

Summer Reading Suggestions for Incoming Sixth Grade

IDENTITY & BELONGING

***Blended* by Sharon M. Draper**

A bi-racial tween must split time equally living with her divorced parents (who are both now dating other people and have vastly different income levels). Many kids will see their own lives reflected in her lifestyle-switching tale.



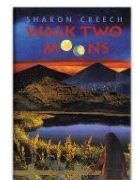
***When Stars Are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson**

When Stars Are Scattered is a 2020 middle-grade graphic memoir co-written by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed. It tells Mohamed's true story of growing up in a refugee camp in Kenya with his nonverbal younger brother, Hassan. The book has been widely praised for its emotional depth, accessibility, and humanization of the refugee experience.



***Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech**

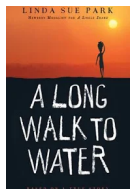
Two heartwarming, compelling stories are woven together in this delightful tale. As 13-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle takes a cross country trip with her grandparents, a story of love, loss, and the depth and complexity of human emotion is revealed.



HISTORY & CULTURE

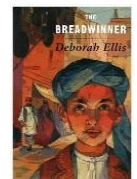
***A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park**

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park is a novel that tells the parallel stories of two Sudanese children: Salva, a "Lost Boy" fleeing civil war in 1985, and Nya, a girl walking for water in 2008. The book, based on the true story of Salva Dut, explores themes of survival, perseverance, and hope, culminating in an astonishing connection between the two narratives as Salva's organization builds a well in Nya's village.



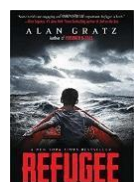
***The Breadwinner* series by Deborah Ellis**

Parvana is eleven when the Taliban comes to power in Afghanistan. Her father is arrested, and women are not allowed to leave the house without a male escort. Parvana must disguise herself and find work to save her family.



***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

Gratz weaves together stories of child refugees in three different eras: Nazi Germany, 1990s Cuba, and present-day Syria.



***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party* by Ying Chang Compestine**

Ling Chang must find a way to survive after her father is taken away during China's Cultural Revolution.



ANCIENT WORLDS

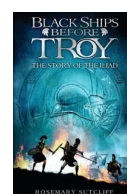
***The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder**

The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians, and they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game until strange things start happening. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?



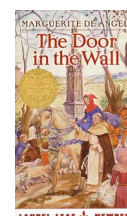
***Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of The Iliad* by Rosemary Sutcliff**

The adventures of the Trojan War, the beautiful Helen of Troy, and great warriors of ancient Greece come to life in this version of Homer's classic tale The Iliad. Retold for younger readers in a highly engaging manner, Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad retains the drama and excitement of the original epic poem.



***The Door in the Wall*, by Marguerite de Angeli**

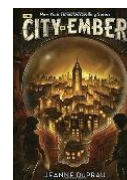
A Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli, is about a boy named Robin living in medieval London. After an illness, Robin's legs are paralyzed, and he is taken to a monastery where he is cared for by a monk named Brother Luke until he can be reunited with his parents. Robin is frustrated by his loss of mobility and is grieving his dream of becoming a knight. Brother Luke explains that Robin must find a "door in the wall"—a way to overcome the malaise that overwhelms him. Brother Luke provides him with new skills like whittling, swimming, and using crutches, but it's not only physically active hobbies that Brother Luke encourages for Robin. He also explains to his young charge that "reading is another door in the wall."



ADVENTURE & FANTASY

***The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau**

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the lamps that light the city are beginning to die out. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. This classic dystopian tale will light up your heart



***Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows (series)* by Ryan Calejo**

The Lightning Thief meets the Story Thieves series in this middle grade fantasy inspired by Hispanic folklore, legends, and myths from the Iberian Peninsula and Central and South America.



***A Tale of Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz**

Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm (and Grimm-inspired) fairy tales. An irreverent, witty narrator leads us through encounters with witches, warlocks, dragons, and the devil himself. As the siblings roam a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind the famous tales, as well as how to



take charge of their destinies and create their own happily ever after. Because once upon a time, fairy tales were awesome.