

AJHS Recommended 6th Grade Summer Reading List 2010

- Allen, Thomas B.** *Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War.* National Geographic, 2006. Tells the story of Harriet Tubman and other slaves and free African-Americans who risked death to gather information about the Confederacy for the Union during the Civil War.
- Avi.** *The Seer of Shadows.* Harper Collins, 2008. In this intriguing historical ghost story, which is set in New York City in 1872, Horace Carpetine becomes an apprentice to a local society photographer and learns more about deception, ghosts, and photography than he could ever have imagined.
- Barry, Dave.** *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon.* Hyperion, 2007. Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff. Series
- Birdsall, Jeanne.** *The Penderwicks, A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.* Knopf, 2005. Four lovable sisters and their father spend their summer vacation in the Berkshire Mountains. While there, they share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.
- Casanova, Mary.** *The Klipfish Code.* Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Sent with her younger brother to an island to live with her aunt and grandfather after the Germans bomb Norway in 1940, ten-year-old Merit finds a way to help the Resistance.
- Colfer, Eoin.** *Artemis Fowl: Time Paradox.* Hyperion, 2008. The brilliant Artemis Fowl must travel into the past in order to save his beloved mother. At his side in this action-packed adventure is elf Captain Holly Short and dwarf Mulch Diggums. This is the sixth novel in the Artemis Fowl series.
- Connor, Leslie.** *Waiting for Normal.* Katherine Tegen, 2008. Addie would like a normal life. Not only does she live in a trailer in Schenectady, New York with her mother, who is not at all responsible or parental, but also she is separated from her kind and loving stepfather and younger half-sisters. Schneider Family Book Award. Bluebonnet Nominee 09-10.
- Dahlberg, Maurine F.** *The Story of Jonas.* Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. In the mid-1800s, a slave boy dreams of escaping to freedom while on a journey from Missouri to the gold fields of Kansas Territory with his master's ne'er-do-well son.
- Dowd, Siobhan.** *The London Eye Mystery.* David Fickling Books, 2008. When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Durrant, Lynda. *My Last Skirt*. Clarion, 2006. Jennie Hodgers, A poor Irish immigrant girl, disguises herself as a boy to survive in the New York City of the 1850s. She escapes from New York to go to Ohio, enlists as a Union soldier in the Civil War, and lives to draw her soldier's pension.

Flanagan, John. *The Sorcerer of the North*. Random House, 2006. Now a fullfledged Ranger with his own fief to protect, Will goes undercover as a bard to seek the traitors who poisoned the king and to find his dear friend Alyss, who has been kidnapped. This is book five in the exciting Ranger's Apprentice series.

Fleischman, Sid. *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*. Greenwillow, 2006. Born Ehrich Weiss into a poor and struggling family, Harry Houdini sought out fame and went on to perform some of the world's most astonishing magic tricks. Houdini's is a classic rags to riches story with plenty of personality to spare.

George, Jessica Day. *Dragon Slippers*. Bloomsbury, 2007. Creel, a poor but brave and clever orphan, befriends a dragon and selects a pair of remarkable slippers that lead her into the center of a struggle between longtime rivals.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story*. Sandpiper, 2007. When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

Hesse, Karen. *Brooklyn Bridge*. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. Joe, fourteen, is the first member of his Russian-Jewish family born in the United States. He wonders if he will ever get to go to Coney Island, but in 1903 his life changes when his parents turn their apartment into a teddy-bear factory. The story alternates, and eventually becomes linked, between Joe's life and the lives of vagrant children who live under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Horvath, Polly. *My One Hundred Adventures*. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. 12-year-old Jane lives in an old beach house with her mother and three younger siblings. She has a busy summer meeting her mother's old boyfriends, helping a neighbor deliver Bibles, and being talked into baby-sitting a neighbor's rambunctious children.

Ibbotson, Eva. *Journey to the River Sea*. Dutton, 2001. Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.

Jackson, Donna. *Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses*. Little Brown, 2008. This overview of sensory perception explores the myths, facts, and controversial topics related to such issues as psychic powers and animal intuition.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*. Atheneum, 2004. This is the story of a close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s and the despair they feel when one sister becomes terminally ill. Newbery Medal

- Klages, Ellen.** *The Green Glass Sea*. Viking, 2006. In 1943 when her grandmother is incapacitated by a stroke, Dewey must move to “The Hill”, now known as Los Alamos, New Mexico, because her father is a brilliant mathematician working there on a secret army project.
- Lester, Julius.** *Day of Tears*. Hyperion, 2005. This powerful and engaging historical novel is told in dialogue and through monologues by various fictional characters as they look back at the largest slave auction in United States history. Coretta Scott King Award
- Levine, Ellen.** *Catch a Tiger by the Toe*. Viking, 2005. In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family, but when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper.
- McCaughrean, Geraldine** (retold by). *Odysseus*. Cricket, 2004. Odysseus begins his long journey home after years of fighting during the Trojan War, but he and his men encounter monsters and ghastly creatures, are imprisoned, and face raging seas that threaten their safe return.
- McClafferty, Carla Killough.** *Something out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. This biography of Marie Curie covers her childhood in Poland, her studies in France, her happy marriage, and her discovery of radium which led to two Nobel Prizes.
- McKay, Hilary.** *Saffy’s Angel*. Margaret K. McElderry, 2002. Thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes when she finds out she was adopted, until they help her return to her birthplace in Italy to bring back a special memento of her past.
- Miller, Sarah.** *Miss Spitfire*. Atheneum, 2007. This is Annie Sullivan’s story of challenge and determination as she tries to become a teacher of the child Helen Keller, who is blind, deaf, and overindulged by her desperate parents.
- Myers, Walter Dean.** *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*. Scholastic, 2001. A biography of one of the world’s greatest boxers chronicles his childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinson’s disease.
- Napoli, Donna Jo.** *Bound*. Atheneum, 2004. 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.
- Papademetriou, Lisa.** *Sixth Grade Glommers, Norks, and Me*. Hyperion, 2005. Allie Kimball discovers that middle school is a very different place than fifth grade and struggles to learn ways to fit in.

Peck, Richard. *The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts.* Dial, 2004. In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies" and Russell's older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse.

Rex, Adam. *The True Meaning of Smekday.* Hyperion, 2007. Aliens called "The Boov" abduct Gratuity "Tip" Tucci's mother, leading Tip to begin a wild adventure to rescue her mother with the help of her cat named "Pig" and a friendly Boov named J.Lo.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Becoming Naomi Leon.* Scholastic, 2004. When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her greatgrandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

Shearer, Alex. *Canned.* Scholastic, 2008. Fergal Bamfield has a unique hobby: collecting tin cans without labels. He meets Charlotte, a fellow can collector, and they find some gruesome things inside the cans, like an ear and a human finger! Together, Fergal and Charlotte set out to learn the origins of these mysterious cans. Despite the macabre subject matter, *Canned* is a funny, quirky read.

Skye, Obert. *Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo.* Shadow Mountain, 2005. Fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps and thirteen-year-old Winter together as they discover that, for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and the land of dreams and hopes must be found and demolished. First book in Series. Bluebonnet Nominee 07-08.

Velmans, Hester. *Isabel of the Whales.* Delacorte, 2005. On a whale watch trip with her class off the coast of Cape Cod, Isabel, who has always had an affinity for whales, falls overboard and discovers as she finds herself swimming underwater with whales all around her that she is one of the Chosen who can change shape from human to whale and back again.

Warren, Andrea. *Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy.* Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. Chronicles the experiences of an orphaned half- Vietnamese, half-American boy from his birth and early childhood in Saigon, through his departure from Vietnam in the 1975 Operation Babylift, and his subsequent life as the adopted son of an American family in Ohio.

Whitehouse, Howard. *The Strictest School in the World: Being the Tale of a Clever Girl, a Rubber Boy and a Collection of Flying Machines, Mostly Broken.* Kids Can, 2006. Fourteen-year-old Emmaline Cayley, a tomboy and flying machine inventor, has been sent to St. Grenilda's School for Girls with the hope that the school can make her into a lady.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. *Counting on Grace.* Wendy Lamb, 2006. After twelve-year-old Grace is forced to leave school to work in a textile mill, she and her friend Arthur work with their teacher to have the laws changed.

