

SAA 6th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions (2009)

CLASSICS

Title	Author	Description
<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i>	Brink	The adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier.
<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>A Wrinkle in Time</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>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Montgomery	This beloved classic tale of an aging brother and sister who seek to adopt a boy to help with their farm, and end up with precocious, but charming, Anne, instead.
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	O'Dell	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.
<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>	Paterson	Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.
<i>Lyddie</i>	Paterson	Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.
<i>The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon, (I Mean Noel)</i>	Raskin	The disappearance of her husband is only the first of the mysteries Mrs. Carillon must solve in this humorous story.
<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>Heidi</i>	Spyri, J	A Swiss orphan is heartbroken when she must leave her beloved grandfather and their happy home in the mountains to go to school and to care for an invalid girl in the city.
<i>Little Women</i>	Alcott	Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.
<i>True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i>	Avi	As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

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.
<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 Mava 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.
Other Popular Fiction		
<i>Frog Princess (or others in series)</i>	Baker	After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means--and the self-confidence--to become human
<i>Chasing Vermeer (or others in series)</i>	Balliett	When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
<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>Walk Two Moons</i>	Creech	After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.
<i>Chasing Redbird</i>	Creech	Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor uncovers family secrets and self truths while clearing a mysterious settler trail that begins on her family's farm in Kentucky
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Curtis, CP	Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

<i>The Mid-Wife's Apprentice</i>	Cushman	In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants.
<i>PS Longer Letter Later</i>	Danziger	Twelve-year old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state.
<i>Morning Girl</i>	Dorris, M	Morning Girl's Taino culture encounters Columbus on her Bahamian island in 1492.
<i>Secret Language of Girls</i>	Dowell	Marylin and Kate have been friends since nursery school, but when Marylin becomes a middle school cheerleader and Kate begins to develop other interests, their relationship is put to the test. Edgar Award-winning author Frances O'Roark Dowell explores how far true friendship can be stretched as Kate and Marvlin struggle to navigate the inexplicable terrain of sixth grade.
<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>Disappearing Act</i>	Fleishman	After their archaeologist mother fails to return from Mexico and they discover that someone is stalking their Albuquerque house, twelve-year-old Kevin and his opera-singing older sister flee to Venice, California, where they hope that new identities will keep them safe.
<i>Inkheart</i>	Funke	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>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>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>Princess Academy</i>	Hale	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.
<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>Penny from Heaven</i>	Holm	As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.
<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>The View from Saturday</i>	Konigsburg	Four hilariously different students develop a special friendship and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.
<i>Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World</i>	Konigsburg	A tale of art, discovery, friendship, history, and truth, in this novel about two boys who find themselves caught up in a story that links a sketch, a young boys life, an old mans reminiscence, and
<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>Gathering Blue</i>	Lowry	Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.
<i>Miss Spitfire</i>	Miller	At age twenty-one, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. Includes historical notes and timeline
<i>Agnes Parker, Girl in Progress (or others in series)</i>	O'Dell	As she starts the sixth grade, Agnes faces challenges with her old best friend, a longtime bully, a wonderful new classmate and neighbor, and herself.
<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>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (or 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>Esperanza Rising</i>	Ryan	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.
<i>Becoming Naomi Leon</i>	Ryan	When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.
<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.
<i>Stargirl</i>	Spinelli	In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever
<i>Case of the Missing Marquess (or others in series)</i>	Springer	Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

NON-FICTION/BIOGRAPHY/POETRY

Title	Author	Description
<i>Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels, (and what the neighbors thought)</i>	Krull	Provides short profiles of a number of women thorough history, including Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Catherine the Great and Eva Peron.
<i>Madam President</i>	Thimmesh	Includes biographical information on Abigail Adams, Edith Bolling Wilson, Eleanor Roosevelt, Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Charlotte Woodward, Susan B. Anthony, Sara Bard Field, Mrs. J. L. Burn, Jeannette Rankin, Margaret Chase Smith, Nancy Pelosi, Frances Perkins, Madeleine Albright, Sandra Day O'Connor, Condoleezza Rice, Geraldine Ferraro, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Margaret Thatcher, and Benazir Bhutto
<i>My Life in Dog Years</i>	Paulsen	The author describes some of the dogs that have had special places in his life, including his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.
<i>Marley: A Dog Like No Other</i>	Grogan	A true account of a dog named Marley.
<i>The Voice That Challenged a Nation</i>	Freedman	In the mid-1930s, Marian Anderson was a famed vocalist who had been applauded by European royalty and welcomed at the White House. But, because of her race, she was denied the right to sing at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. This is the story of her resulting involvement in the civil rights movement of the time
<i>Chicken Soup for the Pre-Teen Soul</i>	Canfield	101 stories of changes, choices, and growing-up.
<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>Soul Surfer</i>	Hamilton	The amazing story of the 13-year-old surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack.
<i>Heroine of the Titanic</i>	Landau	A biography of survivor Molly Brown who demonstrated courage and compassion when the ocean liner Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.
<i>Give Me Liberty</i>	Freedman	Describes the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence as well as the personalities and politics behind its framing.
<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>A Maze Me</i>	Nye	First love, friendship, family, hopes and dreams are among topics addressed in this collection of 72 original poems for girls ages twelve to seventeen.
<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.