

## **Katie's Recommended Books for entering Grade 6**

### **Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley (J BEASLEY)**

When he realizes that his grandfather's stories of an enchanted circus are true, Micah Tuttle sets out to find the mysterious Circus Mirandus--and to use its magic to save his grandfather's life

### **Little Blog on the Prairie by Kathleen Bell (YA BELL)**

Thirteen-year-old Genevieve's summer at a frontier family history camp in Laramie, Wyoming, with her parents and brother is filled with surprises, which she reports to friends back home on the cell phone she sneaked in, and which they turn into a blog.

### **Doll Bones by Holly Black (J 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.

### **Jinx by Sage Blackwood (J BLACKWOOD)**

A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond-- and within-- the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

### **Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (JYA COLFER)**

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

### **The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer (J COLFER)**

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about

### **Madman of Piney Woods by Christopher Paul Curtis (J CURTIS)**

Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada (originally a settlement of runaway slaves) and Chatham, Canada are still haunted by two events of half a century before--the American Civil War, and the Irish potato famine, and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors.

### **Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo (J DICAMILLO)**

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

### **The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo (J DICAMILLO)**

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

### **The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet by Erin Dionne (JYA DIONNE)**

Hamlet's attempts to be a "normal" eighth grader become increasingly difficult when her genius seven-year-old sister and her eccentric Shakespeare scholar parents both begin to attend her school.

### Sky Jumpers by Peggy Eddleman (JYA EDDLEMAN)

Twelve-year-old Hope lives in a post World War III town called White Rock where everyone must participate in Inventions Day, though Hope's inventions always fail. Her unique skill set comes in handy when a group of bandits invades the town.

### Mockingbird by Katherine Erskin (J ERSKIN)

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

### The Gollywhopper Games by Jody Feldman (J FELDMAN)

Twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling from Golly Toy and Game Company.

### Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein (J GRABENSTEIN)

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

### The Island of Doctor Libris by Chris Grabenstein (J GRABENSTEIN)

A twelve-year-old boy, worried that his parents may divorce, discovers that an island in the middle of the lake where he is spending the summer is the testing grounds of the mysterious Dr. Libris, who may have invented a way to make the characters in books come alive.

### Dr. Critchlore's School For Minions by Sheila Grau (J GRAU)

At his boarding school for monsters, a young werewolf learns a devastating truth about his family while uncovering a plot to sabotage the world's finest training program for aspiring minions to evil overlords.

### Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham (J GRISHAM)

With two attorneys for parents, thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone knows more about the law than most lawyers do. But when a high profile murder trial comes to his small town and Theo gets pulled into it, it's up to this amateur attorney to save the day

### My Life in Pink and Green by Lisa Greenwald (JYA GREENWALD)

When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem solving talents to come up with solution that might resuscitate the business, along with helping the environment.

### Mission Unstoppable by Dan Gutman (J GUTMAN)

On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.

### Flush by Carl Hiaasen (YA HIAASEN)

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

### The Fourteen Goldfish by Jennifer Holm (J HOLM)

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

### Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson (J COMICS JAMIESON)

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school-- in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.

### The Tale of Emily Windsnap by Liz Kessler (J KESSLER)

After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.

### Masterminds by Gordon Korman (J KORMAN)

A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment.

### Ungifted by Gordon Korman (J KORMAN)

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

### Savvy by Ingrid Law (J LAW)

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

### Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine (J LEVINE)

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

### Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (J LIN)

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

### A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd (J LLOYD)

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle she hopes to bring the magic back.

### Rules by Cynthia Lord (J LORD)

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

### Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin (J MARTIN)

Struggling with Asperger's, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.

### The Candymakers by Wendy Mass (J MASS)

When four twelve-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents' Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

### Sky Raiders by Brandon Mull (J MULL)

Whisked through a portal to The Outskirts, an in-between world, sixth-grader Cole must rescue his friends and find his way back home - before his existence is forgotten.

### Boundless by Kenneth Oppel (JYA OPPEL)

Aboard "The Boundless," the greatest train ever built, on its maiden voyage across Canada, teenaged Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains.

### Wonder by R.J. Palacio (JYA PALACIO)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

### How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen (J BIO PAULSEN)

Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

### Treasure Hunters by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein (J PATTERON)

Following clues left by their missing father, twelve-year-old twins Bickford and Rebecca Kidd sail from the Caribbean to New York City with their siblings to finish the dangerous quest of their world-famous treasure-hunting parents.

### Omega City by Diane Peterfreund (J PETERFREUND)

Determined to prove her conspiracy theorist father's beliefs about lost Cold War technology, Gillian, her skeptical brother, and their friends journey to the ruins of a vast doomsday bunker before they are confronted by dangerous adversaries.

### The True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex (J REX)

When her mother is abducted by aliens on Christmas Eve (or "Smekday" Eve since the Boov invasion), 11 year-old Tip hops in the family car and heads south to find her and meets an alien Boov mechanic who agrees to help her and save the planet from disaster.

### Story Thieves by James Riley (J RILEY)

Except for reading the Kiel Gnomesfoot magic adventure series, Owen's life is boring until he sees his classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the school library and he learns that Bethany is half-fictional and has been searching every book she can find for her missing father, a fictional character.

### Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar (J SACHAR)

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

### Holes by Louis Sachar (J SACHAR)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

### Splendors and Glooms by Laura Amy Schlitz

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

### Hook's Revenge by Heidi Schulz (J SCHULZ)

Captain Hook's swashbuckling daughter must avenge her infamous father's death at the jaws of the Neverland crocodile. Includes glossary of pirate terms.

### Nightmares! by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller (J SEGEL)

Twelve-year-old Charlie and his friends must stop nightmares from taking over their town before it's too late.

### Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead (J 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.

### When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (J STEAD)

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

### Lumberjanes by Noelle Stevenson and Grace Ellis (J COMICS STEVENSON)

Five best friends spending the summer at Lumberjane scout camp...defeating yetis, three-eyed wolves, and giant falcons...what's not to love?! Friendship to the max! Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not gonna let any insane quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!

### Smile by Raina Telegemeier (J COMICS TELEGEMEIER)

From sixth grade through tenth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself.

### Dark Lord: The Early Years by Jamie Thompson (JYA THOMPSON)

Evil Dark Lord tries to recover his dignity, his power, and his lands when an arch-foe transports him to a small town, into the body of a thirteen-year-old boy.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage (J TURNAGE) Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

Thickety: The Path Begins by J.A. White (JYA WHITE)

Shunned by villagers who convicted her mother of witchcraft years earlier, twelve-year-old Kara is lured by an unusual bird into a forbidden magical forest where she discovers a strange book of unspeakable power that may have belonged to her mother.