

Acton Memorial Library Children's Department

6th Grade Suggested Reading

Fiction

J FIC ALEXANDER

Alexander, Kwame

The door of no return (2022)

In his village in Upper Kwanta, 11-year-old Kofi loves swimming in the river Offin. He's warned though, to never go to the river at night. His brother tells him "There are things about the water you do not know" One fateful night, the unthinkable happens and in a flash, Kofi's world turns upside down. Kofi soon ends up in a fight for his life and what happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves.

J Fic Allen

Allen, Sarah

Breathing Underwater (2021)

Olivia is on the road trip of her dreams, with her trusty camera and her big sister Ruth by her side. Three years ago, before their family moved from California to Tennessee, Olivia and Ruth buried a Time Capsule on their favorite beach. Now, they're taking an RV back across the country to uncover the memories they left behind.

J Fic Chainani

Chainani, Soman

Rise of the school for good and evil (2022)

In this prequel to Chainani's best-selling *School for Good and Evil* series, we meet Rhian and Rafal, the twin brothers chosen by the Storian (a magical pen that writes the fairy tales of this world) to lead the School for Good and Evil because their love for each other, despite opposing natures, will keep the balance between good and evil.

J FIC DESOMBRE

Desombre, Auriane

The sister split (2023)

For as long as Autumn can remember, it's just been her, her mom, and her brother living in their New York City apartment. Autumn is perfectly content with her life, especially since she and her best friend have come up with the perfect summer vacation plans. So Autumn's mother doesn't just throw off Autumn's summer plans, she shakes up Autumn's whole world when she declares that she is getting married and that the whole family will be moving away!

J Fic Eager

Eagar, Lindsay

The patron thief of bread (2022)

A grumpy stone gargoyle perches high above the medieval town, fretting about the condition of his unfinished cathedral and desperate for a chance to fulfill his promise to protect those seeking sanctuary. The Crowns, a close-knit gang of children who skillfully thieve their way from town to town, decide to infiltrate the abandoned cathedral and set down roots, all the while fearing discovery.

J Fic Firestone **Firestone, Carrie**
The first rule of Climate Club (2022)

Mary Kate Murphy is 1 of 10 incoming eighth-graders at Fisher Middle School chosen to participate in a climate-change pilot project. Warned that this will be a "non--traditional" commitment, the group begins investigating ways within their community to help save the planet.

J Fic Freeman **Freeman, Megan**
Alone (2021)

When 12-year-old Maddie's plans for a secret sleepover fall through, she decides to stay at her grandparents' empty summer apartment solo. By the next day, however, everyone else is gone, evacuated ahead of an "imminent threat." While she waits to be rescued, Maddie uses her common sense and courage to figure out how to survive. Months and then years pass with her only company the neighbor's rottweiler, George. Maddie is finally resigned to living out her life alone when help finally arrives.

J Fic Guidroz **Guidroz, Rukhsanna**
Samira surfs (2021)

It's been three months since Samira and her family fled persecution in their homeland of Burma, seeking safety and a better life in Bangladesh. Samira and her family do their best to make a life as unregistered refugees. Meanwhile, Samira struggles to pursue her own dreams. She makes friends with a group of surfers, and the announcement of a surfing contest with a cash prize motivates her to overcome her fear of the water and learn to surf; winning could prove to her family that girls, like boys, can change their families' fortunes.

J Fic Guillory **Guillory, Sarah**
Nowhere better than here (2022)

For thirteen-year-old Jillian Robichaux, three things are sacred: bayou sunsets, her grandmother Nonnie's stories, and the coastal Louisiana town of Boutin that she calls home. When the worst flood in a century hits, Jillian and the rest of her community band together as they always do--but this time the damage may simply be too great.

J FIC HAHN **Hahn, Mary Downng**
What we saw : a thriller (2022)

A chilling murder mystery lies at the heart of this page-turning thriller about a missing teacher, small town secrets, and turbulent tween friendships from master of middle grade horror Mary Downing Hahn.

J Fic Hamza **Hamza, Nina**
Ahmed Aziz's epic year (2021)

Ahmed's tumultuous sixth-grade year begins with a sudden move from Hawaii to Minnesota, where his father can receive life-saving medical treatment. Compounding an already stressful situation is the fact that Ahmed is the newest target of his class' bully, the white and überpopular Jack, which Ahmed assumes is due to his brown skin, courtesy of his Indian heritage.

YA Higuere **Higuere, Donna Barba**

The last cuentista (2021)

In 2061, a small group of scientists and their children prepare to begin civilization anew on the planet Sagan, more than 300 years away. But on the journey something goes wrong, and almost 400 years later, Petra is one of the last four "sleepers" revived, and the only one who somehow retains her memories of Earth. A keep-you-up-all-night science fiction novel.

J Fic Keller **Keller, Tae**

Jennifer Chan is not alone (2022)

Mallory Moss knows what it takes to survive middle school. You must fit in. You can't, under any circumstances, be *weird*. But Jennifer Chan, the new girl, is exactly that, according to Mallory. She's *weird*. Jennifer is obsessed with aliens. She says exactly what she thinks. She'd rather be friendless than fake. When Jennifer goes missing, using clues from Jennifer's journals, Mallory goes searching. But the closer she gets, the more Mallory has to confront why Jennifer might have run....

J FIC KROVATIN **Krovatin, Christopher**

Ablaze (2023)

Aly Theland doesn't understand what's happening to her. She comes from a very normal family and lives a very normal life. There's only one thing off. When Aly gets angry, things burst into flame. Aly doesn't feel she's in control of this. But as the fires get better and the stakes get higher, something has to be done. Because it's not just flames Aly's unleashing, it's . . . evil.

J Fic Kuzki **Kuzki, Shaw**

Soul lanterns (2021)

Twelve-year-old Nozomi lives in the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Every year Nozomi joins her family at the lantern-floating ceremony to honor those lost in the bombing. It's 1970, with the bombing 25 years distant, but Nozomi begins asking questions. Nozomi and her friends are uncovering hidden traumas: her mother's first love, their art teacher's lost fiancée, a neighbor who cannot forget her final harsh words to her little boy before his death in the bombing.

J Fic LaRocca **Larocca, Rajani**

Red, white, and whole (2021)

Thirteen-year-old Reha deals with ordinary concerns; she tries to stay true to her Indian culture while growing up in the United States, and she grapples with a crush on a classmate. When her mother suddenly gets sick with leukemia, Reha's ordinary everyday concerns fade away and are replaced with the belief that if she is as virtuous as possible, she will save her mother's life. Newbery Honor Book.

J FIC LINCOLN **Lincoln, Beth**

The swifts : a dictionary of scoundrels (2023)

On the day they are born, every Swift child is brought before the sacred Family Dictionary. They are given a name, and a definition. A definition it is assumed they will grow up to match. Meet Shenanigan Swift: Little sister. Risk-taker. Mischief-maker. Shenanigan is getting ready for the big Swift Family Reunion and plotting her next great scheme: hunting for Grand-Uncle Vile's long-lost treasure.

J FIC MONSEF **Monsef, Kiyash**
Once there was (2023)

An Iranian American girl learns her father was a veterinarian to a host of secret magical creatures. But after his death, Marjan learns that what she thought were wild stories her father told her to entertain her were true, and she must now take up the care of these beasts.

J Fic Oh **Oh, Ellen**
Finding Junie Kim (2021)

Twelve-year-old Korean American Junie Kim's first morning of seventh grade turns into a police scene when racist graffiti is discovered in the school gym. Junie has been bullied by a racist white boy who calls her hateful names. As the bullying continues at school, an assignment leads Junie to interview her beloved grandparents, Doha and Jinjoo, about their experiences during the Korean War, an experience that gives her renewed resilience and courage.

J Fic Parks **Parks, Amy Noelle**
Summer of Brave (2021)

Lilla, a quiet twelve-year-old who doesn't want to rock the boat, and her longtime friends, Vivi and Knox, always begin summer with a dandelion blowing contest to see who will choose the annual summer wish. This year Vivi wins and announces they will be participating in the Summer of Brave. Basically, Vivi is self-assured and wants Lilla to speak up, fight for her dreams, and stop trying to make everyone happy.

J FIC PASTERNAK **Pasternack, Sofiya**
Black bird, blue road (2023)

Twelve-year-old Ziva and her twin, Pesah, are growing up in eleventh-century Khazar (an ancient Jewish empire located in present day Ukraine). Because Pesah suffers from leprosy, his parents have decided to send him away, prompting Ziva and Pesah to run away in search of a cure. Their journey is perilous; they are kidnapped and encounter magical sheydim, the Angel of Death, and a Milcham (phoenixlike bird), but throughout, Ziva remains determined to save her brother's life.

J FIC Perez **Perez, Celia C.**
Tumble (2022)

Adela's life is like a telenovela. At least that's how it feels for the 7th grader, who has discovered something that her remarried, pregnant mom has been hiding about her biological father's identity: He's actually Manny "The Mountain" Bravo, a famous luchador! When Addie decides that she would like to meet him, she is thrown into the world of the Bravo family's wrestling dynasty!

J FIC RIORDAN **Riordan, Rick**
The sun and the star (2023)

Percy Jackson fans, rejoice! Demigods Nico di Angelo, son of Hades, and Will Solace, son of Apollo, must endure the terrors of Tartarus, the Underworld's deepest abyss, to rescue an old friend in this thrilling stand-alone adventure.

J FIC SALES

Sales, Leila

The museum of lost and found (2023)

Sixth grader Vanessa is hurt about being abandoned by her best friend Bailey. When Vanessa discovers a boarded-up museum near her home, she's fascinated by its empty frames and pedestals, and begins creating an exhibit about Bailey, hoping to understand what went wrong and to win her friend back. Other kids come to the museum and begin building their own personal exhibits, forming a secret community that helps Vanessa expand her focus to other friends

J Fic Sands

Sands, Kevin

Children of the fox (2021)

This stunning tale of betrayal, trickery, and friendship takes the reader on a wild ride! This magic-infused fantasy brings together a ragtag group of kids to pull off a crime so difficult, countless adults have already tried and failed. Lured by the promise of more money than they've ever dreamed of, five young criminals are hired to steal a heavily guarded treasure from the most powerful sorcerer in the city. Failure is unacceptable ... but success could be deadly.

YA FIC Schlitz

Schlitz, Laura Amy

Amber & Clay (2021)

Welcome to ancient Greece! In a warlike land, live Rhaskos and Melisto, spiritual twins with little in common beyond the violent and mysterious forces that dictate their lives. A slave in a Greek household, Rhaskos is as common as clay, a stable boy. Wrenched from his mother at a tender age, he nurtures in secret, aided by Socrates, his passions for art and philosophy. Melisto is a spoiled aristocrat, a girl as precious as amber but willful and wild. She'll marry young—the curse of all highborn girls—but first she'll risk her life for a season to serve Artemis, goddess of the hunt.

J FIC SMITH

Smith, Roland

The switch (2022)

A thrilling dystopic story. On the morning of Henry's thirteenth birthday, the power goes out. No phones, no news, and planes are literally falling out of the sky. Henry's father was away from the family farm and he has not returned. It's terrifying as people descend into lawlessness. Four months later, the electricity still hasn't come back and Henry's father still hasn't returned. Determined to find him, Henry ventures out and is forced to travel alone through the unruly world of the Switch.

J Fic Stone

Stone, Nic

Fast Pitch (2021)

A sports mystery that will keep you engaged from start to finish. Twelve-year-old Shenice "Lightning" Lockwood has been playing baseball her whole life—just like her father, grandfather, and great-grandfather before her. Now captain of the Fulton Firebirds, the first all-Black team in Georgia's Dixie Youth Softball Association, her goal is to lead her team to the championship.

YA Stroud

Stroud, Jonathan

The outlaws Scarlett and Browne (2021)

Action! Humor! Fantasy! Kicking off a new series with a bang (several bangs, in fact), Stroud sends two young fugitives with murky pasts fleeing murderous pursuers across a fractured future Britain.

J Fic Wendig
Dust & Grim (2021)

Wendig, Chuck

In this adventure about rival siblings running a family business, there's just one problem: the family business is a mortuary for monsters, and Molly's not sure she's ready to deal with mysterious doors, talking wolves, a rogue devourer of magic, and a secret cemetery. It's going to take all of Dustin's supernatural knowledge and Molly's most heroic cosplay (plus a little help from non-human friends) for the siblings to figure it out and save the day.

GRAPHIC

J Graphic Alexander **Alexander, Kwame**
Booked (2022)

Twelve-year-old Nick is a soccer-loving boy who absolutely *hates* books. In this graphic novel soccer, family, love, and friendship take center stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' divorce, stand up to a bully, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges—which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal—change his life, as well as his best friend's.

J Graphic Armstrong **Armstrong, Jade**
Scout is not a band kid (2022)

When eighth grader Scout learns that her favorite author is doing an exclusive autograph session at the end of the year, she's determined to be there! She officially needs a plan...and when she finds out that her school's band is heading to the same location for their annual trip, an idea takes shape. Being a band kid can't be that hard, right? A graphic novel about making your dream come true--and the friends you make along the way.

J GRAPHIC COLFER **Colfer, Eoin**
Global (2023)

Alternating survival narratives depict two kids in different locales overcoming perilous situations in this heart-pumping graphic novel. Sami is a 12-year-old boy who lives in a fishing village on the Bay of Bengal. Yuki is a 14-year-old Inuit girl, living in a small village inside the Arctic circle. Though they live on opposite ends of the globe, both kids' lives have been directly and negatively impacted by climate change, and both refuse to sit idly by. They each set out on a dangerous journey, braving the elements and risking their lives to enact change.

J Graphic Copeland **Copeland, Cynthia L.**
Cub (2020)

Twelve-year-old Cindy has just dipped a toe into seventh-grade drama--with its complicated friendships, bullies, and cute boys--when she earns an internship as a cub reporter at a local newspaper in the early 1970s. For fans of Raina Telgemeier.

J Graphic GIBBS

Gibbs, Stuart

Bruce Wayne : not super (2023)

13-year-old Bruce Wayne attends an exclusive prep school for the gifted. But in this case, "gifted" means kids with super-powers. Bruce is suddenly the least special person in his world--and must learn to work with the talents he does have. Bruce does have a goal though--he wants to make a difference in the world. But how can he do that when he doesn't have any powers?

J Graphic Hicks

Hicks, Faith Erin

Ride on (2022)

In the wake of a huge falling out with her lifelong best friend, Victoria is hoping to be able to ride horses at another barn -- one that's not all about pressure, ribbons, and money. She just wants to ride, hang out with the horses, and NOT make any friends. She's done with barn friendships and their drama, so she's rude to everyone who tries to be nice to her. Things start to change when a new horse arrives and Victoria is put in charge of his training. They change even more when she discovers an unexpected connection with the other kids.

J GRAPHIC HILL

Hill, Jonathan

Tales of a seventh-grade lizard boy (2022)

12-year-old Booger Lick't and his lizard family have fled the underground city of Elberon for the human town of Eagle Valley amid resource scarcity. Now donning a fake human mask to cover his scaly green skin and going by the name Tommy Tomkins, he struggles to adjust to human life and finds it difficult to make friends, especially after getting caught eating a bug at school!

Teen Graphic Hughes

Hughes, Kiku

Displacement (2020)

On a visit to San Francisco, Kiku, gains a better understanding of her heritage when mysterious fog envelops her and thrusts her back in time to the 1940s and drops her down into a World War II Japanese American internment camp.

J Graphic Leyh

Leyh, Kat

Snapdragon (2020)

When her dog goes missing, middle schooler Snapdragon (Snap for short) goes looking in the house of the town's rumored witch... a spooky cabin surrounded by brambles and full of bones. But the witch isn't quite what she appears...

J GRAPHIC MASS

Mass, Wendy

Lo & Behold (2023)

When you're named after a 250-year-old tortoise, you grow up believing life is full of possibilities and wonder. But ever since Addie's family got turned upside down, those things have been harder for her to see. The last thing Addie wants to do is make a new friend, but when her dad's summer job takes them across the country, she meets Mateo and finds herself caught up in an exciting project.

J GRAPHIC TERCIERO

Terciero, Rey

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy : a graphic novel (2019)

Little Women with a twist: four sisters from a blended family experience the challenges and triumphs of life in NYC in this beautiful full-color graphic novel perfect for fans of *Roller Girl* and *Smile*.

BIOGRAPHY

J BIO BROWN, W.M.
My Selma (2023)

Brown, Willie Mae

This author and artist recounts her compelling story of growing up in Selma, Alabama, during the height of the civil rights movement. Brown, who was born in the early 1950s, came of age during a time of tremendous social upheaval. Through these stories, readers are introduced to African American life in the Jim Crow South.

J BIO GOILLOT, V.
Agent Most Wanted (2022)

Purnell, Sonia

1942 German Occupied France: The Gestapo is urgently chasing the person they have declared to be the “most dangerous spy” working for the allies. But she keeps evading them... This is the never-before story of the most dangerous spy of World War II!

Teen Biography Noah, T.

Noah, Trevor

It's Trevor Noah : born a crime : stories from a South African childhood (2019)

Comedian Trevor Noah is the son of a Black South African mother and a Swiss-German father. He considers himself born a crime as under apartheid law in South Africa, interracial relationships and marriages were seen as illegal until the law's decriminalization in 1985, a year after Noah was born. Readers will appreciate Noah's comedic wit and timing during the good, bad and ugly times of his upbringing and will come to understand how a parent's love enabled Noah to become the successful man he is now.

J Biography Ulmer, M.

Ulmer, Mikaila

Bee fearless : dream like a kid (2020)

When author Ulmer was four years old, she got stung by a bee--twice. When she found out that bees only sting when they're afraid, she started raising money via a lemonade stand to raise awareness about their imperiled status, and wound up creating *Me & the Bees Lemonade*, a product currently sold in over 700 stores across the U.S. Now 15, Ulmer looks back on the past decade, sharing struggles (squeezing lemons is really tough), milestones (starting out with Whole Foods, appearing on the TV show Shark Tank), and successes (various White House meetings, a trip to South Africa, and a company currently worth millions).

J Biography 920 B222

Baptiste, Tracey

African icons : ten people who shaped history (2021)

Ten carefully chosen biographies--of six men and four women--introduce figures who have made invaluable contributions to Africa's history. Among the leaders profiled here are Egypt's first pharaoh, Menes; First Dynasty Queen Merneith; Imhotep, medical demigod; storyteller Aesop; military commander Hannibal;; warrior queen Idia; and Mansa Musa, then the richest man in the world, who became an emperor.

NONFICTION

J 332.4 FLY **Flynn, Sarah Wassner**
Not-so-common cent\$ (2023)

Cha-ching! Welcome to the ultimate book of all things money. From cool historical facts about currency to how we got where we are, the author makes value of everyday objects come alive. Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies might not yet be attainable for minors, but learning how to save, invest, and budget money is well covered in a clear way.

J 333.7209 SAR **Sarah, Rachel**
Climate champions (2023)

Fifteen women, each in her own way an environmental advocate, set examples for those interested in climate science and justice. Climate change is a crisis that the individuals profiled in this book tackle head-on with urgency and hope. An inspiring collective biography that is also an empowering call to action.

J 398.28 G215 **Esperon, Maria Garcia**
The sea-ringed world (2021)

Stories from nations and cultures across our two continents, from the Andes all the way up to Alaska. Fifteen thousand years before Europeans stepped foot in the Americas, people had already spread from tip to tip and coast to coast. Like all humans, these Native Americans sought to understand their place in the universe, the nature of their relationship with the divine, and the origin of the world into which their ancestors had emerged. The answers lay in their sacred stories.

J 509.2 F467 **Fieseler, Clare**
No boundaries (2022)

In these inspirational and exhilarating accounts of exploration, 25 female National Geographic explorers reveal their greatest successes, most epic failures, and astonishing adventures. Track a volcanologist as she braves the elements atop an active volcano. Travel alongside a mountaineer as she battles frostbite to conquer the famed Seven Summits. Join a conservationist on her passionate fight to save lions. Dig with a paleontologist to uncover massive dinosaur fossils.

J 578 THO **Thomas, Isabel**
Full of life : exploring Earth's biodiversity (2022)

Science meets design in this graphically stunning introductory tour of Earth's amazing biodiversity. This guide to Earth's Tree of Life - the reference tool used by scientists to organize the incredible variety of living things on our planet - helps readers understand how every living creature, from the tiniest germ to the biggest blue whale, is part of one big family tree.

J 595.7 MAL **Maloney, Brenna**
Buzzkill (2022)

Funny and informative in equal measure, this book lays out the critical role insects play on our planet, from sustenance to pollination to medicines and more. This compelling narrative tackle both the wacky and weird, as well as threats to insects and their habitats, their possible extinction, and ways that everyday people can prevent their decline. A wild wander through the weird and threatened world of bugs!

J 599.938 TUR Turner, Pamela
How to build a human (2022)

The epic story of our evolution in seven big steps! Acclaimed science writer Pamela S. Turner breaks down human evolution into the seven most important steps leading to Homo sapiens. How, when, and why did we- 1. stand up, 2. smash rocks, 3. get swelled heads, 4. take a hike, 5. invent barbecue, 6. start talking (and never shut up), and 7. become storytellers? This fascinating, wickedly funny account of our evolutionary journey turns science into an irresistible story.

J 629.45 R671 Rocco, John
How we got to the moon : the people, technology, and daring feats of science behind humanity's greatest adventure (2020)

This illustrated history of the Apollo space program delves into the collective efforts and engineering feats required to send the first astronauts to the moon. Its pages brim with labeled diagrams, close-ups, and cutaways showcasing myriad technologies, including the inner workings of a rocket engine and the intricacies of spacesuit design.

J 708 G514 Gipson, Ferren
The ultimate art museum (2021)

Visit the world's greatest museum without leaving your home through this imaginary art museum - a visually spectacular survey of world art.. Discover beautiful reproductions from pre-history to the present, arranged in easy-to-navigate, color-coded wings, galleries, and rooms, each with an informative narrative guide. Marvel at its remarkable range of styles and mediums - from classic to contemporary, and from paintings and sculptures to photographs and textiles.

J 909.825 S543 Sheinkin, Steve
Fallout : spies, superbombs, and the ultimate Cold War showdown (2021)

In 1961, the world almost came to an end. U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons were armed and ready, frozen in delicate détente. This gripping account of the cold war opens with a James Bond–style introduction to spies' tradecraft—hollow nickels, dead drops, and secret codes—and offers an intense narrative that captures the terrifying tensions of the Cold War.

J 940.5317 PAR Partridge, Elizabeth
Seen and unseen: what Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's photographs reveal about the Japanese American incarceration (2022)

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, he authorized the removal and imprisonment of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. Three photographers--two white, one imprisoned and relying on contraband equipment--documented the forced removal and incarceration at Manzanar, one of 10 federal prison camps.

J 940.5487 BAR Barone, Rebecca
Unbreakable : the spies who cracked the Nazis' secret code (2022)

During WWII, as the Germans waged war, every Nazi plan, every attack, was sent over radio. But to the Allies listening in, the messages sounded like gibberish. The communications were encoded with a powerful cypher--unless you could unlock the key to Germany's Enigma machine. Featuring historical photos, *Unbreakable* tells the story of one of the most dangerous war-time code-breaking efforts ever.