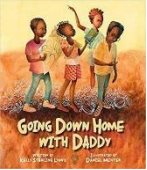

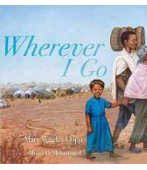
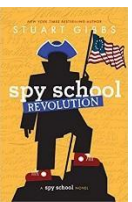
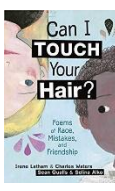
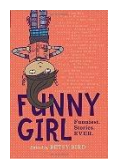
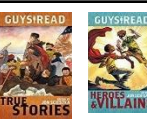
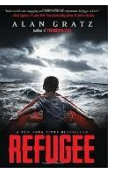

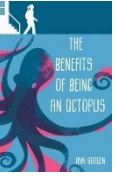

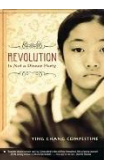
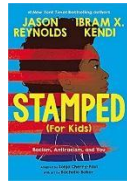


Summer Reading Suggestions for Incoming Sixth Grade

<p>Going Down Home With Daddy by Kelly Starling Lyons</p> <p>Lil' Alan anticipates a grand family reunion at Granny's house down home every summer, but he worries about how he'll contribute to the annual celebration of family history. This touching narrative explores the concept of family.</p>		<p>Blended by Sharon M. Draper</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Wherever I Go by Mary Wagley Copp</p> <p>Share this moving picture book to build a child's background knowledge about refugee camps and refugee experiences. (The author's note adds helpful context.) It's also a great choice to generate discussion about themes of courage and resilience.</p>		<p>Spy School Revolution by Stuart Gibbs</p> <p>The latest book in this teacher-recommended series features Superspy-in-training Ben Dash trying to prove his friend Erica is not a double agent. To do so, he'll have to track down an insurgent group that dates back to colonial times.</p>	
<p>Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship by Irene Latham & Charles Waters</p> <p>When an unlikely pair works on a poetry project together, they think they have nothing in common. The effective back-and-forth format will get kids thinking.</p>		<p>Funny Girl: Funniest. Stories. Ever. edited by Betsy Bird</p> <p>What do you get when 25 of today's funniest women children's book writers combine their stories together in one book? A hilarious collection that will make you laugh until you cry! Bonus: A portion of the proceeds from this book goes to support <i>WriteGirl</i>, a nonprofit whose mission is to empower girls by promoting creativity and self-expression.</p>	
<p>Guys Read series by Jon Scieszka</p> <p>Looking for a book series to interest the boys? Titles feature bite-sized tales that will captivate readers. Whether your boys are into sports, humor, or superheroes, they're sure to find a story to love.</p>		<p>Refugee by Alan Gratz</p> <p>Gratz weaves together stories of child refugees in three different eras: Nazi Germany, 1990s Cuba, and present-day Syria.</p>	
<p>Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko</p> <p>Moose Flanagan isn't growing up where most kids grow up. He is a resident of The Rock, also known as Alcatraz, the infamous prison where his father works as an electrician. In an effort to help his sister, Natalie, who has autism, Moose gets help from an unlikely—and notorious—new friend.</p>		<p>The Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden</p> <p>Explore the cultural divides around class and the gun debate through the eyes of seventh-grader Zoey, who lives on the edges of society and tries to find her way forward.</p>	
<p>Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli</p> <p>Leo's a normal kid in a normal town. When Stargirl shows up with her rat, her ukelele, and her crazy ideas, nobody knows quite what to make of her.</p>		<p>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine</p> <p>Ling Chang must find a way to survive after her father is taken away during China's Cultural Revolution.</p>	

Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You by Sonja Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, & Ibram X. Kendi



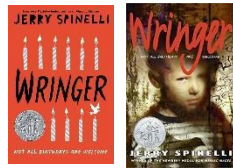
This chapter book edition of the groundbreaking #1 bestseller is an essential introduction to the history of racism and antiracism in America RACE. Uh-oh. The R-word. But actually talking about race is one of the most important things to learn how to do. Adapted from the award-winning, bestselling *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, this book takes readers on a journey from present to past and back again. Kids will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives.

The Ickabog by J.K. Rowling



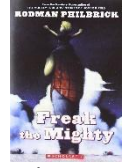
A warm, fast-paced, funny fairy tale of a fearsome monster, thrilling adventure, and hope against all odds. Once upon a time there was a tiny kingdom called Cornucopia, as rich in happiness as it was in gold, and famous for its food. From the delicate cream cheeses of Kurdsburg to the Hopes-of-Heaven pastries of Chouxville, each was so delicious that people wept with joy as they ate them. But even in this happy kingdom, a monster lurks. Legend tells of a fearsome creature living far to the north in the Marshlands... the Ickabog. Some say it breathes fire, spits poison, and roars through the mist as it carries off wayward sheep and children alike. Some say it's just a myth... And when that myth takes on a life of its own, casting a shadow over the kingdom, two children - best friends Bert and Daisy - embark on a great adventure to untangle the truth and find out where the real monster lies, bringing hope and happiness to Cornucopia once more.

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli



When boys in Palmer's town turn 10, they are expected to become "wringers," ending the lives of pigeons wounded in a town event. At the far edge of age nine, Palmer not only abhors the tradition, but he is also hiding a pigeon in his room, causing a moral dilemma.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick



"I never had a brain until Freak came along and let me borrow his for a while." *Freak the Mighty* is the tale of the unlikely friendship between Max, a strong boy with a learning disability, and Freak, a brilliant, small boy with a heart condition. Together, they are *Freak the Mighty*: nine feet tall and ready to conquer the world.

The Last Last Day of Summer by Lamar Giles



Otto and Sheed are the local sleuths in their zany Virginia town, masters of unraveling mischief using their unmatched powers of deduction. And as the summer winds down and the first day of school looms, the boys are craving just a little bit more time for fun, even as they bicker over what kind of fun they want to have. That is, until a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time. Now, with the help of some very strange people and even stranger creatures, Otto and Sheed will have to put aside their differences to save their town—and each other—before time stops for good.

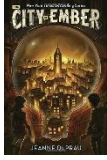
Best Nerds Forever by James Patterson & Chris Grabenstein



One minute, Finn was biking home from school, and the next, he was run off the road by a maniac in a big van. Now, he's a ghost. He can do lots of fun things, like try every ice cream flavor in the store, sneak up on people, and play as many video games as he wants. Finn even has a new ghost friend, Isabella, to show him the ropes. But he also has a lot of BIG questions, like: who wanted him dead? And can he stop the maniac from striking again?

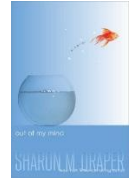
***The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau**

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



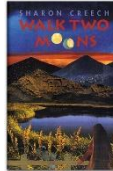
***Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper**

Another one of our fave middle school books! Follow eleven-year-old Melody, who is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it.



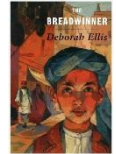
***Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech**

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.



***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.



***A Place to Hang the Moon* by Kate Albus**

An absolutely wonderful, heartwarming historical fiction story with close-knit siblings who stick together and eventually find their forever home. Evacuated from London during WWII these siblings need to find a new home. Unfortunately, their placements are horrid. It's only the library and the kind librarian who help them survive the bullying and hunger. Unfortunately, the librarian is deemed "unsuitable" to be their foster mother since her missing husband is German. When things go from bad to worse in their latest home, can the children fight for a home with the librarian no matter what the town thinks?



***Legacy and the Queen* (series) by Annie Matthew, created by Kobe Bryant**

GAME. SET. MAGIC.
Game – Tennis means life and death for the residents of the magical kingdom of Nova, and for twelve-year-old Legacy, it's the only thing getting her through the long days taking care of the other kids at the orphanage. That's all about to change when she hears about Silla's tournament.
Set – Silla, the ruler of Nova, hosts an annual tournament for the less fortunate of her citizens to come and prove themselves and win entrance to the Academy, where they can train to compete at nationals. The prize is Silla's favor and enough cash to keep open the orphanage, and Legacy has her heart set on both.
Magic – What Legacy has yet to know is that the other players have something besides better skills and more money than she does. In Nova, tennis can unlock magic. Magic that Silla used to save the kingdom long ago and magic that her competitors have been training in for months already. Now, with the world turned against her and the orphanage at stake, Legacy has to learn to use her passion for the game to rise above those around her and shine.



***Nooks and Crannies* by Jessica Lawson**

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory meets Clue when six children navigate a mansion full of secrets—and maybe money—in this humorous mystery with 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.



***Whale of the Wild* by Rosanne Parry,
illustrated by Lindsay Moore**

A story about two orca siblings separated from their families, trying to find food and their seasonal home. After her mother loses a calf, Vega leaves her pod to bury her little sister, her brother chasing after her. Then, a Tsunami hits and they both are lost from their pod. Vega, a stranger, and her little brother travel together towards recognizable landscapes and hopefully, food. As they journey, they meet other orca pods with different customs and who eat different foods, as well as other sea creatures. The story, an adventure with danger and suspense, shows the importance of keeping nature in balance.



***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.

