

**NMS Summer Reading 2018
6th Grade**

Students entering grade 6 should read one title from the Ancient Cultures list and one title (or sequel to a title) from this list.

In September, students should be prepared to share their takeaways from the books they have read with their new classmates. They should be prepared to share what they learned by reading the book (such as information about an Ancient Culture) and/or what they liked or did not like about the book they read. The goal will be for students to be able to discuss the book with classmates who read the same book and to explain the book to classmates who did not read it.

(Books are listed by main genre: click here to jump to [Fantasy/Science Fiction](#), [Graphic/Illustrated Novels](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [Mystery/Adventure](#), [Nonfiction](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), or [Sports](#).)



FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Emerald Atlas by John Stephens -- Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now they learn that they have special powers--and a fearsome enemy--and embark on a prophesied quest to find a magical book.



The False Prince by Jennifer Nielsen -- In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to



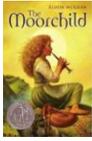
avoid a civil war.

Goblin Secrets by William Alexander (2012 National Book Award Winner) -- Hoping to find his lost brother, Rownie escapes the home of the witch Graba and joins a troupe of goblins who perform in



Zombay, a city where humans are forbidden to wear masks and act in plays.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste -- Eleven-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.



The Moorchild by Eloise McGraw (Newbery Honor) -- Feeling that she is neither fully human nor "Folk," a changeling learns her true identity and attempts to find the human child whose place she had been given.

Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder -- On a perfect island, when the nine children go to sleep in their cabins, it is with full stomachs and joy in their hearts. And only one thing ever changes: on that day, each year, when a boat appears from the mist upon the ocean carrying one young child to join them—and taking the eldest one away, never to be seen again. Today's Changing is no different. The boat arrives, taking away Jinny's best friend, Deen, replacing him with a new little girl named Ess, and leaving Jinny as the new Elder. Jinny knows her responsibility now—to teach Ess everything she needs to know about the island, to keep things as they've always been. But will she be ready for the inevitable day when the boat will



come back—and take her away forever from the only home she's known?

Whales on Stilts! by M.T. Anderson -- Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.



Wishtree by Katherine Applegate -- Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle -- Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.



GRAPHIC/ILLUSTRATED NOVELS

Amulet Vol. 1: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi: After moving to their ancestral home, Emily and Navin's mother is kidnapped by a tentacled creature in the basement that leads the children on a deadly chase into the magical world below their home.



Bone Vol. 1: Out from Boneville by Jeff Smith -- Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone are run out of their home, Boneville, and become separated in the wilds, but better fortune begins the three cousins reunite at a farmstead in a deep forested valley, where Fone meets a young girl named Thorn.



Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword by Barry Deutsch -- Eleven-year-old Mirka Hirschberg dreams of fighting dragons even though there are no dragons in her Orthodox Jewish community, but when she accepts a challenge from a mysterious witch, Mirka just might win her dragon-fighting sword after all.



Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke -- Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk—to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of



mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made.

The Nameless City by Faith Erin Hicks -- Every time it is invaded the City gets a new name, but to the natives in is the Nameless City, and they survive by not letting themselves get involved--but now the fate of the City rests in the hands of Rat, a native, and Kaidu, one of the Dao, the latest occupiers, and the two must somehow work together if the City is to survive.



HISTORICAL FICTION

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (Newbery Honor 2005) -- A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to



contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Bo at Iditarod Creek by Kirkpatrick Hill -- In 1920s Alaska, when five-year-old Bo and her two adoptive fathers move to Iditarod Creek to work at a new gold mine, Bo feels homesick until she realizes there is friendship to be found everywhere--and Iditarod Creek may hold some surprises for her already



unconventional family. (Sequel to *Bo at Ballard Creek*)

Don't You Know There's a War On by Avi -- In wartime Brooklyn in 1943, eleven-year-old Howie Crispers mounts a campaign to save his favorite teacher from being fired.



The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel by Deborah Hopkinson -- Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water and not poisonous air when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood



in 1854.

Lara's Gift by Annemarie O'Brien -- In 1914 Russia, Lara is being groomed by her father to be the next kennel steward for the Count's borzoi dogs unless her mother bears a son, but her visions, although



suppressed by her father, seem to suggest she has special bond with the dogs.

The Madman of Piney Woods by Christopher Paul Curtis -- Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada, originally a settlement of runaway slaves, and Chatham, Canada, are still haunted by two events of half a century before--the American Civil War and the Irish potato famine--and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors.

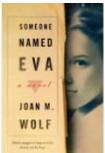


Refugee by Alan Gratz -- JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .

ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers — from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow.



The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall -- It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him. Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton.



Someone Named Eva by Joan M. Wolf -- From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.



MYSTERY/ADVENTURE

Chickadee by Louise Erdrich -- In 1866, Omakayas's son Chickadee is kidnapped by two ne'er-do-well brothers from his own tribe and must make a daring escape, forge unlikely friendships, and set out on an exciting and dangerous journey to get back home.



Codename Zero by Chris Rylander -- When a desperate man asks 13-year-old Carson to deliver a mysterious package for him, the middle-schooler discovers there is something going on in his sleepy North Dakota hometown he had never expected. the plot contains violence.



Finding Mighty by Sheela Carli -- Along the train lines north of New York City, twelve-year-old neighbors Myla and Peter search for the link between Myla's necklace and the disappearance of Peter's brother, Randall. Drawing on urban art forms and local history, *Finding Mighty* is a mystery that explores the nature of art and the unbreakable bonds of family.



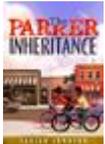
The Fourth Stall by Chris Rylander -- Mac and his best friend Vince can get anything they need, until one Monday when a third grader needs protection and they soon realize they need help and there is no one to help them. The plot contains violence.



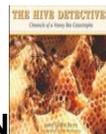
Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George (Newbery Medal 1973) -- While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.



The Name of This Book Is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch -- Two eleven-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality. This is the story of a secret, and also a secret story.



The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson -- The letter waits in a book, in a box, in an attic, in an old house in Lambert, South Carolina. It's waiting for Candice Miller. When Candice finds the letter, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, after all, who left Lambert in a cloud of shame. But the letter describes a young woman named Siobhan Washington. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery unfolding the letter-writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle. Grandma tried and failed. But now Candice has another chance. So with the help of Brandon Jones, the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues in the letter. The challenge will lead them deep into Lambert's history, full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love; and deeper into their own families, with their own unspoken secrets. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise before the summer ends?



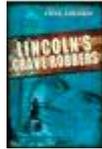
NONFICTION

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe by Loree Griffin Burns -- Bees don't just produce honey. Your food supply depends on them. Apiarist Dave Hackenberg's bees have a busy travel

schedule, pollinating around the United States from February to July. So when Dave inspected four hundred of his hives and found that the bees had simply vanished, a dream team of bee scientists got to work.



The Impossible Rescue by Martin Sandler -- Presents the true story of three men sent by President McKinley in 1897 to drive two herds of reindeer across parts of Alaska to feed stranded whalers whose

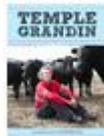


ships were trapped in ice.

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin -- This dramatic account of the 1875 attempt to steal the sixteenth president's body describes how a counterfeiting ring plotted to ransom Lincoln's body to secure the release of their imprisoned ringleader.



Outlaws, Spies, and Gangsters: Chasing Notorious Criminals by Laura Scandiffio -- Tells about eight of the world's most wanted men, including John Dillinger and Osama bin Laden, and how they were captured.



Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery -- An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities



through education and the support of her mother.

Woodsong by Gary Paulsen -- For a rugged outdoor man and his family, life in northern Minnesota is a wild experience involving wolves, deer, and the sled dogs that make their way of life possible. Includes an account of the author's first Iditarod, a dogsled race across Alaska.



Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead by Rebecca L. Johnson -- Examines real-life accounts of zombies in nature, including a fly-enslaving fungus, a suicide worm, and a cockroach-taming wasp, and related topics.



REALISTIC FICTION

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis -- Young Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. Because Parvana's father has a foreign education, he is arrested by the Taliban. The family becomes increasingly desperate until Parvana conceives a plan.

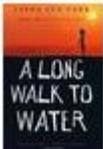


Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams Garcia -- Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live. Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City



subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him.

Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace by Nan Marino -- When musical prodigy, Elvis Ruby, completely freezes up on television, he is forced to hide out in the Pinelands of New Jersey and try to find his way back to the music once again with the help of a new friend.



A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park -- When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.



Ms. Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson -- Ms. Bixby is a one of a kind teacher. Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. When Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a plan. Through the three very different stories they tell, we begin to understand just what Ms. Bixby means to them—and what they are willing to go to such great lengths to tell her.



Nine, Ten by Nora Raleigh Baskin -- Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day—until a plane struck the World Trade Center. But right now it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. Sergio, who lives in Brooklyn, is struggling to come to terms with the absentee father he hates and the grandmother he loves. Will's father is gone, too, killed in a car accident that has left the family reeling. Nadira has never before felt uncomfortable about being Muslim, but at her new school she's getting funny looks because of the head scarf she wears. Amy is starting a new school in a new city and missing her mom, who has to fly to New York on business. These four don't know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined.



Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin -- Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet. *School Library Journal* Best Book 2014.



Restart by Gordon Korman -- Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?

Scar Island by Dan Gemeinhart -- Jonathan Grisby is the newest arrival at the Slabhenge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys -- an ancient, crumbling fortress of gray stone rising up from the ocean. Jonathan has done something terrible. And he's willing to accept whatever punishment he has coming.



Just as he's getting used to his new situation, however, a freak accident leaves the troubled boys of Slabhenge without any adult supervision. Suddenly the kids are free, with an entire island to themselves. But freedom brings unexpected danger. And if Jonathan can't come to terms with the sins of his past and

lead his new friends to safety . . . then every boy on the island is doomed



Take Me To the River by Will Hobbs -- When North Carolina fourteen-year-old Dylan Sands joins his fifteen-year-old cousin Rio in running the Rio Grande River, they face a tropical storm and a fugitive.



The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata (2013 National Book Award Winner) -- Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan,



SPORTS

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander -- Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.



Game Changers by Mike Lupica -- When the coach's son, Shawn O'Brien, is chosen to play quarterback, eleven-year-old Ben McBain is not surprised--but when he tries to be a good teammate and help the inconsistent Shawn, he is startled to learn that his new friend does not really want the position.



Ghost by Jason Reynolds (National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature) -- Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel in a new series from Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award-winning author Jason Reynolds.



Pinch Hit by Tim Green -- Trevor and Sam are nearly identical in appearance, but their lives couldn't be any more different. Trevor has a lead role in a major feature film and lives in a Bel Air mansion. But even though he seems to have everything, he can't get the one thing he truly wants: the opportunity to play baseball for real.