

## Recommended Books for Sixth Grade

Please pick a book from the list below for your Summer Reading Assignment. If you would like to read one not on this list, please email me at [mgallop@ridgescroft.org](mailto:mgallop@ridgescroft.org) for book approval.

Angelberger: *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* (realistic fiction) Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.

Cushman: *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* (historical fiction)

In 1849, twelve-year-old California Morning, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.

Di Camillo: *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread* (fantasy)

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

DuPrau: *City of Ember* (science fiction)

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.

Fleischman: *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini* (biography)

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life and great accomplishments in show business, the story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos and author's notes.

Friedman: *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* (narrative nonfiction)

Covers the events surrounding and including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the end of segregation on buses.

Giff: *Nory Ryan's Song* (historical fiction)

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.

Golding: *The Secret Within* (realistic fiction)

Carly Chambers spends her summer days delivering mysterious packages for her harsh father but when she sneaks out at night to find some freedom, she faces danger from all sides.

Isaacs: *Torn Thread* (historical fiction)

In an attempt to save his daughter's life, Eva's father sends her from Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia where she and her sister survive the war.

Kehret: *Abduction!* (realistic fiction)

Thirteen-year-old Bonnie has a feeling of foreboding on the very day that her six-year-old brother Matt and their dog Pookie are abducted, and she becomes involved in a major search effort as well as a frightening adventure.

Levine: *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story* (biography, narrative nonfiction)

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

Lourie: *The Manatee Scientist: Saving Vulnerable Species* (nonfiction) with the goal of protecting the docile and sometimes elusive manatee.

Rhodes: *Ninth Ward* (realistic fiction)

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them.

Ryan: *Esperanza Rising* (realistic fiction)

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Selznick: *The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures* (historical fiction)

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.

Smith: *Peak* (realistic fiction, adventure)

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Vanderpool: *Moon over Manifest* (historical fiction) Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the

daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Middle School Outline Template for Book Report

This template will map out the information you need to include in your book report. As you read the book, fill in the sections for this template. You will receive a grade for this template and for the report (see points next to each item). When you go to write your book report, be sure to include the information completed on the following pages. **The final report must be typed and double spaced. Be sure to hand into your Reading teacher both this template and the book report when you return to school.**

**Introductory paragraph - What is the name and author of the book on which you are choosing to write? (2 pts.)**

Book title : \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**Write at least 3 facts about the author (Where is he/she from? What kinds of books does he/she write? About what topics does he/she write?) (3 pts.)**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2nd paragraph

Write 1-2 sentences that give a brief summary of the book (ex: *Loser* is the story of Donald Zinkoff, a student who struggles to stand strong even though he is constantly teased by his classmates.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Write 2-3 sentences that describe the setting of the book (Where and when does the story take place? How is the setting significant to the story?)( 8 pts)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### 3rd paragraph

Write a topic sentence about the major characters of the book (ex: There are several main characters involved in the book *The Giver*) (8 pts.)

- \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the main characters in the book in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph (you may have 2, 3, 4, 5 or more important characters). Include characteristics of the characters that are important to the story.

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\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4th paragraph

Write a topic sentence about the main events that occur in the book (ex: There are several main events that happen in the story of *The Giver*) (10 pts.)

- \_\_\_\_\_

Include the main events of the book in the 4th paragraph:

- First, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Next, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Then, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Finally, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The 5th paragraph will discuss a section of the book you found to be most interesting.  
Start out this paragraph with the following quote.**

“The part of the book I found to be most interesting is around page \_\_\_\_\_, when . . . .”  
(jot down some of the interesting details here) (4 pts.)

Give at least 2 reasons why this part is interesting to you:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The 6th paragraph will tell why you liked or disliked the book**

The topic sentence should include whether you **liked** or **disliked** the book.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Include 3-4 sentences that tell **why** you liked, or disliked or the book. (6 pts.)

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_