

## Grades 5 & 6 Summer Reading

This suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The books on this list do not indicate reading level or achievement, but will hopefully spark discussion between you and your children and inspire an interest in stories and reading.

Starting on Monday, June 17th, you can stop by the Youth Desk at Beebe Library and sign up for Summer at the Library 2024. It's FREE to sign up and to participate in all of the summer programs and activities at the library. To learn more, you can inquire at the Youth Desk or visit [www.wakefieldlibrary.org/satl-kids-2024/](http://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/satl-kids-2024/). Want to get involved? Just visit the Youth Desk and tell a librarian you want to be a part of Summer at the Library.

Happy reading! Your friends in the Youth Room,  
Casey, Annie, Ariel, Heidi, & Holly

### Suggested Reading List For Students Entering Grades 5 and 6

#### **Fiction**

***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.

***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."

***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?

***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.

***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 Griff, 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 dealing with his brother's refusal to learn to shoot and his grandfather's blindness. Are bravery and manhood only about proving something, or is what you won't do just as important?

***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 medical diagnoses, 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.

## **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, a lawyer comes knocking who says, "I think I'm your father."

***Lupe Wong Won't Dance*** by Donna Barba Higuera

Lupe Wong is going to be the first female pitcher in the Major Leagues. She's also championed causes her whole young life. Some worthy and some not so much Lupe needs an A in all her classes in order to meet her favorite pitcher who is Chinacan/Mexinese just like her. So when the horror that is square dancing rears its head in gym? Obviously she's not going to let that slide.

***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.

***Ana on the Edge*** by A.J. Sass

Twelve-year-old figure skater Ana strives to win competitions while learning about gender identity--Ana's own and that of a new friend--and how to navigate the best path forward in skating.

## **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.

***City Spies*** by James Ponti

Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. But then she gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of MI6 affiliated spies.

***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.

***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!

**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.

***Isla to Island*** by Alexis Castellanos

Twelve-year-old Marisol must adapt to a new life 1960s Brooklyn after her parents send her to the United States from Cuba to keep her safe during Fidel Castro's regime

***The Night Diary*** by Veera Hiranandani

Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, this book follows 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 were living on the eastern side. But her father, and her other brother Dominic ended 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**

***Amari and the Night Brothers*** by B.B. Alston

Thirteen-year-old Amari, a Black girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and fight against an evil magician.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***A Wish in the Dark*** by Christina Soontornvat

All light in Chattana is created by one man—The Governor. For Pong, who was born in prison, the lights represent freedom. But when he escapes, his prison tattoo marks him as a fugitive. Nok, the prison warden's daughter, searches for him to restore her family's name. But as Nok hunts Pong, she uncovers secrets that make her question the truths she has always held dear.

**Science Fiction/Horror**

***Small Spaces*** by Katherine Arden

After eleven-year-old Ollie's school bus mysteriously breaks down on a field trip, she has to take a trip through scary woods, and must use all of her wits to survive by sticking to small spaces.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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, the initial space rocket to the moon walk, and 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

Learn about the exciting, dangerous, and important jobs of three different extreme scientists who benefit the world with 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.



***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.

***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.

***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.