project for school involves genealogy. Sent to help their older neighbor, Iris, pack to move into assisted living, Macy and Iris initially struggle to communicate but slowly a friendship grows.

Real Friends by Shannon Hale.

Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

Ally has been smart enough to fool many 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. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure "dumb"? But a new teacher sees more.

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson.

For most of her twelve years, Astrid did everything with her best friend Nicole. But this summer, Nicole chooses dance camp while Astrid's fallen in love with roller derby and attends its camp. Things are harder on her own and Astrid struggles with all the newness, but comes to realize that maybe she is strong enough for all of it.

Listen, Slowly by Thanhha Lai.

A California girl born and raised, Mai cannot wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she travels to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the Vietnam War.

Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel by Diana Lopez.

Erica "Chia" Montenegro feels so many things she needs a mood ring to keep track. Between juggling family, friends, school, and fulfilling a *promesa* to God in exchange for her mother's good health, she feels stressed. But with a little bit of hope and a lot of love, she just might be able to figure it out.

Jessica Darling's It List by Megan McCafferty.

The day before seventh grade begins, Jessica Darling gets a list of tips from her sister, whose popularity and beauty made her a junior-high standout. But when she tries to follow it, everything goes awry.

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron.

Lucky knows about the uncertainty of life because she lost her mother two years ago. When she thinks that her guardian plans to leave, Lucky knows that she has hit rock bottom and must run away.

I Funny by James Patterson.

Resolving to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian despite less-than-funny challenges in his life, wheelchair-bound middle school student Jamie Grimm endures bullying from his mean-spirited cousin and hopes he will be judged fairly when he enters a local comedy contest.

First Rule of Punk by Celia Pérez.

On day one of a New School, twelve-year-old Malú inadvertently upsets the school's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Slowly making her own place at school, Malú will do anything to hold onto her right to be herself.

Bystander by James Preller.

When Eric is befriended by the bully at his new school, he must choose between being a bystander to Griff's bullying, or become the target himself.

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds.

Genie and his brother are spending the summer in the country for the very first time. While there, Genie starts to wonder about bravery while facing his brother's insistence on not learning to shoot and his grandfather's blindness. Is bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won't do?

Shooting Kabul by N.H. Senzai.

In the summer of 2001, Fadi's parents decide to illegally move the family from Afghanistan to the U.S. Unfortunately, Fadi's younger sister gets left behind in the chaos of the move. Can he find her before it is too late?

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan.

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life until her parents are killed in a car crash.

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead.

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, bullies at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

Just Like Jackie by Lindsey Stoddard.

For as long as Robinson Hart can remember, it's just been her and Grandpa. But now Grandpa's memory is getting bad and she keeps getting in trouble at school. She can't tell anyone, though, because then they'd take her away from him, her only family. No matter what, they stick together.

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree by Lauren Tarshis.

A quirky and utterly logical seventh grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

Length of a String by Elissa Brent Weissman.

Imani is adopted, and she's ready to search for her birth parents. But when she discovers the diary her Jewish great-grandmother wrote chronicling her escape from Holocaust-era Europe, Imani begins to see family in a new way.

Sports

The Big Time by Tim Green.

Things couldn't be going better for Troy White. The Atlanta Falcons' football genius is at the top of his game, helping the team get to the playoffs. While Troy celebrates with his friends, another lawyer comes knocking—but this one says, "I think I'm your father."

Saving the Team by Alex Morgan.

Twelve-year-old Devin loves to play soccer. If she hadn't just left Connecticut to move across the country, she would have been named seventh grade captain on her school soccer team. But now that Devin is starting seventh grade in Kentville, California, all bets are off.

Out at Home by Cal Ripken Jr.

Mickey Labriogla is the best catcher in the league. He's got a cannon for an arm, calls a great game, and blocks the plate like a bulldozer with shin guards. But when a hotshot new pitcher joins the Dulaney Orioles, Mickey wonders if it isn't time to find another position--or maybe another team.

Mystery and Adventure

The Potato Chip Puzzles by Eric Berlin.

When a local potato chip tycoon invites area kids to an all-day puzzle hunt, Winston Breen is psyched. But it turns out the day is not all fun and games. Their teacher is being overly competitive, the puzzles are hard (even for Winston), and someone in the contest is playing dirty in order to win the fifty-thousand-dollar grand prize!

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd.

Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye. Once it completed its rotation, everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air?

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein.

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

The Great Greene Heist by Varian Johnson.

Jackson Greene swears he is giving up scheming. Then school bully, Keith, announces he is running for Student Council president, against Jackson's former friend, Gaby. Gaby wants Jackson to stay out of it, but he knows Keith has "connections" to the principal. So Jackson assembles a crack team to take down Keith.

Compass South by Hope Larson.

Twelve-year-old twins, Alex and Cleo, are living on their own in 1860s New York City. Their father disappeared months before. Armed only with two family heirlooms, the two set off on an adventure, chased by pirates who think they hold the key to treasure.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen.

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin.

Samuel G. Westing's sixteen heirs gather for the reading of his will and find that one of them could inherit \$200 million. All they have to do is expose Mr. Westing's murderer, also an heir.

The Gauntlet by Karuna Riazi.

A trio of friends from New York City find themselves trapped inside a mechanical board game that they must dismantle in order to save themselves and generations of other children.

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar.

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

The Harlem Charade by Natasha Tarpley.

Three kids, living very different lives in Harlem, team up to find out what happened to Elvin's grandfather. Their digging leads them to an enigmatic artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune – a fortune that might save their neighborhood from becoming “Harlem World,” a ridiculous historic theme park!

H.I.V.E. – Higher Institute of Villainous Education by Mark Walden.

Swept away to a hidden academy for training budding evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan, Wing, a sensitive warrior, Laura, a shy computer specialist, and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to beat the odds and escape the prison known as H.I.V.E.

Historical Fiction

The War that Saved my Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley.

A young disabled girl and her brother must evacuate from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani.

Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, follow a story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future in 1947, as India, newly independent, becomes two countries: Pakistan and India.

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine.

In 1958, Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielsen.

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz find themselves on the eastern side where they were living. But her father, and her other brother Dominic end up in the West. Four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang.

After a couple years in the United States, trying to make ends meet, Mia Tang's parents end up managing a motel for its terrible owner. Mia spends much of her time manning the front desk while her parents do the rest. Even then, they struggle, but slowly they make friends and find hope.

Fantasy

Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi.

Twelve-year-old Aru Shah, who has a tendency to stretch the truth in order to fit in at school, gets dared by classmates to light the cursed Lamp of Bharata, located in the museum where she lives. Unwittingly, Aru releases the Sleeper, an ancient demon, who freezes time. It is up to Aru and a few unexpected friends to save them all.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer.

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis does not know what he has taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. He thinks he has them right where he wants them, but then they stop playing by the rules.

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins.

When Gregor and his two-year-old sister fall into an underground world, they find themselves drawn into an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, spiders, and a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan.

When the Battle School rejects fifteen-year-old Will, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

The Nameless City by Faith Erin Hicks.

Kaidu is an outsider, child of the most recent invaders of the Nameless City. Rat is a native. At first, she hates Kai for everything he stands for, but his love of his new home may be the one thing that can bring these two unlikely friends together.

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel by Megan Morrison.

In all of Tyme, no one is as lucky as Rapunzel. She lives in a magical tower that obeys her every wish and her Witch tells her life outside the tower is dangerous. Then a thief named Jack climbs into her room, telling her that much of what she knows is a lie. So Rapunzel descends to the ground for the first time.

Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel José Older.

It's 1863 and dinosaurs roam the streets of New York as the Civil War rages between raptor-mounted armies down South. Magdalys Roca and her friends from the Colored Orphan Asylum are on a field trip when a number of their fellow orphans are kidnapped. Can they find a safe place and train well enough to rescue their friends before it's too late?

The Tea Dragon Society by Katie O'Neill.

After discovering a lost tea dragon in the marketplace, Greta learns about the dying art form of tea dragon care-taking from the kind tea shop owners. As she befriends them and their shy ward, Greta sees how the craft enriches their lives—and eventually her own.

Fires of Invention by J. Scott Savage.

Trenton Colman is a creative thirteen-year-old boy with a knack for all things mechanical. But his talents are viewed with suspicion in Cove, a steam-powered city built inside a mountain. Kallista Babbage is a repair technician and daughter of the notorious Leo Babbage, who blew up part of Cove by 'being creative'.

Out from Boneville by Jeff Smith.

Cousins, Fone, Phoney and Smiley Bone find themselves mysteriously trapped in a wonderful but often terrifying land filled with secrets, danger, and special new friendships. They are soon caught up in adventures beyond their wildest dreams.

Science Fiction

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau.

When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she and her friend, Doon, are sure it holds a secret that will save the underground city of Ember.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

A government decree allows each family only two children. For Luke, a third child, this has meant a lifetime of hiding. But could a stray glimpse of a child hiding in the house across the way lead to freedom?

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer Holm.

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

The Hypnotists by Gordon Korman.

Is it a gift...or is it a curse? Jax Opus can use his color-changing eyes to make people do things they don't want to do. At first, Jax doesn't know what he's doing -- temporarily hypnotizing friends, foes, and strangers. But then his power pushes things way too far, and his secret is not a secret any longer.

Disney After Dark by Ridley Pearson.

Disney World hires Finn Whitman to be hologramed as a park "guide" but soon Finn gets transported into the Magic Kingdom in the dead of night to help fight a group of Disney villains, led by Maleficent, who want to take over Disney World--and maybe more.

Horror/Ghosts

Doll Bones by Holly Black.

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Haunted Sister by Lael Littke.

A sixteen-year-old girl suffers a near-death experience in which her twin sister, who died in an accident twelve years before, returns to forcibly share her body.

Zombie Kid by Scott Savage.

The plans of monster enthusiasts Nick, Carter, and Angelo are thrown into turmoil when a magical amulet acquired from Nick's voodoo queen aunt turns Nick into a zombie, and prompts an uproarious effort to break the curse.

The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud.

Three young operatives of a Psychic Detection Agency battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.

Nonfiction, Biography & Autobiography

Shark Life: True Stories about Sharks and the Sea by Peter Benchley.

Benchley shares many anecdotes of his personal encounters with sharks, including the Great White, in exciting and sometimes terrifying stories.

Killer at Large by D.B. Beres.

Profilers provide law enforcement with scientific and psychological evidence that helps narrow the search for criminals.

Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii by James M. Deem.

In A.D. 79, Vesuvius erupted. In twenty-four hours, the entire city of Pompeii and many of its citizens were utterly annihilated. Hundreds of years later, excavations unearthed the lost city.

Milestones of Flight: From Hot-Air Balloons to SpaceShipOne by Tim Grove.

The book takes readers soaring through the high points of American aviation: from the Wright brothers and their competitors to the military pilots who first circumnavigated the globe, from the initial space rocket to the moon walk, from the earliest manmade satellite to spy drones.

Tutankhamun: the Mystery of the Boy King by Zahi Hawass.

An account of the life, death, and burial of King Tut and the unearthing of his tomb. The author sheds new light on the biggest question about Tut: was he murdered?

Extreme Scientists: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places by Donna M. Jackson.

The exciting, dangerous, and important jobs that three different extreme scientists do to benefit the world with the result of their research.

Spooked: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America by Gail Jarrow.

On the night of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What appeared to be breaking news about an alien invasion was in fact a radio drama based on H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba.

In the face of a terrible drought in his small African village, William comes up with the brilliant idea to try and make a windmill. A windmill could provide power to pump water to save the land. See how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world.

Frozen in Time: Clarence Birdseye's Courageous Ideas about Frozen Food by Mark Kurlansky.

Adventurer and inventor Clarence Birdseye had a fascination with food preservation that led him to develop and patent the Birdseye freezing process and start the company that still bears his name today.

Sally Ride: Life on a Mission by Sue Macy.

Most people know Sally Ride as the first American female astronaut to travel in space. But in her lifetime, she was much more.

Diving to a Deep-Sea Volcano by Kenneth Mallory.

Changing undersea technology allows people to learn more about the sea as an ecosystem, and about the life forms that live there.

Lost in the Pacific, 1942: Not a Drop to Drink by Tod Olson

World War II, October 21, 1942. A B-17 bomber drones high over the Pacific Ocean, sending a desperate SOS into the air. At 1:30 p.m., there is only one choice left: an emergency landing at sea. If the crew survives the impact, they still have no food or water hundreds of miles from civilization.

The Notorious Benedict Arnold by Steve Sheinken.

Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor, but also one of its greatest Revolutionary War heroes. Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing American Revolution battle scenes, and surprising twists, follow this gripping and true adventure tale from history.

Almost Astronauts by Tanya Lee Stone.

The true story of the thirteen 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.

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh.

Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. The author captures not only the sheer magnitude of this feat but also the dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance of the greatest team ever.

Secrets of a Civil War Submarine by Sally M. Walker.

Presents the history of the Civil War submarine, the H.L. Hunley, including the construction, mysterious sinking, recovery, and restoration.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson.

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.