

RCPS Sixth Grade Summer Reading List

TITLE	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LEXILE	GENRE
<i>Miracle's Boys</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	For Lafayette and his brothers, the challenges of growing up in New York City are compounded by the facts that they've lost their parents and it's up to eldest brother Ty'ree to support the boys, and middle brother Charlie has just returned home from a correctional facility. Lafayette loves his brothers and would do anything if they could face the world as a team. However, even though Ty'ree cares, he is just so busy with work and responsibility. In addition, Charlie has changed so much that his former affection for his little brother has turned to open hostility. Now, as Lafayette approaches 13, he needs the guidance and answers only his brothers can give him. The events of one dramatic weekend force the boys to make the choice to be there for each other--to really see each other--or to give in to the pain and problems of every day.	660L	Fiction
<i>My Family Divided</i>	Diane Guerrero	When Dianne is 14, her undocumented parents are deported to Colombia. While Dianne is lucky to have family friends who provide her a place to live, she is still a kid separated from her parents and coming of age alone. But Dianne is a fighter, persevering through guilt, loneliness, and fear, while trying not to impose on the kindnesses of others. Dianne's hard work is rewarded when she gets into college, but unfortunately, the traumas of her past catch up with her. She falls into a battle against depression, which both challenges and grows her character. Amidst the roller coaster of life, Dianne finds success as an actress and purpose in her growing activism on behalf of other immigrants.	730L	Memoir
<i>The Boy Who Dared</i>	Susan Campbell Bartoletti	A Newbery Honor Book author has written a powerful and gripping novel about a youth in Nazi Germany who tells the truth about Hitler Bartoletti has taken one episode from her Newbery Honor Book, HITLER YOUTH, and fleshed it out into thought-provoking novel. When 16-year-old Helmut Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. However, when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he is tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmut's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.	760L	Historical Fiction
<i>Rules</i>	Cynthia Lord	From an exciting new voice comes a candid and witty look at feeling different and finding acceptance-beyond the rules. Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She has spent years trying to teach David the rules-from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public!"-in order to head off his embarrassing behaviors. However, the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it is her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?	780L	Fiction
<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Pam Munoz Ryan	A reissue of Pam Munoz Ryan's bestselling backlist with a distinctive new author treatment. Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.	800L	Historical Fiction
<i>Zane and the Hurricane</i>	Rodman Philbrick	Zane Dupree is a charismatic 12-year-old boy of mixed race visiting a relative in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hits. Unexpectedly separated from all family, Zane and his dog experience the terror of Katrina's wind, rain, and horrific flooding. Facing death, they are rescued from an attic air vent by a kind, elderly musician and a scrappy young girl - both African American. The chaos that ensues as storm water drowns the city, shelter and food vanish, and police contribute to a dangerous, frightening atmosphere, creates a page-turning tale that completely engrosses the reader. Based on the facts of the worst hurricane disaster in U.S. history, Philbrick includes the lawlessness and lack of government support during the disaster as well as the generosity and courage of those who risked their lives and safety to help others. Here is an unforgettable novel of heroism in the face of truly challenging circumstances.	860L	Fiction
<i>Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board</i>	Bethany Hamilton	They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing, not even the loss of her arm, could come between her and the waves? That Halloween morning in Kauai, Hawaii, Bethany responded to the shark's stealth attack with the calm of a girl with God on her side. Pushing pain and panic aside, she began to paddle with one arm, focusing on a single thought: "Get to the beach...." <i>Soul Surfer</i> is a moving account of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery after the attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships, and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit that shows the body is no more essential to surfing perhaps even less so than the soul.	960L	Biography
<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	Arthur C. Clarke	2001: A Space Odyssey tackles the enduring theme of man's place in the universe. On the moon an enigma is uncovered. So great are the implications, that, for the first time, men are sent out deep into the solar system. But, before they can reach their destination, things begin to go wrong. Horribly wrong.	1060	Fiction
<i>The Kingdom on the Waves</i>	M.T. Anderson	Fearing a death sentence, Octavian and his tutor, Dr. Trefusis, escape through rising tides and pouring rain to find shelter in British-occupied Boston. Sundered from all he knows — the College of Lucidity, the rebel cause — Octavian hopes to find safe harbor. Instead, he is soon to learn of Lord Dunmore's proclamation offering freedom to slaves who join the counterrevolutionary forces.	1060	Fiction

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