

6th Grade Summer Reading Recommendations

This list was created by last year's sixth grade class. Out of all the books they read in sixth grade, these were their favorites.

The Secret Language of Girls by Francis O'Roark Dowell (Realistic Fiction)

Hey! My name is **Audrey Janow**, and I'm an upcoming seventh grader here at Normal Park. I love art, music, and cheerleading at NPMM. In my free time, I enjoy designing clothes and hanging out with my friends. This is why my favorite genre of books is realistic fiction that focuses on friendship.

If you enjoy reading friendship books, you have to read *The Secret Language of Girls*. It's a great, drama-packed story about two girls that have been through it all...sleepovers, passing notes in class, fighting...you name it! But lately, things between them haven't been so great. As the two girls start middle school, Marylin accuses her friend, Kate, of being too "babyish," and Kate can't understand why all of a sudden Marylin is only interested in boys and clothes. Can their friendship outlast this confusion? You'll have to read the book to find out!

Fountas
&
Pinnell
Reading
Level

V

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson (Adventure)

Hi! My name is **Wil Austin**. I've been at Normal Park for two years. I love playing football and hanging out with my friends. My favorite kinds of books are adventure, action, and mystery.

My favorite book from sixth grade is *Touching Spirit Bear*. It's about a boy who is always bad and uncontrollable. In the book, he gets in a fight and beats up this other kid really badly. As a punishment, he has to either go to jail or participate in an alternative program called Circle Justice where he has to live in the wilderness for two years. He chooses the wilderness, and this story is about how he survives and gets better. I liked it because it was suspenseful and action-packed.

Y

Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series by Rick Riordan (Fantasy)

Hello. My name is **Joseph Gauna**. I've been a student at Normal Park since the beginning of sixth grade. My favorite things to do are play basketball, football, and soccer, read, play videogames, and draw. I like just about any kind of books.

The best series I ever read is the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series*. It's about a boy named Percy Jackson who finds out that his dad is actually Poseidon, the Greek god of the seas. Percy has a friend named Grover who is actually a satyr. They go on quests together, meet tons of gods and goddesses, and so much more! In the first book, *The Lightning Thief*, Percy has to go to the Underworld to save his mom. Will he be able to rescue her before it's too late? You'll have to read it to find out!

W

Savvy by Ingrid Law (Fantasy)

Hi! My name is **Haley Couch**, and I'm about to be a seventh grader at Normal Park! I LOVE to read and play soccer. My two favorite book genres are realistic fiction and fantasy.

In 6th grade one of the best books I read was *Savvy*. It's about a girl named Mississippi. In Mississippi's family, when you turn thirteen, you get a special power

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* Fountas and Pinnell Reading Levels are not yet available for some of the newer titles

known as your "savvy". Mississippi's grandfather can cause earthquakes, one of her brothers can create electricity, and her other one can control the wind. When Mississippi's father is in a car accident two towns away on the night before her thirteenth birthday, she must figure out what her savvy is right away and use it to save his life. Mississippi hitches a ride on a pink Bible bus headed for the town where the hospital is located. Two of her brothers and two of their friends go with her. This is the story of the adventures and dangers they face. Will they ever get to Poppa's bedside? Will Mississippi be able to control her new "savvy"? Will she be able to save her father? You'll have to read this amazing, suspenseful, funny book to find out!

The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson (Science Fiction)

Hello, I'm **KC Welsh**. I like reading and playing video games in my spare time. When I was in sixth grade, the best books I read were sci-fi, action, and fantasy books.

I read many books in sixth grade, but, hands down, the *Maximum Ride* series was the very best. It is about Max, a fourteen-year-old girl who has been experimented on by mad (crazy, not angry) scientists. Now she has wings and can fly. Max and her six best friends (the Flock—who also have wings) are on the run after they've escaped from the crazy white-coats. The entire series follows Max and the Flock as they live on the fly (literally), trying to keep out of harm's way.

I loved this series and laughed out loud; it was so good. If you liked *Percy Jackson* and other sci-fi books, you'll love *Maximum Ride*.

X

All the Lovely Bad Ones by Mary Downing Hahn (Horror)

Hey! My name is **Hannah Walker**. I like to read, dance, draw, and write. I love to read ghostly horror stories and realistic fiction.

The book I loved the most was *All the Lovely Bad Ones*. It's about a boy named Travis and his sister, Corey. They are spending the summer at their grandmother's inn. While they are there, they begin to hear rumors that the inn is haunted. Travis and Corey decide to try to bring the ghosts to life, but when they awaken "the Lovely Bad Ones," they get more than they bargained for.

I loved this book because it seems so real! It is amazingly scary!

U

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins (Fantasy)

Hello! My name is **Konnor Zeigler**. In my free time, I'm usually outside riding my ripstick or jumping on the trampoline, but I also love to read. My favorite genres are action, adventure, or fantasy.

One of my favorite books is *Gregor the Overlander* (the first book in the *Underland Chronicles Series*). It's about an average 12-year-old boy who falls into the laundry grate in his apartment building. He is plunged deep below the surface of the Earth to an unknown world filled with oversized creatures. Gregor quickly learns that he is there to fulfill an ancient prophecy.

If you like action or fantasy books, then you should drop everything and race to the bookstore to get *Gregor the Overlander*.

V

Eggs by Jerry Spinelli (Realistic Fiction)

Hi! My name is **Jarvaneika Deloach**. I have been a student at Normal Park for seven years. I love to play basketball, softball, and volleyball, and I love to dance. My favorite kinds of books are friendship stories.

The best book I read in sixth grade was *Eggs*. I just couldn't put it down! It is about two kids named David and Primrose. They meet, and despite their differences, they become friends. Along the way, the book is packed with adventure and surprises. I promise, once you start reading it, you won't want to stop—you'll just *have* to know what's going to happen next!

U

Football Genius by Tim Green (Realistic Fiction)

Hey! I'm **Dameyne Toney, Jr.**, and I'm now a seventh grader at Normal Park. I love sports, especially football and basketball. Also, I love to cook and dance. I love reading sports books and non-fiction.

The book I'm recommending to you is *Football Genius*. It is about a boy named Troy who is just great at football. He is a quarterback who is like a small version of Peyton Manning. He's great at reading defenses and all, but he has problems at home and on the field. Seth Halloway from the Atlanta Falcons becomes Troy's mentor, and this is the story of how Troy uses his football genius to help bring the Falcons to victory AND regain trust with many of the people in his life. If you like football or action-adventure books, this is the book for you! (There is a sequel to this book called *Football Champ*...you might want to check it out, too.)

V

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (Adventure)

My name is **Jarvan Deloach**, and I like to read and play videogames for fun. My favorite types of books are action/adventure books. This is why I'm recommending the book *Hatchet*.

This book is about a boy named Brian Robeson. When Brian was on his way to visit his dad for the summer, his plane crashed into a lake. He managed to get out and grab the hatchet his mother gave him. Now, he's stuck in the middle of the wilderness, miles and miles from civilization, by himself, with nothing to eat and only the hatchet to keep himself safe. Will he make it? Will he be rescued? You'll have to read it to find out!

If you love action/adventure books, you will love this one! (This book is the first in a series of five books. The others are: *The River*, *Brian's Winter*, *Brian's Return*, and *Brian's Hunt*.)

R

Something Upstairs by Avi (Mystery/Horror)

Hi! My name is **Demarcus Rivers**. I've been at Normal Park for one year. I'm going into seventh grade now, and I'm on the football team. My favorite kinds of books are scary stories like *All the Lovely Bad Ones* by Mary Downing Hahn AND sports books.

The book I'm recommending is a scary book called *Something Upstairs*. It's about a family that moves from California to Rhode Island. They move into a house that is big and old and SCARY! Right after they move in, Kenny, the boy in the story, finds out that his room up in the attic is haunted! He has to figure out what the ghost wants and how to make it go away.

If you like scary books, you'll love this one! You will be on the edge of your seat or bunched up under your covers scared out of your mind but wanting to find out what happens next.

T

The Emily Windsnap Series by Liz Kessler (Fantasy)

Hi! My name is **Katie Huffstutler**. I have been at Normal Park since fifth grade. I love cheerleading, singing, and being with my family and friends. My favorite kinds of books to read are fantasies and mysteries.

The best book I read in sixth grade was *The Tail of Emily Windsnap*. It is about a twelve-year-old girl named Emily who discovered that she is a mermaid on the first day of seventh grade in swim class. This causes Emily's life to flip upside-down. Between seventh grade snobs, trying to hide her tail from her mother, and searching for her mer-dad, Emily's life will never be the same. Join Emily on the greatest adventure of her life! (This is the first in a series of four books. The others are: *Emily Windsnap and the Monster from the Deep*, *Emily Windsnap and the Castle in the Mist*, and *Emily Windsnap and the Siren's Secret*.)

T

The Shadow Children Series by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Sci-Fi/Thriller)

Hi! My name is **Corrinn Hayes**. I have gone to Normal Park since kindergarten. I love being outside, I love to talk, and I love to hang out with my friends. I like all kinds of books, but I mainly enjoy mysteries, family stories, sci-fi, or scary stories.

I loved the *Shadow Children Series!* These books are about a boy named Luke. They are set in the future at a time when there's a law that says families can't have more than two children. This law keeps Luke from having a normal life. Luke is a third child. He has to stay in hiding for a long time. Not even his own grandparents can know he exists, but eventually, Luke leaves to go to a private school under a fake identity. While he's there, he learns something about the other students that could change his young life forever!

These books were AMAZING. I could not put them down. They will keep you reading and reading until you get to the end of the last one, and then you'll crave more.

Z

Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonneblick (Realistic Fiction)

Hey, my name is **Mandy Lowe**, and one of my favorite things to do is swim. Also, I like to play guitar, play softball, and hang out with my friends. My favorite kinds of books are books about friendship and family.

I know that you may hate summer reading, but if you read *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, you will love it! This book is about a teenaged boy named Stephen. One morning his little brother, Jeffery, falls off a stool and gets a nose bleed. His nose won't stop bleeding, so they have to rush him to the emergency room. There they find out that Jeffery has leukemia. He has to be in and out of the hospital for treatment a lot. This is extremely difficult for the whole family. Stephen is already trying to balance, school, playing the drums, homework, and friends, and now this happens. Will Jeffery be okay? Will the family survive? You'll have to read this funny, heart-warming, tear-jerker of a book to find out!

Y/Z



IT'S A PARTY, AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Who: All upcoming Normal Park 6th graders and their parents

What: A Summer Book Party to discuss Rick Riordan's new book, *The Red Pyramid*

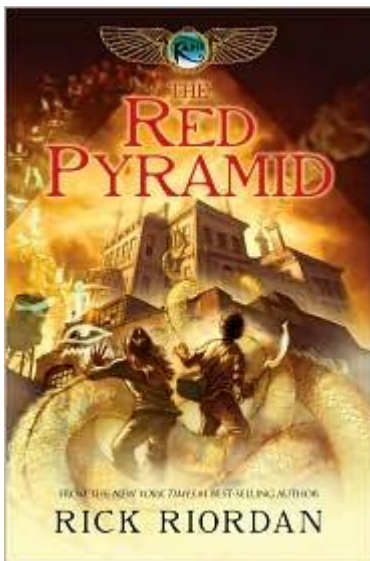
When: Thursday, June 24 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Where: Normal Park Upper School, Room 204.

Hosted by: Mrs. Roden, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Orr, and Mr. Neal

Pizza, soft-drinks, and dessert will be provided.

Read the book before June 24, and bring your copy with you to the Book Party.



Plot Summary

Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother, Carter, has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane.

One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives.

Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them —Set— has his sights on the Kanes. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe - a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about

their family and its ties to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

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Normal Park Summer Reading 2010 6th Grade

*"There is no frigate like a book to take us lands
away,
Nor any coursers like a page of prancing poetry..."
-Emily Dickinson*

Summer is the perfect time to dive into some fabulous new books! As the poet Emily Dickinson said, reading is like going on vacation without ever leaving your house...You can travel to far-away lands, be transported back in time, or sail into the future. You can meet new and interesting people, and go on incredible adventures, all from the comfort of your couch. Reading can be a great escape, and the best part is...it's FREE!

Plus, reading is the absolute best thing you can do for your brain. Studies show kids who read a lot over the summer do much better in school the following year than kids who don't. In fact, those studies show that kids who don't read over the summer drop TWO whole reading levels, which means they start the next year off behind and have to struggle to get caught up. You've worked hard to get where you are as a reader, and you don't want to let up now!

This summer, you should read as many books as you can! As soon as you finish one, pick up another. Go the library and check out whole stacks of interesting books! You should always have at least one book on stand-by, ready and waiting, so that when you finish one you can dive right into the next. Set a goal for yourself and see if you can meet it or even surpass it! Get your family to help you. Get your mom, dad, brother, sister, or grandparents to read with you. If you find a great book, share it!

You might also try reading with a buddy. You could even form a summer reading club with lots of good friends...the more the merrier! You and your reading buddies could go shopping for books together. You could choose one, read it, and then chat about it...online, over the phone...or better yet, you could set up a time to meet...This would be a great excuse for a pizza party or sleepover!!!

In fact, there's a new book that just came out that all the 6th grade teachers are excited to read. It's called *The Red Pyramid*, and it's by Rick Riordan who wrote the Percy Jackson series. We're going to host a book club at school this summer for kids (and parents) who want to read it and get together to discuss it. There's going to be pizza, soft-drinks, and dessert. It should be a lot of fun! For more information on the *Red Pyramid Club*, see the enclosed flier.

There is also a list of recommendations from this year's sixth graders (who are now seventh graders) in this packet. They read tons of books over the course of the year and chose some of their favorites to share with you. You may read *any* books you want to read this summer, but this list is a great place to go if you need ideas.

I'm also happy to help you in any way I can. If you'd like to email me about what you're reading, if you have any questions, or if you need help choosing a new book, my

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Mrs.
Brown

Summer Reading Guidelines

The Nitty-Gritty

Summer Reading at the Upper School is significantly different from Summer Reading in 5th grade. While students DO NOT have to complete a summer reading project, we DO require that they read as much as they can (a minimum of four books) over the course of the summer. They must also turn in one of the enclosed Reading Logs for each book they complete. Reading Logs are due when students return to school in August. Below is a list of EVERYTHING you need to know about Summer Reading in 6th grade:

- Research indicates that academic success is closely linked to how much time kids spend with text every day. In other words, *how much and how frequently* they read is more important than *what* they read.
- **Students should read EVERY SINGLE DAY for at least 20-30 minutes.**
- **They should finish AT LEAST FOUR BOOKS over the course of the summer (approximately one book every two-three weeks).**
- **Students should keep track of their reading using the Reading Log Bookmarks we've provided.**
- They should fill out both the front and back of each bookmark thoughtfully and carefully.
- Students should use a new bookmark for each book they read. Extras can be printed from Normal Park's website.
- **Students should be prepared to turn in all their Reading Logs when they return to school. They should also be prepared to complete a project on ONE of the books when they return to school in August.**
- **Students may read ANY books they want to read this summer (fiction or non-fiction). They DO NOT have to choose books from the Hamilton County Reading List or from the list provided...Although, there are some great titles on both.**
- Magazine articles, newspaper articles, comic books, and other short texts should not be counted for Summer Reading. We want to boost students' reading stamina by having them spend an extended period of time with the same piece of text.
- The books students choose to read should be of high-interest to them and on their independent reading levels. We want students reading books they "get" and can't put down!
- A good rule of thumb—if your student misses five or more words on the page, the book is too difficult.
- If your student becomes very resistant to reading, it might be that he/she is trying to slog through a book that isn't a "Just Right Book" for him/her. It might be too difficult, or it might deal with subject matter

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- happens, put that book aside and try another one.
- Websites like www.bn.com and www.amazon.com can be great tools for readers. You can search for books by author, subject, or genre; read reviews; and even read sample chapters before you make a trip to the library or bookstore. Take books for a test-drive before you make a commitment.

If you have any questions or concerns about Summer Reading, please email me at brown_heather@hcde.org. I'm happy to make recommendations or suggestions when students are having trouble finding a "Just Right Book".

My Summer Reading Plan



Name : _____

Date:

Reflection

1. What are some of the genres you've enjoyed reading most this year? Circle your favorites.

Action/Adventure

Fantasy

Historical Fiction

Horror

Mystery/Thriller

Non-fiction

Realistic Fiction

Science Fiction

Other:

