

Grades Five and Six
Summer Reading 2008
Recommended Reading List

2001: A Space Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke (Science Fiction)

The spacecraft Discovery journeys to the outer edge of the solar system, and two navigators become uneasy when Hal, the craft's talking computer system, demonstrates unusual behavior.

After the Dancing Days by Margaret I. Rostkowski (Historical Fiction)

A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of World War I forces thirteen-year-old Annie to redefine the word "hero" and to question conventional ideas of patriotism.

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery (Multi-Cultural Fiction)

Anne, an eleven year old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm, and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne (Classic)

In 1872 Phileas Fogg wins a bet by traveling around the world in seventy-nine days, twenty-three hours, and fifty-seven minutes.

Beyond the Western Sea. Book I, The Escape from Home by Avi (Adventure Fiction)

Driven from their impoverished Irish village, fifteen-year-old Maura and her younger brother meet their landlord's runaway son in Liverpool while all three wait for a ship to America. This adventure continues with *Beyond the Western Sea. Book II, Lord Kirkle's Money*.

Blood on the River: James Town 1607 by Elisa Carbone (Historical Fiction)

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

The Book of Story Beginnings by Kristen Kladstrup (Fantasy Fiction)

After moving with her parents to Iowa, twelve-year-old Lucy discovers a mysterious notebook that can bring stories to life and which has a link to the 1914 disappearance of her great uncle.

Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl (Autobiography)

Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood, including his summer vacations in Norway and life at an English boarding school.

Bound by Donna Jo Napoli (Historical Fiction)

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (Multi-Cultural Fiction)

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. Follow Parvana's further adventures in *Parvana's Journey*.

Bully For You, Teddy Roosevelt by Jean Fritz (Biography)

Follows the life of the dynamic twenty-sixth president, discussing his conservation work, hunting expeditions, family life, and political career.

The Callender Papers by Cynthia Voigt (Mystery Fiction)

In nineteenth-century Massachusetts, orphaned Jean, employed to sort out the family papers of a reclusive artist, becomes curious about the mysterious, long-ago death of his wife and the subsequent disappearance of their young child.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor (Survival Fiction)

After the freighter on which Phillip and his mother were traveling from wartime Curacao to the U.S. is torpedoed, the boy finds himself dependent on an old West Indian for survival.

Children of the River by Linda Crew (Multi-Cultural Fiction)

Having fled Cambodia four years earlier to escape the Khmer Rouge army, seventeen-year-old Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and adjusting to life in her Oregon high school as a "regular" American.

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas (Classic)

After escaping from the island where he has been in prison, Dantes plots his revenge on the people responsible for his imprisonment.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi (Historical Fiction / Adventure)

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. Crispin's saga continues in *Crispin: At the Edge of the World*.

Danger in the Desert by Terri Fields (Survival Fiction)

Two brothers attempt to survive in the desert outside Scottsdale, Arizona, after they are abandoned there following a carjacking. One Book AZ : 2008

The Dreadful Future of Blossom Culp by Richard Peck (Science Fiction)

Blossom, not the most popular member of her freshman class in 1914, travels ahead seventy years, and returns in time to make Halloween a memorable night for her classmates and teachers.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (Multi-Cultural Fiction)

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.

Fair Weather by Richard Peck (Historical Fiction) *** any title by this author ***

Thirteen-year-old Rosie and members of her family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago in 1893 to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

The Fighting Ground by Avi (Historical Fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

Firegirl by Tony Abbott (Realistic Fiction)

A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen (Realistic Fiction)

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

The Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov (Science Fiction)

As the Galactic Empire declines, psychohistorian Hari Seldon and his band of psychobiologists form the Foundation, designed to be the nucleus of an eventual ideal universal ruling corporation.

The Great Railroad Race: The Diary of Libby West by Kristiana Gregory (Historical Fiction)

Learn about the creation of the transcontinental railroad from the point of view of fourteen-year-old Libby as her family follows the railroad's construction across the West.

Heat by Mike Lupica (Sports Fiction)

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien (Fantasy Fiction)

The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.

Interstellar Pig by William Sleator (Science Fiction)

Barney's boring seaside vacation suddenly becomes more interesting when the cottage next door is occupied by three exotic neighbors who are addicted to a game they call "Interstellar Pig."

Invincible Louisa by Cornelia Meigs (Biography)

Presents the life of Louisa May Alcott, who was able through the success of her writings to achieve one thing that was very important to her--to be able to take care of all her family.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O' Dell (Survival Fiction)

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

The Journal of Brian Doyle: A Greenhorn on an Alaskan Whaling Ship by Jim Murphy (Historical Fiction)

Learn what it is like to be on a whaling ship from the perspective a fourteen-year old Brian Doyle. Experience what it would be like to hunt for whales, survive on sea, and try to get along with a group of rough sailors and harsh conditions.

The Journal of William Thomas Emerson: A Revolutionary War Patriot by Barry Denenberg (Historical Fiction)

Will, an orphan, meets Mr. Wilson who secretly works to overthrow British rule in the colonies. Read a first-hand account of the behind the scenes moves in the fight for independence.

Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling (Classic)

A collection of the well-known stories, including "How the Whale Got His Throat," "The Elephant's Child," and "The Butterfly that Stamped."

The Last Silk Dress by Ann Rinaldi (Historical Fiction)

During the Civil War, Susan finds a way to help the Confederate Army and uncovers a series of mysterious family secrets.

The King of Mulberry Street by Donna Jo Napoli (Historical Fiction)

Dom, a nine-year old stowaway from Naples, Italy, arrives in New York and must learn to survive the perils of street life in the big city.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (Classic)

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in mid-nineteenth-century New England.

A Long Way from Chicago / A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck (Historical Fiction) ** any title by this author **

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. *A Year Down Yonder*: During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

Lord of the Nutcracker Men by Iain Lawrence (Historical Fiction)

An English boy during World War I comes to believe that the battles he enacts with his toy soldiers control the war his father is fighting on the front.

No Talking by Andrew Clements (Realistic Fiction) ** any title by this author **

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

The Once and Future King by T. R. White (Historical Fiction)

Tells the story of the youth and reign of King Arthur, the establishment of the Round Table, and the search for the Holy Grail.

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

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr. This series includes four titles: *The Titan's Curse*, *The Sea of Monsters*, *The Lightning Thief* and *The Battle of the Labyrinth*.

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin. This trilogy continues with *Peter and the Shadow Thieves* and *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*.

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale (General Fiction)

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (Classic)

As the sole survivor of a shipwreck, an Englishman lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

Sarah Bishop by Scott O'Dell (Historical Fiction)

Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who took opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

The Secret History of Tom Trueheart by Ian Beck (Fantasy Fiction)

When young Tom Trueheart's seven older brothers all go missing during their adventures in the Land of Stories, he embarks on a perilous mission to save them and to capture the rogue story-writer who wants to do away with the heroes.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park (Multi-Cultural Fiction)

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Standing in the Light: the Captive Diary of Catherine Carey Logan by Mary Pope Osborne (Historical Fiction)

Caty and her brother are captured by Lenape warriors from their Quaker home in Pennsylvania. Eventually, Caty learns to adapt to the Lenape ways only to find herself recaptured by the British.

Stones in Water by Donna Jo Napoli (Historical Fiction)

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.

Stealing Freedom by Elisa Carbone (Historical Fiction)

A novel based on the events in the life of a young slave girl from Maryland who endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty, including being separated from her family, but who eventually escapes to freedom in Canada.

Stonewall by Jean Fritz (Biography)

A biography of the brilliant southern general who gained the nickname Stonewall by his stand at Bull Run during the Civil War.

Timothy of the Cay by Theodore Taylor (Survival Fiction)

Having survived being blinded and shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island with the old black man Timothy, twelve-year-old white Phillip is rescued and hopes to regain his sight with an operation. Alternate chapters follow the life of Timothy from his days as a young cabin boy.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (Classic)

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of an inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.

Westward to Home: Joshua's Oregon Trail Diary by Patricia Holmes (Historical Fiction)

Follow Joshua McCullough and his family as they leave their home in St. Joseph, Missouri and head out on the 2,000 mile trip to Oregon on a wagon train.

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington (Autobiography)

The autobiography of the man who, though born in slavery, educated himself and went on to found Tuskegee Institute.

The View from the Cherry Tree by Willo Davis Roberts (Mystery Fiction)

Rob admits having seen a murder, but no one believes him--except the murderer.

Warriors (series) by Erin Hunter (Fantasy Fiction)

A fascinating feline fantasy--the struggle between ThunderClan, a group of feral cats, and the enemy, ShadowClan.

Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata (Historical Fiction/Multi-Cultural)

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop. One Book AZ: 2007

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin (Mystery Fiction)

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Zia by Scott O'Dell (Multi-Cultural Fiction)

A young Indian girl, Zia, caught between the traditional world of her mother and the present world of the Mission, is helped by her aunt Karana whose story was told in the *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.