

Literature and Composition
Mrs. Hensel
Fall of 2024

Summer Reading Choices for Grade 6

A Day No Pigs Would Die Semi-Autobiographical
Robert Newton Peck

This novel about a Vermont farm boyhood is a celebrated classic that has captivated readers year after year with its quiet humor and poignant drama. *A Day No Pigs Would Die* is a timeless story of a Shaker boy, his beloved pet pig, and the joys and hardships that mark his passage into manhood. The story is told in a unique and compelling voice, one with all the unadorned power of a Shaker hymn. Once heard, it is not forgotten.

Esperanza Rising Young-Adult Historical Fiction
Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza believed her life would be wonderful forever. She would always live on her family's ranch in Mexico. She would always have fancy dresses and a beautiful home filled with servants. Papa and Abuelita would always be with her.

But a sudden tragedy shatters her world and forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California, where they settle in a camp of Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for hard labor, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, and lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick, and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances – because Mama's life and her own depend on it.

Fire Girl Memoir-Like Fiction
Tony Abbott

From this moment on, life is never quite the same for Tom and his seventh-grade classmates. Despite Jessica's shocking appearance and the fear she evokes in him and most of the class, Tom slowly develops a tentative friendship with Jessica that changes his life. *Firegirl* is a powerful book that shows readers that even the smallest of gestures can have a powerful impact on someone's life.

Freak the Mighty Young-Adult Fiction
Rodman Philbrick

“I never had a brain until Freak came along...” That’s what Max thought. All his life he had been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn’t help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn’t help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along.

Freak was weird, too. He had a little body – and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together they were Freak the Mighty.

Old Yeller Historical Fiction
Fred Gipson

At first, Travis couldn’t stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.

Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis’s family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

The Call of the Wild Adventure Fiction
Jack London

“All the stirring of old instincts...the blood lust, the joy to kill-all this was Buck’s, only it was infinitely more intimate. He was at the head of the pack, running the wild thing down, the living meat, to kill with his own teeth and wash his muzzle to the eyes in warm blood.”

In *The Call of the Wild*, London deals with the theme which long fascinated him – the idea of a civilized animal returning to its primal neutral state. It is a story of Buck. Stolen from his California home, and introduced to the law of club and fang in the frozen wasteland of the Yukon where survival was all.

Tuck Everlasting Fantasy
Natalie Babbitt

After meeting the immortal Tuck family, Winnie Foster learns of a spring’s power to give people the opportunity never to die. Winnie is faced with the difficult decision to live forever, or let her life continue as planned.