

GRADE 6

Moderate to Challenging

The Old Willis Place by Mary Downing Hahn

Diana lives secretly with her brother Georgie in the woods near the old Willis place. When a new caretaker moves in, she desperately wants to be friends with his daughter, Lissa. Can she convince Lissa not to disturb the evil spirit that dwells there as well?

Becoming Naomi Leone by Pam Munoz Ryan

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

The Wizard's Test by Hilari Bell

Fourteen-year-old Dayven is devastated when he learns he has wizard powers, since wizards are considered to be disloyal deceivers who believe in nothing...until he undergoes wizard training.

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff

Lily's lies can't make this summer during World War II any better – only a friend can do that.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

In this magical adventure, a young girl discovers that she can make book characters come to life by reading out loud.

Sadako and The Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

This is a story of Sadako Sasaki, who was two when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. As a result of radiation from the bomb, Sadako developed leukemia.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Mattie Cook has just lost her childhood playmate to the fever raging across mosquito-infested Philadelphia, and struggles to keep her family and their business alive.

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford

Three runaway pets, a brave young Labrador retriever, the roguish bull terrier, and the indomitable Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness to make their way home to the family they love.

Rules by Cynthia Lord

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.

Larklight: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space by Philip Reeve

In an alternate Victorian England, Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a space house, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system as it exists.

Yellow Star by Jennifer Roy

Sylvia was four years old when the Nazis forced Jews from her town in Poland into the Lodz Ghetto. Six years later, she was one of only twelve children survivors to be liberated from the ghetto. Written in free verse.

The Seer of Shadows by Avi.

In New York City in 1872, fourteen-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs, but when Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn.

Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell.

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

Knucklehead by Jon Scieszka

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

Someone Named Eva by Joan M. Wolf

From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

Schooled by Gordon Korman

When Capricorn's hippie grandmother falls ill and she can no longer continue to homeschool him, he must attend public school and experience life with his peers for the first time.

Less challenging

Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff

When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech

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

Liberation of Gabriel King by K.L Going

In Georgia during the summer of 1976, Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African American girl who is facing prejudice, decide to overcome their many fears together as they enter fifth grade.

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice.

Love That Dog by Sharon Creech

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Missing May by Cynthia Rylant

Aunt May was a very special person, and summer and Uncle Ob are having a difficult time getting along without her. This Newbery is filled with love, loss, and healing.

Science Experiments You Can Eat by Vicki Cobb

This collection of experiments using household materials will give children and their parents many hours of fun and tasty learning.

Swindle by Gordon Korman

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily

guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker.

Wanna Bet? 7 Science Challenges Bound To Fool You by Vicki Cobb and Kathy Darling

This book provides ideas for many experiments that will surprise and delight young scientists.

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements

The fifth graders annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.