

# 6th Grade Summer Reading List

June 2008

## Manageable

- Hahn *A Time for Andrew: A Ghost Story*  
*When he goes to spend the summer with his great-aunt in the family's old house, eleven-year-old Drew is drawn eighty years into the past to trade places with his great-great-uncle who is dying of diphtheria.*
- Cushman *Catherine Called Birdie*  
*The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.*
- Fleischman *The Whipping Boy*  
*A bratty prince and his "whipping boy" have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.*
- Lasky *The Capture*  
*When Soren, a barn owl, arrives at St. Aggie's, a school for orphaned owls, he suspects trouble and with his new friend, a clever elf owl named Gylfie, embarks on a perilous journey to save all owls from the danger at St. Aggie's.*
- Spinelli *Crash*  
*Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.*
- Balliett *Chasing Vermeer*  
*When seemingly unrelated and 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.*

## Moderate

- DiCamillo 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.*
- Gilbreth Cheaper by the Dozen  
*What do you get when you put twelve lively kids together with a father — a famous efficiency expert — who believes families can run like factories, and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline? You get a hilarious tale of growing up that has made generations of kids and adults alike laugh along with the Gilbreths in Cheaper by the Dozen.*
- Taylor Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry  
*A Black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.*
- Hesse Out of the Dust  
*In a series of poems, fourteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.*
- Avi Crispin  
*Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.*
- Lowry Number the Stars  
*In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.*

## Challenging

- Lowry      The Giver  
*Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.*
- Adams      Watership Down  
*In a constant struggle against oppression, a group of rabbits search for peaceful coexistence.*
- Jacques      Redwall (make sure copyright is 1986)  
*When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.*
- Farmer      The Eye, the Ear, the Arm  
*In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.*
- Irving      The Legend of Sleepy Hollow  
*A superstitious schoolmaster, in love with a wealthy farmer's daughter, has a terrifying encounter with a headless horse man.*
- Sewell      Black Beauty  
*The long-popular Black Beauty is an engaging story told from the perspective of a horse. Black Beauty's experiences lead him through a diverse series of encounters and bring him into contact with many characters, including other horses with stories of their own to tell.*