

## Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List (2013)

Choose TWO (2) books from this list:

### ***The Green Glass Sea* by Ellen Klages \$7.99**

It's 1943, and eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is en route to New Mexico to live with her mathematician father. Soon she arrives at a town that doesn't exist. It is called Los Alamos, and scientists and mathematicians from all over America and Europe work on the biggest secret of all—"the gadget." None of them know how much "the gadget" is about to change their lives.

### ***The Lord of the Nutcracker Men* by Iain Lawrence \$5.99**

Ten-year-old Johnny eagerly plays at war with the army of nutcracker soldiers his toymaker father whittles for him. He demolishes imaginary foes. But in 1914 Germany looms as the real enemy of Europe. Johnny's father proudly enlists with his British countrymen to fight at the front in France. The letters that arrive from Johnny's dad reveal the ugly realities of combat—and the soldiers he carves and encloses begin to bear its scars. When Johnny's games seem to foretell his dad's real battles, Johnny thinks he possesses godlike powers over his wooden men. He fears he controls his father's fate and all the soldiers of no-man's land.

### ***Peak* by Roland Smith**

Marcello hones his climbing skills by scaling skyscrapers. After Peak is caught climbing the Woolworth Building, an angry judge gives him probation, with an understanding that Peak will leave New York and live with his famous mountaineer father in Thailand. Peak soon learns, however, that his father has other plans for him; he hopes that Peak will become the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest. Peak is whisked off to Tibet and finds himself in the complex world of an Everest base camp, where large amounts of money are at stake and climbing operations offer people an often-deadly shot at the summit.

### ***Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'engle \$6.99**

Everyone in town thinks Meg is volatile and dull-witted and that her younger brother Charles Wallace is dumb. People are also saying that their father has run off and left their brilliant scientist mother. Spurred on by these rumors, Meg and Charles Wallace, along with their new friend Calvin, embark on a perilous quest through space to find their father. In doing so they must travel behind the shadow of an evil power that is darkening the cosmos, one planet at a time.

### ***Music of Dolphins* by Karen Hesse**

After a plane crash off the coast of Cuba, a four-year-old survives, nurtured by dolphins. At adolescence, the girl is "rescued" by the Coast Guard and turned over to a scientist who has a government grant to study the part language acquisition plays in socialization. Mila, the otherworldly "dolphin girl," is enthusiastic to please, learning to speak words and write her thoughts on a computer, but gradually she understands that she is a prisoner "in the net of humans." She begins to lose ground, regressing physically, begging to be returned to the sea.

### ***Nory Ryan's Song* by Patricia Reilly Giff \$6.50**

Twelve-year-old Nora Ryan and her family have always lived a meager life in the Irish countryside, but they have always managed to make ends meet. But now it's 1845, and a terrible blight is attacking the potato crops, the main source of food for the Irish peasants. And not only are they in danger of starvation, but their English landlord is threatening to turn them off the land that should be theirs if they don't pay the rent soon.

### ***The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech \$6.99**

Thirteen-year-old Sophie hears the sea calling her. Much to the concern of her adopted parents, she decides to join her uncles and male cousins on a sailing voyage from Connecticut across the Atlantic to

England on a 45-foot sailboat. Along the way, Sophie proves her bravery and competence to the rather grumpy all-male crew.

**Tale of Despereaux by Kate Dicamillo \$6.99**

Despereaux Tilling, the new baby mouse, is different from all other mice. Sadly, the romantic, unmouse-like spirit that leads the unusually tiny, large-eared mouse to the foot of the human king and the beautiful Princess Pea ultimately causes him to be banished by his own father to the foul, rat-filled dungeon.

**Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach \$5.99**

As usual, sixth-grader Hero's Shakespearean name prompts teasing in her new school, and her loving parents are clueless about her difficulties. Then intriguing, elderly neighbor Mrs. Roth tells her about the enormous diamond rumored to be hidden in Hero's new house. Helped by Mrs. Roth and cute eighth-grader Danny, Hero launches into a stealthy search that unearths links between the diamond's original owner and Edward de Vere, a nobleman believed by some to be the original author of Shakespeare's plays.

**Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan \$6.99**

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. [Show More](#) [Show Less](#)

**Swindle by Gordon Korman \$6.99**

After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break Swindle's compound and recapture the card. There are many things standing in the way, but Griffin and his team are going to get back what's rightfully his.

**Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica \$5.99**

Nate Brodie is nicknamed "Brady" not only for his arm, but also because he's the biggest Tom Brady fan. He's even saved up to buy an autographed football. And when he does, he wins the chance for something he's never dreamed of - to throw a pass through a target at a Patriots game for one million dollars.

Nate should be excited. But things have been tough lately. His dad lost his job and his family is losing their home. It's no secret that a million dollars would go a long way. So all Nate feels is pressure, and just when he needs it most, his golden arm begins to fail him. Even worse, his best friend Abby is going blind, slowly losing her ability to do the one thing she loves most - paint. Yet Abby never complains, and she is Nate's inspiration.

**Clockwork Three by Matthew Kirby \$9.99**

Giuseppe is an orphaned street musician from Italy, who was sold by his uncle to work as a slave for an evil padrone in the U.S. But when a mysterious green violin enters his life he begins to imagine a life of freedom. Hannah is a soft-hearted, strong-willed girl from the tenements, who supports her family as a hotel maid when tragedy strikes and her father can no longer work. She learns about a hidden treasure, which she knows will save her family -- if she can find it.

**Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice Book 1) by John Flanagan \$8.99**

He had always wanted to be a warrior. The Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways, made him nervous. And now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't realize yet is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly

trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell \$6.99**

Twelve-year-old Karana escapes death at the hands of treacherous hunters, only to find herself totally alone on a harsh desolate island. This title is based on a true story.

**You will be reading a total of TWO (2) books.**