

Quick Picks for Grade 6

Angleberger, T. *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*. Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether the puppet can really predict the future.

Applegate, K. *The One and Only Ivan*. 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. **2013 Newbery Medal.**

Baker, E.D. *The Frog Princess*. After kissing a frog, a fourteen-year-old princess is transformed into a frog as well. The two set off to seek the means to become human again.

Balliett, B. *Chasing Vermeer*. When strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. **2005 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery.**

Barrow, R. *Saving Zasha*. In 1945 Soviet Union, owning a German shepherd is treason, but thirteen-year-old Mikhail is determined to keep the dog a dying man brought him.

Buckley, M. *The Sisters Grimm, Book One: The Fairy-Tale Detectives*. Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they had always believed to be dead.

Burg, A. *Serafina's Promise*. In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor--then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother as she promised. **2014 American Library Association's Notable Children's Books.**

Clements, A. *Troublemaker*. When his older brother gets in serious trouble, sixth-grader Clay decides to change his own mischief-making ways, but he cannot seem to shake his reputation as a troublemaker.

Chin, J. *Grand Canyon*. An exploration of the history, geology, evolution, and adaptation of the Grand Canyon. **2018 Orbis Pictus Award for Nonfiction; 2018 Newbery Honor Book; 2018 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award/Honor.**

Cody, M. *Powerless*. Soon after moving to Noble's Green, twelve-year-old Daniel learns that his new friends have superpowers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brainpower to protect them.

Connor, L. *The Truth As Told by Mason Buttle*. Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. And now his new friend Calvin has gone missing, and Mason is desperate to solve the mystery of his disappearance.

Cushman, K. *Alchemy and Meggy Swann*. Crippled Meggy Swann arrives in Elizabethan London to stay with her father who really does not want her and, while he pursues his dream of transforming base metal into gold, Meggy undergoes a transformation herself. For a wonderful male main character, choose Cushman's *Will Sparrow's Road*.

Diaz, A. *The Only Road*. Twelve-year-old Jaime makes the treacherous journey from his home in Guatemala to his older brother in New Mexico after his cousin is murdered by a drug cartel. **2017 Pura Belpré Honor Book.**

DiCamillo, K. *The Tale of Despereaux*. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. **2004 Newbery Medal.**

DiCamillo, K. *Flora and Ulysses*. A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora in an incident involving a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak. **2014 Newbery Medal.**

Draper, S. *Out of My Mind*. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Draper, S. *Stella by Starlight*. When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town. **2016 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction.**

Entrada, K.E. *Hello, Universe*. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. **2018 Newbery Award.**

Erskine, K. *Mockingbird*. 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. **2010 National Book Award.**

Fox, H. *Eager*. Unlike Grumps, their old-fashioned robot, the Bell family's new robot, Eager, is programmed to not merely obey but to question, reason, and exercise free will. This book has humor, adventure, and suspense. A great read!

Frank, S.B. *Armstrong and Charlie*. During the pilot year of a Los Angeles school system integration program, two sixth grade boys, one black, one white, become best friends as they learn to cope with everything from first crushes and playground politics to the loss of loved ones and racial prejudice in the 1970s.

Going, K.L. *The Liberation of Gabriel King*. Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African-American girl facing prejudice, decide to overcome their many fears together as they enter fifth grade in Georgia in 1976.

Gibbs, S. *Spy School*. Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

Gidwitz, A. *The Inquisitor's Tale, or The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*. In 1242, travelers come together in a French inn and share their tales about three children and their trek across France to escape prejudice and persecution and to save precious books from being burned. **2017 Newbery Honor Book.**

Grisham, J. *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*. Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer.

Hiassen, C. *Hoot*. Roy, who is new to his small Florida town, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. **2003 Newbery Honor Book.** Also see *Flush* by the same author.

Kodahota, C. *The Thing About Luck*. Just when 12-year-old Summer thinks that nothing more can go wrong, her parents are called back to Japan for an emergency and she is left to take care of her younger brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers. **2013 National Book Award.**

Korman, G. *Swindle*. After an unscrupulous collector cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into the swindler's heavily guarded store and steal the card back. Also see *Ungifted* by the same author in which, due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Lai, T. *Inside Out and Back Again*. A young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975 when she, her mother and her brothers leave Vietnam to resettle in Alabama. **2014 National Book Award; Newbery Honor Book.**

Martin, A.M. *Rain/Reign*. 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. **2015 Schneider Family Book Award. 2015 NCTE Charlotte Huck Winner.**

Mass, W. *11 Birthdays*. Peculiar things begin to happen when Amanda and Leo, former friends who always celebrated their shared birthday together, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately and the day begins to repeat itself over and over again.

Messner, K. *The Exact Location of Home*. Thirteen-year old Zig is a genius and fascinated with all things electrical. He is also in search of his father whom he has not seen in a year and believes his dad has left clues around town so he can find him. A companion novel to Messner's *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z*.

Myers, W.D. *The Cruisers*. Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper to try to make peace.

Napoli, D. J. *The King of Mulberry Street*. In 1892, a nine-year-old stowaway from Naples, Italy, arrives in New York and must learn to survive the perils of the city.

Naylor, P.R. *The Fear Place*. When he and his older brother Gordon are left camping alone in the Rockies, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fear of heights and his feelings about Gordon--with the help of a cougar.

Naylor, P.R. *Shiloh*. When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known for mistreating his dogs and shooting deer out of season. **Newbery Medal** book. The first book in a trilogy.

Nimmo, J. *Midnight for Charlie Bone*. Charlie's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers changes dramatically when he begins to hear people in photographs talking.

Park, L.S. *Forest of Wonders*. Raffa is a curious and gifted apothecary who yearns to experiment with potions, but his cautious father holds him back. When an injured bat comes into his life, Raffa ventures into the Forest of Wonders to find a plant from which he can concoct a cure. The results are more than anything Raffa could have imagined.

Patterson, J. *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*. When Rafe enters middle school, he teams up with this best friend to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

Pinkney, A.D. *The Red Pencil*. A verse novel. After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder. **New York Times Notable Book; 2015 Winner, International Reading Association Notable Book for a Global Society.**

Ponti, J. *Vanished!* This mystery is the second novel in the *Framed!* series that follows the adventures of Washington, D.C. resident Florian Bates, the only kid on the FBI director's speed dial, as he helps the Bureau solve some of its toughest cases. **2018 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery.**

Rhodes, J.P. *Ninth Ward*. In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Laneshia, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. **A Coretta Scott Honor Book.**

Riordan, R. *The Lightning Thief*. Percy learns the truth that his father is the Greek god Poseidon and is sent to Camp Half Blood where a satyr and Athena's daughter join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

Smith, R. *Zach's Lie*. Jack Osborne is beginning to adjust to his family's sudden move after he and his family have entered the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down.

Snicket, Lemony. *The Bad Beginning*. After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

Timberlake, Amy. *One Came Home*. In 1871 Wisconsin, 13-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha when remains are found wearing her dress, and before the end of the year, gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters. **Newbery Honor Book; 2014 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery.**

Voight, Cynthia. *Young Fredle*. Fredle, a young mouse cast out of his home, faces dangers and predators outside, makes some important discoveries and allies, and learns the meaning of freedom as he struggles to return home.