

Springfield Public Schools

6th Grade Summer Reading List

2021

Williams-Garcia, Rita One Crazy Summer (fiction)

In this Newbery Honor novel, New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of three sisters who travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to meet the mother who abandoned them.

Reynolds, Jason Look Both Ways (fiction)

From National Book Award finalist and #1 New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds comes a novel told in ten blocks, showing all the different directions kids' walks home can take.

Clarion, Karen English It All Comes Down to This (fiction)

In Los Angeles during the summer of 1965, Sophie, an uppermiddle-class African American girl, learns some hard truths about her family, about friendship, and about racism.

Carbone, Elisa Stealing Freedom (fiction)

This story is based on the true experiences of a young slave girl from Maryland who endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty, including being separated from her family, but who eventually escapes to freedom in Canada.

Choldenko, Gennifer Al Capone Does My Shirts (fiction)

Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Creech, Sharon Heartbeat (fiction)

Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Hiassen, Carl Flush (fiction)

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Kinney, Jeff The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary: How Greg Heffley Went Hollywood (nonfiction)

Jeff Kinney offers a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" movie, with photographs, script pages, storyboard sketches, costume designs, and original art offering an inside look at the film adaptation.

Korman, Gordon The Sixth Grade Nickname Game (fiction)

Eleven-year-old best friends Jeff and Wiley, who like to give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl Cassandra, while adjusting to the football coach who has become their new teacher.

Lord, Cynthia Rules (fiction)

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

MacHale, D.J. The Merchant of Death (Pendragon) (fiction)

Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy. He has a family, a home, and even Marley, his beloved dog. But there is something very special about Bobby. He is going to save the world.

Riordan, Rick The Maze of Bones (fiction)

Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents. 3

Sachar, Louis Small Steps (fiction)

Sequel to Holes. Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track; but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets.

Smith, Jeff Bone Volume 1: Out from Boneville (graphic novel)

The Bone adventures tell the story of a young bone boy, Fone Bone, and his two cousins, who are banned from their homeland of Boneville. When the cousins find themselves mysteriously trapped in a wonderful but often terrifying land filled with secrets and danger, they are soon caught up in adventures beyond their wildest dreams.

Smith, Roland Peak (fiction)

This is an adventure story about Peak Marcello, who is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper and goes to live with his father in Thailand rather than go to a juvenile detention center. His father runs a climbing company and wants Peak to climb Mt. Everest.

Spinelli, Jerry Eggs (fiction)

Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

Stone, Tanya Lee Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream (nonfiction)

Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved not only that they were as tough as any man but also that they were brave enough to challenge the government. Their inspiring example empowered young women to take their rightful place in the sky, piloting jets and commanding space capsules. This is the story of thirteen true pioneers of the space age.

Tolan, Stephanie Surviving the Applewhites (fiction)

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the eccentric Applewhite's family Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Van Draanen, Wendelin Flipped (fiction)

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Weeks, Sarah So B. It (fiction)

Heidi's life with her mentally disabled mother and their dotting neighbor, Bernadette, is happy, but filled with questions. Where did she and Mama come from before Bernadette found them living in the apartment next door? And what does Mama mean when she says "soof?" Heidi feels drawn to find answers to these questions.

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7th Grade Summer Reading List

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Noah, Trevor Born a Crime YA Edition (fiction)

The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

Bertrand, Diane Trino's Choice (fiction)

To be thirteen is worthless, Trino Oliveres thinks. Trino gets angry when he looks at the world around him. When he gets invited to hang with a rival gang, what kind of choice does he have? To run or to die?

Fleischman, John Phineas Gage: a Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science (nonfiction)

The true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.

Gaiman, Neil The Graveyard Book (fiction)

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Goldin, David and Karen Science Fair Winners: Junkyard Science (nonfiction)

Romano Young Each book in the Science Fair Winners series sketches out 20 science projects related to a theme. Within the theme, the topics vary but generally deal with interesting issues that are relevant to both contemporary scientific research and everyday life. *The casual writing style and Goldin's playful illustrations make the books and the projects approachable, and the pull quotes from scientists are engaging.*

Gratz, Alan The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel Told in Nine Innings (fiction)

Follows the fortunes of a German immigrant family through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball.

Halpern, Jack Dormia (fiction)

After learning of his ancestral ties to Dormia, a hidden kingdom in the Ural Mountains whose inhabitants possess the ancient power of "wakeful sleeping," twelve-year-old Alfonso sets out on a mission to save the kingdom from disaster.

Key, Watt Alabama Moon (fiction)

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

Korman, Gordon Schooled (fiction)

Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school. 3

Lubar, David Hidden Talents (fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Martin, a new student at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

Lupica, Mike Heat (fiction)

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

O'Connor George Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess (graphic novel)

Top-notch artwork and design values are used to tell the myths of Athena including complementary (or conflicting) stories of how she gained the Pallas moniker along with quick treatments of Perseus and Medusa and the weaver Arachne. O'Connor's take on mythology is well researched, synthesized, and presented, yet it still maintains a stupendous superhero appeal.

Ostertag, Molly The Witch Boy (graphic novel)

In Aster's family, boys are shapeshifters and girls are witches—but Aster has always been more interested in witchcraft than shapeshifting. As Aster tries to remain true to himself, secrets about his family's past are unearthed. First in a series.

Park, Linda Sue A Single Shard (historical fiction)

Living under a bridge in a twelfth-century Korean village, the orphan Tree-ear dreams of becoming a potter. How can he convince master potter Min that he deserves a chance? Out of love and loyalty, the twelve-year-old hero of this Newbery Award-winning novel undertakes a dangerous mission.

Pierce, Tamora Alanna: The First Adventure (fiction)

Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, learning many hard lessons along her path to high adventure.

Riordan, Rick Sea of Monsters (fiction)

Seventh-grader Percy Jackson has recently discovered that he is the son of Poseidon, making him half human and half god. Along with his demigod and satyr friend, he must save his beloved Camp Half-Blood from evil forces determined to destroy it.

Stead, Rebecca When You Reach Me (fiction)

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Tarshis, Lauren Emma-Jean Lazurus Fell Out of a Tree (fiction)

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

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8th Grade Summer Reading List

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Acevedo, Elizabeth The Poet X (fiction, verse)

An astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth.

Reynolds and Kiely All American Boys (fiction)

In this New York Times bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

Alvarez, Julia Return to Sender (fiction)

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter. When he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

Bauer, Joan Hope was Here (fiction)

16-year-old Hope and her aunt unexpectedly become involved in a campaign to oust their new town's corrupt mayor.

Bradbury, Jennifer Shift (fiction)

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating from high school and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

Carter, Ally Cross My Heart and Hope to Spy (fiction)

Genius Cammie Morgan begins the spring semester of her sophomore year with many questions about her ex-boyfriend, mother, and the last term, and intends to use her spying abilities to have them answered.

Colfer, Eoin The Supernaturalist (fiction)

In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

Cooper, Susan King of Shadows (fiction)

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Draper, Sharon Romiette and Julio (fiction)

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after becoming friends on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating.

Korman, Gordon No More Dead Dogs (fiction)

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. 3

Lupica, Mike Batboy (fiction)

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a bat boy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

Paulsen, Gary The Crossing (fiction)

Fourteen year-old Manny, a street kid fighting for survival in a Mexican border town, develops a strange friendship with an emotionally disturbed American soldier who decides to help him get across the border.

Preller, James Bystander(fiction)

Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend, but something doesn't seem right about him. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin. Eric wants to break away and do the right thing, but in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander...to the bully's next victim.

Robinson, Sharon Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By (nonfiction)

This inspiring collection pays tribute to baseball legend and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson. Jackie's daughter, Sharon Robinson, acts as a personal tour guide through the nine heartfelt, hard-won values that helped her father achieve his goals.

Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday Wars (fiction)

On Wednesday afternoons, Holling Hoodhood stays after school with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling is convinced hates his guts. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island during the late '60s.

Swanson, James Chasing Lincoln's Killer (nonfiction)

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

Westerfield, Scott Uglies (fiction)

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.