

**SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST
2010**

Directions: You will read at least **three** books this summer for summer reading. Read When You Reach Me and then choose at least two other books from different genres on the list.

All-form book, required for all incoming sixth graders

Stead, Rebecca

When You Reach Me

ISBN 978-0-385-73742-5

This is a hardcover book, but I did find it on Amazon for \$9.35, or you may borrow it from your local library.

Miranda is a sixth grade girl who loses her best friend, receives weird notes from a mysterious “stranger,” and is the only person who can stop a terribly tragic death from happening. In this book, Miranda is taken on a journey that forces her to open her mind and imagination further than she ever would. She must use the clues from the notes, her favorite book, and her sharp wit to figure out what is happening to her life. Trips to a dentist’s office, talks about broccoli gardens, and the crazy “Laughing Man” on the corner all confuse and seem insignificant to Miranda, but she later realizes how important they actually are.

Karen Shi

Classics

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

The Secret Garden

Mary Lennox becomes an orphan when a cholera plague hits India. She is sent to live with her uncle at Misselthwaite Manor, a big house in Yorkshire, England. She meets her cousin Colin, who is sick and always stays in bed. Everyone thinks he will die soon, but Mary and a secret garden are able to turn his health around.

Katy Donnelly

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

The Little Princess

Sara Crewe has that perfect life everybody dreams of; the wealth, the love, the food, all hers. But when disaster strikes, Sara must live in the opposite world of hatred and rags. With a new friend named Becky, she fights her way back with the help of a monkey, a great imagination, and hope.

Sunho Paik

Rawls, Wilson

Where the Red Fern Grows

This is an outstanding classic about a boy and his hunting dogs. Billy Colman lives in the hills of the Ozarks, and he has worked hard to acquire two one-of-a-kind coon hounds, Little Ann and Old Dan. They successfully hunt and win the gold cup, a hunting championship, but will their success together continue?

Blake Goodman

Sewell, Anna

Black Beauty

Black Beauty has been sold to many different masters, kind and cruel. Will he find the right master and be able to face the challenges ahead?

Leah Liu

Stevenson, Robert Louis

Treasure Island

Jim holds the map to the treasure of the late Captain Flint. This attracts the attention of many pirates, including the notorious Long John Silver. These pirates will stop at nothing to get the treasure and are willing to kill for it. Find out if Jim stays alive or perishes in this timeless classic.

Akul Mitra

Fantasy

Barry, David and Ridley Pearson

Peter and the Starcatchers (or any in the series)

In this humorous story that tells how Peter Pan became Peter Pan, Peter and his friends are loaded onto a ship without knowing where they are going or why. Then Peter meets a girl named Molly, and his whole life is changed as he enters a race to stop The Others from gaining possession of the most powerful substance in the world.

Will Dively

Bujor, Flavia

Prophecy of the Stones

Opal, Jade, and Amber are in for a surprise. They are celebrating their fourteenth birthdays, and each is very different. The one thing they have in common is they were all just given a secret, powerful stone and told to meet under a certain tree. Once they meet, they are sent on a dangerous quest to save the land of Fairytale.

Isabella Nairn

Collins, Suzanne

Gregor the Overlander (or any in the series)

Battles underground of giant bats, giant evil rats and humans Oh my! Find all of this in the thrill-packed adventure of Gregor, a human, who goes underground to the Underland to find his dad. His sister, Boots, becomes a princess of giant cockroaches. Gregor is sent on a quest told by a prophecy written by crazy Bartholomew of Sandwich. In the end Gregor realizes that his enemies are not always clear. I strongly recommend this book to all fantasy readers in Middle School.

Coleman Richards

DiCamillo, Kate

The Tale of Despereaux

Despereaux is not your average mouse. He has large ears, a body too small for his head, and a clever mind that he uses to read, talk to humans, and eventually save a princess. Now do you believe me? This story will take you on a suspenseful and heroic adventure. You will meet many different characters who all play an important role in DiCamillo's wonderful fantasy.

Abbie Minard

Jacques, Brian

Redwall (or any in the series)

In this adventure, a brave, young mouse named Matthias lives in an abbey but longs to be a warrior. When the evil Cluny the Rat comes to the abbey, he has his chance. Matthias must find the sword of Martin the Warrior, but will his bravery be enough to save his friends and the precious abbey from the terrible Cluny?

Phoebe Thompson

Riodan, Rick

The Red Pyramid

When Carter Kane visits his sister in England, he expects it will be just as boring as usual. What he doesn't expect is that his father is linked with the Egyptian gods, and he and his sister will need to go on a quest to save the world from impending evil.

Noah McDaniel

General Fiction

Birdsall, Jane

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy (or any in the series)

This book is an entertaining tale of the Penderwick sisters, Rosalind, Skye, Jane, and Batty. Rosalind is a very responsible thirteen-year-old who has taken care of her younger sisters since their mother died. Twelve-year-old Skye is adventurous and doesn't wait for a reason to do something, she just plunges right in. Jane, who is ten, is dreamy and wants to become a writer. Batty is a shy, four-year-old who is always wearing her black and orange wings. They head up to a cottage behind a mansion and meet Jeffery, a boy with parent troubles. His mom is a major snob, so the four adventurous girls have trouble staying out of her way chasing their dog, and Cagney's two rabbits, Yaz and Carla.

Noami Shimada

Creech, Sharon

Absolutely Normal Chaos

Mary Lou Finney is assigned to write a summer journal. She does not know what a journal is so she writes six funny journals of the summer. In the beginning Mary Lou hates her cousin Carl Ray. When she falls in love with her boyfriend and finds out about her cousin's crazy life, her world flips upside down.

Erica Concordia

Flake, Sharon

The Skin I'm In

A thirteen-year-old girl is tormented by her classmates and desperately wants to fit in at school. Maleeka does things she'll regret forever to figure out if she likes the skin she is in.

Tyler Demchak

Hobbs, Will

Down River

At a camp for problem teens, several kids decide to leave the scheduled activities and take an illegal rafting trip down the Colorado River without a permit. Danger and adventure await Jesse and her friends. Troy, who she thought was one of the leaders, turns out to be the most dangerous of all. Jessie finds friends for life and also enemies in an adventure she will never forget.

Jack Fako

Lupica, Mike

Travel Team

Danny Walker is one of Middletown's best basketball players, but he is cut from the travel team because he is too short. Danny's dad starts a different travel team, but it is not very good. Can Danny fight through the stress and rally his team to beat their rivals, the team Danny was cut from, or will he give up?

Adam Hart

Historical Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Fever 1793

Mattie and her mother run a popular restaurant in Philadelphia in 1793, but soon she and her grandfather have to leave the city in order to escape the quickly spreading yellow fever that is killing people throughout the city. Once they get back home, Mattie's mother is nowhere to be found, and Mattie's troubles seem to be just beginning. Will Mattie survive the fever and will she find her mother again?

Louis Berry

Avi

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

In 14th century England, Crispin is a young boy being hunted down after being falsely accused of a crime. He and his friend, Bear, must also solve the mystery of his past in this suspenseful book.

Alison Thai

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Elijah of Buxton

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Follett Destiny

Mazer, Harry

A Boy at War (or any in the series)

Adam a high-school student living in Honolulu never thinks he will see a boat sink. That all changes when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. Because his father is a navy lieutenant on the Arizona he takes the attack personally.

Henry Walsh

Memoir and Nonfiction

Cox, Lynne

Grayson

When Lynne is swimming her daily routine off the coast of California, she encounters a baby whale that has lost his mother. She has to decide whether to try to find the mother or whether to leave the whale behind.

Audrey Koi

Dahl, Roald

Boy: Tales of Childhood

Roald Dahl's autobiography tells what it was like to go to an English boy's boarding school. Dahl's stories are filled with strange schoolmates, mischievous pranks and painful discipline.

Angus McDonald

Mah, Adeline Yen

Chinese Cinderella

Adeline feels like she is unwanted. Her family says she is unlucky because her mother died giving birth to her. The only person who really cares for her is her aunt. Will she be loved again?

Arriona Lewis

Pfotzer, Mark and Jack Galvin

Within Reach: My Everest Story

A boy named Mark who is thirteen years old is a great climber and dreams of climbing Mount Everest. After years of training, Mark attempts to be the youngest climber ever to reach the top of Everest. Is he too young, will he survive, and is he prepared?

Zeke Rosenbloom

Walker, Paul Robert

Pride of Puerto Rico

Roberto Clemente lives and breathes baseball. When he becomes a man, he is at the top of his game and is offered the chance to play with the Pittsburgh Pirates. However, people in America do not accept him because of the color of his skin. Roberto hates the taunts, but will his love of baseball overcome the racism of some of his fans?

Grant Newman

Mystery

Balliett, Blue

Chasing Vermeer (or any in the series)

Calder and Petra each think the other is strange. They come together when their curiosity and wild imaginations get them caught up in a mystery of a heist of a valuable painting by Johannes Vermeer. Everyone is a suspect as they try to unravel a mystery that even the F.B.I. has failed to solve.

Jacob Horne

John Grisham

Theodore Boone : Kid Lawyer

Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer.

Follett Destiny

Selznick, Brian

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Hugo loves fixing and inventing. However, will his love for inventing and a special machine lead him to an unexpected person's past? This story is filled not only with words but also amazing pictures that are just as important to the story as the words.

Katrina Manrique

Stewart, Trenton Lee and Carson Ellis

The Mysterious Benedict Society (or any in the series)

“ARE YOU A GIFTED CHILD LOOKING FOR SPECIAL OPPORTUNITES? How odd, he thought. The question was addressed directly to children, not to their parents.” When this bizarre ad pops up in the newspaper, many children arrive to take a number of mysterious tests, but only four pass all of them. These four, Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance are to be secret agents. Again and again they must fight their way through many situations to gain knowledge of the utmost secrecy and importance, but can the four destroy their worst enemy of all?

Priyanka Shah

Van Draanen, Wendelin

Sammy Keyes and the Cold Hard Cash

Thirteen-year-old Sammy meets a mysterious man who dies of a heart attack after telling her to get rid of the large amount of money he is carrying, leading her to investigate who the man was and how he came to be carrying so much cash.

Follett Destiny

Science Fiction

DuPrau, Jeanne

City of Ember (or any in the series)

Doone and Lina are two friends that meet in a post-Armageddon town that is breaking down. Their only power resource is an old battery engine that was made by their ancestors. The engine is failing, and there not a lot of time left. Will the lost pieces of a note that Lina finds help them save themselves and the community?

Tim Granato

Farmer, Nancy

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm

In the future of Zimbabwe, three children of a particularly powerful and wealthy Japanese General named Matsika long for adventure. Their wish is granted with a twist that they never could have imagined. Fortunately, three rather unusual detectives are on the move to get the children home.

Mara Barron

Hawking, Stephen and Lucy Hawking

George's Secret Key to the Universe (or any in the series)

It all starts when George's pet pig escapes and he meets his new neighbors. There he discovers a semi-alive laptop computer that helps him zoom through space and ride on a rushing comet. He learns about the planets, comets, and black holes along the way while fleeing an evil scientist.

Roy Navid

L'Engle, Madeline

A Wrinkle in Time (or any in the series)

Read the book that inspired When You Reach Me. When Meg is visited by three strange women they take her on a trip through time and to different planets to try to find her father. Although Meg often feels awkward in this world, she needs to use her intelligence and strength to keep herself on course throughout this fantastical journey.

Ms. Heiler