

Welcome to the 6th Grade!



Over the summer, all students entering Grade Six are required to read **at least two books**. Reading over the summer helps to improve comprehension and writing skills. Choose books that interest you so your reading will be enjoyable.

Choose two books from the 6th grade summer reading list. If you choose to read books off of the list, you will need a note from your parent/ guardian. The note should be addressed to Mrs. Mauriello, your ELA teacher and you can give it to her at the start of the school year.

While you are reading, take notes using post-its. You will be preparing a book talk based on your favorite of the two books you chose to read.

Have fun reading this summer. We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

The 6th Grade ELA Department

Ms. Teka McCabe, Library Media Specialist

Summer Reading Book Talk Guidelines

He took a deep breath. He opened his mouth and let the words fall out. "I know where there's a tiger." Sistine stood in the drizzling rain and stared at him, her eyes black and fierce.

She didn't say "A real one?"

She didn't say "Are you crazy?"

She didn't say "You're a big old liar."

She said one word: "Where?"

And Rob knew then that he had picked the right person to tell.

The excerpt above is from *The Tiger Rising*, a story by Kate DiCamillo. The main character, Rob, is living a life of great isolation and longs for a friend. He hopes to have found one in Sistine. (an example of the beginning of a book talk)

Often, we choose books based on a suggestion from someone else. For this assignment you will be asked to choose a book that you have enjoyed and "sell" it to your classmates in an informal book talk.

Required Elements

In an oral presentation, persuade your classmates to read your chosen book.

Make sure you include:

- the book's title
- the author's name
- the book's genre
- who is telling the story; (narrator)
- a brief description of the main character
- the main setting(where and when) (Wild Western Town 1890, space station in the future, medieval kingdom in 1500)
- a description of the main conflict
- **two (2) Choice Elements from the back of this page**
- a read aloud; Read an interesting passage. Be sure to practice this before you present.

Choice Elements

In addition to the required elements listed on the front, choose two additional elements from the list below.

1) Favorite Part

Tell your class about your favorite part of the novel. Be careful not to reveal too much.

2) Recommended Audience

Make a suggestion about who might most appreciate this book.

3) Why did YOU choose to read the book ?

Telling classmates why you chose the book might hook one of them.

4) Other books by the author?

If we like ONE book written by a given author, it is likely that we'll like OTHER books by the same author. Name a few other books written by the author of your book.

5) Make a Personal Connection

If a character in the book reminds you of yourself or someone in your life... If a situation from the book happened to you or someone you know...

If you can relate to a character's problem...

If a setting from the book sounded like a place you have been...

If you made any other type of connection to the story... ...explain your connection.

Book Talk Graphic Organizer

Name _____

1. Choose the book you will present.
2. Reread the book talk requirements.
3. Complete this organizer and follow the directions on the book talk guidelines.
4. Study the organizer and memorize as much of it as possible.
5. Optional: Cut apart the organizer and use it as flash cards during your talk.

Title:	Author:
Genre:	Setting:
Narrator:	Main Character Description:
Main Conflict(problem):	Choice Element 1:
Choice Element 2	Read Aloud Excerpt:

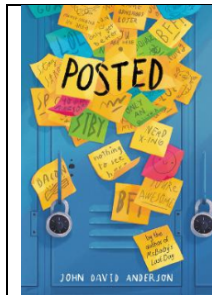
Book Talk Graphic Organizer for Non-Fiction

Name _____

1. Choose the book you will present.
2. Reread the book talk requirements.
3. Complete this organizer and follow the directions on the book talk guidelines.
4. Study the organizer and memorize as much of it as possible.
5. Optional: Cut apart the organizer and use it as flash cards during your talk.

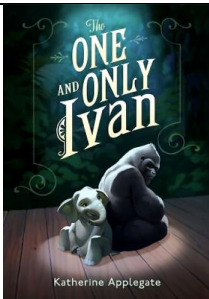
Title:	Author:
Genre:	Topic:
Narrator:	Text Structure(How is the book organized)
Important Facts:	Choice Element 1:
Choice Element 2	Read Aloud Excerpt:

Reading List



Posted by John David Anderson

A group of middle school students decide to begin leaving sticky notes for each other after cell phones are banned, but soon the kids in school are leaving cutting and cruel notes, and nothing will ever be the same.



The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Newbery Award Winner, 2013



Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

Follow the adventures of Peter Pan--the young boy who refuses to grow up--and the three children who follow him to Neverland as they encounter the Lost Boys, Indians, and a fierce gang of pirates led by Captain Hook.



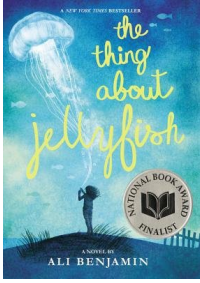
Anything but Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason, a 12-year-old boy on the autism spectrum who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. He's most comfortable in an online writer's forum called Storyboard. Jason gets nervous though when he makes plans to attend a Storyboard Conference. As Jason explains, there's really only one kind of plot: Stuff Happens. That's it.



The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by Frank L. Baum

After a cyclone transports her to the land of Oz, Dorothy must seek out the great Wizard in order to return to Kansas, accompanied on her journey by the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion.



The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

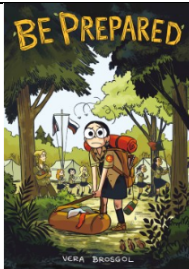
After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. She crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.



Doll Bones by Holly Black

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Newbery Honor, 2014



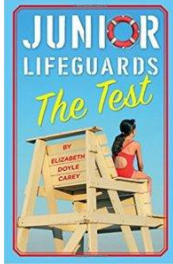
Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol

All Vera wants to do is fit in--but it's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford the best summer camps. Vera's mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range--Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. Nothing could prepare her for all the 'cool girl' drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares



The Heart of a Chief by Joseph Bruchac

An eleven-year-old Penacook Indian boy living on a reservation faces his father's alcoholism, a controversy surrounding plans for a casino on a tribal island, and insensitivity toward Native Americans in his school and nearby town.



Junior Lifeguards: The Test by Elizabeth Doyle Carey

Dive into tryouts with Jenna, Piper, Selena, and Ziggy-- 4 girls entering their 1st season as lifeguards-in-training on Cape Cod's coast. Romance and rivalries abound beachside, where swanky seasonal homeowners and hard-working locals clash and unite in age-old patterns. The girls are vying for spots with legend Bud Slater hand-picking a team of winners.



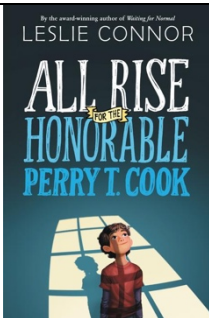
Alice in Wonderland or Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

After following the White Rabbit through a rabbit hole, Alice tumbles into a strange land of magic and make-believe.



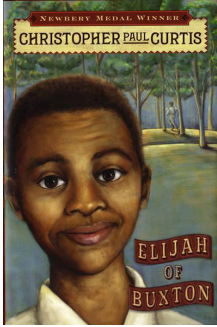
The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani

Best friends Sophie and Agatha discover their true identities when they enter The School for Good and Evil, a school where ordinary boys and girls are trained to be fairy tale heroes and villains.



All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor

11-year-old Perry was born in the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far the warden has made it possible for them to be together. Until a new district attorney finds out and Perry is forced into a foster home. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime.

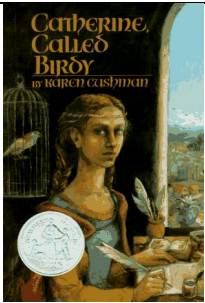


Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Newbery Honor Book, 2008

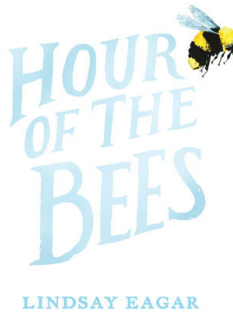
Companion Novel: *The Madman of Piney Woods*



Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

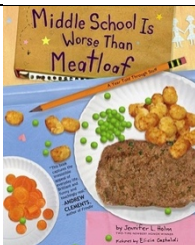
The 13-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Newbery Honor Book, 1995



Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar

At first, twelve-year-old Carol is not happy to be spending the summer helping her parents move her grandfather to an assisted living home, but as the summer wears on, she finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by his amazing stories.



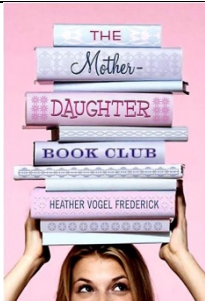
Middle School is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff by Jennifer L. Holm

Ginny makes a to do list for her seventh grade year, which includes landing a role in the school play, trying to make friends, ignoring her horoscope, and going to see her grandpa Joe in Florida; but she always seems to come up short in accomplishing any of it.



One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But her loving, bustling foster family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, she eventually feels like she belongs--until her mother wants her back.



The Mother Daughter Book Club by Heather Vogel Frederick

It doesn't start as a typical book-club. Megan would rather be at the mall, Cassidy is late for hockey practice, Emma's already read every book in existence, and Jess is missing her mother too much to care. But what begins as a mom-imposed ritual of reading Little Women soon helps four unlikely friends navigate the drama of middle school.

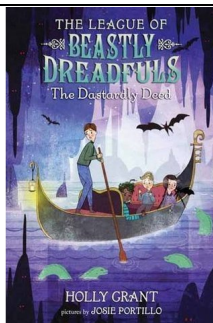
Sequels: Much Ado About Anne, Dear Pen Pal, Pies and Prejudice, Home for the Holidays, Wish You Were Eyre



The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

After his family is murdered the orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Newbery Medal Winner 2009



The Dastardly Deed by Holly Grant

Anastasia has barely managed to escape the nefarious clutches of C.R.U.D. when they are brought to the underground Cavelands, where she finds out she is Caveland royalty and her family figures into a centuries old scandal that began with the disappearance of her grandfather.



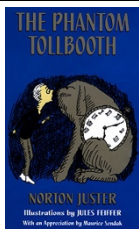
Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon and Dean Hale

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the world beyond her home, but she's able to escape and embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch.



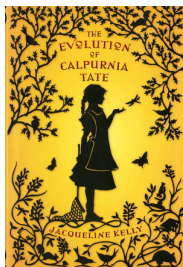
Drum Roll Please by Lisa Jenn

The day before Melly heads to Camp Rockaway her parents drop a bombshell: They're getting divorced. There are a lot of other big changes for Melly too: her best friend ditches her, and Melly finds herself unexpectedly falling for another girl at camp. To top it all off, Melly's not sure she has what it takes to be a real rock n' roll drummer. Will she be able to make music from all the noise in her heart?



The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

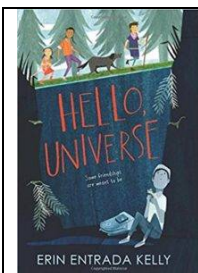
Milo travels through a magical tollbooth and begins a journey to the Kingdom of Wisdom, where he and a "watch" dog named Tock try to end the feud between numbers and words.



The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is expected to act like a lady - but she'd much rather be running around outside. Throughout the year she learns about love from her older brothers, generosity from her younger brothers and studies the natural world around her with her grandfather – and together they make a most exciting discovery!

Sequel – *The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*
Newbery Honor Book, 2010



Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

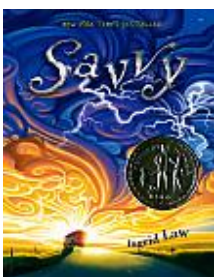
The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.



From the Mixed-Up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury.

Newbery Award Winner, 1968



Savvy by Ingrid Law

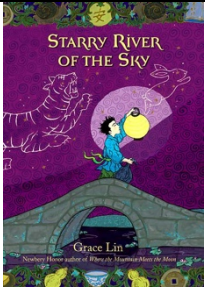
Upon turning 13, each member of the Beaumont family develops a supernatural ability, or savvy. After Poppa is injured in a car accident Mississippi believes that her savvy is the ability to restore life and sneaks onto a bus in order to reach Poppa. On the journey, Mibs realizes her savvy isn't what she thought but now she and her friends and brothers are on a trip of a lifetime.

Sequel: Scumble *Newbery Honor Book, 2009*



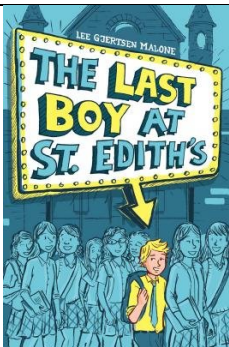
Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

Thirteen-year-old Min, comes from a long line of fox spirits. But you'd never know it by looking at her. To keep the family safe, none of them use fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Min feels hemmed in by the rules and chores. She would like to escape Jinju, her neglected, dust-ridden, planet and is counting the days until she can follow her older brother, Jun, into the Space Forces and see more of the Thousand Worlds.



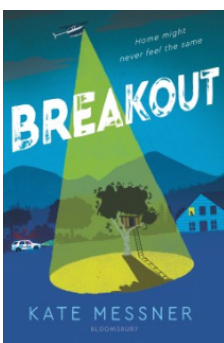
Starry River of the Sky by Grace Lin

The moon is missing from the remote Village of Clear Sky, but only a young boy named Rendi seems to notice! As a chore boy at the village inn he can't help but notice the village's peculiar inhabitants and their problems-where has the innkeeper's son gone? Why are Master Chao and Widow Yan always arguing? What is the crying sound Rendi keeps hearing? And how can crazy, old Mr. Shan not know if his pet is a toad or a rabbit? As Rendi listens to everyone's stories, he tries to figure it all out.



The Last Boy at St. Edith's by Lee Gjersten Malone

Seventh grader Jeremy Miner has a girl problem. Or, more accurately, a girls problem. 475 of them to be exact. That's how many girls attend his school, St. Edith's Academy. Jeremy is the only boy left after the school's brief experiment in co-education & he wants to leave. But his mother won't let him transfer, so Jeremy takes matters into his own hands: he's going to get expelled.



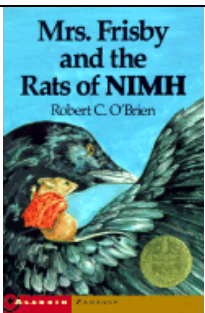
Breakout by Kate Messner

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek-- swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worst in some people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same.



Click by Kayla Miller

Olive "clicks" with everyone in the fifth grade--until one day she doesn't. When a school variety show leaves Olive stranded without an act to join, she begins to panic, wondering why all her friends have already formed their own groups . . . without her. With the performance drawing closer by the minute, will Olive be able to find her own place in the show before the curtain comes up?



Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien

With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer's tractor, too ill to be moved.
Newbery Award Winner, 1972



The Best Man by Richard Peck

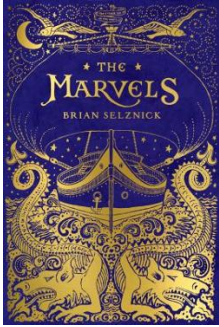
Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.



Pax by Sara Pennypacker

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild.

At his grandfather's house, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. .



The Marvels by Brian Selznick

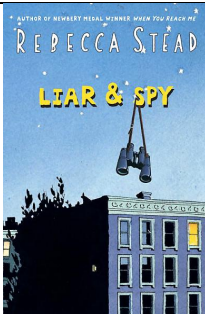
The journey begins at sea in 1766, with a boy named Billy Marvel. After surviving a shipwreck, he finds work in a London theatre. His family flourishes for generations as brilliant actors until 1900, when young Leontes Marvel is banished from the stage.

A century later, runaway Joseph Jervis seeks refuge with an uncle in London. Albert Nightingale's strange house, captivates Joseph and leads him on a search for clues about the house, his family, and the past.



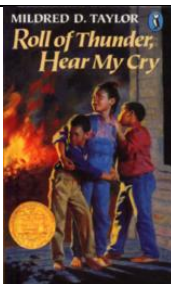
The Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell

Welcome to a neighborhood of kids who transform ordinary boxes into colorful costumes, and their ordinary block into cardboard kingdom. This is the summer when sixteen kids encounter knights and rogues, robots and monsters--and their own inner demons--on one last quest before school starts again.



Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

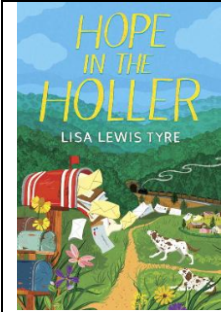


Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

An African-American family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand. *Newbery Award Winner, 1977.*

****Sequel: Let the Circle be Unbroken**

****Prequel: The Land**



Hope in the Holler by Lisa Lewis Tyre

Right before Wavie's mother died, she gave Wavie a list of instructions to help her find her way in life, including - *Be brave, Wavie B!* Now Wavie is in the Appalachian hometown her mother left behind --and is in the clutches of her Aunt Samantha Rose. Life with her aunt revolting cousin Hoyt is no picnic, but there's pleasure in sleeping in her own mother's old bed, and making friends with the easygoing kids her aunt calls the "neighborhood-no-accounts." With their help Wavie might find her courage and place in the world.



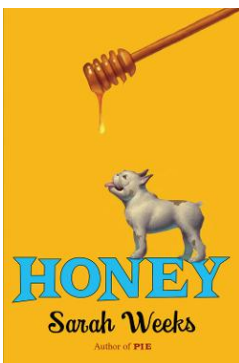
My Family for the War by Anne C. Voorhoeve

Ten-year-old Franziska Mangold escapes Nazi Germany on the kindertransport she boards in Berlin, and when she arrives in London, she takes on the name Frances and struggles with her identity as she pieces together a new life without her family.



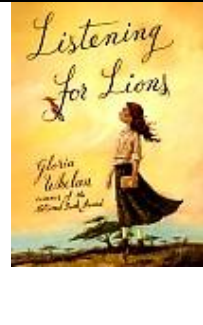
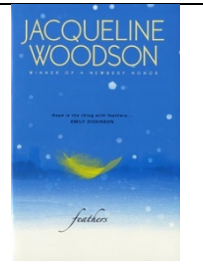
So B. It by Sarah Weeks

After living only with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

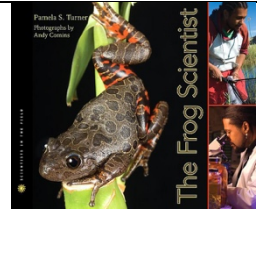




Honey by Sarah Weeks

Melody has lived in Royal, Indiana, for as long as she can remember. It's been just her and her father, and she's been okay with that. But then she overhears him calling someone Honey-- and suddenly it feels like everyone in Royal has a secret. Meanwhile, a dog named Mo is new to Royal. He doesn't remember much from when he was a puppy ... but he keeps having dreams of a girl he is bound to meet someday.

	<p>Listening for Lions by Gloria Whalen</p> <p>Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, 13-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.</p>
	<p>Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p>When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. <i>Newbery Honor Book, 2008</i></p>

Non-Fiction

	<p>The Frog Scientist by Pamela Turner</p> <p>Meet Dr. Tyrone Hayes, who studies the effects of pesticides on frog development. These chemicals are radically changing the DNA of frogs and how they live. There are lots of beautiful pictures of the frogs Dr. Hayes studies and of their habitats.</p>
	<p>Bones: Skeletons and How They Work by Steve Jenkins</p> <p>This book takes fascinating look at the bones of the human body as compared to the bones of animals, and shows them off! Here you'll find the differences between a man's hand and that of a spider monkey; the great weight of an elephant's leg, paired with the femur of a stork; and info about snakes and sloths. Many of the bones are life-size on fold-out pages.</p>
	<p>Blizzard! The Storm that Changed America by Jim Murphy</p> <p>Snow began falling over New York City on March 12, 1888. All around town, people struggled along slippery streets and sidewalks -- some seeking the warmth of their homes, some to get to work or to care for the less fortunate, and some to experience what they assumed would be the last little snowfall of one of the warmest winters on record. What no one realized was that in a very few hours, the wind and snow would bury the city in nearly 21 inches of snow and bring it to a ferocious standstill.</p>



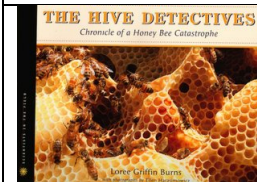
Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson

An unnamed narrator tells her family story and the history of African American people in America. We get a sense of what it was like to be a slave, a Union soldier, a sharecropper during Reconstruction, and a Buffalo soldier in Oklahoma; and eventually what it was like to head north to Chicago as part of the Great Migration. Beautiful illustrations go along with the text in this moving story.



The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins by Bea Uusma Schyffert

It's bad enough to go somewhere and have to wait alone in the car, but what if you traveled all the way to the moon and had to stay in the spacecraft? This is the story of Michael Collins, the astronaut on the 1969 Apollo 11 moon mission who did not walk on the moon. His job was to maneuver the capsule and wait while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed the lunar module and planted the first footprints into moon dust. This scrap-book style book details Collins' important trip.



The Hive Detectives by Loree Griffin Burns

In 2006 honey bees from hives around the world began to die from a mysterious condition called colony collapse disorder. This book examines the efforts of scientists to discover the cause of the problem, and includes information about bees, their hives, and their honey.