

Reading List for Grade 6
Central Middle School, Stirling, New Jersey
2009-2010

Battle of the Books:

Author	Title	Genre
Avi	<u>The Fighting Ground</u>	Historical Fiction/Adventure
Avi	<u>Windcatcher</u>	Mystery/Adventure
Clements, Andrew	<u>The Jacket</u>	Realistic Fiction
Cohen, Barbara	<u>Thank You, Jackie Robinson</u>	Historical Fiction/Sports
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<u>Watsons Go To Birmingham--1963</u>	Historical Fiction/Newbery
DuPrau, Jeanne	<u>The City of Ember</u>	Science Fiction/Adventure
Gutman, Dan	<u>Shoeless Joe & Me: Baseball Card Adv.</u>	Sports/Time Travel
Horvath, Betty	<u>Everything on a Waffle</u>	Realistic Fiction/Newbery
Hunter, Erin	<u>Into the Wild (Warriors Book 1)</u>	Animal/Fantasy/Adventure
Lin, Grace	<u>The Year of the Dog</u>	Realistic Fiction/Humor
Morpurgo, Michael	<u>Kensuke's Kingdom</u>	Adventure
Mortenson, Greg	<u>Three Cups of Tea (Young Readers Ed.)</u>	Autobiography
Riordan, Rick	<u>The Lightning Thief</u>	Fantasy/Adventure/Mythology
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>Maniac Magee</u>	Realistic Fiction
Winkler, Henry	<u>Niagara Falls, Or Does It?</u>	Humor

Author	Title	Genre
Alcott, Louisa May	<u>Little Women</u>	Classic/Historical Fiction
Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.		
Avi	<u>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</u>	Newbery/Hist.Fic./Adventure
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a juggler who holds a dangerous secret. <u>Crispin: At the Edge of the World</u> is the sequel.		
Avi	<u>The Fighting Ground</u>	Historical Fiction/Adventure
Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.		
Avi	<u>Poppy</u>	Animal/Fantasy
Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. Start of a series.		
Avi	<u>The Secret School</u>	Historical Fiction
In 1925, fourteen-year-old Ida Bidson secretly takes over as the teacher when the one-room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.		
Avi	<u>Windcatcher</u>	Mystery/Adventure
While learning to sail, eleven-year-old Tony becomes excited about the rumors of sunken treasure in the area and follows a couple who are mysteriously searching for something.		
Babbitt, Natalie	<u>Tuck Everlasting</u>	Fantasy
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they must now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.		
Brittain, Bill	<u>The Wish Giver: Three Tales...</u>	Newbery/Fantasy
When a strange little man promises he can give people exactly what they ask for, three young believers-in-magic each make a wish that comes true in the most unexpected way.		
Bruchac, Joseph	<u>Skeleton Man</u>	Mystery
After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and maybe even for her life.		
Bunting, Eve	<u>Is Anybody There?</u>	Mystery
After discovering the disappearance of several household items, Marcus suspects that a stranger may be prowling around inside his house while he's at school and his mother is at work.		
Bunting, Eve	<u>SOS Titanic</u>	Historical Fiction/Adventure
Fifteen-year-old Barry O'Neill, traveling from Ireland to America on the maiden voyage of the Titanic, finds his life endangered when the ship hits an iceberg and begins to sink.		
Burnett, Frances	<u>The Secret Garden</u>	Classic/Fantasy
Ten-year-old Mary, an orphan, comes to live at a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers Colin, her invalid cousin, and the mysteries of a locked garden.		
Burnford, Sheila	<u>The Incredible Journey</u>	Animal/Adventure
A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.		
Byars, Betsy	<u>The Pinballs</u>	Realistic Fiction
Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and each other.		
Cameron, Ann	<u>The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods</u>	Historical Fiction
Living in a rural community in Wisconsin during the 1950s, eleven-year-old Amanda gradually and painfully learns a lot about herself, her parents, and her older sister.		

Christopher, John	<u>The White Mountains (series)</u>	Science Fiction/Adventure
Young Will Parker and his companions make a perilous journey toward an outpost of freedom to escape from the Tripods, huge machines that control Earth with brainwashing devices.		
Cleary, Beverly	<u>Dear Mr. Henshaw</u>	Newbery/Realistic
In letters to an author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and finding his own place in the world. Sequel is <u>Strider</u> .		
Clements, Andrew	<u>Frindle</u>	Realistic Fiction
When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.		
Clements, Andrew	<u>The Jacket</u>	Realistic Fiction
An incident at school forces sixth grader Phil Morelli, a white boy, to become aware of racial discrimination and segregation, and to seriously consider if he himself is prejudiced.		
Clements, Andrew	<u>The Landry News</u>	Realistic Fiction
A fifth-grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.		
Clements, Andrew	<u>The School Story</u>	Realistic Fiction
After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novel, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.		
Clements, Andrew	<u>A Week in the Woods</u>	Realistic Fiction/Adventure
The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.		
Cohen, Barbara	<u>Thank You, Jackie Robinson</u>	Historical Fiction/Sports
A fatherless white boy, who shares with an old African-American man an enthusiasm for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Jackie Robinson, seeks a ball autographed by Jackie for his friend.		
Colfer, Eoin (Owen)	<u>Artemis Fowl</u>	Fantasy/Adventure
When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. Start of a series.		
Cooney, Caroline B.	<u>The Face on the Milk Carton</u>	Mystery/Suspense
A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. Start of a series.		
Coville, Bruce	<u>I Left My Sneakers in Dimension X</u>	Fantasy
Rod and his bratty cousin Elspeth are snatched into another dimension by the monstrous alien Smorkus Flinders.		
Coville, Bruce	<u>I Was a Sixth Grade Alien</u>	Science Fiction/Humor
When aliens come to Earth on an interplanetary trade mission, sixth-grader Tim makes friends with the ambassador's son and together they uncover a plot to sabotage the mission.		
Coville, Bruce	<u>Juliet Dove, Queen of Love</u>	Fantasy/Humor
A shy twelve-year-old girl must solve a puzzle involving characters from Greek mythology to free herself from a spell which makes her irresistible to boys.		
Creech, Sharon	<u>Bloomability</u>	Realistic Fiction
When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers her world expanding.		
Creech, Sharon	<u>Chasing Redbird</u>	Realistic Fiction
Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor uncovers family secrets and self truths while clearing a mysterious settler trail that begins on her family's farm in Kentucky.		
Creech, Sharon	<u>Walk Two Moons</u>	Realistic Fiction
After her mother leaves home, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal tells the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.		
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<u>Bud, Not Buddy</u>	Newbery/Historical Fiction
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father.		
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<u>Watsons Go To Birmingham--1963</u>	Historical Fiction/Newbery
The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they decide to visit Alabama in 1963.		
Cushman, Karen	<u>Matilda Bone</u>	Historical Fiction
Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.		
Dahl, Roald	<u>The BFG</u>	Fantasy/Humor
Kidnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.		
Dahl, Roald	<u>Boy: Tales of Childhood</u>	Autobiography
Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood, including his summer vacations in Norway and life at an English boarding school.		
Dahl, Roald	<u>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</u>	Fantasy
Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.		
Dahl, Roald	<u>Matilda</u>	Fantasy
Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.		

Sebestyen, Ouida	<u>Words by Heart</u>	Historical Fiction
A young African-American girl struggles to fulfill her papa's dream of a better future for their family in the southwestern town where, in 1910, they are the only African-Americans.		
Sewell, Anna	<u>Black Beauty</u>	Classic/Animals
A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.		
Slote, Alfred	<u>Finding Buck McHenry</u>	Sports
Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian to be Buck McHenry, a pitcher from the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.		
Snicket, Lemony	<u>The Bad Beginning</u>	Adventure/Fantasy/Humor
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. Start of "A Series of Unfortunate Events."		
Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	<u>The Egypt Game</u>	Newbery/Mystery
A group of children, entranced with Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend a Professor.		
Speare, Elizabeth George	<u>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</u>	Newbery/Historical Fiction
In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.		
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>Loser</u>	Realistic Fiction
Even though his classmates consider him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.		
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>The Library Card</u>	Realistic Fiction
Collection of four stories in which the lives of four young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.		
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>Maniac Magee</u>	Realistic Fiction/Sports
After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel ("Maniac") Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.		
Strasser, Todd	<u>Help! I'm Trapped in My Teacher's Body</u>	Science Fiction/Humor
Jake switches bodies with Nick Nelson, a pro wrestler, in order to rescue his friend Andy who has switched bodies with Bruce Bloom, another pro wrestler. Start of a series.		
Talbott, Hudson	<u>Forging Freedom: True Story of Heroism</u>	History/Holocaust
Chronicles the brave exploits of Jaap Penraat, a young Dutch man, who risked his life during World War II to save the lives of over 400 Jews.		
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<u>The Hobbit, or There and Back Again</u>	Fantasy
The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lives happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard grants his wish. Start of the "Lord of the Rings" series.		
Vande Velde, Vivian	<u>Smart Dog</u>	Fantasy/Humor
Fifth grader Amy finds her life growing complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent, talking dog who has escaped from a university lab.		
Van Draanen, Wendelin	<u>Flipped</u>	Realistic Fiction
In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.		
Van Draanen, Wendelin	<u>Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief</u>	Mystery
Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother. Start of a series.		
Van Draanen, Wendelin	<u>Shredderman: Secret Identity</u>	Realistic Fiction/Humor
Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman! Start of a series.		
Wait, Lea	<u>Stopping to Home</u>	Historical Fiction
In 1806, orphans Abigail and her younger brother Seth find a home with a young widow in the seaport of Wiscasset, Maine, and help her discover a way to support them all.		
Whelan, Gloria	<u>Homeless Bird</u>	Realistic Fiction
Thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage and must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's customs or find the courage to oppose tradition.		
Winkler, Henry	<u>Niagara Falls, Or Does It?</u>	Humor
Fourth-graders Hank, Ashley, and Frankie are excitedly preparing for a magic show at the Rock 'N Bowl when Hank's creative alternative to an English essay lands him in detention and grounded the week of the show. Start of the Hank Zipser series.		
Winthrop, Elizabeth	<u>The Castle in the Attic</u>	Fantasy
A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest. Sequel is <u>The Battle for the Castle</u> .		
Woodruff, Elvira	<u>The Ghost of Lizard Light</u>	Mystery
Moving from Iowa to a lighthouse cottage in Maine, ten-year-old Jack struggles to live up to his father's high standards and encounters a young ghost with a 150-year-old unsolved sea mystery.		

Wright, Betty Ren

The Dollhouse Murders

Mystery

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night, and dolls that have moved from where she last left them, lead Amy and her mentally handicapped sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

Yep, Lawrence

Child of the Owl

Historical Fiction

Growing up in San Francisco in the '60s, young Casey learns of her Chinese heritage and the mother she never knew from her grandmother.