

## 2011 Summer Reading List for New Sixth Graders



Dear Sixth Grade Students and Parents:

As the temperatures rise and thoughts turn to summer, we all look forward to the relaxing activities summer

vacation brings. One way to relax is to find a good book and get lost in a new adventure. Summer reading is a great opportunity for parents to support their children's lifelong reading habits and share in the joy that a good book brings. Reading is a skill that takes practice – lots of practice, just like running a marathon, learning to swim or playing an instrument. Summer reading can help students at all ability levels sharpen their skills and become recreational readers for life.

To support summer reading, the Lebanon Schools and the Jonathan Trumbull Public Library have compiled lists of summer reading choices for sixth grade students. Over the summer, students are asked to read at least two books which may be the reader's own choice or chosen from the summer reading lists. The Governor's Summer Reading Journal is attached to this list and students are asked to bring this completed record with them when they return to school at the end of the summer. In grades 5-8, students will engage in classroom activities with focus on their summer reading choices.

Please participate in the book selection process with your child to ensure that the book's theme, reading level, and content are age appropriate and respect your family's values and interests.

Thank you for supporting our summer reading initiative. We hope that you share our enthusiasm for the summer reading experience.

Happy Reading!  
The Summer Reading Committee

## Lebanon Middle School

### Great Reads

#### **Art of Racing in the Rain: My life as a Dog.** (Stein)

Meet one funny dog—Enzo, the lovable mutt who tells this story. Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: most dogs love to chase cars, but Enzo longs to race them.

#### **Best of the Best.** (Green)

Josh is still flying high from his team's tournament win at Cooperstown when his parents start talking about a divorce. Now his dad is challenging him to play the best of the best at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. But does he just want to get Josh out of the way? Two things are sure: His father's new girlfriend, Diane, is looking to change things, and Josh is determined to get her and her terrible son out of his life!

#### **Beyonders: A World without Heroes.** (Mull)

Mysteriously transported to the strange world of Lyrain, Jason soon meets Rachel, a girl likewise displaced. To return home, they must solve a dangerous riddle. The first book in a fantasy trilogy.

#### **A Dog's Way Home.** (Pyron)

Abby and her dog Tam have just won first prize in the Junior Agility Championship. On the way home from the competition, the truck they are riding in swerves and goes off the road. Everyone is hurt, and the dog crate Tam in riding in ends up in a fast-moving river and Tam is carried downstream. Will Tam ever find his way back to Abby? This is a must read story for all dog lovers!

#### **Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester.** (O'Connor)

An amazing secret has tumbled off a freight train into Carter, Georgia, and Owen Jester is the only person who knows about it. If he can simply manage to evade his grandfather's snappish housekeeper, organize his two best friends, and keep his nosy neighbor, Viola, at bay, he just might be in for the summer of a lifetime.

#### **The Genius Files: Mission Unstoppable.** (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 being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.

#### **George Washington's Spy.** (Woodruff)

Ten-year-old Matt and six other children travel to 1776 Boston, living out American history as they meet Benjamin Franklin, learn about colonial medicine, and become part of a rebel spy ring.

#### **Inside Out and Back Again.** (Lai)

It's 1975 in Vietnam and ten-year-old Kim Ha and her family are praying for her father's safe return. He's been missing for the past nine years and war rages on around them. When the opportunity arises for the family to leave Saigon on a navy ship and come to America, the family decides to take the chance and hopes for a better life.

## 2011 Summer Reading List for New Sixth Graders

### **Last Best Days of Summer.** (Hobbs)

Twelve-year-old Lucy Crandall has spent most of her summer thinking about seventh grade and strategizing about how to be popular along with her best friend Megan. With school just around the corner, it's now her favorite week of the year - the week she gets to spend with Grams at her lake house. Lucy treasures this time alone with the free-spirited Grams, throwing pots on the kick wheel, swimming, and baking cookies. But this summer, their week doesn't go as planned. Something is different about Grams, and an uninvited visitor means that Lucy has to share her attention. Will summer at the lake house ever be the same again?

### **On my Honor.** (Bauer)

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

### **Red Pyramid.** (Riordan)

Book number one of this adventure series. Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

### **Saving Zasha.** (Barrow)

In the wake of World War II, a Russian boy discovers that keeping a German shepherd dog alive means keeping a deadly secret.

### **The Shadows.** (West)

When eleven-year-old Olive and her distracted parents move into an old Victorian mansion, Olive finds herself ensnared in a dark plan involving some mysterious paintings, an angry nine-year-old boy, and three talking cats.

### **Strange Case of Origami Yoda.** (Angleberger)

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

### **Tall Story.** (Gorlay)

Andi's greatest wish is coming true: her brother is coming to live with the family. But when he steps off the plane, Andi is in for a surprise – he's eight feet tall!

### **The Sixty-Eight Rooms.** (Malone)

Best friends Ruthie and Jack love the Thorne Rooms at the Art Institute in Chicago. Sixty-eight miniature rooms decorated in different historical styles to explore. The kids never suspect the rooms are magical until Jack discovers a key that shrinks Ruthie to the perfect size for exploring the exhibit.

### **Ten.** (Myracle)

Winnie celebrates her unique style through her first year with a double-digit age as she has many new experiences, from the high of spending time in New York City with her aunt and big sister, to the low of her two best friends suddenly becoming interested in boys.

## Lebanon Middle School

### **Unsinkable: Titanic Book One** (Korman)

The ultimate action/adventure trilogy plunges readers into the heart of the Titanic. The Titanic is meant to be unsinkable, but as it begins its maiden voyage, there's plenty of danger waiting for four of its young passengers. Paddy is a stowaway, escaping a deadly past. Sophie's mother is delivered to the ship by police - after she and Sophie have been arrested. Juliana's father is an eccentric whose riches can barely hide his madness. And Alfie is hiding a secret that could get him kicked off the ship immediately. The lives of these four passengers will be forever linked with the fate of Titanic. And the farther they get from shore, the more the danger looms....

### **Wildfire Run.** (Garretson)

Camp David, the President's retreat, is one of the safest places in the United States. So why can't the President's son, Luke, and his friends Theo and Callie stay there without Secret Service agents constantly hovering over them watching their every move. And yet, when an earthquake sets off a raging wildfire causing a chain reaction that wreaks havoc at Camp David, they are suddenly on their own!

### **Wild Life.** (DeFelice)

When 12-year-old Erik's parents are deployed to Iraq he goes to live with grandparents he hardly knows in small town North Dakota, but his grandfather's hostility and the threat of losing the dog he has rescued are too much and Erik runs away.

## Series

### **Lone Wolf. (Wolves of the Beyond #1)** (Lasky)

In the harsh wilderness beyond the owl world of Ga'Hoole, a wolf mother hides in fear. Her newborn pup, otherwise healthy, has a twisted paw. The mother knows the rigid rules of her kind. The pack cannot have weakness. Her pup must be abandoned in the forest to die. But, alone in the woods, the pup, Faolan, does the unthinkable. He survives. This is Faolan's story, the story of a courageous young wolf who rises up to change forever the Wolves of the Beyond. There are now two other books in this series.

### **Alex Rider Series.** (Horowitz)

Following the untimely death of his beloved uncle, teenager Alex Rider is recruited by Britain's top-secret intelligence agency to investigate some of the most high profile and dangerous men in the world. Alex Rider's eighth adventure, **Crocodile Tears**, is the most action-packed yet! Now Alex Rider must do battle with a charity broker con artist who has invested millions of dollars in a form of genetically modified corn that can release an airborne strain of virus capable of knocking out an entire country in one day.

### **Wildwood Stables.** (Weyn)

This series introduces Taylor Henry, a 13-year-old girl who is completely horse crazy, and Wildwood Stables, an old barn at the edge of town that turns out to be the perfect place for horses in need and for a young girl pursuing her dreams. **Racing against Time** and **Learning to Fly** are the first two books in the series.

## 2011 Summer Reading List for New Sixth Graders

### Principal's Pick!

Recommended by Mr. Laskarzewski

#### **A Single Shard** by Linda Sue Park

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.

### Teacher Picks!

#### **Mrs. Huntington recommends –**

##### **Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen

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.

#### **Ms. Violette recommends –**

##### **Found (The Missing, No. 1)** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

When thirteen-year-old Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time. And don't miss the sequels – **Found and Sent!**

#### **Mr. Klosowski recommends –**

##### **The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Mr. K. reports that the Hobbit has been one of his favorite books for years. "I have read it many times, each time taking something new from the book!" Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

#### **Mrs. Archer recommends-**

##### **The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

#### **Ms. Serrenho loved –**

##### **When I was Young in the Mountains** by Cynthia Rylant.

In this beautifully illustrated book, a young girl remembers her simple, peaceful life tucked away in the mountains with her grandparents.

#### **MD suggests-**

##### **Kensuke's Kingdom** by Michael Morpurgo

While sailing in the Pacific Ocean, eleven-year-old Michael falls overboard and ends up stranded on a nearly deserted island. He is befriended by an old Japanese man, the island's other inhabitant, in this exciting tale of friendship and survival.

## Lebanon Middle School

#### **Thunder by the sea** by Joan Hiatt Harlow

Harsh weather brings an orphan boy, Tom, and a stranded dog, Thunder, together on the island of Newfoundland. They struggle to find a family despite a blizzard, a tidal wave, and worst of all, Thunder's former owner.

#### **Ms. Picard recommends –**

##### **Ida B** by Katherine Hannigan

Ida B has plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster and (possibly) save the world. However, when her parents force her to go to regular school, her plans become compromised.

#### **Mrs. Slate's Summer Pick...**

##### **Moon over Manifest** by Clare Vanderpool

She isn't sure why her father has sent her to Manifest. Why can't she continue to ride the rails with him? Things have been good. But now she is in a strange town and trying to figure out what is happening to her life. She soon finds herself investigating a mystery. With the help of her new friends, Abilene learns about immigrants, newspapers, World War I, and deep secrets.

#### **Mrs. Shea's picks –**

##### **Hide & Seek** by Katy Grant

In the remote mountains of Arizona where he lives with his mother, stepfather and two sisters, 14-year-old Chase discovers two kidnapped boys and gets caught up in a dangerous adventure when he comes up with a plan to get them to safety.

##### **Last Full Measure** by Ann Rinaldi

In 1863 Pennsylvania, fourteen-year-old Tacy faces the horrors of the Battle of Gettysburg while trying to stay out of the way of her brother David, who is in charge while their father serves as a doctor in the Union army.

## Great Nonfiction

#### **Girls Think of Everything** by Catherine Thimmesh.

Tells the story of how women throughout the ages have responded to situations confronting them in daily life by inventing such items as correction fluid, space helmets, and disposable diapers.

#### **Bodies from the Ashes.** by James Deem

Describes the archaeological excavations that began on the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum which had been buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79.

#### **George vs. George : the American Revolution as seen from both sides** by Rosalyn Schanzer

Explores how the characters and lives of King George III of England and George Washington affected the progress and outcome of the American Revolution.



**2012 CONNECTICUT  
NUTMEG NOMINEES  
INTERMEDIATE LIST**

The Nutmeg Book Award is a Connecticut children's book award which is decided each year by the children of Connecticut in grades 4-8. There are ten books nominated for the Nutmeg Award each year by a committee comprised of

children's librarians, school library media specialists and teachers. These are the 2012 nominees.

**Masterpiece** (Broach)

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**Extra Credit** (Clements)

Three young middle school-age children, Abby, Amira, and Sadeed, exchange letters back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan and begin to bridge a gap across cultural and religious divides.

**Signal** (DeFelice)

After moving with his emotionally distant father to the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, twelve-year-old Owen faces a lonely summer until he meets an Abused girl who may be a space alien.

**Gollywopper Games** (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 money from Golly Toy and Game Company.

**Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story** (Hahn)

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

**Stolen Children** (Kehret)

Amy, babysitting for little Kendra, must use her wits to save herself and the child after they are kidnapped by two thugs who are demanding money from Kendra's wealthy parents in exchange for the lives of the girls.

**Dying to Meet You** (Klise)

In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I.B. Grumpy, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer.

**Savvy** (Law)

Mibs Beaumont's 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.

**Herbert's Wormhole** (Nelson)

While Alex is getting to know his inventive neighbor, Herbert, they unexpectedly travel to the twenty-second century through a space-time wormhole where they encounter aliens, jet packs, and their future selves.

**The Key to Rondo** (Rodda)

Through an heirloom music box, Leo, a serious, responsible boy, and his badly-behaved cousin Mimi enter the magical world of Rondo to rescue Mimi's dog from a sorceress, who wishes to exchange him for the key that allows free travel between worlds.