

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS  
SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

**SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR  
STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 6**

- Almond, David**      *Skellig*. (Fantasy) Unhappy about his baby sister’s illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.
- Coman, Carolyn**      *What Jamie Saw*. (Realistic) Having fled to a family friend’s hillside trailer after his mother’s boyfriend tried to throw his baby sister against a wall, nine-year-old Jamie finds himself living an existence full of uncertainty and fear.
- Curtis, Christopher P.**      *Bud, Not Buddy*. (Historical Fiction) Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
- Funke, Cornelia**      *The Thief Lord*. (Adventure) Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with and protection from Venice’s “Thief Lord.”
- Gantos, Jack**      *Joey Pigza Loses Control*. (Realistic) Sequel to: *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. A series of books. Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.
- Hiaasen, Carl**      *Hoot*. (Realistic) Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy’s attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
- Holt, Kimberly W.**      *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. (Realistic) During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend, Cal, meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

- Horvath, Polly**      *The Trolls.* (Realistic) Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history.
- Napoli, Donna Jo**      *Zel.* (Historical Fiction) Based on the fairy tale Rapunzel, the story is told in alternating chapters from the point of view of Zel, her mother, and the nobleman who pursues her, and delves into the psychological motivations of each of the characters.
- Park, Linda Sue**      *A Single Shard.* (Historical Fiction) Tree-Ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.
- Shan, Darren**      *Cirque Du Freak: the Saga of Darren Shan.* (Horror tales) A series of books. Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices.
- Snicket, Lemony**      *A Series of Unfortunate Events: the Bad Beginning.* (Humor) A series of books. After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.
- Spinelli, Jerry**      *Wringer.* (Realistic) As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.
- Tolan, Stephanie**      *Surviving the Applewhites.* (Realistic) Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.
- Van Draanen, Wendelin**      *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief.* (Mystery) A series of books. Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.