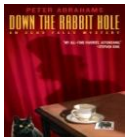


Shaker Heights Schools

6th Grade Reading List



Recommended by your Shaker Schools Librarians



Abrahams, Peter *Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery*

Ingrid Levin-Hill, super sleuth, must solve the murder of Echo Falls resident Katherine Eve Kovac because Ingrid is the prime suspect! *Fiction*



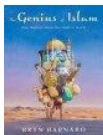
Angleberger, Tom *Strange Case of Origami Yoda*

Tommy and his 6th grade classmates try to decide if the origami finger puppet created and worn by off-beat Dwight really can tell the future. The story continues in *Darth Paper Strikes Back*. *Fiction*



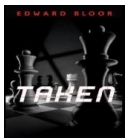
Avi *The Seer of Shadows*

In New York City in 1872, a photographer's apprentice named Horace becomes entangled in a plot to create fake spirit photographs. When Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn. *Fiction*



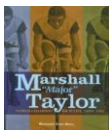
Barnard, Bryn *Genius of Islam : How Muslims Made the Modern World*

Take a look at how Islamic culture has influenced our music, books, language, clothes, architecture, and science. It is a fascinating read. *Nonfiction*



Bloor, Edward *Taken*

In 2035, kidnapping rich children has become an industry. When Charity Meyers is taken and held for ransom, she discovers that this particular kidnapping is not what it seems. *Fiction*



Brill, Marlene *Marshall "Major" Taylor: World Champion Bicyclist, 1899-1901*

Major Taylor was an African-American bicycle racer and one of this sport's first American stars. *Biography*



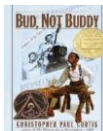
Chima, Cinda Williams *The Warrior Heir*

Jack leads an ordinary life in a small Ohio town—until he stops taking his medicine. He grows stronger and fiercer. He discovers he is a warrior in a secret magical society. *Fiction*



Collins, Suzanne *Gregor the Overlander*

Gregor and his sister are pulled into a strange underground world on a quest foretold by an ancient prophecy. They trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders. Read more in *Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods* and *Gregor and the Marks of Secret*. *Fiction*



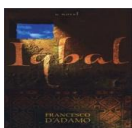
Curtis, Christopher Paul *Bud, Not Buddy*

Bud, a motherless boy, escapes a bad foster home and searches for the man he believes to be his father – the renowned bandleader H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids, Michigan. *Fiction*



Curtis, Christopher Paul *The Mighty Miss Malone*

Deza Malone, her brother Jimmie, and their parents endure tough times in Gary, Indiana, and Flint, Michigan as they cope with the effects of the Great Depression. Love and determination keep them going. This is a companion book to *Bud, Not Buddy*. *Fiction*



D'Adamo, Francesco *Iqbal*

This is a fictionalized account of Iqbal, the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory. He went on to help liberate other children like him before he was gunned down at the age of 13. *Fiction*



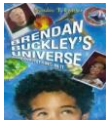
Draper, Sharon *Double Dutch*

As three 8th-graders prepare for the international jump rope competition in Cincinnati, they deal with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with bullies. *Fiction*



Flake, Sharon *Money Hungry*

All Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again. Read more in *Begging for Change*. *Fiction*



Frazier, Sundee *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*

Brendan Buckley uses his scientific problem-solving ability and his interest in rocks and minerals to connect with his white grandfather, the president of Puyallup Rock Club. *Fiction*



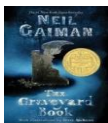
Frazier, Sundee *The Other Half of My Heart*

Twins Keira and Minna have different skin tones and personalities. When their African-American grandmother enters them in the Miss Black Pearl Pre-Teen competition, Minna realizes what her darker-skinned sister has faced in their small town. *Fiction*



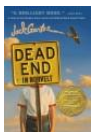
Frederick, Heather *Mother-Daughter Book Club*

Four 6th grade girls with very different personalities are pressured by their mothers into forming a book club. It seems like a social disaster. But the girls find that they have much more in common than they imagined. *Fiction*



Gaiman, Neil *The Graveyard Book*

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. *Fiction*



Gantos, Jack *Dead End in Norvelt*

In this autobiographical tale, Jack spends his summer grounded for bad behavior. He is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with an unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, underage driving, and countless bloody noses. *Fiction*



Gleitzman, Morris *Once*

After living in a Catholic orphanage for nearly four years, a Jewish boy runs away, embarking on a dangerous journey across Nazi-occupied Poland to find his parents. *Fiction*



Grimes, Nikki *Planet Middle School*

A series of poems describes all the baffling changes at home and at school in 12-year-old Joylin's transition from tomboy basketball player to not-quite-girly girl. *Fiction*



Holm, Jennifer *Turtle in Paradise*

In 1935, Turtle's mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children. Turtle is sent to Key West, Florida, to stay with relatives she has never met. *Fiction*



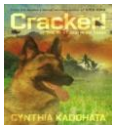
Howe, James *Addie on the Inside*

Outspoken Addie Carle learns about love, loss, and staying true to herself as she navigates 7th grade. She deals with her grandmother's visit, fights with her boyfriend, and trouble with her former best friend. *Fiction*



Jones, Traci *Standing Against the Wind*

Shy and studious Patrice tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school. There she discovers that she has more options in life than she realized. *Fiction*



Kadohata, Cynthia *Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam*

Cracker, a German shepherd trained to sniff bombs and traps, is paired with a young man whose family doubts he can handle infantry life. *Fiction*



Landy, Derek *Skulduggery Pleasant*

When Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones. *Fiction*



Mass, Wendy *The Candymakers*

Logan, who has grown up in the Life Is Sweet candy factory, teams up with 3 others to compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest. They uncover secrets about themselves and unexpectedly become friends. *Fiction*



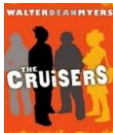
Morpurgo, Michael *War Horse*

Joey the horse recalls his experiences growing up on an English farm, his struggle for survival as a cavalry horse during World War I, and his reunion with his beloved master. *Fiction*



Mull, Brandon *Fablehaven*

When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, Fablehaven, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and that a battle between good and evil is looming. *Fiction*



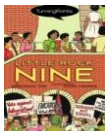
Myers, Walter Dean *The Cruisers*

Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi are caught in a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy. When they use their alternative newspaper, *The Cruiser*, as a way to make peace, they find out that freedom of speech comes with a price. *Fiction*



Park, Linda Sue *A Long Walk to Water*

When the Sudanese civil war reaches Salva's village, he is separated from his family. He joins other Dinka tribe members as they walk through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. *Fiction*



Poe, Marshall *Little Rock Nine*

In 1957, Little Rock Central HS prepares to enroll its first African-American students. William and Thomas are caught in the turmoil. The boys share lots of interests, including a love of baseball. There's one big difference: one is white and one is black. *Graphic Novel*



Potter, Ellen *Slob*

Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past. Why? He wants to find out what happened on the day two years earlier that changed his life forever. *Fiction*



Renier, Aaron *Unsinkable Walker Bean*

Meek and geeky Walker is happiest messing around with the inventions in his grandfather's workshop. To save his grandfather who is made ill by an ancient curse, Walker faces pirates and magical perils to return an accursed pearl skull to the witches who created it. *Graphic Novel*



Rhodes, Jewel Park *Ninth Ward*

As Hurricane Katrina bears down on New Orleans, Laneshia and her adopted grandmother decide to weather the storm in their 9th Ward home and find themselves in a life-or-death struggle. *Fiction*



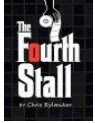
Roy, Jennifer *Mindblind*

Nathaniel Clark, who has Asperger's Syndrome, tries to prove that he is a genius by writing songs for his rock band. His dream is to be admitted to the Aldus Institute, the premier organization for the profoundly gifted. *Fiction*



Roy, Jennifer *Yellow Star*

Based on real-life experiences, Jennifer Roy tells of her aunt's struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the 1939-1945 Nazi occupation. *Fiction*



Rylander, Chris *Fourth Stall*

Sixth-graders Mac and Vince operate a business charging schoolmates for protection from bullies and for help negotiating conflicts peacefully. *Fiction*



Schmidt, Gary *Okay for Now*

Doug Swietek has a lot to deal with: a move to a new town, an abusive father, and a jerk for an older brother. He finds an ally in fiery Lil Spicer. Together, they find inspiration from a drawing tutor and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage. *Fiction*



Selznik, Brian *Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures*

When his mother dies, Ben leaves his Minnesota home to find the father he never knew in New York City. There he meets Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. *Fiction*



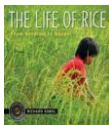
Sfar, Joann *The Little Prince*

Sfar retells the story of an aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert. He meets a little prince from a small planet who shares his adventures as he seeks the secret to the meaning of life. *Graphic Novel*



Shulman, Polly *The Grimm Legacy*

Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository." She is drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods as she explores the Grimm Collection of mythical objects. *Fiction*



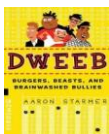
Sobol, Richard *The Life of Rice: From Seedling to Supper*

Rice plays an important role in the cultural and economic life of Thailand. Color photos illustrate the cultivation of this important crop from the Royal Plowing Ceremony at the start of the season through the harvest. *Nonfiction*



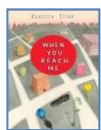
Sonnenblick, Jordan *Zen and the Art of Faking It*

When San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he looks for a way to stand out. He knows about Zen Buddhism. How does he become a convincing Zen master? *Fiction*



Starmer, Aaron *D.W.E.E.B.*

The 5 smartest boys in the 8th grade are being framed for stealing bake sale money. They are imprisoned in a room beneath their school. They use their smarts to expose a conspiracy involving fast food, standardized testing, and a school full of overachieving zombies. *Fiction*



Stead, Rebecca *When You Reach Me*

As her mother prepares to compete on a TV game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," Miranda tries to make sense of mysterious notes from an anonymous source that seems to defy laws of time and space. *Fiction*



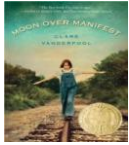
Stewart, Trenton *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

When they pass a series of mind-bending tests, 4 children are selected for a secret mission requiring them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. *Fiction*



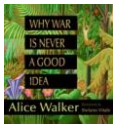
Thanhha, Lai *Inside Out & Back Again*

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. *Fiction*



Vanderpool, Clare *Moon Over Manifest*

Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up. Abilene hopes to find out about her father's past. *Fiction*



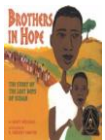
Walker, Alice *Why War Is Never a Good Idea*

In Walker's poem, community after community around the world is destroyed by war, demolishing beauty and humanity. *Nonfiction*



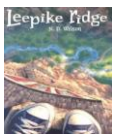
Wenberg, Michael *Stringz*

Jace Adams plays the cello and loves to surf. He never seems to fit in where his mother moves them. After a difficult start in Seattle, he realizes that his talents are not something to hide and that he has "family" in unexpected places. *Fiction*



Williams, Mary *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*

After war destroys their villages in southern Sudan, a young boy unites with thousands of other orphaned boys to walk more than 1,000 miles to the safety of a refugee camp in Kenya. This moving picture book for older readers is based on true events. *Fiction*



Wilson, Nathan D. *Leepike Ridge*

Tom is presumed dead after drifting away down a river. He finds himself trapped in underground caves with another survivor and a dog and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters. *Fiction*



Yelchin, Eugene *Breaking Stalin's Nose*

In Stalin's Soviet Union, Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist. When police arrest his father and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs. *Fiction*



The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with their students—your children— to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills will serve students well throughout their school career and beyond.

Our libraries also provide online resources for students and families to use, accessible from any Internet connection. You can find them on <http://shaker.org> using the “Libraries” link, or by going to your school building and clicking the library link there.

Use the “Information /Databases” link to see the online materials we have for school and home use. You can get the access codes needed from your school library staff. This area includes online subscription databases which will give children reliable information from encyclopedias, magazines, and other reference materials. For upper elementary students, we particularly recommend you look at *World Book Online* and *Britannica Online* for reading of informational text. Check out *NoodleTools* as a resource to organize ideas and resources for projects.

We encourage you to use the Shaker Heights Public Library to for a multitude of good books and reading experiences. The library staff can suggest just the perfect book for you, and they provide reading activities and events all year round. Their kids’ page can be found at <http://www.shpl.lib.oh.us> .

Reading Links

Check out the Internet Public Library, where the “For Kids” section provides links to reading resources: <http://www.ipl.org/>

Bookhive has reading ideas, games, special events and online activities, provided by the Charlotte Mecklenburg (NC) Public Library: <http://www.cmlibrary.org/bookhive/>

Boston Public Library has loads of links to booklists by grade levels and by topic: <http://www.bpl.org/kids/booksmags.htm>

For more information about the Shaker Heights Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-4180.