

## 2018 Summer Reading Ideas Rising Sixth Grade



### Newbery Winners and Nominees

**1. *Hello, Universe*** by Erin Entrada Kelly

Newbery Medalist Erin Entrada Kelly's *Hello, Universe* is a funny and poignant neighborhood story about unexpected friendships.

**2. *Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut*** by Derrick Barnes

This rhythmic, read-aloud title is an unbridled celebration of the self-esteem, confidence, and swagger boys feel when they leave the barber's chair—a tradition that places on their heads a figurative crown, beaming with jewels, that confirms their brilliance and worth and helps them not only love and accept themselves but also take a giant step toward caring how they present themselves to the world. The fresh cuts. That's where it all begins.

**3. *Piecing Me Together*** by Renee Watson

Acclaimed author Renee Watson offers a powerful story about a girl striving for success in a world that too often seems like it's trying to break her.

**4. *Cloud and Wallfish*** by Anne Nesbet

Noah Keller has a pretty normal life, until one wild afternoon when his parents pick him up from school and head straight for the airport, telling him on the ride that his name isn't really Noah and he didn't really just turn eleven in March.

**5. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*** by Kelly Barnhill

Once a year in the Protectorate there is a Day of Sacrifice. The youngest baby is taken by the Elders and left in the forest to die, thus appeasing the witch who threatens to destroy the village if not obeyed.

**6. *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog***

by Adam Gidwitz

1242. On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children. Their adventures take them on a chase through France: they are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a smelly dragon.

**7. *Wolf Hollow*** by Lauren Wolk

Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class.

**8. *Roller Girl*** by Victoria Jamieson

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship.

**9. *Pax*** by Sara Pennypacker

From bestselling and award-winning author Sara Pennypacker comes a beautifully wrought, utterly compelling novel about the powerful relationship between a boy and his fox.

**10. *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*** by

Javaka Steptoe

Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City.

**11. *Snow White: A Graphic Novel*** by Matt Phelan

The scene: New York City. The dazzling lights cast shadows that grow ever darker as the glitzy prosperity of the Roaring Twenties screeches to a halt. Enter a cast of familiar characters: a young girl, Samantha White, returning after being sent away by her cruel stepmother, the Queen of the Follies, years earlier; her father, the King of Wall Street, who survives the stock market crash only to suffer

a strange and sudden death; seven street urchins, brave protectors for a girl as pure as snow; and a mysterious stock ticker that holds the stepmother in its thrall, churning out ticker tape imprinted with the wicked words "*Another . . . More Beautiful . . .*"

**12. *Echo*** by Pam Munoz Ryan

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica--and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

**13. *The War That Saved My Life*** (and the sequel) ***The War I Finally Won*** by Kimberly B. Bradley

*THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE* - 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.

*THE WAR I FINALLY WON* - When Ada's clubfoot is surgically fixed at last, she knows for certain that she's not what her mother said she was—damaged, deranged, crippled mentally as well as physically. She's not a daughter anymore, either. Who is she now?

## **Multicultural and Multigenerational**

**1. *Inside Out & Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration.

**2. *Brown Girl Dreaming*** by Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world.

**3. *As Brave As You*** by Jason Reynolds

Reynolds's engaging middle grade debut stars 11-year-old African American Genie Harris, an inveterate worrywart who considers Google his best friend, and his older brother Ernie, who is well on his way to being a cool dude (sunglasses and all).

**4. *Last Stop on Market Street*** by Matt De La Pena

A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. This book is the 2016 Newbery Winner and also a picture book!

**5. *Public School Superhero*** by James Patterson

Kenny Wright is a kid with a secret identity. In his mind, he's Stainlezz Steel, super-powered defender of the weak. In reality, he's a sixth grade chess club devotee known as a "Grandma's Boy," a label that makes him an easy target for bullies. Kenny wants to bring a little more Steel to the real world, but the question is: can he recognize his own true strength before peer pressure forces him to make the worst choice of his life?

**6. *Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of 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.

**7. *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.

### **8. *Booked*** by Kwame Alexander

In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *The Crossover*, soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse by poet Kwame Alexander bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match!

## **Social Issues**

### **1. *The Running Dream*** by Wendelin Van Draanen

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

### **2. *Out of My Mind*** by Sharon Draper

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

### **3. *Firegirl*** by Tony Abbott

Tom's a normal seventh-grader, negotiating a slightly prickly stage in his long friendship with Jeff...The arrival of new girl Jessica Feeney, however, changes everything; Jessica, who is attending a local hospital for treatment, has been badly burned by a fire, and her terrible disfigurement shocks the class into confusion. This isn't the usual book about adjustment to difference; instead, Abbott brilliantly explores the kids' struggle to manage the intrusion of abnormality in their lives.

**4. *Bluefish*** by Pat Schmatz

Travis is missing his old home in the country, and he's missing his old hound, Rosco. Now there's just the cramped place he shares with his well-meaning but alcoholic grandpa, a new school, and the dreaded routine of passing when he's called on to read out loud. But that's before Travis meets Mr. McQueen, who doesn't take "pass" for an answer--a rare teacher whose savvy persistence has Travis slowly unlocking a book on the natural world.

**5. *Paper Things*** by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

When Ari's mother died four years ago, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. So when nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it's been two months, and Gage still hasn't found them an apartment.

**6. *Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere*** by Julie T. Lamana

Armani Curtis can think about only one thing: her tenth birthday. All her friends are coming to her party, her mama is making a big cake, and she has a good feeling about a certain wrapped box. Turning ten is a big deal to Armani. It means she's older, wiser, more responsible. But when Hurricane Katrina hits the Lower Nines of New Orleans, Armani realizes that being ten means being brave, watching loved ones die, and mustering all her strength to help her family weather the storm. A powerful story of courage and survival, *Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere* celebrates the miraculous power of hope and love in the face of the unthinkable.

## **Nonfiction**

**1. *Soul Surfer*** by Bethany Hamilton

In this moving personal account of faith and fortitude, internationally ranked surfer Bethany Hamilton tells how she survived a shark attack that cost her arm--but not her spirit. *Soul Surfer* is a moving account of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery after the attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships, and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit that shows the body is no more essential to surfing—perhaps even less so—than the soul.

**2. *The Fastest Man Alive: the True Story of Usain Bolt*** by Usain Bolt  
Olympic runner Usain Bolt reflects on his life, recounting his childhood, and growing up in Jamaica, to becoming the fastest man alive.

**3. *Through My Eyes*** by Tim Tebow  
Former University of Florida star quarterback, 2010 first-round draft pick for the Denver Broncos, and devout Christian Tim Tebow tells the story of his faith, his life, and his career in football in *Through My Eyes*. Written with Nathan Whitaker, the *New York Times* bestselling co-author of *Quiet Strength*, with Tony Dungy, *Through My Eyes* gives fans a first look into the heart of an athlete whose talent and devotion have made him one of the most provocative figures in football.

**4. *Brady vs Manning: the Untold Story of the Rivalry that Transformed the NFL*** by Gary Myers  
Examines the rivalry between football quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning and features never-before-published interviews with Brady and Manning, their coaches, their families, and those who have played with them and against them.

**5. *The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible--On Schindler's List: a Memoir*** by Leon Leyson  
Leon Leyson describes growing up in Poland, being forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler.

**6. *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*** by Malala Yousafzai  
Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

**7. *Beneath the Surface: My Story*** by Michael Phelps  
Swimmer Michael Phelps reflects on his life, recounting his transformation from a young, inexperienced swimmer to the greatest swimmer in the world and discussing his childhood, parents' divorce, brutal training schedule, relationship with his mother and coach, and other related topics.

## **Fantasy**

### **1. *Finding Serendipity*** by Angela Banks

When Tuesday McGillycuddy and her beloved dog Baxter discover that Tuesday's mother--the famous author Serendipity Smith--has gone missing, they set out on a magical adventure. In their quest to find Serendipity, they discover the mysterious and unpredictable place that stories come from.

### **2. *The Golden Specific*** by S.E. Grove

Thirteen-year-old Sophia Tims, with her friend Theo, continues to search for her parents, explorers who have vanished as the borders shift within a world transformed by the Great Disruption of 1799.

### **3. *Nightbird*** by Alice Hoffman

Twig, aged twelve, is practically ignored by classmates and other residents of Sidwell, Massachusetts, but gets along fine with just her mother and brother, whose presence must be kept secret, until descendants of the witch who cursed her family move in next door and want to be her friends.

### **4. *The Peddler's Road*** by Matthew Cody

While in Germany with their father, who is researching the Pied Piper legend, Max, nearly thirteen, and her brother Carter, ten, are spirited away to the magical land where the stolen children of Hamelin have been hidden since the thirteenth century.

### **5. *Rules for Stealing Stars*** by Corey Ann Haydu

Four sisters rely on each other--and a bit of mysterious magic--to cope with their mother's illness.

### **6. *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: the Original Screenplay***

by J.K. Rowling

While attending the Magical Congress of the United States of America in 1926, Newt Scamander is pursued by the wizarding authorities when dangerous beasts and their habitats escape from his magical briefcase.

## Historical Fiction

### 1. ***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams Garcia

Eleven-year-old Delphine has it together. Even though her mother, Cecile, abandoned her and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven years ago. Even though her father and Big Ma will send them from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to stay with Cecile for the summer. And even though Delphine will have to take care of her sisters, as usual, and learn the truth about the missing pieces of the past.

### 2. ***Paperboy*** by Vince Vawter

When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

### 2. ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*** by John Boyne

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

### 3. ***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

## Popular Authors

### 1. **Joan Bauer**

*Tell Me, Almost Home, Close to Famous, Peeled, Backwater, Hope Was Here, Rules of the Road, Squashed, Sticks, Thwonk*

### 2. **Suzanne Collins**

*Hunger Games, Catching Fire, Mockingjay*

### 3. **James Dashner**

*The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials, The Death Cure, The Kill Order*

**4. Chris Colfer**

*The Land of Stories*

**5. Gary Paulsen**

*Hatchet, Woodsong, The River, Mr. Tucket, Brian's Winter, My Life in Dog Years, Brian's Return, Tucket's Home, Molly McGinty Has a Really Good Day*