



# SHADY SIDE

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## ACADEMY

## Middle School Summer Reading 2019

### SIXTH GRADE Summer Reading List

Directions: You will read at least **four** books this summer for summer reading. Choose **three** or more books from different genres on the list. Then read Fever 1793 toward the end of the summer so that it is fresh in your mind when school starts.

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#### All-form book, required for all incoming sixth graders

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Anderson, Laurie Halse

#### **Fever 1793**

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

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#### Hot off the Press!

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Auxier, Jonathan

#### **Sweep**

Nan Sparrow is one of London's countless "climbers"--children who spend their days cleaning chimneys. The work is brutal and dangerous. Thanks to her wits and will, Nan has managed to beat the deadly odds time and time again. But when she gets stuck in a chimney fire, it seems the end has come. Instead, she awakens to find herself unharmed in an abandoned attic. And she is not alone. Huddled in the corner is a mysterious creature--a golem--made from soot and ash. Together, these two outcasts carve out a new life--saving each other in the process.

Connor, Leslie

#### **The Truth Told by Mason Buttle**

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day.

Medina, Meg

#### **Merci Suárez Changes Gears**

Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately -- forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school.

## Classics

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Babbitt, Natalie

**Tuck Everlasting**

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

**A Little Princess**

Sara Crewe, a pupil at Miss Minchin's London school, is left in poverty when her father dies but is later rescued by a mysterious benefactor.

George, Jean Craighead

**My Side of the Mountain**

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Lewis, C.S.

**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Montgomery, L.M.

**Anne of Green Gables**

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Rawls, Wilson

**Where the Red Fern Grows**

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

## Fantasy

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Chainani, Soman

**The School for Good and Evil** or any in the series

Best friends Sophie (princess wannabe) and Agatha (witchy loner) are headed (via kidnapping) to the School for Good and Evil, but their assumed destinies are reversed.

Barnhill, Kelly

**The Girl Who Drank the Moon**

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Clark, Platte F.

**Bad Unicorn** or any in the series

Max Spencer is an underachiever but when a carnivorous unicorn, Princess the Destroyer, and an evil wizard, Rezormoor, bring him, the only one who can read the legendary Codex of Infinite Knowability, to their magical realm, he must find the courage to save himself, his friends, and the entire human race.

Johnson, Jaleigh

**The Mark of the Dragonfly**

Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands.

Nielsen, Jennifer

**The False Prince** or its sequels

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

Oliver, Lauren

**The Spindlers**

Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother Patrick, whose soul has been stolen by the vilest of creatures--the spider-like spindlers.

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## General Fiction

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Connor, Leslie

**Waiting for Normal**

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Hobbs, Will

**Down River**

Jessie and the other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival school team abandon their adult leader and try to run the dangerous white water of the Grand Canyon.

Kelly, Erin Entrada

**Hello Universe**

The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

Korman, Gordon

**Restart**

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed. Can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?

Reynolds, Jason

**Ghost** or its sequels

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential

Sloan, Holly Goldberg

**Short**

Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a munchkin in a summer regional theater production of The Wizard of Oz.

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### Historical Fiction

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Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

**The War That Saved My Life** or sequel

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Lai, Thanhha

**Inside Out and Back Again**

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

Paulsen, Gary

**Soldier's Heart**

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Whelan, Gloria

**Angel on the Square**

In 1913 Russia, twelve-year-old Katya eagerly anticipates leaving her St. Petersburg home, though not her older cousin Misha, to join her mother, a lady in waiting in the household of Tsar Nicholas II, but the ensuing years bring world war, revolution, and undreamed of changes to her life.

Williams-Garcia, Rita

**One Crazy Summer** or one in series

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Wolk, Lauren

**Beyond the Bright Sea**

Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands off the coast of Massachusetts. But it isn't until the night when a mysterious fire appears across the water that an unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart and an unstoppable chain of events is triggered.

## Memoir and Nonfiction

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Cox, Lynne

**Grayson**

The author describes how, while training for a long-distance swim off the coast of California, she encountered a baby gray whale that had become separated from its mother and had been following her instead, and her efforts to find the baby's mother.

Paulsen, Gary

**My Life in Dog Years**

The author describes how dogs have impacted his life from childhood through the present day, recounting the stories of his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.

Rinaldi, Tom

**The Red Bandana** (Young Readers Edition)

On September 11, 2001, Welles was at his job on the 104<sup>th</sup> floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center when the Twin Towers were attacked. What he did next would alter the course of many lives.  
*—from the publisher*

Shetterly, Margot Lee

**Hidden Figures** (Young Reader's Edition)

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as -human computers- used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Solo, Hope

**Hope Solo: My Story** (Young Readers' Edition)

Hope Solo, Olympic gold medalist and goalie for the US women's national soccer team, tells the exciting insider details of her life on and off the field, in her own words.

Walker, Paul Robert

**Pride of Puerto Rico**

A biography of the baseball superstar from Puerto Rico who, before his untimely death in a 1972 airplane crash, was noted for his achievements on and off the baseball field.

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## Mystery

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Black, Holly

**Doll Bones**

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Korman, Gordon

**Masterminds** or any in the series

A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment.

Ruby, Laura

**York: The Shadow Cipher**

In the 19th century of an alternate universe New York, the Morningstarr twins--brilliant inventors who created steampunk technology and iconic architecture--disappeared and left a puzzle, known as the Old York Cipher. Theo, Tess, and Jaime must solve the cipher if they want to save New York.

Stead, Rebecca

**Liar & Spy**

Seventh-grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy.

Stevens, Robin

**Poison is Not Polite**

In 1930s England, schoolgirl detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are at Daisy's home for the holidays when someone falls seriously, mysteriously ill at a family party, but no one present is what they seem--and everyone has a secret or two--so the Detective Society must do everything they can to reveal the truth . . . no matter the consequences.

Stroud, Jonathan

**The Screaming Staircase** or any in the series

Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.

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## Science Fiction

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DuPrau, Jeanne

**City of Ember** or any in the series

Ember, built as a last refuge for the human race, is running out of power two hundred years later, but twelve-year-old Lina thinks there may yet be hope when she finds part of an ancient message that may hold a key to getting out of the city.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

**Among the Hidden** or any in the series

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

L'Engle, Madeleine

**A Wrinkle in Time** or any in the series

Meg and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

McMann, Lisa

**The Unwanteds**

In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.

Samphire, Patrick

**Secrets of the Dragon Tomb**

Twelve-year-old Edward Sullivan has always dreamed of becoming a spy like the ones he reads of in his favorite magazine, *Thrilling Martian Tales*. Instead, he spends his days keeping his eccentric family from complete disaster ... that is, until the villainous archeologist, Sir Titus Dane, kidnaps Edward's parents as part of a scheme to loot an undiscovered dragon tomb.

Shusterman, Neal

**Tesla's Attic**

With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla.

All annotations courtesy of Follett Library Resources or as otherwise noted