



5th & 6th Grades Summer Book List

***Beastly Bionics: Rad Robots, Brilliant Biomimicry, and Incredible Inventions Inspired by Nature* by Jennifer Swanson (J 629.8 SWA 2020)**

Discover how the natural world inspires innovation in science and technology to create the latest and greatest breakthroughs and discoveries in this exciting book.

***The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Anne Braden (J FICTION BRADEN 2018)**

Seventh-grader Zoey Albro focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

***Best Babysitters Ever* by Caroline Cala (J FICTION CALA 2019)**

Mayhem ensues in their sleepy California beach town when three best friends, motivated by unlimited snacks, no parents, and earning money for an epic seventh-grade party, find an old copy of "The Babysitters Club" and decide to start their own babysitting business.

***Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls* by Kaela Rivera (J FANTASY RIVERA 2021)**

When a powerful desert spirit kidnaps her sister, Cece Rios must learn forbidden magic to get her back, in this own voices middle grade fantasy.

***City Spies* by James Ponti (J FICTION PONTI 2020)**

Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from various parts of the world. When they're not attending the local boarding school, they're honing their unique skills, such as sleight of hand, breaking and entering, observation, and explosives. All of these allow them to go places in the world of espionage where adults can't.

***A Day In the Life of a Poo, a Gnu, and You* by Mike Barfield (J GRAPHIC NOVEL 500 BAR 2021)**

Join the hilarious exploration of "a day in the life" of nearly 100 things on Earth. Find out what exactly your tongue does all day long, how a Japanese knotweed destroys everything in its path, and why no two snowflakes are ever the same.

***Elfie Unperfect* by Kristin Mahoney (J FICTION MAHONEY 2021)**

After a series of spectacular-and at times, hilarious-disasters, including being expelled from school, perfectionist **Elfie** Oster discovers what truly matters as she tries to make sense of everything that is happening to her.

***Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math* by Jeannine Atkins (J FICTION ATKINS 2020)**

A biographical novel in verse of seven girls from different time periods who used math to explore the mysteries of the universe and grew up to do innovate work that changed history.

***Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea* by Ashley Herring Blake (J FICTION BLAKE 2021)**

For two years, twelve-year-old *Hazel* has coped with her Mum's accidental death by overprotecting her sister and Mama, but when Mama reconnects with her first love, roles begin to shift.

***The Honest Truth* by Dan Gemeinhart (J FICTION GEMEINHART)**

Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier.

***How to Vanquish a Virus* by Paul Ian Cross (J 616.241 CRO 2021)**

What does a virus look like? How does a virus get passed from person to person? How have viruses changed the world? And who are the men and women who have beaten them?

***Katie the Catsitter* by Colleen AF Venable (J GRAPHIC NOVEL VENABLE 2021)**

When Katie gets a job catsitting for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, life gets interesting. First, Madeline has 217 cats (!) and they're not exactly... normal cats. Also, why is Madeline always out EXACTLY when the city's most notorious villain commits crimes?!

***Machines That Think* by Don Brown (J GRAPHIC NOVEL 006.3 BRO 2020)**

Machines That Think! explores machines from ancient history to today that perform a multitude of tasks, from making mind-numbing calculations to working on assembly lines to guiding spaceships to the moon.

***Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Major Impossible* by Nathan Hale (J GRAPHIC NOVEL HALE 2019)**

In 1869, John Wesley Powell embarked with the Colorado River Exploring Expedition-- ten men in four boats-- to float through the Grand Canyon. Ten explorers went in, but only six came out. Powell would come to be known as one of the most epic explorers in history!

***A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielsen (J FICTION NIELSEN)**

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic are in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

***The Sea in Winter* by Christine Day (J FICTION DAY 2021)**

After an injury sidelines her dreams of becoming a ballet star, Maisie is not excited for her blended family's midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up.

***Simon B. Rhyming* by Dwayne Reed (J FICTION REED 2021)**

Chicago fifth-grader *Simon*, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, uses his rhymes to help bring his community together.

***Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly (J FICTION KELLY 2019)**

Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.

***Spirit Animals: Wild Born* by Brandon Mull (J FICTION SPIRIT)**

As a dark force engulfs the land, the fate of *Erdas* has fallen on the shoulders of four young strangers who each have forged a rare bond with their spirit beasts -- a bond that gives great powers to all of them.

***Squad Goals* by Erika J. Kendrick (J FICTION KENDRICK 2021)**

Twelve-year-old Magic Pointdexter comes from a long line of cheerleaders, but to follow in their footsteps, Magic must survive summer camp Planet Pom Poms, audition for a spot on the HoneyBee cheer squad, and steer clear of swoon-worthy Dallas Chase.

***Starfish* by Lisa Fipps (J FICTION FIPPS 2021)**

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

***Stuntboy, In the Meantime* by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Raúl the Third (J FICTION REYNOLDS 2021)**

Portico Reeves' secret identity as *Stuntboy* allows him to use his superpower keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels *the* responsibility to save them.

***Time Villains* by Victor Piñero (J SCIENCE FICTION PINEIRO 2021)**

When a homework assignment and a magic table summon real and fictional people from history, including the bloodthirsty pirate Blackbeard, sixth-grader Javi, his brawny younger sister Brady, and his brainy best friend Wiki join forces to save the world.

***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson (J 910.4 HOP 2012)**

Author Deborah Hopkinson weaves together the voices and stories of real Titanic survivors and witnesses to the disaster - from the stewardess Violet Jessop to Captain Arthur Rostron of the *Carpathia*, who came to the rescue of the sinking ship.

***Traitors Among Us* by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch (J FICTION SKRYPUCH 2021)**

Following the end of World War II, Ukrainian sisters Krystia and Maria reunite in a displaced persons camp, where they are falsely accused of collaboration with the Nazis and face interrogation by the Soviets for crimes they never committed.

***Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer Holm (J GRAPHIC NOVEL HOLM 2021)**

In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.

***Violets are Blue* by Barbara Dee (J FICTION DEE 2021)**

Twelve-year-old Wren, who is learning special effects makeup, is thrilled to be makeup artist for her new school's production of *Wicked*, but her parents' divorce is seriously affecting her mother.

***Wish* by Barbara O'Connor (J FICTION O'CONNOR)**

A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are.

***The Witch Boy* by Molly Knox Ostertag (J GRAPHIC NOVEL OSTERTAG)**

In thirteen-year-old Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Anyone who dares cross those lines is exiled. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted . . . and he's still fascinated by witchery, no matter how forbidden it might be.

***You Go First* by Erin Entrada Kelly (J FICTION KELLY)**

Charlotte, twelve, and Ben, eleven, are highly-skilled competitors at online Scrabble and that connection helps both as they face family issues and the turmoil of middle school.