



❖ 6th Grade ❖ Best Books of 2019

Best Books lists from previous years may be obtained by request at the Youth Services desk.

**Additional formats available from other libraries and/or downloadable from Libby.*

Alexander, Kwame – *The Undeclared* **+811 Ale, Non-Fiction***

Originally performed for ESPN's *The Undeclared*, this poem is a love letter to black life in the US. It highlights the trauma of slavery, the fire of the civil rights movement, and perseverance of the world's greatest heroes.

Andrews, Ryan – *This was Our Pact* **+Andrews, Graphic Novels**

Ben and his classmates are determined to find out where the annual paper lanterns really go, and travel farther than anyone, down a winding road full of magic, wonder, and unexpected friendship (and a talking bear).

Craft, Jerry – *New Kid* **+Craft, Graphic Novels; +Cra, CD-Audio Books***

7th grader Jordan Banks loves drawing cartoons about his life. Now enrolled in a new prestigious private school, he is one of the few kids of color. Jordan finds himself torn between two worlds and not really fitting into either one.

Drimmer, Stephanie Warren – *Surprising Stories Behind Everyday Stuff* **+031.02 Dri, Non-Fiction**

Who invented pizza? Why do we shake hands? Why do we wear underwear? Find these answers and more in this book!

Durst, Sarah Beth – *Spark* **+Durst, Fiction**

Naturally quiet since birth, Mina and her stormbeast, Pixit, lead others like themselves in defying authority and attempting to spread the truth that Alorria's idyllic weather comes at a steep cost.

Funaro, Gregory – *Watch Hollow* **+Funaro, Fiction; +Fun, CD-Audio Books***

Within the enchanted woods in Watch Hollow stands the Blackford House, whose halls hold a secret: a giant magical cuckoo clock. But when the clock's gears stop, an evil presence lurking in the trees begins to come out of the shadows.

Gemeinhart, Dan – *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* **+Gemeinhart, Fiction***

Coyote and her father rush to Washington in an old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park to be demolished.

Gibbs, Stuart – *Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation* **+Gibbs, Fiction; +Gib, Digital Audio Players***

The CIA forces Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.

Giff, Patricia Reilly – *A Slip of a Girl* **+Giff, Fiction**

Set during the Irish Land Wars (1879-1882) this novel in verse follows Anna as her mother dies, older sibling immigrates to America, and she and her father and sister with special needs are about to be evicted from their farm.

Gratz, Alan – *Allies* **+Gratz, Fiction; +Gra, CD-Audio Books***

It is June 6, 1944, D-Day, and Dee, an underage private in the US Army, is seeking revenge for his uncle, who was arrested by Nazis. Samira, a French-Algerian girl is looking for the French resistance, desperate to free her mother.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson – *The Strangers* **+Haddix, Fiction; +Had, CD-Audio Books***

In separate viewpoints, the Greystone siblings investigate their mother's disappearance and uncover an alternate world.

Heidicker, Christian McKay – *Scary Stories for Young Foxes* **+Heidicker, Fiction***

The haunted season has arrived in the Antler Wood. No fox kit is safe. When Mia and Uly are separated from their litters, they discover a dangerous world full of monsters.

Heiligman, Deborah – *Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"* **+940.54 Hei, Non-Fiction***

A true account of the attack and sinking of the passenger ship SS City of Benares.

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Henry, Emily – *When the Sky Fell on Splendor*

YA Henry, Fiction

Seventeen-year-old Franny and her friends, The Ordinary, fill their time in traumatized Splendor, Ohio, filming their investigations of local legends for YouTube. When they investigate a cosmic event, everything changes.

Hernandez, Carlos – *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe*

+Hernandez, Fiction; +Her, CD-Audio Books*

In order to heal after his mother's death, Sal learned how to meditate. But no one expected him to be able to 'relax' things into existence. Turns out he can reach into time and space to retrieve things from other universes.

Jenkins, Steve – *Earth by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics*

+550 Jen, Non-Fiction

How old is the earth? Where is the ice three miles thick? Why are volcanoes so dangerous? Where are the wettest and driest spots on the planet? Find the answers to these questions and many more!

Kelly, Erin Entrada – *Lalani of the Distant Sea*

+Kelly, Fiction; +Kel, Digital Audio Players*

When Lalani's mother falls ill with an incurable disease, Lalani embarks on a dangerous journey across the sea to find the fabled girl with golden feet, in the hope of safeguarding her own future.

Khan, Hena – *More to the Story*

+Khan, Fiction; +Kha, Digital Audio Players

Jameela and her sisters are devastated when their father moves overseas for six months, making Jameela determined to write an epic article. When a sister gets seriously ill, her world turns upside down. A modern twist on *Little Women*.

King, A. S. – *The Year We Fell from Space*

+King, Fiction*

Middle schooler, Liberty, likes to make her own maps of the stars. In fact, she is obsessed with them, especially since her family is falling apart. So when a tiny meteorite literally falls in her lap it is like a sign - but a sign of what?

Lai, Remy – *Pie in the Sky*

+Lai, Fiction

When Jingwen moves to a new country, he feels like he's landed on Mars. His father dies before opening his dream bakery, Pie in the Sky, and now Jingwen and his brother have to keep their elaborate cake making habits secret.

Mahoney, Kristin Mary – *The 47 People You'll Meet in Middle School*

+Mahoney, Fiction

Augusta writes letters to her younger sister about life in middle school, from meeting new people to the class pet.

Mbalia, Kwame – *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*

+Mbalia, Fiction; +Mba, Digital Audio Players*

Tristan struggles with guilt since failing to save his best friend in a bus accident. Then he accidentally rips open a chasm that drops him in the middle of a battle featuring black American folk heroes, and they need his help to save their world.

McCaughrean, Geraldine – *Where the World Ends*

YA McCaughrean, Fiction; YA McCaughrean, CD-Audio Books*

In the summer of 1727, Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food, and only the end of the world can explain why no boat returns to collect them.

Meconis, Dylan – *Queen of the Sea*

+Meconis, Graphic Novels

An orphan's and exiled queen's fates intertwine on a remote island. This rich historical fantasy is loosely based on Queen Elizabeth I. Orphan Margaret grapples with the island's sinister purpose, and helping the queen or protecting herself.

Moriarty, Jaclyn – *The Whispering Wars*

+Moriarty, Fiction

Told in multiple voices: After students from elite Brathelthwaite Boarding School and the Orphanage School compete in the Spindthrift Tournament they team up to face the Whisperers.





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Murphy, Julie – *Dear Sweet Pea*

+Murphy, Fiction; +Mur, Digital Audio Players*

Sweet Pea navigates her parents' unconventional divorce and finds herself in the role of her town's advice columnist.

O'Donnell, Tom – *Homerooms & Hall Passes*

+O'Donnell, Fiction

Five adventurers are magically transported into their H&H game by an ancient curse and must band together to survive.

Ogle, Rex – *Free Lunch*

+362.7 Ogl, Non-Fiction*

Rex and his baby brother often went hungry, and Rex was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and humiliation of having to announce it every day, this is a compelling true story.

O'Neill, Katie – *The Tea Dragon Festival*

+O'Neill, Graphic Novels

Rinn has grown up with Tea Dragons, but stumbling across a real dragon turns out to be a different matter entirely! Rinn sets out to discover why this dragon, sent to protect their village 80 years ago, fell into enchanted sleep.

Palacio, R. J. – *White Bird*

+Palacio, Graphic Novels*

Tells the story of Julian's Grandmère's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

Panteleakos, Nicole – *Planet Earth is Blue*

+Panteleakos, Fiction

Autistic and nearly nonverbal, twelve-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return.

Pérez, Celia C. – *Strange Birds*

+Pérez, Fiction*

When a girls' club refuses to change an outdated tradition, friends form a new group that shakes up their Florida town.

Philbrick, W. R. – *Wildfire*

+Philbrick, Fiction; +Phi, Digital Audio Players

Sam misses the evacuation busses as fire races toward his summer camp. A flash of heat blasts him as pine trees explode, and now a wall of fire separates Sam from his bus, and there's only one thing to do: Run for his life. Run or die.

Ramée, Lisa Moore – *A Good Kind of Trouble*

+Ramée, Fiction*

After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.

Resau, Laura – *Tree of Dreams*

+Resau, Fiction; +Res, Digital Audio Players

Coco has grown up in her mother's chocolate shop. When Coco wins a culinary contest, she finds herself on a trip to the Amazon, where she looks for the rare ceiba tree, and the plight of the natives and their jungle gives her a new purpose.

Reynolds, Jason – *Look Both Ways*

+Reynolds, Fiction; +Rey, CD-Audio Books; +Rey, Digital Audio Players*

Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

Ritter, William – *Changeling*

+Ritter, Fiction*

Twelve-year-olds Tinn and Cole, raised as human twins in sleepy Endsborough, risk their lives in the Wild Wood, Oddmire Swamp, and the Deep Dark to learn which of them is a goblin changeling with an important mission.

Rundell, Katherine – *The Good Thieves*

+Rundell, Fiction*

In 1920s New York City, a girl with a deformed foot recruits her new friends, a female pickpocket and two circus performers, to help recover an emerald from her grandfather's mansion after he loses it to an unscrupulous tycoon.





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Sandler, Martin W. – *1919 the Year that Changed America*

+973.913 San, Non-Fiction

Prohibition, women's suffrage, a Communist takeover and the labor strikes - this book explores movements of 1919.

Shirahama, Kamome – *Witch Hat Atelier*

YA Shirahama, Graphic Novels

In a world where everyone takes wonders like magic spells and dragons for granted, Coco has a simple dream: She wants to be a witch. But everybody knows magicians are born, not made, and Coco was not born with magic. [manga]

Silva, Jesselyn – *My Corner of the Ring: A Memoir from a Champ*

+796.83 Sil, Non-Fiction

Jesselyn Silva navigates middle school and the boxing ring as she endeavors to make it to the Olympics.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg – *To Night Owl from Dogfish*

+Sloan, Fiction; +Slo, CD-Audio Books*

Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through letters, emails, and texts.

Snyder, Laurel – *My Jasper June*

+Snyder, Fiction*

Since her brother drowned, Leah has struggled. When she befriends a girl named Jasper, she helps Leah confront grief.

Steinkellner, Emma – *The Okay Witch*

+Steinkellner, Graphic Novels*

A hilarious graphic novel about a half-witch who has just discovered the truth about herself, her family, and her town.

Strange, Lucy – *Our Castle by the Sea*

+Strange, Fiction; +Str, CD-Audio Books

England is at war. Growing up in a lighthouse, Petra's world has been one of storms, secret tunnels and stories about sea monsters. But now the clifftops are a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart.

Tucker, Laura – *All the Greys on Greene Street*

+Tucker, Fiction*

Olympia's dad works to bring antique paintings back to life. Then suddenly, her dad disappears, and her mom has gone to bed and she's not getting up. Olympia knows her dad is the key but she has to find him, and time is running out.

Vaught, Susan – *Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse*

+Vaught, Fiction

When Jesse's dad is arrested, she figures out that he's the #1 suspect in a missing money case. Jesse has a neuro-processing disorder, and when a tornado strikes, she's given the opportunity to show what she's really made of.

Venkatraman, Padma – *The Bridge Home*

+Venkatraman, Fiction*

Life is harsh in Chennai, India's, teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. When illness strikes, Viji must decide to risk seeking help from strangers or hold on to their hard-fought freedom.

Wang, Jen – *Stargazing*

+Wang, Graphic Novels*

Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends. Their friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

Warga, Jasmine – *Other Words for Home*

+Warga, Fiction; +War, Digital Audio Players*

Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

Watson, Renée – *Some Places More than Others*

+Watson, Fiction*

Amara visits her father's family in Harlem hoping to better understand it, but New York City is not what she expected.

Williams, Alicia – *Genesis Begins Again*

+Williams, Fiction*

Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

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