

SIXTH GRADE

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 4.7 Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou keeps a summer journal which chronicles her first experiences with romance, homesickness, and death.

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller by Joseph Lambert (Non-fiction)

AR: 4.4 Helen Keller lost her ability to see and hear before she turned two years old. But in her lifetime, she learned to ride-horseback and dance the foxtrot. She graduated from Radcliffe. She became a world famous speaker and author. She befriended Mark Twain, Charlie Chaplin, and Alexander Graham Bell. And above all, she revolutionized public perception and treatment of the blind and the deaf.

The Big Field by Mike Lupica (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 5.3 Hutch feels threatened when Darryl becomes the shortstop and Hutch is relegated to second base. He tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John H. Ritter (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 4.4 The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

Breathing Room by Marsha Hayles (Fiction)

AR: 5.3 Evvy Hoffmeister is thirteen years old when her family brings her to Loon Lake Sanatorium to get cured of tuberculosis (TB). Evvy is frightened by her new surroundings; the rules to abide are harsh and the nurses equally rigid. But Evvy soon falls into step with the other girls in her ward. There's Sarah, quiet but thoughtful; Pearl, who adores Hollywood glamour; and Dina, whose harshness conceals a deep strength. Together, the girls brave the difficult daily routines. Set in 1940 at a time of political unrest throughout the U.S. and Europe, this thought-provoking novel sheds light on a much feared worldwide illness. Hundreds of thousands of people died each year of TB, and many ill children were sent away to sanatoriums to hopefully recover

Cardboard by Doug TenNapel (Non-Fiction) (Graphic Novel)

AR: 2.2 Cam gets a cardboard box for a birthday present that he makes into a man which comes to life, but when his neighbor Marcus takes the cardboard box, he creates his own evil creations that threaten to destroy them all.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson (nonfiction)

AR: 7.5 This book recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

Chasing Vermeer (series) by Blue Balliett (Mystery, Adventure)

AR: 5.4 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.

Closed for the Season by Mary Downing Hahn (Mystery)

AR: 4.4 When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

Football Genius by Tim Green (realistic fiction)

AR: 4.8 Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

The Frog Princess (series) by E.D. Baker (Fantasy, Adventure)

AR: 4.8 After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means, and the self-confidence, to become human again.

The Frog Scientist by Pamela S. Turner (Non-Fiction)

AR: 6.3 A professor in Berkeley, California, Dr. Tyrone Hayes studies the effects of pesticides

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg (Mystery, Adventure)

AR: 4.7 When Claudia decided to run away, she planned very carefully. She would be gone just long enough to teach her parents a lesson in Claudia appreciation. And she would go in comfort—she would live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She saved her money, and she invited her brother Jamie to go, mostly because he was a miser and would have money.

Claudia was a good organizer and Jamie had some ideas, too; so the two took up residence at the museum right on schedule. But once the fun of settling in was over, Claudia had two unexpected problems: She felt just the same, and she wanted to feel different; and she found a statue at the Museum so beautiful she could not go home until she had discovered its maker, a question that baffled the experts, too.

The former owner of the statue was Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. Without her—well, without her, Claudia might never have found a way to go home.

Great Hitters of the Negro Leagues by Paul Hoblin (Non-Fiction)

AR: 5.8 Great Hitters of the Negro Leagues covers the best batters in black baseball. Step up to the plate for vivid accounts of legendary players such as John Henry Lloyd, Dick Lundy, Willie Wells, Oscar Charleston, Oliver Marcell, James Bell, etc.

Hip-hop Dancing by Joan Freese (Non – fiction)

AR: 4.8 Describes hip-hop dancing, including history, training, moves, and competition.

Hokey Pokey by Jerry Spinelli (Fiction)

AR: 3.6 Welcome to Hokey Pokey. A place and a time, when childhood is at its best: games to play, bikes to ride, experiences to be had. There are no adults in Hokey Pokey, just kids, and the laws governing Hokey Pokey are simple and finite. But when one of the biggest kids, Jack, has his beloved bike stolen—and by a girl, no less—his entire world, and the world of Hokey Pokey, turns to chaos. Without his bike, Jack feels like everything has started to go wrong. He feels different, not like himself, and he knows something is about to change. And even more troubling he alone hears a faint train whistle. But that's impossible: every kid knows there no trains in Hokey Pokey, only tracks.

How to Catch a Bogle by Catherine Jinks (Fantasy)

AR: 5.2 Birdie McAdam, a ten-year-old orphan, is tougher than she looks. She's proud of her job as apprentice to Alfred the Bogler, a man who catches monsters for a living. Birdie lures the bogles out of their lairs with her sweet songs, and Alfred kills them before they kill her. On the mean streets of Victorian England, hunting bogles is actually less dangerous work than mudlarking for scraps along the vile river Thames. Or so it seems—until the orphans of London start to disappear . . .

- Malice by Chris Wooding (Fantasy)**
AR: 4.5 Everyone has heard the rumors that if you gather the right things and say the right words, you'll be taken to Malice, a world that exists inside a horrifying comic book. Seth and Kady think it's all a silly myth until one of their friends disappears.
- Masterminds Series by Gordon Korman (Adventure)**
Criminal Destiny AR 5.0
 "A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment, and they must find a way to prove it to the rest of the world."
Payback AR 5.1
 "Fighting for survival after being separated into pairs in the aftermath of a betrayal, the Project Osiris clones search for notorious mob boss Gus Alabaster while tracking down Eli's elusive DNA donor alongside a surprising new ally.."
- Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli (historical fiction)**
AR: 3.6 This book follows a young Jewish orphan in the Warsaw ghetto during World War II as he slowly understands the horrible reality that surrounds him and attempts to steal in order to help others survive.
- Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (Adventure)**
AR: 4.4 Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. He travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.
- Missing May by Cynthia Rylant (Realistic Fiction)**
AR: 5.3 After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her Uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.
- The Name of This Book Is Secret (series) by Pseudonymous Bosch (Mystery, Adventure)**
AR: 5.6 When Cass and Max-Ernest find a mysterious case containing vials of liquid and an encoded message asking for help, the two friendless eleven-year olds decide to investigate.
- Navy: Civilian to Sailor by Meish Goldish (Non-Fiction)**
AR: 6.2 What does it take to become a member of the United States Navy? Kids will find out in this exciting look inside the U.S. Navy's training program. Readers will learn all about the Recruit Training Command training facility in Great Lakes, Illinois, where all Navy recruits go for boot camp
- The Red Blazer Girls: The Ring of Rocamadour by Michael D. Beil (Mystery)**
AR: 4.4 Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years before.
- Road Trip by Jim Paulsen (Fiction)**
AR: 4.3 Dad and Ben haven't been getting along recently and Dad hopes a road trip to rescue a border collie will help them reconnect. But Ben is on to Dad's plan and invites Ben's thuggish buddy, Theo. The family dog, Atticus, comes along too and the story is told by Ben and Atticus. When their truck breaks down, they commandeer an old school bus, along with its mechanic, Gus. Next, they pick up Mia, a waitress escaping a tense situation. Only sharp-eyed Atticus realizes that Theo is on the run—and someone is following them.

Talking Leaves by Joseph Bruchac (Historical Fiction)

AR: 4.8 "Thirteen-year-old Uwohali has not seen his father, Sequoyah, for many years. So when Sequoyah returns to the village, Uwohali is eager to reconnect. But Sequoyah's new obsession with making strange markings causes friends and neighbors in their tribe to wonder whether he is crazy, or worse—practicing witchcraft. What they don't know, and what Uwohali discovers, is that Sequoyah is a genius and his strange markings are actually an alphabet representing the sounds of the Cherokee language. The story of one of the most important figures in Native American history is brought to life for middle grade readers."

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo (Adventure)

AR: 4.7 This story tells 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.

The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 4.0 Rob, who passes the time in his rural Florida community by wood carving, is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (Historical Fiction, Fantasy)

AR: 4.5 A twelve-year-old New York City girl living in the 1980s tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

The Wild Girls by Pat Murphy (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 4.1 When thirteen-year-old Joan moves to California in 1972, she becomes friends with Sarah. After winning a writing contest together, they are recruited for an exclusive summer writing class that gives them new insights into themselves and others.

Wild Women of the Wild West by Jonah Winter (Non-Fiction)

AR: 6.0 From Annie Oakley to Polly Pry, biographical sketches, color portraits, and sepia line drawings reveal the accomplishments of 15 amazing women whose adventurous spirit helped build our nation.

Who is Helen Keller? By Gare Thompson

AR: 4.1 Tells Helen Keller's life story, describing her loss of her sight and hearing in childhood, her learning of language skills with the help of Annie Sullivan, her work to earn her college degree, her fame, and her efforts to help others with disabilities.