**Summer Reading Recommendations for Incoming 6th Graders, 2023**

\*If a series is listed, it is the first book in the series that is described. Read “any in the series” as long as you are reading the books in their correct sequence.

Anderson, Laurie Halse.  Fever 1793 **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious with plans, but life in Philadelphia is about to change as sickness grips the area.  Her fight to build a better life gives way to a fight just to live.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. The War that Saved My Life **HISTORICAL FICTION, WWII, ADVENTURE**

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

Carter, Ally.  I’d Tell You I Love You, But Then I’d Have to Kill You **SPIES, FICTION**

How can Cammie hope to have a boyfriend when everything about her own life has to be kept secret?

Coerr, Eleanor.  Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes **HISTORICAL, NONFICTION**

Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.

\*Colfer, Chris. The Wishing Spell **FAIRY TALES, ADVENTURE, FANTASY FICTION**

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

    \*Colfer, Eoin.  Artemis Fowl (or any in the series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

A genius, criminal mastermind, and millionaire, Artemis Fowl, is crafty.  His plot to steal the richest treasure the world has ever known is matched by Captain Holly Short – an elf from Special Forces.

 \*D'Lacey, Chris.  The Fire Within (or any in the series) **FANTASY ADVENTURE**

College student David Rain rents a room in an unusual boardinghouse full of clay dragons. Soon, he wonders if it possible that these sculptures come to life at night. If you’ve read this already, and you liked the series, read the second: Icefire

DiCamillo, Kate.  The Miraculous Journey of Edward Toulane **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Condie, Allie.  Summerlost **REALISTIC FICTION, FAMILY, LOSS**

Following the sudden deaths of her father and autistic younger brother, Cedar Lee spends the summer working at a Shakespearean theater festival, making a new friend, and coming to terms with her grief.

Draper, Sharon. Out of My Mind **REALISTIC FICTION**

This is a personal narrative of a brilliant fifth-grader, considered by many to be mentally retarded, who

discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

DeFelice, Cynthia.  Wild Life **REALISTIC, ADVENTURE**

When twelve-year-old Eric's parents are deployed to Iraq, he goes to live with grandparents he hardly knows in a small town in North Dakota, but his grandfather's hostility and the threat of losing the dog he has rescued are too much, and Eric runs away.

\*DuPrau, Jeanne.  The City of Ember (or any in the series) **SCIENCE FICTION, ADVENTURE,**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a messenger and to run to new places in her beloved but decaying city. She discovers a stunning secret that completely changes her future.

 \*Feinstein, John.  Cover-Up (or any in the series) **MYSTERY, SPORTS, FICTION**

Fledgling fourteen-year-old sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie investigate suspicious activities at the Super Bowl after Stevie gets fired from his co-anchor job on a ground-breaking teen sports show.

\*Flanagan, John.  The Ruins of Gorlan, (or any in the series) **HISTORICAL FICTION, ADVENTURE**

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battle school, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

Fleischman, Sid.  Escape! The Story Of The Great Houdini, **BIOGRAPHY,** **NONFICTION**

This is a biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. The story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats complete with index, photos, and author's notes.

Flinn, Alex.  Beastly **FANTASY, ROMANCE**

This is a modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

Gibbs, Stuart. Belly Up **MYSTERY, REALISTIC**

Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered.

Gipson, Fred.  Old Yeller **HISTORICAL FICTION, CLASSIC**

Fourteen-year-old Travis tells the story of Old Yeller, “a thieving yellow dog that turned up the summer his dad was away on a cattle drive in Kansas." This great dog story was probably on your parents’ reading list.

Gratz, Alan, Projekt 1065 **HISTORICAL FICTION, SPIES, WWII**

It is 1943, and thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is also a spy for the British Secret Service, so he has joined the Hitler Youth, and pretending that he agrees with their violence and book-burning is hard enough--but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065" both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous.

\*Gutman, Dan.  Honus and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure (or any in the series) **TIME-TRAVEL, SPORTS, FANTASY**

Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card that helps him travel back in time to meet Honus. If you read this and liked it, try any of the others in the series.

\*Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Found (or any in the series) **FUTURISTIC, SUSPENSE, FICTION**

Thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board. They unknowingly have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Hahn, Mary Downing.  All the Lovely Bad Ones **GHOSTS, FICTION**

While spending the summer at their grandmother’s supposedly haunted Vermont Inn, two prankster siblings decide to give the guests a real scare but accidentally awaken the ghosts from a distant past.

Herlong, M. H. Buddy **DOG STORY, NATURAL DISASTER, FICTION**

Twelve-year-old Li'l T and his family face great losses caused by Hurricane Katrina, including leaving Buddy, their very special, three-legged dog, behind when they must evacuate.

\*Horowitz, Anthony.  Stormbreaker (or any in the series) **MYSTERY, SPIES, FICTION**

When his uncle dies in a car accident, Alex’s suspicions are raised when he sees a man at the funeral carrying a gun and when he finds his uncle’s office mysteriously emptied of all his papers. He realizes he has uncovered major criminal activity when he goes to inspect his uncle’s car, and, rather than finding it crushed, he finds a neat row of bullet holes in the driver’s side. If you read this, read on. Point Blank is the second in the series.

Holm, Jennifer L. Our Only May Amelia **HISTORICAL FICTION**

As the only girl in a Finnish American family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. Fish in a Tree. **SCHOOL, REALISTIC FICTION**

Hiding the truth about her inability to read, Ally eventually discovers that her dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of and gains new confidence as she finds alternative ways to learn.

Ireland, Justina Ophie’s Ghosts **HISTORICAL FICTION, GHOSTS**

Mama has gotten Ophie a job as a maid in the same old manor house where she works, Daffodil Manor. Like the wealthy Caruthers family who owns it, the house is haunted by memories and prejudices of the past and, as Ophie discovers, ghosts as well.

Kadohata, Cynthia. Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam **REALISTIC FICTION**

Rick, a young soldier sent Vietnam, must train with his dog, Cracker, to sniff out bombs. Can Rick train the seemingly untrainable dog and ensure the safety of his unit?

Korman, Gordon.  MasterMinds **SCIENCE FICTION, CLONING**

A group of kids growing up in a perfect town begins to wonder if it is actually as perfect as it seems.

Levine, Gail.  Ella Enchanted **HUMOROUS, FANTASY FICTION**

Ella struggles against the childhood spell that forces her to obey any order given to her. Can she    discover a way to break the spell?

Lin, Grace. Where The Mountain Meets The Moon **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, goes on a quest to meet Old Man of the Moon in hopes that he can help her parents out of their desperate poverty. She luckily has the help of a magical goldfish and a helpful dragon.

Lord, Cynthia. Rules **SPECIAL NEEDS, REALISTIC FICTION**

Twelve-year-old Catherine works with her autistic brother, longs for a normal existence and worries that his behavior will ruin her chances of becoming friends with their new neighbor.

Lundquist, Jenny. Seeing Cinderella **SCHOOL, FANTASY FICTION**

Struggling with frizzy hair, new glasses, and a best friend's weird behavior at the start of sixth grade, Callie is astonished to discover that her glasses give her the power to read people's thoughts.

 Lupica, Mike. Heat (any by this author) **SPORTS, REALISTIC FICTION**

Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat, but his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Orphaned by their father after escaping Cuba, Michael and his brother Carlos are now growing up alone. If their secret is discovered, they fear being sent into the foster care system, or worse, being sent back to Cuba.

Malone, Marianne.  The Sixty-Eight Rooms **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

When Ruthie's sixth-grade class visits the Art Institute of Chicago, she and her friend Jack discover a magic key that shrinks them to the size of gerbils and allows them to explore a collection of sixty-eight miniature rooms.

Mazer, Harry. A Boy at War  **HISTORICAL FICTION, WORLD WAR II, ADVENTURE**

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. Where the World Ends. **HISTORICAL FICTION, SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE**

In the summer of 1727, Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food, and only the end of the world can explain why no boat returns to collect them.

Murphy, Jim.  The Great Fire **NONFICTION**

This is an account of the Great Chicago Fire combines archival photographs and drawings with personal accounts by its survivors and historical documents.

Napoli, Donna Jo.  North **SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE, FICTION**

Tired of his mother's overprotectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year-old Alvin travels north and spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.

O’Dell, Scott.  Island of the Blue Dolphins **HISTORICAL FICTION, ADVENTURE**

A lone survivor on a rocky island off the California coast, a young Indian girl, through her enormous courage and self-reliance, struggles daily to stay alive. (Based on actual events)

Palacio, R. J.  Wonder **SPECIAL NEEDS, REALISTIC FICTION**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan. Will he be able to endure the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student?

Patterson, James. Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment **SCIENCE FICTION, ADVENTURE**

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Philbrick, W.R. Wildfire **SURVIVAL, FRIENDSHIP**

Thirteen-year-old Sam Castine is at summer camp w but when the camp is evacuated ahead of a wildfire, he finds himself left behind, disoriented, and running for his life, together with a girl, Delphy, from a different camp—can they outrun the fast-moving wildfire.

Reynolds, Jason. Miles Morales: a spider-man story **MYSTERY, FANTASY**

Miles Morales is just an average teenager. Dinner every Sunday with his parents, chilling out playing old-school video games with his best friend, Ganke, crushing on brainy, beautiful poet Alicia. He's even got a scholarship spot at the prestigious Brooklyn Visions Academy. Oh yeah, and he's Spider Man

Scattergood, Augusta. Glory Be **HISTORICAL FICTION**

In the summer of 1964, as she is about to turn twelve, Glory's town of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, is beset by racial tension when town leaders close her beloved public pool rather than desegregating it.

Stephens, John. The Emerald Atlas **SUSPENSE, ADVENTURE, FANTASY**

Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now that they find a magical book that helps them travel through time maybe they can defeat their fearsome enemy.

  Swanson, James L. Chasing Lincoln’s Killer **LINCOLN, NONFICTION**

Tells the story of the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth and gives a day-by-day account of the wild chase to find this killer and his accomplices.

Taylor, Theodore.  The Cay **SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE, FICTION**

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, a twelve-year-old white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a small desert island in the Caribbean where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

Weeks, Sarah. Honey **FAMILY, ROMANCE, REALISTIC FICTION**

It's been just Melody and her father, and she's okay with that. But then she overhears him calling someone Honey -- and suddenly it feels like everyone in town has a secret.

Wilson, N.D. 100 Cupboards **MYSTERY, FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

After his parents are kidnapped, timid twelve-year-old Henry York leaves his sheltered Boston life and moves to small-town Kansas, where he and his cousin Henrietta discover and explore hidden doors in his attic room that open onto other worlds.