



2009 Super Summer Reading List

Grade 6

Other Worlds

Appelt, Kathi. The Underneath. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Avi. Seer of Shadows. Photographer Horace Carpetine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengeance on those who killed her.

Booream, Ellen. The Unnamables. On an island in whose strict society only useful objects are named and the unnamed are ignored or forbidden, thirteen-year-old Medford encounters an unusual and powerful creature, half-man, half-goat, and together they attempt to bring some changes to the community.

Carman, Patrick. Atherton. Edgar, a natural climber, discovers a mysterious book and goes on a fast-paced adventure to discover what is happening to Atherton, a man-made multi-level world orbiting earth.

Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book. Bod, the infant survivor of a massacre that killed his family, is adopted by a loving ghost couple and grows up in the safety of an ancient graveyard, where danger lurks just outside the fence. (Winner of the 2009 Newbery Award)

Grabenstein, Chris. The crossroads. When eleven-year-old Zack Jennings moves to Connecticut with his father and new stepmother, they must deal with the ghosts left behind by a terrible accident, as well as another kind of ghost from Zack's past.

Landy, Derek. Skulduggery Pleasant. When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

Lincoln, Christopher. Billy Bones: a Tale from the Secrets Closet. The secrets of High Manners Manor, carefully guarded in a closet by Billy and his skeleton parents, begin to unravel when the orphan Millicent arrives and the two children start uncovering ghosts, apparitions, and scurrilous lies that have been festering in the house for far too long.

Paulsen, Gary. The Transall Saga. While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

Rowling, J.K. The Tales of Beedle the Bard. Contains five illustrated moral tales for children from the world of Harry Potter, reportedly discovered and translated by young witch Hermione Granger, with an introduction and commentary from Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Remarkable People

Currie, Stephen. Adrian Peterson. Combines text, quotes, and full-color photographs to provide an overview of the life and football career of Adrian Peterson.

Ellis, Deborah. Off to War: Voices of Soldiers' Children. Collection of essays in which the children of Canadian and American soldiers who have been sent to war in Iraq share their feelings on their fathers' experiences and the impact they have had on their family.

O'Brien, Tony and Sullivan, Mike. Afghan Dreams: Young Voices of Afghanistan. Presents stories of young people in Afghanistan, including street workers, students, and pickpockets, who long for peace in their neighborhoods.

Scieszka, Jon. Knucklehead: tall tales & mostly true stories about growing up Scieszka. A memoir of what it was like to grow up in the 1950s and other almost true stories by popular American author Jon Scieszka.

Schweitzer, Karen. Shaun White. A biography of Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White that chronicles his personal and professional life and career, along with his many achievements and awards.

Mysterious Happenings

Abbott, John. The Postcard. While in St. Petersburg, Florida, to help clean out his recently-deceased grandmother's house, thirteen-year-old Jason finds an old postcard which leads him on an adventure that blends figures from an old, unfinished detective story with his family's past.

Carmen, Patrick. Skeleton Creek. Although housebound following an eerie accident, teenaged Ryan continues to investigate the strange occurrences in his hometown of Skeleton Creek, recording his findings in a journal and viewing email video clips sent by best friend Sarah. Read the book, and then watch the next chapter online!

Dahl, Michael. Curtains! A High School Musical Mystery. When someone tries to sabotage the school play, Kyle, an actor, and his friend Mindy, the stage manager, work together to investigate, even though each suspects the other.

Ferraiolo, Jack. The Big Splash. Matt Stevens, an average middle schooler with a glib tongue and a knack for solving crimes, uncovers a mystery while working with "the organization," a mafia-like syndicate run by seventh-grader Vincent "Mr. Biggs" Biggio, specializing in forged hall passes, test-copying rings, black market candy selling, and taking out hits with water guns.

Hahn, Mary Downing. Deep and Dark and Dangerous. When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

MacPhail, Catherine. Missing. Shortly after her runaway brother is declared dead, thirteen-year-old Maxine begins receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be her brother.

Smith, Roland. I.Q. (Book 1, Independence Hall Series). Quest and his stepsister Angela are thrust into the dangerous world of the American Secret Service and the Israeli Mossad when they learn Angela's real mother was a former Secret Service agent who was killed by a terrorist group.

Back in the Day

Golding, Julia. The Diamond of Drury Lane. Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.

Hart, Alison. Gabriel's Horses. In Kentucky, during the Civil War, twelve-year-old slave Gabriel contends with a cruel new horse trainer and skirmishes with Confederate soldiers as he pursues his dream of becoming a jockey.

Hemphill, Helen. The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones. Thirteen-year-old Prometheus Jones and his 11-year-old cousin Omer flee Tennessee and join a cattle drive that will eventually take them to Texas, where Prometheus hopes his father lives. Along the way, they find adventure and face challenges as African-Americans in a land still recovering from the Civil War.

Mah, Adeline Yen. Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society. During the Japanese occupation of parts of China, twelve-year-old Ye Xian is thrown out of her father's and stepmother's home, joins a martial arts group, and tries to help her aunt and the Americans in their struggle against the Japanese invaders.

Nuzum, K. A. The Leanin' Dog. Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean, mourning the death of her mother, finds an injured dog on her porch, which allows both Dessa and the dog to heal together with a friendship that shapes both of their lives.

White, Ruth. Little Audrey. In 1948, eleven-year-old Audrey lives with her father, mother, and three younger sisters in Jewell Valley, a coal mining camp in Southwest Virginia, where her mother still mourns the death of a baby, her father goes on drinking binges on paydays, and Audrey tries to recover from the scarlet fever that has left her skinny and needing to wear glasses.

Information, Please!

Boos, Ben. Swords: an Artist's Devotion. Full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow text provides a history of the sword, and covers ancient warriors, medieval knights, ninjas, samurai, and more; and discusses designs and uses.

Gee, Joshua. Encyclopedia Horrifica: The Terrifying Truth about Vampires, Ghosts, Monsters, and More. The true stories behind real-life nightmares—vampires, aliens, werewolves, ghosts, and more. With exclusive horrific content such as original interviews, obscure photographic evidence, and chilling eyewitness accounts, here's proof that truth is not just stranger than fiction...it's also scarier!

Howitt, Carolyn. 500 Things to Know about the Ancient World. Get a jump on 6th grade Social Studies by reading this book of five hundred facts on ancient cultures, arranged in such categories as food and drink, fashion, sport, society, writing, war, animals, death, and the spiritual world.

Murphy, Pat. Exploratopia. Contains instructions for over four hundred scientific explorations and experiments, each with background information and illustrations; covering eyes, ears, hands, the brain, different places, language, music, math, money, sound, and other topics.

Piper, Ross. Survival! Staying Alive in the Wild. Presents the science behind the plants and methods used in wilderness survival.

Temple, Bob. The Golden Age of Pirates: an Interactive History Adventure. This book describes the people and events of the Golden Age of Piracy. As the reader, you choose to reveal the historical details from the perspective of a pirate, a navy sailor, and a merchant ship crew member.

What's Happening Now

Atinsky, Steve. Trophy kid, or, How I was Adopted by the Rich and Famous. Since his much-publicized adoption at age three by American movie stars, thirteen-year-old Josef's carefully scripted public life has hidden the isolation he feels at home, but writing a book with a ghostwriter reveals much about his adoptive family and the one he lost during the war in Croatia.

Connor, Leslie. Waiting for Normal. Addie would like a normal life. Not only does she live in a trailer in Schenectady, New York with her mother, who is not at all responsible or parental, but also she is separated from her kind and loving stepfather and younger half-sisters.

Creech, Sharon. Hate that Cat. Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous poems and how they relate to his life.

Horvath, Polly. My One Hundred Adventures. 12-year-old Jane lives in an old beach house with her mother and three younger siblings. She has a busy summer meeting her mother's old boyfriends, helping a neighbor deliver Bibles, and being talked into baby-sitting a neighbor's rambunctious children.

Kuhlman, Evan. The Last Invisible Boy. In the wake of his father's sudden death, twelve-year-old Finn feels he is becoming invisible as his hair and skin become whiter by the day, and so he writes and illustrates a book to try to understand what is happening and to hold on to himself and his father.

Papademetriou, Lisa. Sixth Grade Glommers, Norks, and Me. Allie Kimball discover that middle school is a very different place than fifth grade and struggles to learn ways to fit in.

Pearsall, Shelley. All Shook Up. When thirteen-year-old Josh goes to stay with his father in Chicago for a few months, he discovers--to his horror--that his dad has become an Elvis impersonator.

Survival of the Fittest!

Jacobson, Ryan. Lost in the Wild. You're lost in Minnesota's Boundary Waters. You have nothing to eat or drink. You don't know whether to stay put or try to find your way out. And you come face to face with a bear. Will you survive? Find out in this exciting book that let's you choose what to do. You decide your own destiny!

Key, Watt. Alabama Moon. After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

Smith, Roland. Peak. A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest. Bitter cold, nasty rivals, and death defying mountain climbing make this a book sure to thrill!

Walters, Eric. Northern Exposures. Kevin faces polar bears, lost luggage, and being the only youth on a seniors' eco-tour when he wins first prize in a photography contest--a five-day trip to Churchill, Manitoba, to photograph wildlife.

Wood, Don. Into the Volcano. In this graphic novel, two brothers embark on a seemingly harmless camping/hiking trip on a remote island that quickly turns into a dangerous game of treachery, kidnapping, double-crosses, and spectacular natural perils.

Mythology and Fairytales

Catanese, P.W. The Riddle of the Gnome. Twelve-year-old Tom, isolated on an island because of a curse that brings bad luck to anyone who comes near him, wonders if he has traded his curse for something worse when he agrees to undertake a mysterious mission for an odd little man who promises in exchange to rid Tom of the hex.

Hale, Shannon. Rapunzel's Revenge. In this graphic novel, Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home. She is able to escape and with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land and find her true mother.

McCaughrean, Geraldine (retold by). Odysseus. Odysseus begins his long journey home after years of fighting during the Trojan War, but he and his men encounter monsters and ghostly creatures, are imprisoned, and face raging seas that threaten their safe return.

Riordan, Rick. Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Demigod Files. Details three of Percy Jackson's adventures, as he battles all kinds of mythological monsters in the modern world, and also features interviews with Connor, Travis, Clarisse, Annabeth, Grover, and Percy; a map of Camp-Blood; and more.

Get Graphic (Books)!

Colfer, Eoin. Artemis Fowl: the Graphic Novel. A graphic novel adaptation of Eoin Colfer's novel in which a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold; but the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

DeMatteis, J.M. Abadazed: the Road to Inconceivable. The story of Kate, a fourteen-year-old girl who discovers her younger brother Matt, who was abducted years earlier, is being held prisoner in the enchanted land of Abadazad.

Jolley, Dan. Warriors: a Warrior's Refuge. Graystripe and Millie face a series of obstacles on their journey to find ThunderClan, including a problem with a group of barn cats.

Krohn, Katherine. Earth-shaking Facts about Earthquakes with Max Axiom, Super Scientist. Follows the adventures of Max Axiom, in graphic novel format, as he explains the science behind earthquakes.

Russell, P. Craig, Coraline. Coraline, who lives with her parents and some other people in a strange old house, explores the garden, grounds and eventually the inside of the mansion, where a door leads her to another universe that darkly mirrors the one she arrived from.

