

2013



All rising 6th graders should read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. In addition, all students should read three other books from the list.

A student may choose books that are not on the list if they are recommended by their parent. We will include a form for parent approval in the report card at the end of the year.

Enjoy!

## Past Times

***All the Lovely Bad Ones*** by Mary Downing Hahn

Travis and Corey decide to “haunt” their grandmother’s Vermont inn as a practical joke. But when they do, they find they have awakened some real spirits, as well as an evil presence with which they must deal.

***Black Duck*** by Janet Taylor Lisle

In 1929, Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body washed up on shore of their small Rhode Island town and are soon suspected of stealing something from the dead man.

***Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*** by Steve Sheinkin

Non-fiction that reads like an international spy thriller, *Bomb* recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos.

***Candy Bombers*** by Michael Tunnell

Curious about the city into which he ferried goods during the Berlin Airlift in 1948, pilot Gail Halvorsen stayed over to visit, met some children, and offered to drop candy and gum when he next flew over. This simple idea grew into a massive project with reverberations today.

***A Diamond in the Desert*** by Kathryn Fitzmaurice

Twelve-year-old Tetsu is a California boy who loves baseball. When the Japanese invade Pearl Harbor, however, he becomes a suspected enemy because of his Japanese heritage. This is a great story about baseball and honor.

***Dodger*** by Terry Pratchett

*Dodger* is a historical fantasy that follows the adventures of a 17-year-old boy who makes his living on the treasure/trash he finds in the sewers of Victorian London. The threat from foreign powers and Dodger’s practical and only slightly illegal ways of dealing with it make this a funny and heartwarming read.

***The False Prince*** by Jennifer Neilsen

No one knows that the king, queen, and heir to the throne of Carthya are dead. Conner, a king’s regent, chooses three orphans to vie for the role of the heir. On the day of the announcement, a truth is revealed that changes everything for Conner, the orphans, and especially a boy named Sage.

***Freedom Crossing*** by Margaret Clark

After spending four years with relatives in the South, a fifteen-year-old girl accepts the idea that slaves are property and is horrified to learn when she returns North that her home is a station on the underground railroad.

***Jump Ship to Freedom*** by James Lincoln Collier

By rights young Daniel Arabus and his mother, slaves in Captain Iver’s house in Stratford, Conn., should be free. But the Captain refuses to honor their agreement and instead sells Daniel on board a ship to the West Indies.

***King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table*** by Roger Green

A retelling of the story of the boy fated to be the “true-born King of Britain,” covering his glorious reign and his tragic, yet triumphant, passing.

***Last Silk Dress*** by Ann Rinaldi

During the Civil War, Susan finds a way to help the Confederate Army and uncovers a series of mysterious family secrets.

***Leviathan*** by Scott Westerfeld

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically engineered beasts. The first in a trilogy, this is a great introduction to steampunk fiction.

***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*** by Rodman Philbrick

Homer Figg sets off into the Civil War to find and save his brother in this humorous adventure.

***Wonderstruck*** by Brian Selznick

The second book by the author of *Hugo Cabret*, this story follows Ben and Rose, two characters some fifty years apart from each other who both follow journeys to solve mysteries

## All in the Family

***A Monster Calls*** by Patrick Ness

Thirteen-year-old Conor wakes up after midnight to find a monster outside, but it is a different monster than the one of which he has been dreaming. “An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor.”

***Danny, the Champion of the World*** by Dahl, Roald

A young English boy describes his relationship with his father and the special adventure they share together.

***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman

How about this for a family? Bod Owens’ family is murdered when he is a baby, and he is raised by the ghosts and creatures of a graveyard. He will need all of their help as the murderer comes looking for him.

***The Mailbox*** by Audrey Shafer

Twelve-year-old Gabe comes home to find his Uncle Vernon dead. The next day, the body is gone, and Gabe finds a strange note in the mailbox that reads, “I have a secret. Do not be afraid.”

***Maximum Ride*** by James Patterson

Maximum Ride and the other members of the Flock find adventure off the coast of Hawaii as they again try to protect themselves and the environment.

***Small Persons with Wings*** by Ellen Booraem

Mellie has always trained herself to look at life logically and scientifically. When she goes to her grandfather’s inn, however, she learns about a world of fairies, a world in which she will quickly become deeply entangled.

***Waiting for Normal*** by Connor, Leslie

This is the moving story of Addie, a girl whose mother disappears for days at a time and leaves her to look for “normal” on her own. You will really like the character of Addie, and you will really enjoy this book

## **Spy and the Sleuth**

***Aviary*** by Kathleen O’Dell

Twelve-year-old Clara Dooley has spent her whole life in a crumbling mansion, scared of the birds that live there. But now they reveal a mystery to her, and she is facing dark truths about her family and possibly herself.

***Apothecary*** by Maile Meloy

Fourteen-year-old Janie moves to London and meets a boy Benjamin and his father, a mysterious apothecary. When Benjamin’ father is kidnapped, they try to solve this mystery and foil Russian spies with evil plans. This is an exciting story made better by “breathhtaking” illustrations.

***Chasing Lincoln’s Killer*** by James Swanson

This thrilling adventure tells the true story of the pursuit of Abraham Lincoln’s killer, John Wilkes Booth.

***Detectives in Togas*** by Henry Winterfield

In an effort to save a boy wrongly accused, a group of young friends living in ancient Rome search for the culprit who scrawled graffiti on the temple wall.

***Swipe*** by Evan Angler

This book is set in North America where everyone is struggling to recover from famine and global war. Logan Langly is about to turn 13, and he is not really looking forward to receiving the Mark. Logan feels like he is being watched and followed. He becomes friends with Erin, the new girl in town, and they work together to find out the truth behind the Mark.

***From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*** by E. L. Konigsburg

Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury and solve the mystery of a statue housed there.

***IQ #3: Kitty Hawk*** by Roland Smith

The third book in this popular series (be sure to read *Independence Hall* and *The White House*) again follows Quest and Angela on their adventures. This time, the President’s daughter has been kidnapped, and they head down Interstate 95 to North Carolina and into all kinds of trouble including a Category 1 hurricane.

***Liar and Spy*** by Rebecca Stead

Georges and Safer track a mysterious building resident who Safer is sure is hiding a sinister secret. As the investigation progresses, Georges grows increasingly uncomfortable with Safer’s actions and the story leaves you guessing until the end.

***The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*** by Trenton Lee Stewart

After reuniting for a celebratory scavenger hunt, Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance are forced to go on an unexpected search--a search to find Mr. Benedict. Enjoy the whole series.

***Powerless*** by Matthew Cody

When Daniel Corrigan and his family move to Noble’s Green, he notices that some of the kids there seem rather odd. After one of them miraculously saves his life, they admit that they have superpowers, but that they come with a price.

***Sniper*** by Theodore Taylor

Fifteen-year-old Ben must cope alone when a mysterious sniper begins shooting the big cats in his family’s private zoological preserve.

***Stormbreaker*** by Anthony Horowitz

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle’s dangerous work for Britain’s intelligence agency, MI6.

***The Westing Game*** by Ellen Raskin

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

***When You Reach Me*** by Rebecca Stead

Miranda seems to have her life in New York City figured out until she begins receiving mystery notes that convince her only she can stop a tragic death.

## Flights of Fantasy

### ***13 Treasures*** by Michelle Harrison

Tanya can see fairies, but these fairies are evil. She is forced into their world, and she finds herself fighting not to vanish into their realm forever.

### ***Angel Factory*** by Terence Baker

Spurred on by his best friend, twelve-year-old Thomas uncovers two major family secrets: that he was adopted, and that his perfect-seeming family is part of an other-worldly organization.

### ***Bigger Than a Bread Box*** by Laurel Snyder

Rebecca finds a magic bread box in her attic, and she thinks her life is set. But then she starts to create more problems than she bargained for, and she must decide whom she really is.

### ***Breadcrumbs*** by Anne Ursu

A story of fantasy and magic, this book tells the story of Hazel and Jack, two friends whose relationship changes when Jack disappears into the forest with a woman made of ice. It is up to Hazel to save him.

### ***Cold Cereal*** by Adam Rex

A boy who may be part changeling, twins involved in a bizarre secret experiment, and a leprechaun in a red tracksuit try to save the world from an evil cereal company whose ultimate goal is world domination.

### ***Dragonswood*** by Janet Lee Carey

In AD 1192 on Wilde Island, Tess, the daughter of a cruel blacksmith, is accused of witchcraft and must flee, but when she is offered shelter from a warden of Dragonswood, she does not realize that he too harbors a secret that may finally bring about peace among the races of dragon, human, and fairy.

### ***Hero*** by Mike Lupica

Zach Harriman has just lost his remarkable father in a plane crash, but he is starting to feel himself changing and becoming “super” like his dad.

### ***In a Glass Grimly*** by Adam Gidwitz

Adam Gidwitz’s follow-up to *The Tale Dark and Grimm* is a must read for those who enjoyed the first book. This story weaves tales about Jack and Jill (along with their one legged frog) and their adventures along the way.

### ***Jinx*** by Sage Blackwood

A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond--and within--the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

### ***Legend*** by Marie Lu

In a setting reminiscent of the *Hunger Games*, this is the story of fifteen-year-old June as she seeks revenge on Day, one of the country’s most wanted criminals for the murder of her brother. But the story takes some twists along the way, and they both realize the secrets of the country in which they live.

### ***Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*** by Jonathon Auxier

Peter Nimble is a blind orphan who is an excellent thief. But when he steals some magic eyes, he is taken to another world, where adventures await.

### ***The Roar*** by Emma Clayton

Ellie has lived her whole life safe behind a protected wall. But is that the truth? Ellie decides it is time to find out.

### ***Savvy*** by Ingrid Law

Mibs Beaumont is about to turn thirteen, which in her family means she is about to gain her “savvy”. These special powers will help her as she tries to save her father.

### ***The Son of Neptune*** by Rick Riordan

The “next Percy Jackson series” started by Rick Riordan, this picks up with a confused Percy, a new set of allies, and a different camp for half bloods. Percy and his new friends Hazel and Frank still have their share of monsters as they head on yet another quest for the good of all mankind.

### ***Splendors and Glooms*** by Laura Amy Schlitz

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London. Soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini’s ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

### ***Super*** by Matthew Cody

In this sequel to *Powerless*, the superpowered kids of Noble’s Green are once again threatened by an unknown force. The twist in this installment is that Daniel is now able to “borrow” his friends powers.

### ***Throne of Fire*** by Rick Riordan

The second book in the series picks up where the other left off, following the Kane children as they continue the work their parents started. Set in the world of the Egyptian gods, they must battle to survive and find the Book of Ra.

### ***The True Meaning of Smekday*** by Adam Rex

This book starts out as a 5-page essay assignment for the main character Gratuity (“Tip”); but, truly, it is the story of her mom, a secret friendship, and her efforts to save the world from an alien invasion.

## Real World

***4th Stall*** by Chris Rylander

Mac and his business manager Vince are running a booming business out of the 4th stall in the bathroom. But they get themselves in trouble, and then they need to get some help themselves.

***11 Birthdays*** by Wendy Mass

Leo and Amanda have always shared a birthday, but they have had a falling out, and they are not planning to do it this year. When they begin repeating the same day over and over again, however, they find themselves caught up in something bigger than just themselves.

***Absolutely Normal Chaos*** by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up quickly during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his father.

***Bystander*** by James Preller

Eric moves to town and is befriended by Griffin, a boy who seems to be a good friend but turns out to be something else. Now he finds himself no longer a bystander to Griffin's bullying; he has become a target.

***Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading*** by Tommy Greenwald

Charlie Joe Jackson is the world's greatest non-reader, but now he is in middle school, and it is becoming harder and harder to get away with not reading. He must resort to pretty drastic measures in his attempt to not read one entire book.

***Dead End in Norvelt*** by Jack Gantos

The winner of the 2012 Newbery Medal for the year's best contribution to children's literature and the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, this book tells the "entirely true and wildly fictional" story of a kid named Jack Gantos, as he works for his neighbor in a job which unveils story after story.

***Elephant Run*** by Roland Smith

Nick Freestone has left London to live with his Dad in Burma. WWII finds him there, however, as the Japanese invade, taking over his family's plantation. He and his friend Mya try to escape these dangers on the back of an elephant.

***The Fairy Ring: Or Elsie and Frances Fool the World*** by Mary Losure

This is the true tale of Elsie Wright, 15, and Frances Griffith, 9, who concocted a fairy hoax in the early 1900s that grew well beyond their expectations.

***Inside Out and Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai

For ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon. Now she is forced to move to Alabama, and she finds this to be quite different from the life she has known.

***Hokey Pokey*** by Jerry Spinelli

Welcome to Hokey Pokey. A place and a time, when childhood is at its best: games to play, bikes to ride, experiences to be had. But when one of the biggest kids, Jack, has his beloved bike stolen—and by a girl, no less—his entire world, and the world of Hokey Pokey, turns to chaos.

***How they Croaked*** by Georgia Bragg

A look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths. Each entry provides the circumstances of the person's death and gives context to those circumstances, from discussions of the political climate to medical practices of the time.

***Ida B*** by Katherine Hannigan

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

***Mother Daughter Book Club Series*** by Heather Vogel Frederick

Four friends are not too excited about being forced into a book club by their moms, but it turns out to be just what they needed as they experience the ups and downs of Middle School.

***No More Dead Dogs*** by Gordon Korman

This is a funny and refreshing slap at all the sad "boy and his dog" books out there. But it is not set in the mountains; actually, the story is set in a school. Superjock Wallace Wallace is sentenced to work off his crimes working on the drama production. Will the play have an effect on him, or will he affect the play?

***Schooled*** by Gordon Korman

Capricorn Anderson has a different kind of family; he lives with Rain, his grandmother, on what's left of a 60's commune. But when Rain is hurt, Cap is put into another "family" - the world of C Average Middle School. This hilarious story follows Cap's struggles as he learns to live in a totally foreign world

***The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*** by Tom Angleberger

Dwight, a "loser", talks to his classmates via an origami finger puppet of Yoda. When the puppet starts giving out helpful answers, his classmate Tommy starts building a case for or against this puppet.

***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster*** by Deborah Hopkinson

This non-fiction account of the infamous sinking of the Titanic pulls readers in with personal stories and archival photographs from primary sources.

## Against the Odds

### ***Crossing the Wire*** by Will Hobbs

The inspiringly determined story of fifteen-year-old Victor as he attempts to leave his town in Mexico and find work in America.

### ***Flygirl*** by Sherri L. Smith

Ida Mae Jones is a Louisiana girl who longs to be a pilot on the eve of America's entrance into World War II. She is driven and smart, but she has two huge strikes against her: she is black, and she is a woman.

### ***My Side of the Mountain*** by Jean Craighead George

Young Sam Gribbley leaves New York City and spends a year living by himself in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

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

It starts with an exciting climb up a skyscraper in New York City and never slows down. This is the story of 14-year-old Peak Marcello, who is trying to become the youngest person to ever climb Mount Everest.

### ***Starry River of the Sky*** by Grace Lin

This adventurous story follows a boy named Rendi, who has run away from home and is living in a remote village. The moon is missing, but no one except Rendi seems to notice.

## Animals: Real and Imaginary

### ***The Incredible Journey*** by Sheila Burnford

A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.

### ***Jackie's Wild Seattle*** by Will Hobbs

The story of Shannon and Cody as they spend the summer in Seattle with their Uncle Neal, saving animals as part of the "circle of healing".

### ***Leanin Dog*** by K.A. Nuzum

Dessa Dean needed a friend, and help came in the form of a scratching sound at the door. She wanted a friend and a confidant, and she wanted someone with whom she could enjoy Christmas. She found this in a dog.

### ***Loch*** by Paul Zindel

Fifteen-year-old Loch and his younger sister join their father on a scientific expedition searching for enormous prehistoric creatures sighted in a Vermont lake, but it soon becomes obvious that the expedition's leaders aren't interested in preserving the creatures.

### ***Masterpiece*** by Elise Broach

An exciting mystery which involves two families that inhabit the same Manhattan apartment: the materialistic Pompadays and a family of beetles, who live behind the kitchen sink and try to stay out of the way.

### ***Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95*** by Phillip Hoose

This intriguing non-fiction book tells the story of the Moonbird, also known as B95 (after being tagged and labeled).

### ***The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate

The Newberry Award Winner for 2013 uses first person perspective to tell the story of an easy-going gorilla named Ivan who lives at The Big Top Mall. With some help from his human friends, his dream of a better life for all the Big Top's animals just might come true.

### ***Tentacles*** by Roland Smith

The sequel to *Cryptid Hunters*, this book follows Marty and Grace as they go with their Uncle Wolfe in search of giant squid. Unfortunately, their boat may be haunted, and it definitely has a stowaway who is trying to sabotage their plans.

### ***The Yearling*** by Marjorie Rawlings

A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

## Tried but True

### ***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*** by Jules Verne

An American frigate tracks down a ship-sinking submarine commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo.

### ***A Tale Dark and Grimm*** by Adam Gidwitz

It starts out as Hansel and Gretel, but this devilish story takes its own path as the pair venture into other fairy tales and create their own ending.

### ***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien

The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.

### ***Little Women*** by Louisa May Alcott

The classic story of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy in nineteenth-century New England.

### ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson

Cabin boy Jim Hawkins relates the classic story of pirates searching for buried treasure.

## What a life!

***Amelia Lost*** by Candace Fleming

This is the unique, non-fiction account of Amelia Earhart's famous journey. Written with chapters which change between the flight and the search in later years, this book uses pictures and sidebars to tell an entertaining and informative story.

***Boy*** by Roald Dahl

Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood which includes summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school.

***Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller*** by Sarah Miller

This is the classic story told from the perspective of the teacher: Annie Sullivan.

***Pennies to Dollars: The Story of Maggie Lena Walker*** by Muriel Miller Branch

The story of a woman whose life of hard work, perseverance, and resourcefulness enabled her to found the first African-American owned bank in this country.

***Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*** by Sy Montgomery

Temple Grandin's story shows how she overcame the odds and conquered the obstacles in her path. Her life and experiences are highlighted with numerous sidebars, photographs, and diagrams.

***Thanks to My Mother*** by Schoschana Rabinovici

After struggling to survive in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, a young Jewish girl and her mother endure much suffering in Kaiserwald, Stutthof, and Tauntzien concentration camps and on an eleven-day death march before being liberated by the Russian army.

***Three Cups of Tea*** by Greg Mortenson. Adapted by Sarah Thomson

The story of expert mountain climber Greg Mortenson, who failed in his mission to climb K2 and was nursed back to health by those living in a remote mountain village in Pakistan.

***Ways to Live Forever*** by Sally Nicholls

Eleven-year-old Sam is nearing the end of his fight with Leukemia. He collects stories, questions, lists, and pictures that "create a profoundly moving portrait of how a boy lives when he knows his time is almost up."