

Summer 2013 Recommended Reading List
Rising Sixth Grade
2013-2014

Non-Fiction Books

Adamson, Thomas. *Basketball: The Math of the Game*

The mathematical side of basketball is explored, explaining concepts related to geometry, physics, and statistics, and describing how players use math to help improve their game.

Biskup, Agnieszka. *The Powerful World of Energy with Max Axiom, Super Scientist*

Follow the adventures of Max Axiom as he explains the science behind energy.

Cool Careers Series (Various authors)

Books in this series introduce readers to the skills, tasks, and expectations of pursuing a career in a wide range of fields. Titles in this series include: *Wildlife Photographer*, *Forensic Science Investigator*, *Music Producer*, *Volcanologist*, and many others.

Coulter, Laurie. *Ballplayers and Bonesetters: One Hundred Ancient Aztec and Maya Jobs You Might Have Adored or Abhorred*

Ever thought of becoming a bug farmer or a stone slinger? Imagine what life was like growing up in Mesoamerica before the Spanish Conquest (1350-1521).

Cummins, Julie. *Women Explorers: Perils, Pistols, and Petticoats*

Ten female explorers are profiled, describing the lives and accomplishments of women who climbed mountains, studied Aboriginal cultures, lived with Pygmies, and more.

Fradin, Judith Bloom and Dennis Brindell Fradin. *Zora! The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*

Zora Neale Hurston was confident, charismatic, and determined to be extraordinary. This biography of the African American author describes her dreams, challenges, and accomplishments.

Ganeri, Anita. *I Wonder Why Camels Have Humps and Other Questions about Animals*

Provides answers to thirty-one questions about animals, explaining why camels have humps, which fish can climb trees, and whether all snakes are poisonous.

Mundy, Robyn and Nigel Rigby. *Epic Voyages: Magellan, Cook, Shackleton, Heyerdahl, Chichester*

Shares accounts of five epic voyages made by Magellan, Cook, Shackleton, Heyerdahl, and Chichester, including fold-out pages, maps, photographs, and illustrations.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America*

Read biographies of ten influential African American men from different times in the history of the United States.

Sheinkin, Steve. *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*

Explore the history of the atomic bomb, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

Simon, Seymour. *Seymour Simon's Extreme Earth Records*

Amazing photographs and facts help the reader discover the most extreme environments and environmental events on Earth.

Wojahn, Rebecca Hogue and Donald Wojahn, *A Temperate Forest Food Chain: A Who-Eats-What Adventure in North America*

Follow the food chain in this interactive book that lets you choose your next meal in a forest full of plants and animals that are dependant on each other for survival.

Fiction Books

Clements, Andrew. *About Average*

As the end of sixth grade nears, Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence, and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her central Illinois elementary school.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Mighty Miss Malone*

Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit.

Fitzmaurice, Kathryn. *A Diamond in the Desert*

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, thirteen-year-old Tetsu and his family are sent to the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona where a fellow prisoner starts a baseball team, but when Tetsu's sister becomes ill and he feels responsible, he stops playing.

Green, Tim. *Unstoppable*

Foster child Harrison, who dreams of playing in the NFL, is happy when he is put into a home with loving parents and a foster father who is a football coach, but after becoming the star running back and suffering an injury, a cancer diagnosis threatens to ruin his future.

Lawson, Julie. *Ghosts of the Titanic*

Kevin and his family travel to Halifax after inheriting a home from a man they have never met, and, while exploring the estate, Kevin discovers some mysterious artifacts that transport him back in time to the deck of the "Titanic," where he races to save a young woman and her child from a tragic ending.

Lean, Sarah. *A Dog Called Homeless*

Cally Fisher stops talking because what's the point if no one is listening? A huge silver-gray dog, a new friendship with a boy who can't see or hear, and a homeless man help her and her family mend after the death of her mother.

Lin, Grace. *Starry River of the Sky*

An innkeeper's chore boy discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky.

O'Connor, Barbara. *On the Road to Mr. Mineo's*

Sherman, a one-legged pigeon, stirs up summer excitement in a small southern town.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Bird in a Box*

In 1936, three children meet at a home for orphans in New York State. They are all dealing with grief and loss which together, along with the help of a sympathetic staff member and the boxing matches of Joe Louis, they manage to overcome.

Standiford, Natalie. *The Secret Tree*

Sixth-grader Minty and her new friend, Raymond, discover the Secret Tree, a tree with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of the people in their neighborhood. They begin to watch their neighbors, to solve the mysteries of the secrets, and to undo a curse, but they will have to work through some secrets of their own along the way.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest*

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas. While there, she hopes to find out about her father's past.

Wallace, Rich. *Dunk Under Pressure*

Free throw specialist Cornell "Dunk" Duncan joins the YMCA summer basketball league all-star team, but after losing his confidence in an important game, the seventh-grader makes some decisions about becoming an all-around player.