

## Required Summer Reading List for Incoming Sixth Graders 2009

### Sixth Grade Summer Reading List

***Dave at Night*** by Gail Carson Levine

Orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for boys where he is treated cruelly. He sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the musical world of the Harlem Renaissance. His hardships and comic escapades create a tale of New York in the 1920s. (historical fiction)

***A Year Down Yonder*** by Richard Peck

In this Newbery Award winner, overbearing feisty Grandma Dowdel scares just about everybody in her small town, but her heart of gold is very much appreciated by Mary Alice, her fifteen-year-old granddaughter. This sequel to Peck's *Long Way from Chicago* is a funny, gentle and outrageous story. (realistic fiction)

***Absolutely Normal Chaos*** by Sharon Creech

Mary Lou Finney grudgingly begins a journal as a summer project for school. Then, her cousin Carl Ray comes to stay, and what started as a dull assignment quickly becomes an amazing record of first love and family intrigue. (realistic fiction)

***Danny, The Champion of the World*** by Roald Dahl

This is the light-hearted tale of Danny and his dad, who share numerous brave and zany adventures. (fiction)

***The Thief Lord*** by Cornelia Funke

Wacky characters bring energy to this translation of an entertaining German novel about thieving children, a disguise-obsessed detective and a magical merry-go-round. (Amazon)

***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Munoz Ryan

With a hint of magical realism, this robust novel set in 1930 captures a Mexican girl's fall from riches and her immigration to California. (Publishers Weekly)

***Ear, the Eye and the Arm*** by Nancy Farmer

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives--the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm--use their special powers to search for them. (science fiction/fantasy)

***The Shakespeare Stealer*** by Gary Blackwood

A young orphan boy named Widge is ordered by his master to steal Shakespeare's script of the play "Hamlet". So, Widge works his way into the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's troupe rehearses and performs. The players take him in and treat him as their own, and Widge has to make a tough decision. Will he betray his new friends? (fiction)

***Immigrant Kids*** by Russell Freedman

This book provides a stunning introduction into the experience of being a young urban immigrant in the early 1900s. (non-fiction)

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*** by Brian Selznick

Selznick shatters conventions related to the art of bookmaking in this magical mystery set in 1930s Paris. He employs wordless sequential pictures and distinct pages of text to let the cinematic story unfold, and the artwork, rendered in pencil and bordered in black, contains elements of a flip book, a graphic novel, and film. Don't let the size of the book overwhelm you. Many pages are pictures.