

Bulkeley Middle School  
Summer Reading  
2011



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Annotated List

*Annotations from the Library of Congress*

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**Abrahams, Peter. *Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery.***

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth-grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.

**Appelt, Kathi. *The Underneath.***

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack and two kittens born underneath the house endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

**Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting.***

The Tuck family is apprehensive when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now know about their own fountain of youth.

**Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer.***

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

**Creech, Sharon. *Walk Two Moons.***

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy.***

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

**Cushman, Karen. *Matilda Bone*.**

Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.

**Dahl, Roald. *Matilda*.**

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

**DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie*.**

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

**DiCamillo, Kate. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.**

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

**DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember*.**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

**Ferris, Jean. *Once Upon a Marigold*.**

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

**Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*.**

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

**Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*.**

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

**Henkes, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean*.**

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

**Horvath, Polly. *Everything on a Waffle*.**

Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*.**

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

**Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*.**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

**Marrin, Albert. *Oh, Rats! : The Story of Rats and People*.**

Presents the history of rats and humans. Describes how rats have been eaten, used for medical research, enjoyed as pets, and reviled as carriers of disease.

**Meyer, L.A. *Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jackey" Faber, Ship's Boy. (and rest of series)***

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

**Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon (and sequels)*.**

In Alagaësia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

**Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky*.**

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

**Paulsen, Gary. *Harris and Me.***

Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

**Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet.***

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

**Piven, Jonathan and David Borgenicht. *The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook.***

Experts provide step-by-step instructions for escaping from, avoiding, or surviving a wide range of dire situations.

**Sachar, Louis. *Holes.***

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

**Said, S.F. *Varjak Paw.***

Guided by the spirit of his legendary Mesopotamian ancestor, Jalal, Varjak Paw, a pure-bred cat, leaves his home and pampered existence and sets out to save his family from the evil Gentleman who took their owner, the Contessa, away.

**Said, S. F. *The Outlaw Varjak Paw.***

During a harsh winter, Varjak Paw, a cat with great powers, leads his companions as they search for food, elude dangerous gangs, and hope to locate a hidden city where they can all be safe.

**Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret : A Novel in Words and Pictures.***

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee.***

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

**Tolan, Stephanie. *Surviving the Applewhites*.**

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

**Whelan, Gloria. *Homeless Bird*.**

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.