

❖ 6th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2017

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 OverDrive.*

5 Worlds: The Sand Warrior (series) – Mark Siegel **+Siegel Graphic Novel**

Five imperiled worlds will be rendered extinct unless five ancient and mysterious beacons can be lit in the wake of erupting wars during which three unlikely heroes make surprising discoveries about their homes and themselves.

All's Faire in Middle School – Victoria Jamieson **+Jamieson Graphic Novel**

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

Amina's Voice – Hena Khan **+Khan***

Amina, a Pakistani-American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while dealing with the vandalism of the local Islamic Center and mosque and her best friend Soojin's new friendship with their former nemesis.

Armstrong and Charlie – Steven Frank **+Frank**

During the pilot year of a Los Angeles school system integration program, two sixth grade boys, one black, one white, become best friends as they learn to cope with everything from first crushes and playground politics to the loss of loved ones and racial prejudice in the 1970s.

Behind-the-Scenes Pro Sports Careers – Danielle S. Hammelef **+796 Ham**

Describes some of the most interesting jobs that take place in the background of the sports industry, and what it takes to make it big in the business.

Beyond the Bright Sea – Lauren Wolk **+Wolk; +CD-Audio Book Wol***

Set adrift on the ocean in a small skiff as a newborn, twelve-year-old Crow embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.

Brave – Svetlana Chmakova **+Chmakova Graphic Novel**

In his daydreams, Jensen is the biggest hero that ever was, saving the world and his friends on a daily basis. But his middle school reality is VERY different.

A Crack in the Sea – H. M. Bouwman **+Bouwman**

Pip, a young boy who can speak to fish, and his sister Kinchen set off on a great adventure, joined by twins with magical powers, refugees fleeing post-war Vietnam, and some helpful sea monsters.

In Darkling Wood – Emma Carroll **+Carroll**

When Alice goes to stay with her grandmother she discovers the magical Darkling Wood, where she meets a strange friend and discovers letters written between a brother and sister during WWI.

Death and Douglas – J. W. Ocker **+Ocker**

Generations of Douglas' family have run the Mortimer Family Funeral Home. One day an extraordinary murder victim is brought to the funeral home and others soon follow. Will Douglas solve the mystery before the serial killer strikes again?

Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic (series) – Armand Baltazar **+Baltazar**

In a world where past, present, and future have collided, Diego and his friends must rescue Diego's father from an evil group of renegades, otherwise their whole existence is threatened.

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***A Dog Like Daisy* – Kristin O’Donnell Tubb**

+Tubb

Given 10 weeks to prove her usefulness, a rescued pit bull trains to follow commands and tolerate a leash so that she can become an assistance animal to a military veteran struggling with PTSD.

***The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding (series)* – Alexandra Bracken**

+Bracken*

A modern New England boy must rid himself of the ancient demon inhabiting his body and break his family’s curse.

***The Explorer* – Katherine Rundell**

+Rundell

Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.

***Felix Yz* – Lisa Bunker**

YA Bunker; YA Bunker CD-Audio Book*

Thirteen-year-old Felix Yz chronicles the final month before an experimental procedure meant to separate him from the fourth-dimensional creature, Zyx, with whom he was accidentally fused as a young child.

***Frogkisser!* – Garth Nix**

YA Nix; YA Nix CD-Audio Book

Princess Anya’s step-stepfather is an evil wizard who wants to rule the kingdom, so with the help of some unlikely friends she must find a way to defeat him, save her sister, and turn Prince Denholm back into a human being.

***Girls Who Code* – Reshma Saujani**

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The founder of the Girls Who Code nonprofit organization presents a graphically illustrated introduction to the relevance of coding that shares down-to-earth explanations about coding principles and real-life stories of women programmers who work at such places as Pixar and NASA.

***Hear the Wolves* – Victoria Scott**

+Scott

Sloan Riley is a skilled hunter, but since her mother left, and she lost hearing in one ear, she has clung to her father and older sister, so waking up and discovering they have left her for a few days terrifies her—but when an autumn blizzard threatens to bury her small Alaskan town, and the wolves begin to hunt, she must find her courage if she is to get herself and the few remaining citizens to safety beyond the forest.

***Life on Surtsey: Iceland’s Upstart Island* – Loree Griffin Burns**

+577.5 Bur

In this addition to the Scientists in the Field series, readers join scientists as they tackle something unusual in the world of ecosystems: colonization. Not a colonization by people, but one of cells, seeds, spores, and other life forms that blow in, fly in, float in, and struggle to survive on the beautiful but harsh new island of Surtsey.

***Long Way Down* – Jason Reynolds**

YA Reynolds; YA Reynolds Digital Audio Player*

As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn’s fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

***Loving vs. Virginia* – Patricia Hruby Powell**

YA Powell*

Written in blank verse, the story of Mildred Loving, an African American girl, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian boy, who challenges the Virginia law forbidding interracial marriages in the 1950s.



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***Max Tilt: Fire the Depths (series)* – Peter Lerangis**

+Lerangis; +CD-Audio Book Ler

When Max Tilt needs a plan to save his family, he finds one in his great-great-great grandfather Jules Verne's long-lost unpublished manuscript, and it leads him on a quest to the broken ruins of an underwater city.

***Me and Marvin Gardens* – A. S. King**

+King*

Obe likes to clean up the nearby creek, and worry about what nearby developers are doing, and pollution --but one day he finds a strange creature that eats plastic, and soon the animal he calls Marvin Gardens becomes his protected secret.

***Miss Ellicott's School for the Magically Minded* – Sage Blackwood**

+Blackwood

Repeatedly landing in trouble at her finishing school because of her preference for practicing magic instead of manners, Chantel enlists her friends to protect the kingdom when her teacher goes missing along with the city's protective magic.

***The Murderer's Ape* – Jakob Wegelius**

+Wegelius*

When her best friend, the sailor Henry Koskela, is falsely accused of murder, a gorilla named Sally Jones visits the run-down docks of Lisbon, embarks on a dizzying journey across the seven seas in an attempt to clear Henry's name.

***Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow (series)* – Jessica Townsend**

+Townsend*

A cursed child destined to die on her eleventh birthday is rescued and whisked away to a secret realm called Nevermoor and given the chance to compete for a place in a prestigious organization called the Wondrous Society.

***NewsPrints* – Ru Xu**

+Xu Graphic Novel

Blue is an orphan disguised as a newsboy. There's a war going on, and girls are expected to help the economy by selling cookies. Blue struggles with her secret, and worries that if her friends and adopted family find out, she'll lose everything.

***Nightlights* – Lorena Alvarez Gomez**

+Alvarez Graphic Novel

Every night, tiny stars appear out of the darkness in Sandy's bedroom. She catches them and creates wonderful creatures to play with, and in the morning brings them back to life in the whimsical drawings that cover her room.

***Orphan Island* – Laurel Snyder**

+Snyder; +CD-Audio Book Sny*

On an island where one child is delivered each year while the eldest is taken away, nine children live under the leadership of new elder Jinny, who trains the latest newcomer and wonders what will happen when she leaves.

***Pashmina* – Nidhi Chanani**

+Chanani Graphic Novel

Indian-American teen, Priyanka Das, attempts to reconnect with her mom's homeland with a magical pashmina shawl.

***The Player King* – Avi**

+Avi*

In 1486 England, a penniless kitchen boy named Lambert Simnel is told by a mysterious friar that he, Lambert, is actually Prince Edward, the true King of England, setting him on a dangerous course to regain the throne. Based on a true story.

***Polaris* – Michael Northrop**

+Northrop

In the 1830s Owen is cabin boy on the ship Polaris, when illness and a mutiny cause the adult crew to abandon the ship, leaving the handful of young cabin attendants and deckhands behind. Determined to bring their ship to safety, they begin to suspect that there is something deadly on board when one of them disappears.



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***Posted* – John David Anderson+Anderson;**

+CD-Audio Book And*

When cell phones are banned at their school, students start communicating through sticky notes left all over the school, triggering a wave of bullying activities in the wake of a new girl's arrival.

***Refugee* – Alan Gratz**

+Gratz; +Gratz CD-Audio Book; +Gratz Digital Audio Player*

Separated by decades, Josef, a Jew living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a girl trying to escape unrest in 1994 Cuba; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence, embark on journeys in search of refuge.

***The Shadow Cipher (series)* – Laura Ruby**

+Ruby*

In an alternate history of New York, three kids try to solve a modern-world puzzle and complete a treasure hunt laid into the streets and buildings of the city.

***Shadow Warrior* – Tanya Lloyd Kyi**

+Kyi

It's 1558, and warlords across Japan are battling for territory and control. Mochizuki is determined to become a ninja, but is married off to the nephew of a fierce warlord. When a tragic event occurs, she sees a chance to fulfill her dream.

***Slider* – Pete Hautman**

+Hautman

Hoping to win a cash prize in a pizza eating contest after racking up a tab on his mother's credit card, David must juggle his competitive eating training with the responsibility of looking after his autistic younger brother.

***The Stars Beneath Our Feet* – David Barclay Moore**

+Moore; +CD-Audio Book Moo*

In the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.

***Take Your Pick of Disgusting Foods* – G. G. Lake**

+641.3 Lak

Describes pairs of foods that are eaten in different parts of the world, but that most readers in the United States would find distasteful, and asks readers which one they would prefer to try.

***Thornhill* – Pam Smy**

+Smy

Parallel, interwoven stories set in different times—one told through intimate diary entries and the other through bold, striking art—converge as a girl unravels the mystery of the abandoned building next door. Pam Smy's Thornhill is a haunting exploration of human connection, breathtakingly illustrated and masterfully told.

***The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: Squirrel Meets World (series)* – Shannon Hale**

+Hale*

After Doreen uses her extraordinary powers to stop troublemakers she becomes a real superhero called Squirrel Girl.

***The Whiz Mob and Grenadine Kid* – Colin Meloy**

+Meloy; +CD-Audio Book Mel

After witnessing a troupe of pickpockets pull off an incredible robbery in a busy Marseille square, Charlie Fisher agrees to protect one of the thieves if they teach him their ways, leading him into a world of adventure with global stakes.

***The Wizards of Once (series)* – Cressida Cowell**

+Cowell*

Young wizard Prince Xar, who has no magic, and Warrior Princess Wish, an outcast, team up on an adventure that brings them to witches long believed to be extinct.

