

6th Grade SDS Summer Reading Suggestions (2009)

Classics

Title	Author	Description
<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>	Dahl, R	Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.
<i>James and the Giant Peach</i>	Dahl, R	A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach.
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Stevenson, R.L	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 to a pirate fortune as well as great danger
<i>The Hobbit</i>	Tolkein, JRR	The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.
<i>Call of the Wild</i>	London, J	Tells the story of the magnificent dog Buck, who is a loyal pet until cruel men make him a pawn in their search for the gold of the Klondike, where he breaks free and becomes the leader of a ferocious wolf pack. This edition includes the short story Bãata
<i>Hatchet (and Sequels)</i>	Paulsen	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.
<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>	Verne, J	An eccentric captain explores the undersea world in a submarine powered by a strange energy source.
<i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Twain, M	The adventures of a boy growing up in the nineteenth century in a Mississippi River town, as he plays hookey on an island, witnesses a crime, hunts for pirates' treasure, and becomes lost in a cave.
<i>Wind in the Willows</i>	Graham, K	Rat and Mole take up housekeeping together. Along the way they make friend with Badger and Toad and have some wild adventures.
<i>Phantom Tollbooth</i>	Juster, N	A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.
<i>Book of Three</i>	Alexander, L	In the magical realm of Prydian, Taran, a young and restless pigkeeper, would like to have an adventure. He gets more than he bargained for in this fantasy based on Welsh legends. This book is the first of five chronicles.
<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	Forbes, E	A young silversmith participates in the dramatic events leading to the Revolutionary War, including the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington.
<i>A Wrinkle in Time (or others in series)</i>	L'Engle	Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.
<i>Old Yeller</i>	Gipson	The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier.
<i>The Westing Game</i>	Raskin, E	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.
<i>The Giver</i>	Lowry, L	Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Popular Fiction

Title	Author	Description
Volunteer State Book Award 2009-2010 NOMINEES		
<i>Iron Thunder</i>	Avi	Tom's job as an assistant to Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, makes him a target of Confederate spies.
<i>Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters</i>	Blume	Cornelia, eleven-years-old and lonely, learns about language and life from an elderly new neighbor who has many stories to share about the fabulous adventures she and her sisters had while traveling around the world.
<i>No Talking</i>	Clements	The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.
<i>Free Baseball</i>	Corbett	Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder.
<i>Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School</i>	Fleming	An unlikely teacher takes over the disorderly fourth-grade class of Aesop Elementary School with surprising result.
<i>The Adventures of Marco Polo</i>	Freedman	Freedman looks at the mysterious life of the explorer Marco Polo in this illustrated biography.
<i>The Boy Who Saved Cleveland: based on a true story</i>	Giblin	During a malaria epidemic in late eighteenth-century Cleveland, Ohio, ten-year-old Seth Doan surprises his family, his neighbors, and himself by having the strength to carry and grind enough corn to feed everyone.
<i>The Garden of Eve</i>	Going	Eve gave up her belief in stories and magic after her mother's death, but a mysterious seed given her as an eleventh-birthday gift by someone she has never met takes her and a boy who claims to be a ghost on a strange journey, to where their supposedly cursed town of Beaumont, New York, flourishes
<i>Blown Away!</i>	Harlow	After a hurricane hits his hometown in Florida, Jake is determined to find his family and friends.
<i>Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat</i>	Jonell	When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.
<i>The Legend of Zoey</i>	Moonshower	The diaries of thirteen-year-old Zoey, who lives in modern day Tennessee, and Prudence, who lives in 1811 Missouri, tell how the two girls survive the New Madrid earthquakes and the subsequent floods after Zoey travels back in time.
<i>Fablehaven</i>	Mull	Kendra and Seth must fight together to save the realm of Fablehaven, a refuge for mythical creatures, from evil forces.
<i>How to Steal a Dog</i>	O'Connor	Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.
<i>On the Wings of Heroes</i>	Peck	A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

<i>Paint the Wind</i>	Ryan	After her grandmother's death, sheltered Maya joins her maternal grandfather's family in Wyoming and learns to ride at their camp in the wilderness. A wild horse beloved by Maya's late mother rescues Maya when she's hurt during an earthquake.
<i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i>	Selznick	When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.
<i>The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy</i>	Stanley	Eighth-grader Franny and her friends investigate why most of the students at their exclusive boarding school are brilliant, beautiful, and perfectly behaved.
<i>Dragon's Egg</i>	Thomson	Mella, a young girl trained as a dragon keeper, learns that the legends of old are true when she is entrusted with carrying a dragon's egg to the fabled Hatching Grounds, a dangerous journey on which she is assisted by a knight's squire.
<i>The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood</i>	Ullman	After her parents divorce and she moves to the country with her mother, fourth-grader Willa Jane, anxious and unhappy with the changes in her life, discovers a world of little people called Nutfolk living in the woods around her new home.
<i>The Aurora County All-Stars</i>	Wiles	For most boys in a small Mississippi town, the biggest concern one hot summer is whether their annual July 4th baseball game will be cancelled due to their county's anniversary pageant, but after the death of the old man to whom twelve-year-old star pitcher House Jackson has been secretly reading for a year, House uncovers secrets about the man and the history of baseball in Aurora County that could fix everything.
Other Popular Fiction		
<i>Lost Years of Merlin Series</i>	Barron, TA	A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.
<i>Peter and the Starcatchers (and others in series)</i>	Barry, B	The prequel to Peter Pan -- Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island.
<i>Sisters Grimm: The Fairy Tale Detectives Series</i>	Buckley, M	Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead.
<i>Week in the Woods</i>	Clements	The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.
<i>Half-Moon Investigations</i>	Colfer	Twelve-year-old private investigator Fletcher Moon, nicknamed "Half Moon" because of his shortness, must track down a conspiracy or be framed for a crime he did not commit.
<i>Artemis Fowl series</i>	Colfer	Twelve-year-old Artemis is a millionaire, a genius--and above all, a criminal mastermind. Rapid-fire dialogue and wise-acre humor ensure that readers will burn the midnight oil.
<i>Gregor the Overlander (and others in series)</i>	Collins, S	When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.
<i>The City of Ember (or others in series)</i>	DuPrau	In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.
<i>Last Shot (or others)</i>	Feinstein	After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

<i>Ranger's Apprentice (or others in series)</i>	Flanagan, J	When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.
<i>The Thief Lord</i>	Funke	Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with--and protection from--Venice's "Thief Lord."
<i>Inkheart (or others in series)</i>	Funke, C	Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.
<i>Football Genius</i>	Green	Troy, a twelve-year-old with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.
<i>Missing Book #1: Found</i>	Haddix	When 13-year old friends Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, find out that they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies, with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to capture them.
<i>Hoot</i>	Hiaasen, C	Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
<i>Flush</i>	Hiaasen, C	With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.
<i>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</i>	Holt, K.	During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.
<i>Alex Rider Series</i>	Horowitz, A	After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.
<i>Warriors Series</i>	Hunter, E	In the first book in the series, For generations, four clans of wild cats have shared the forest. When their warrior code is threatened by mysterious deaths, a house cat named Rusty may turn out to be the bravest warrior of all.
<i>6th Grade Nickname Game</i>	Korman	Eleven-year-old best friends Jeff and Wiley, who like to give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl Cassandra, while adjusting to the football coach who has become their new teacher.
<i>Pendragon Series</i>	MacHale, B	Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy. He has a family, a home, and even Marley, his beloved dog. But there is something very special about Bobby. He is going to save the world. And not just Earth as we know it. Bobby is slowly starting to realize that life in the cosmos isn't quite what he thought it was.
<i>Boy at War (and others in series)</i>	Mazer, H	While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, a teenage boy is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

<i>Eragon (and others in series)</i>	Paolini	In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
<i>Wolf Brother</i>	Paver	6,000 years in the past, twelve-year-old Tarak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to fulfill an oath the boy made to his dying father--to travel to the Mountain of the World Spirit seeking a way to destroy a demon-possessed bear that threatens all the clans.
<i>Young Man and the Sea</i>	Philbrick, R	After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge bluefin tuna.
<i>Percy Jackson & the Olympians series</i>	Riordan	After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
<i>The Boy Who Saved Baseball</i>	Ritter, J	The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.
<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (and others in series)</i>	Rowling	Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches.
<i>Small Steps</i>	Sachar, L	Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. (Companion to Holes)
<i>Peak</i>	Smith	A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.
<i>Series of Unfortunate Events</i>	Snicket, L	After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits against the distant relative who is appointed their guardian.

Non-Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>National Geographic Biographies (The Trailblazing Life of Daniel Boone, Remarkable Rough-Riding Life of Theodore Roosevelt)</i>	Harness	This series of new biographies brings fun to the stories of these American lives.
<i>Team Moon</i>	Thimmesh	Culled from direct quotes from the people behind the scenes, NASA transcripts, national archives and NASA photos, the whole story of Apollo 11 and the first moon landing emerges.
<i>The Great Race: The Amazing Round-the-World Auto Race of 1908</i>	Blackwood	Chronicles the famous 1908 race around the world by six automobiles, traveling from New York to Paris, that made headlines for months.
<i>Marley: A Dog Like No Other</i>	Grogan	A true account of a dog named Marley.
<i>Ballpark: The Story of America's Baseball Fields</i>	Curlee	A look at the first ballpark converted from an ice rink in 1862 to the space-aged Houston Astrodome to the league's newest state-of-the-art stadiums...
<i>Guts</i>	Paulsen, G	The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson in four books: Hatchet, The River, Brian's Winter, and Brian's Return
<i>Emperor's Silent Army</i>	O'Connor, J	Describes the archaeological discovery of thousands of life-sized terracotta warrior statues in northern China in 1974, and discusses the emperor who had them created and placed near his tomb.
<i>Red Scarf Girl</i>	Jiang, JiLi	The gripping memoir of a 12-year girl during the Cultural Revolution in China during the 1960s.
<i>Boy</i>	Dahl, R	Humorous stories from the beloved author's childhood which includes summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school.
<i>The Greatest: Muhammad Ali</i>	Myers, Walter Dean	This tribute to Ali begins as Cassius Clay captures the heavyweight boxing title in 1964, but returns to detail Ali's childhood, his fights, and the controversies surrounding him.
<i>Soul Surfer</i>	Hamilton	The amazing story of the 13-year-old surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack.
<i>The Boys' War</i>	Murphy, J	First-hand accounts that include diary entries and personal letters describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War.
<i>Tarantula Scientist</i>	Montgomery	Describes research on the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird eating tarantula.
<i>NBA's Greatest</i>	Hereas	Brief bios of the top NBA players of all time.
<i>Ultimate Spy (revised)</i>	Melton	A guide to the secret world of espionage.
<i>A & E biography series: (Lerner Publications)</i>	Various	This series includes: includes John Glenn, George W. Bush, Colin Powell, The Beatles, George Lucas, Tiger Woods, and many others. Biographies of famous people in the news.
<i>Eyewitness Series: (DK Publications)</i>	Various	This series includes: Revenge of the Sith, Rock and Gem, Vietnam War, Nascar, Shipwreck, Baseball, Football, Olympics, Whales, etc...A comprehensive pictorial guide on various subjects.
<i>When There's a Fork in the Road</i>	Berra	Three-time MVP and Hall of Famer Yogi Berra hit home runs twice in a row with his two previous books, The Yogi Book and It Ain't Over. Now, his winning streak will continue with this latest work — a collection of appealing, funny, and surprisingly moving essays on life, happiness, and getting through the slumps