



## Rising 6th Grade Summer Reading

**3 books: 1 required and 2 free choice**  
**Required: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle**

Since most children of this age can read the majority of grade-level books for themselves, the following list will include a majority of independent reads, though there are a few that can be chosen as family read alouds, as [research](#) has proven that reading aloud into adulthood has a beneficial effect. Keep in mind that a Listening Vocabulary is almost always much higher than a Reading Vocabulary. Thus, you can read aloud a book that is above current school reading level, and most children will be able to understand it. After reading a short passage (and reading the illustrations as well), we suggest that you informally ask your child to tell back what he or she has heard, in order to improve comprehension, sequencing, synthesis, concentration, and enjoyment. Picture narrations are also a fun way to enliven the story while increasing comprehension.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but rather some of our particular favorites! There are obviously many more good books that are available. If you seek advice from a librarian, note that the terminology most librarians will best understand is "classic literature," which for our purposes we call "[living](#)" books. Remember that, with regard to all book suggestions, it is always your responsibility as the parent to assess a book's suitability for you and your family.

We have included books which employ fantastical themes, due to the fact that we encourage children to enjoy the proper use of the imagination. This is an important aspect of development, and one in which parents are urged to give their child guidance. That is, your child will be looking to you to help define the lines of fantasy versus reality and the proper guidelines therein.

If a title is not in your local library, you may want to check used bookstores, both [physical](#) and [virtual](#). A great summer activity is to visit some of the physical bookstores in your area and see what they have to offer. A must-see is The Story Shop in Monroe, Georgia! Do not neglect the [power](#) of [audiobooks](#), as they are great opportunities for everyone to listen and bond as a family. They can also help with books set in a different locale, as the narrators are often from that particular culture. Enjoy!

On the sheet enclosed, please keep track of the books your child reads or those that you have read to him or her this summer. You will give this record to your child's teacher at the beginning of school. If you like to purchase books, consider [thriftbooks.com](#)!

Other Reading Lists:

[goodandbeautiful.com/summer-reading/](http://goodandbeautiful.com/summer-reading/)

(You can sign up for an account (no cost to you at all) and access their Summer Reading 2024 -or-

[goodandbeautifulbooklist.com/my-book-list/](http://goodandbeautifulbooklist.com/my-book-list/)

Click on "My Book List" after choosing your parameters (age, interest, etc.). After your list populates, select the pink button (Download and Print List)

<https://readaloudrevival.com/category/middle-grade-novels/>

Don't forget audiobooks!

<https://readaloudrevival.com/booklist/audiobooks-8-12/> (See links for additional audiobooks above 📖)

<https://heritagemom.com/heritage-mom-book-recommendations/>

Heritage Mom is Amber O'Neal Johnston, a homeschool mom and curator of books/items for people of color. She has a vast collection of books by grade/history, etc.



## Summer Reading List for Rising 6th Grade Students

Alcott, Louisa May *Jack and Jill*  
Andreola, Karen *Beautiful Girlhood*  
Balliett, Blue *Chasing Vermeer*  
Blackwood, Gary *The Shakespeare Stealer*  
Byars, Betsy *The Summer of the Swans*  
Burnford, Shelia *The Incredible Journey*  
Bussell, Darcy *The Young Dancer*  
Cleaver, *Where the Lilies Bloom*  
De Jong, Meindert *The Wheel on the School*  
Dodge, Mary Mapes *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*  
Enright, Elizabeth *Thimble Summer*  
Field, Rachel *Hitty, Her First Hundred Years*  
Fleming, Ian *Chitty, Chitty, Bang Bang*  
Gallico, Paul *Snow Goose*  
Gates, Doris *Blue Willow*  
George, Jean Craighead *On the Far Side of the Mountain*  
Gray, Elizabeth Jane *Adam of the Road*  
Hinman, Bonnie *Benjamin Banneker: American Mathematician and Astronomer, Colonial Leaders' Series*  
Hunnard, Hannah *Hinds' Feet on High Places*  
Jacques, Brian *Redwall (and others in the series)*  
James, Will *Smoky the Cow Horse*  
Jester, Norton *The Phantom Tollbooth*  
Kelly, Eric P. *The Trumpeter of Krakow*  
Kipling, Rudyard *The Jungle Book*  
L'Engle Madeleine *The other books in the Time Quintet trilogy AFTER A Wrinkle in Time*  
Lenski, Lois *Indian Captive, Strawberry Girl*  
Lampton, Christopher *Werner Von Braun: A Biography*  
LasCasas, Bartholomew *The Log of Christopher Columbus' First Voyage to America*  
Little, Jean *From Anna, Listen to the Singing, Take Wing*  
Lofting, Hugh *The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle*  
MacDonald, George *The Golden Key*  
Marshall, Catherine *Adventures in Prayer, Beyond Ourselves, Christy*  
Martin, Emily *Snow and Rose (highly recommended for the fall!)*  
McPherson, Joyce *A Piece of the Mountain The Biography of Blaise Pascal*

Mitton, Simon and Jacqueline ***The Flying Scotsman: A Biography about Eric Liddell***  
 Montgomery, Lucy Maude ***Anne of Green Gables, Anne of Avonlea***  
 Nelson, Marilyn ***Carver: A Life in Poems***  
 North, Sterling ***Rascal***  
 Oz, Amos ***Soumchi***  
 Collodi, Carlo ***Pinocchio***  
 Rawls, Wilson ***Where the Red Fern Grows, Summer of the Monkeys***  
 Robertson, Keith ***Henry Reed, Inc.***  
 Selden, George ***The Cricket in Times Square***  
 Seredy, Kate ***The Good Master, The White Stag***  
 Sidney, Margaret ***Five Little Peppers***  
 Smith, Dodie ***101 Dalmatians***  
 Stewart, Trenton ***The Mysterious Benedict Society (also a series)***  
 Stolz, Mary ***The Dog on Barkham Street***  
 Stonaker, Frances Benson ***Famous Mathematicians***  
 Terhune, Albert Payson ***Lad: A Dog***  
 Twain, Mark ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***  
 White, T.H. ***The Sword and the Stone***  
 Wyss, Johann ***Swiss Family Robinson***  
 Yolen, Jane ***The Dragon's Boy***

The following selections are Living Books from the “My Name is America” series, and are written from a boy’s perspective. They are in diary form about life in a particular period of history.

***Journal of Augustus Pelletier: The Lewis and Clark Expedition*** by Kathryn Lasky  
***Journal of Biddy Owen: The Negro Leagues*** by Walter Dean Myers  
***Journal of James Edmund Reese: Civil War Union Soldier*** by Jim Murphy  
***Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce: A Pilgrim Boy, Plimoth Plantation 1620*** by Ann Rinaldi  
***Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: A WW II Soldier*** by Walter Dean Myers  
***Journal of William Thomas Emerson: A Revolutionary War Patriot*** by Barry Denenberg

The following selections are Living Books from the “Dear America” series, and are written from a girl’s perspective. They are in diary form about life in a particular period of history.

***Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie*** by Kristiana Gregory  
***A Light in the Storm: The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin*** by Karen Hesse  
***My Secret War: The WW II Diary of Madeline Beck*** by Mary Pope Osborne  
***A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee—A Slave Girl 1859*** by Patricia McKissack  
***So Far From Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll-An Irish Mill Girl*** by Barry Denenberg  
***Standing in the Light: The Captive Diary of Catherine Carey Logan 1763*** by Mary Pope Osborne  
***Voyage on the Great Titanic: The Diary of Mary Ann Brady 1912*** by Ellen Emerson White  
***West to a Land of Plenty*** by Jim Murphy  
***When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Diary of Emma Simpson 1864*** by Barry Denenberg  
***A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple*** by Kathryn Lasky