

Rising 6th Grade ELA: 2025 Summer Reading

Students are encouraged to select a novel(s) based on their reading level and interests. Please feel free to select a teacher-recommended novel from the list provided. Choose ONE novel to read over the summer. Honors Students: Choose TWO novels.

***Wink/Guino* by Rob Harrell (Lexile: 740L)**

Ross wants 7th grade to be normal. Too bad he has cancer. In his eye. The surgery over the summer means he's starting with one squinty tear ductless eye, and a scar on his forehead from the pellets they will use to direct the radiation. The treatments? A metal cage is fitted over his head to keep him still while he's bombarded with radiation. Plus, he has to stare at an X the whole time or his eye might explode or something. Yeah...not normal. At all. Thank goodness he has his best friend Abby, his Batpig comics, and guitar lessons.

You might also like:

OCDaniel, by Wesley King; *After Ever After*, by Jordan Sonnenblick; *Squint*, by Chad Morris and Shelly Brown

***When You Trap a Tiger/Cuando Atrapas un Tigre* by Tae Keller (Lexile: 590L)**

Lily is happy to spend more time with her grandmother when they move from California to rainy Washington, but she's also nervous about making friends. She's so quiet she often feels invisible. As soon as they arrive, it's clear Halmoni's health is worse than they thought. When Lily starts seeing a magical tiger from one of Halmoni's stories, she makes a deal. She'll return what her grandmother stole from the tiger in exchange for her grandmother's health.

You might also like:

A Snicker of Magic, by Natalie Lloyd; *All the Impossible Things*, by Lindsay Lackey;
The Year We Fell from Space, by Amy Sarig King

***The Bone Houses* by Emily Lloyd (Lexile: 710L)**

The dead don't always stay buried in Ryn's world. For years, bone houses have roamed the forests, but now they are coming into town, and few have the courage and strength to stop them. Ellis is an orphan with an injured shoulder and a mysterious past. He's also a mapmaker who is nearly killed by a bone-house as he wanders the roads outside Ryn's village. Lucky for him, she was there with her ax to save him. The two team up to try to save the people of the mountain from the bone houses and to discover the truth about these undead creatures.

You might also like:

The Book of Three, by Lloyd Alexander; *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*, by Carrie Ryan;
The Guinevere Deception by Kiersten White

***Thirteens* by Kate Alice Marshall (Lexile: 680L)**

Eleanor moved in with her aunt and uncle in Eden Eld after her mother died in a fire. Now she's started seeing strange things, like the giant black dogs with glowing red eyes. No one else can see the "wrong things" except Pip and Otto. All three kids have a thirteenth birthday on Halloween. This isn't just a coincidence. They are slated to be the latest victims of a pact made centuries ago unless they can stop the evil Mr. January in time. Their only hope is a book of creepy fairy tales and a talking cat who may or may not be on their side.

You might also like:

Coraline, by Neil Gaiman; *Ghost Squad* by Claribel A. Ortega; and *Embassy of the Dead*, by Will Mabbitt

***Bloom* by Kenneth Opper (Lexile: 670L)**

The morning after a surprise rainstorm, strange black plants begin to grow everywhere, choking out all other plant life including food. As the plants begin to bloom, they release toxins into the air. Some plants are large enough to swallow a human being. No one has found a way to stop them, and they are taking over the world. Anaya, Petra, and Seth are the only ones who are immune to the plants, and they all had severe allergies before the plant invasion. Could they somehow hold the key to saving the world?

You might also like:

In the After, by Demetria Lunetta; *Kalahari*, by Jessica Khoury; *Stung*, by Bethany Wiggins

***Tornado Brain* by Cat Patrick (Lexile: 720L)**

Frankie's twin sister Tess is so much better at school and making friends. Everything is a struggle for Frankie who has difficulty picking up on social cues and is easily distracted by loud noises. Frankie thought she and Collette were good friends until they weren't. Then Collette disappears, and Frankie is convinced she left clues only Frankie can decipher even if no one else will listen.

You might also like:

Fish in a Tree, by Linda Mullaley Hunt; *Counting by Sevens*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan;
The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl, by Stacy McAnulty

***City Spies* by James Ponti (Lexile: 750L)**

Sara only hacked the New York state foster system to prove her awful foster parents are crooks. Instead, she's facing years in juvenile detention until a mysterious man offers her the opportunity to become a spy for the British spy agency MI6. Now she's part of an elite team whose first mission is to stop an internet terrorist.

You might also like:

Moving Target, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez; *Ali Cross*, by James Patterson;
Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation, by Stuart Gibbs

***Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Lexile: HL400L)**

Trey and Donte may be brothers, but they look nothing alike. Trey is pale like their white European father, and Donte is dark like their Black mother. Everyone at their new prep school treats athletic Trey like a star while Donte gets stares and accusations as one of the few Black students on campus. When misplaced blame leads to an arrest and suspension, Donte decides to beat his biggest bully at his own game.

You might also like:

What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado; *Clean Getaway*, by Nic Stone; *The Season of Styx Malone*, by Kekla Magoon

***Crown of Coral and Pearl* by Mara Rutherford (Lexile: 790L)**

For generations, the people of Varenia have given their most beautiful daughters to marry the princes of Ilara. Nor has never left her village on the sea where the days are spent diving for pearls under the warm sun. Now, she has been sent to marry a stranger whose home is buried in the cold recesses of a mountain stronghold. No one welcomes her to court, especially not her forbidding fiancé, Prince Ceren. The court is full of deception and plots, and Nor will have to stay on her guard to survive.

You might also like:

Song of the Crimson Flower, by Julie C. Dao; *Grace and Fury*, by Tracy E. Banghart; *Everless*, by Sara Holland

***White Bird: A Wonder Story* by R.J. Palacio (Lexile: GN440L)**

Inspired by *Wonder*, Palacio tells the story of Julian's grandma'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.

You might also like:

I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944 (graphic novel), by Georgia Ball; *Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories* by R.J. Palacio;
When Stars are Scattered (graphic novel), by Victoria Jamieson

***A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel* by Madeleine L'Engle (Lexile: 740L)**

Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, when they set out to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.

You might also like:

When You Reach Me, by Rebecca Stead; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis;
A Wind in the Door (book 2), by Madeleine L'Engle

***Turtle in Paradise/Tortuga en el Paraiso* by Jennifer L. Holm (Lexile: 610L)**

In this NYT bestselling, Newbery Honor-winning historical fiction novel, life isn't like the movies. But then again, 11-year-old Turtle is no Shirley Temple. She's smart and tough and has seen enough of the world not to expect a Hollywood ending. After all, it's 1935 and jobs and money and sometimes even dreams are scarce. So when Turtle's mama gets a job housekeeping for a lady who doesn't like kids, Turtle says goodbye without a tear and heads off to Key West, Florida, to live with relatives she's never met. Filled with adventure, humor, and heart, *Turtle in Paradise* is an instant classic for both boys and girls.

You might also like:

When You Reach Me, by Rebecca Stead; *The Fourteenth Goldfish*, by Jennifer L. Holm

6th	Fall	685L	835L	990L	1140L	1300L
	Winter	705L	855L	1010L	1160L	1320L
	Spring	725L	875L	1030L	1180L	1340L

*All novels on this list have been read and reviewed by the sixth-grade Language Arts teachers at BCMS, HBMS, and LTMS. Check availability as an audiobook and ebook on *Destiny Discover* and *SORA*. Parent/Student Resources: [Destinydiscover.com](https://destinydiscover.com) <https://hub.lexile.com/>