

The Youth Desk

Sixth Grade Books

Adventure

- Couloumbis **The Misadventures of Maude March, or, Trouble Rides a Fast Horse**
By Audrey Couloumbis
Two sisters set out on a wild west adventure after the death of the stern aunt who raised them.
- George **Julie of the Wolves**
By Jean Craighead George
While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a 13-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost in Alaska and befriends a wolf pack.
- George **My Side of the Mountain**
By Jean Craighead George
Sam spends a year living alone in the Catskill Mountains and shares his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and the need for human companionship.
- London **The Call of the Wild**
By Jack London
A family dog is stolen and sold to become a sled dog in the harsh Alaskan wilderness where he must learn the ways of his wolf ancestors in order to survive.
- Oppel **The Boundless**
By Kenneth Oppel
The greatest train ever built is on its maiden voyage across the country and Will has a first class seat, but sinister figures learn that he holds the key to a train car of priceless treasures.
- Walden **H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute of Villainous Education)**
By Mark Walden
Otto is kidnapped and forced to enroll in a super villain training school.

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Fantasy & Sci-Fi

- Auxier **Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes**
By Jonathan Auxier
Blind orphan Peter Nimble, steals three pairs of magical eyes that lead him to a hidden island where he must decide to become a hero or stay a thief.
- Bosch **Bad Magic**
By Pseudonymous Bosch
Clay no longer believes in magic, after being sent to a camp for troublemakers on a volcanic island he discovers a ghost and a dangerous force threatening to erupt.

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- Collins **Gregor the Overlander: Underland Chronicles Book One**
By Suzanne Collins
After falling into the Underland through a grate in his apartment building, Gregor embarks on a dangerous quest to fulfill his destiny.
- DuPrau **The City of Ember**
By Jeanne DuPrau
It is always night in the city of Ember, but there is no moon and no stars. Lina and Doon worry what will happen when the generator dies and the storerooms are empty of food.
- Hale **Princess Academy**
By Shannon Hale
Learning to be a princess is every girl's dream, but the knowledge you gain along the way may make protecting your mountain village more appealing.
- Harrison **13 Treasures**
By Michelle Harrison
Tanya can see fairies, but not the fairies we imagine. Evil fairies who cast spells and get her into trouble.
- Holm **The Fourteenth Goldfish**
By Jennifer L. Holm
Ellie's mother brings home a boy who looks to be about 13, but is really her scientist grandfather who has discovered a way to reverse aging.
- Lee **The Zodiac Legacy**
By Stan Lee
Steven Lee discovers a plot to control the twelve magical super powers of the Chinese Zodiac.
- Riordan **The Lightning Thief**
By Rick Riordan
After discovering his mythological heritage, Percy Jackson sets out on a quest to prevent a war between gods.
- Rowling **The Harry Potter Series**
By J.K. Rowling
A young boy with a great destiny is rescued from a neglectful aunt and uncle and whisked away to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

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Historical Fiction

- Bradley **The War that Saved My Life**
By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
When Ada's little brother is shipped out of London to escape World War II, Ada decides it may be an opportunity to escape their abusive mother too.

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- Choldenko **Al Capone Does My Shirts**
By Gennifer Choldenko
A boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 with his autistic sister after his dad gets a job as a prison guard.
- Curtis **Elijah of Buxton**
By Christopher Paul Curtis
In 1859, Elijah is the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada and uses his wits and skills to bring a lying preacher to justice.
- Erdrich **The Birchbark House**
By Louise Erdrich
Omakayas, a seven-year-old girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.
- Hesse **Out of the Dust**
By Karen Hesse
Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
- Ryan **Esperanza Rising**
By Pam Munoz Ryan
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their wealthy life in Mexico to work labor camps in Southern California during the Great Depression.
- Schmidt **The Wednesday Wars**
By Gary Schmidt
In 1967, when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew class on Wednesday afternoons, Holling stays alone with Mrs. Baker and learns what makes a person a hero.
- Speare **The Witch of Blackbird Pond**
By Elizabeth George Speare
In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit feels out of place in her Puritan household and befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community.
- Vanderpool **Moon Over Manifest**
By Clare Vanderpool
In the summer of 1936, Abilene's father sends her to stay in Manifest, Kansas with one of his childhood friends where she discovers her own past, a local mystery, and a community impacted by prejudice.

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Horror

- Auxier **The Night Gardener**
By Jonathan Auxier
Orphans Molly and Kip travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling and cursed manor house.

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- Beatty **Serafina and the Black Cloak**
By Robert Beatty
The brave and unusual Serafina must solve the dark and dangerous mystery behind disappearing children at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.
- Gaiman **Coraline**
By Neil Gaiman
Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, but disturbingly different from her own.
- Shan **A Living Nightmare: Cirque Du Freak Book 1**
Two best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider leads them to life-changing choices.

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Humor

- Gantos **Dead End in Norvelt**
By Jack Gantos
Twelve-year-old Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various reasons, helping a feisty, old neighbor, learning about the eccentric people who founded his town, with lots of bloody noses, and investigating a murder.
- Patterson **I Funny**
By James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein
Jamie Grimm wants to become the world's best standup comedian, but he's stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie.
- Peck **A Long Way from Chicago**
By Richard Peck
Joey and his sister spend the summer in rural Illinois during the Great Depression with their larger-than-life grandmother.
- Smith **Return to Augie Hobble**
By Lane Smith
Augie lives in a fairy tale themed amusement park run by his father, but his life is turning into a nightmare. He must take summer school, the girl he has a crush on won't acknowledge him, and he might be turning into a werewolf.

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Mystery

- Allison **Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator**
By Jennifer Allison
Gilda visits the mansion of her distant cousin to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower.

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- Balliett **Chasing Vermeer**
By Blue Balliett
Petra and Calder combine talents to solve the international mystery of the missing Vermeer painting, a case that has even stumped the FBI.
- Berk **Strike Three, You're Dead**
By Josh Berk
Lenny Norbeck and his friends The Mikes set out to investigate the suspicious death of a young pitcher at a Phillies game.
- Gibbs **Belly Up: FunJungle Book One**
By Stuart Gibbs
Teddy believes hippopotamus homicide occurred at the new local zoo, despite the zoo's claim that Henry the hippo died of natural causes.
- Grisham **Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer**
By John Grisham
Theo is challenged to prove is amateur attorney chops when pulled into a sensational murder trial in his small town.
- Springer **The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery**
By Nancy Springer
The much younger sister of Sherlock Holmes must travel London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.
- Stewart **The Mysterious Benedict Society**
By Trenton Lee Stewart
After passing a series of tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened.

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Realistic Fiction

- Alexander **The Crossover**
By Kwame Alexander
Twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with high and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.
- Martin **Rain Reign**
By Ann M. Martin
Rose is forced to go outside of her comfort zone when her beloved dog goes missing during a storm.
- Mass **Every Soul a Star**
By Wendy Mass
A future homecoming queen, a simple girl, and a loner boy cross paths and find unlikely friendships amidst a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun.

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Philbrick **The Young Man and the Sea**
By Rodman Philbrick
After his mother's death, Skiff takes it upon himself to support his father and undertakes a dangerous trip out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to catch a giant bluefin tuna.

Sloan **Counting by 7s**
By Holly Goldberg Sloan
After her parents are killed in a car accident, the extremely analytical and idiosyncratic Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself.

Stead **Goodbye Stranger**
By Rebecca Stead
Bridge makes her way through seventh grade in Manhattan with her best friends and finds the answer to the question, "What is my purpose?"

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Graphic Novels

Deutsch **Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword**
By Barry Deutsch
Mirka isn't interested in knitting lesson from her stepmother or how-to-find-husband advice from her sister, she just wants to fight dragons.

Humphreys **Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls Are Used in War**
By Jessica Dee Humphreys and Michel Chikwanine
A graphic novel memoir of a five-year-old who was kidnapped by rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo while he played soccer at school.

Jamieson **Roller Girl**
By Victoria Jamieson
Astrid plans to spend her summer learning the awesome sport of Roller Derby at camp, but her best friend chooses ballet camp instead which may pull their friendship apart.

Orchard **Bera the One-Headed Troll**
By Eric Orchard
A human baby mysteriously arrived in the realm of the trolls and Bera seems to be the only person who doesn't want it dead. When the supposed troll heroes are no help in returning the baby to the humans, Bera finds herself on a quest.

Smith **Bone: Out From Boneville**
By Jeff Smith
Dark forces are conspiring against the three Bone cousins who have been run out of

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Boneville.

Telgemeier

Drama

By Raina Telgemeier

Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of *Moon over Mississippi*.

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Nonfiction

001.94 MacLeod

Vanished: True Tales of Mysterious Disappearances

By Elizabeth MacLeod

Six of the world's most bewildering disappearances, including an Alcatraz prison break and the ghost ship *Mary Celeste*.

599.9 Deem

Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past

By James M. Deem

Learn about the oldest human mummy preserved in ice ever found and the secrets given up by glaciers over the years.

629.45 Stone

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream

By Tanya Lee Stone

Thirteen women proved they were as tough as men and brave enough to go where no woman had gone before.

910.916 Hopkinson

Titanic: Voices from the Disaster

By Deborah Hopkinson

The tragic story of the Titanic through the voices of real survivors.

921 Leyson

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the impossible become possible...on Schindler's List

By Leon Leyson

Leyson was 10 years old when his family was forced into the Krakow ghetto during WWII. He describes the brutal treatment, struggle to survive, and his time working in Oskar Schindler's factory.

977.311 Murphy

The Great Fire

By Jim Murphy

Story of the 1871 Chicago fire told through the eyes of several survivors plus archival photos and maps.