

# Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

This summer, the PMS Summer Reading Program will be utilizing our digital book app Sora, to provide free audiobooks and ebooks to the middle school community. Sora, the official app of [Overdrive, is available](#) via the Pelham launchpad and allows you to link both your school and public library accounts in order to access thousands of titles! However, only two or three digital copies of a book are available for check-out at the same time.

To link your public library account to your school Sora account please see the directions on the Pelham Middle School Library Google Classroom page.

Both you and your friends want to read the same title? No problem! With [Hoopla](#), everyone at PMS can read the same book simultaneously through the Pelham Public Library! Hoopla provides **unlimited access** to an assortment of e-books/audiobooks, movies, and tv shows.

**We ask that all PMS students read at least THREE books of their choice over the summer. The list below includes suggestions and is not all-inclusive. Each student should then complete the form on the last page including the signature of a parent/guardian. These forms will be collected during the first week of school in September.**

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please be reminded that some young adult titles may contain more mature content or deal with sensitive matters. Please consider previewing your child's selections.**

**Have a great summer!**

## Incoming 6th Grade Suggested Summer Reading



### **The Witch of Blackbird Pond-** Elizabeth George Speare

In this Newbery Medal–winning novel, a girl faces prejudice and accusations of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Connecticut. A classic of historical fiction that continues to resonate across the generations. Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

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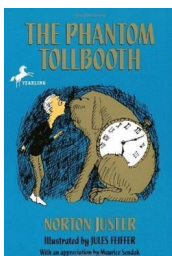
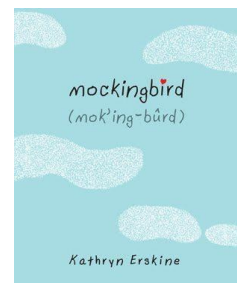
### **Stand Up, Yumi Chung! -** Jessica Kim

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm gone wrong, and kids calling her “Yu-MEAT” because she smells like her family’s Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she’s reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage.

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### **Mockingbird-** Kathryn Erskine

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. (Fiction, Mature)



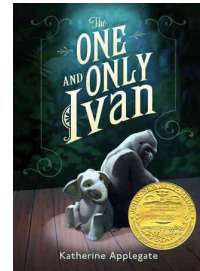
### **The Phantom Tollbooth –** Norton Juster

Milo, a bored ten-year-old, comes home to find a toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth’s gates and begins a memorable journey. (Fiction)

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**The One and Only Ivan- Katherine Applegate**

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. (A Newbery Award-winner, Fiction)



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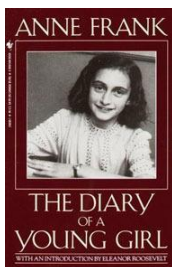
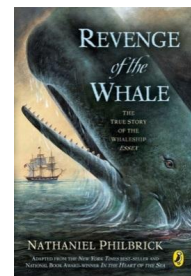
**Masterminds- Gordon Korman**

From bestselling author Gordon Korman comes a thrilling new middle-grade trilogy of kids living in a Pleasantville-type town who discover a dark secret that connects them to some of the greatest criminal masterminds of their time. (Fiction)

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**Revenge of the Whale – Nathaniel Philbrick**

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship “Essex” by an enraged whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. (Non-fiction)



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**The Diary of a Young Girl- Anne Frank**

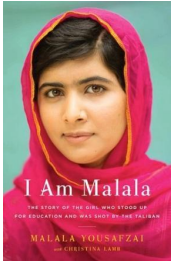
Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic-a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. (Non-fiction)



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**The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue – Michael Tougias**

In the winter of 1952, New England was battered by the most brutal nor'easter in years. As the weather wreaked havoc on land, the freezing Atlantic became a wind-whipped zone of peril. (Non-fiction)



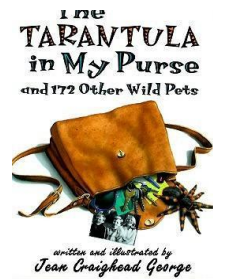
**I am Malala - The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban -**  
Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. (Non-fiction, Mature)

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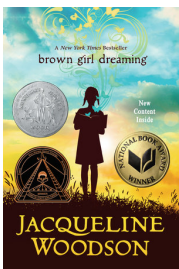
**The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets –** Jean Craighead George

Humorous, heartwarming, and just plain entertaining, these stories by Newbery Medalist Jean Craighead George recall what life was like as she raised three children and 173 wild pets. (Non-fiction)



**Other Words for Home -** Jasmine Warga

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, a place where Jude can be seen as she really is. (Fiction)

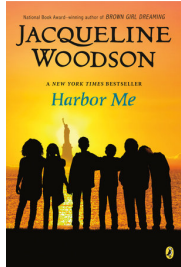


**Brown Girl Dreaming -** Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she

struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become. (Non-Fiction, Poetry)

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**Harbor Me** - Jacqueline Woodson

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”), they discover it’s safe to talk about what’s bothering them—everything from Esteban’s father’s deportation and Haley’s father’s incarceration to Amari’s fears of racial profiling and Ashton’s adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives. (Fiction, Mature)

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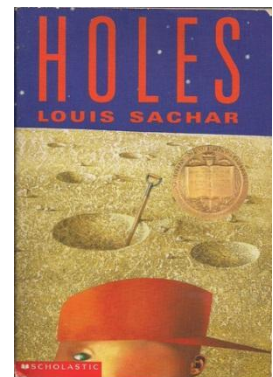
**New Kid** - Jerry Craft

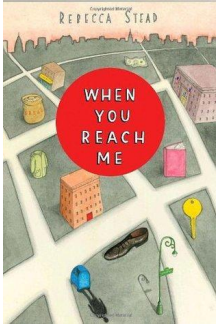
New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft. Seventh-grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. (Graphic Novel)



**Holes**- Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats, a boy who has bad luck due to a curse placed on his great-great-grandfather, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, for a crime he did not commit. Stanley and the other boys at the camp are forced to dig large holes in the dirt every day. (Fiction)





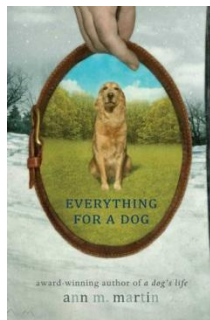
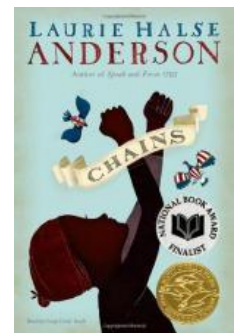
**When You Reach Me-** Rebecca Stead

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda’s mom keeps hidden for an emergency is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note and the notes keep coming. Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. (Fiction)

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**Chains-** Laurie Halse Anderson

The story of a thirteen-year-old slave named Isabel and her journey to discover her inner strength and fight for her freedom amidst the depravity of slavery and the upheaval of the Revolutionary War that divided America. (Fiction, Mature)



**Everything for a Dog-** Ann. M Martin

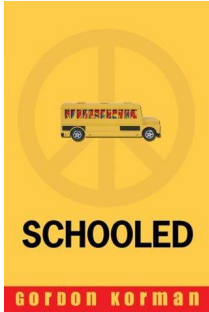
In this companion to her acclaimed 2005 novel, A Dog's Life, Ann M. Martin tells the parallel stories of a stray dog (the brother of the dog featured in A Dog's Life), a boy dealing with unspeakable loss, and a boy whose most ardent wish is to own a dog—and everything for a dog. (Fiction, Mature)

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**One for the Murphys –** Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Twelve-year-old Carley Connors can take a lot. Growing up in Las Vegas with her fun-loving mother, she's learned to be tough. But she never expected a betrayal that would land her in foster care. When she's placed with the Murphys, a lively family with three boys, she's blindsided. Do happy families really exist? Carley knows she could never belong in their world, so she keeps her distance. (Fiction, Mature)





**Schooled** – Gordon Korman

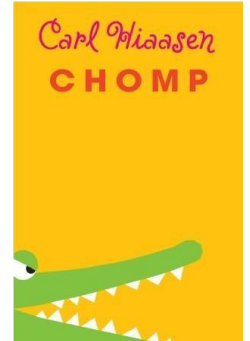
Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a school counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school. (Fiction)

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**Chomp** – Carl Hiaasen

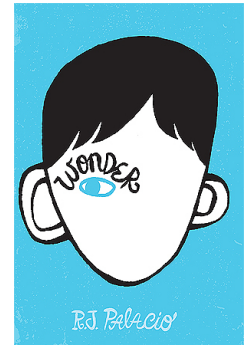
A combination of wild animals and reality TV is mixed with a dose of humor, adventure, and mystery when the fame-seeking star of the show disappears in the Florida Everglades and Wahoo Cray, the young animal wrangler, and his new friend Tuna are the only ones who can find him. (Fiction)

*Also: Hoot, Flush, Scat*



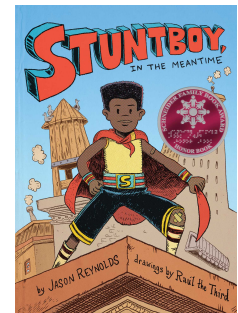
**Wonder** - RJ Palacio

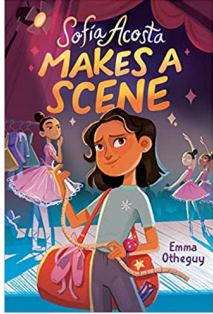
Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Augie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life, in an attempt to protect him from the cruelty of the outside world. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. (Fiction)



**Stuntboy, in the Meantime**- Jason Reynolds

This sweet and funny illustrated novel follows Portico Reeves, a young boy with a super-secret superhero identity who protects the people in his castle, also known as an apartment building. With Portico's parents fighting more and more, he gets the worry wiggles and makes it his mission to save them too. This relatable story about a boy experiencing anxiety and life changes from favorite author Jason Reynolds is full of heart.





**Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene - Emma Otheguy**

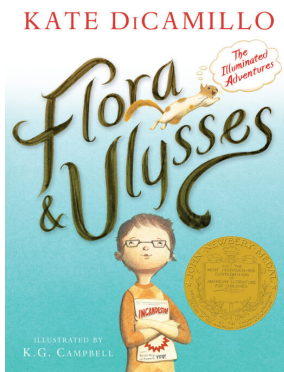
*Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene* follows fifth-grader Sofia Acosta who feels like the black sheep of her ballet-loving family. Her parents were professional dancers who emigrated from Cuba to the United States. Her sister, Regina is a ballet prodigy whose eyes are set on the American Ballet Theater (ABT) and even their little brother Manuel is an excellent ballet dancer. Sofia, though? She can't stop stepping on people's toes when she dances.

What she loves the most is sewing the costumes for the dancers and hanging out with her best friend Tricia. But when a family friend visiting from Cuba hints at staying in the US long-term to dance for the ABT, Tricia's response hints at the prejudice that Sofia never saw coming. Will Sofia stand up for what's right?

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**PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**GET A JUMPSTART ON THIS**

**FALL'S PELHAM READS**

***FLORA AND ULYSSES*, BY KATE DICAMILLO**



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Series Recommendations

**Nancy Drew** by Carolyn Keene

**Divergent** by Veronica Roth (Mature)

**City of Ember** by Jeanne DuPrau

**Hardy Boys** by Franklin W. Dixon

**Kingdom Keeper** by Ridley Pearson

**Mr. Terrupt** by Rob Buyea (Mature)

**The Penderwicks** by Jeanne Birdsall

**The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Steward

**I am Number Four** by Pittacus Lore (Mature)

**The Doll People** by Ann. M Martin

**Michael Vey** by Richard Paul Evans

**The Land of Stories** by Chris Colfer

**I Funny** by James Patterson

**The Maze Runner** by James Dashner (Mature)

**Alex Rider** by Anthony Horowitz

**The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins (Mature)

## A VARIETY OF LISTS FOR CHILDREN’S AND YA LITERATURE

The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu> is the homepage for the BCCB, one of the best sites for information on quality literature for children.

Lee and Low Diverse Books

<https://www.leeandlow.com/high-school/diversity> is a collection of book lists that can serve as “windows and mirrors” for our children.

International Literacy Association

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists> is a collection of “reading lists, shaped by thousands of students and educators across the United States.”

American Library Association

<https://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading/children> is a collection of ALA’s literature award winners and various notable reading lists for children.

Newbery Award Winners

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal> allows you to browse the many years of Newbery Award winners. Dozens of extraordinary books are included for your consideration as you search for books to enjoy over the summer.

Read Kiddo Read

<http://www.readkiddoread.com> is a successful and popular site for a variety of readers. Try it out, and be sure to share its great suggestions with your friends!

## PMS SUMMER READING LOG

Please complete this form as legibly as possible. Your English teacher will collect it during the first week of school.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian  
Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_