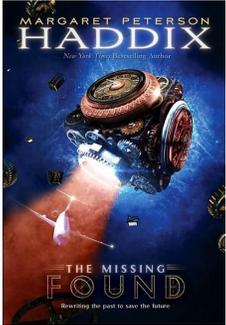


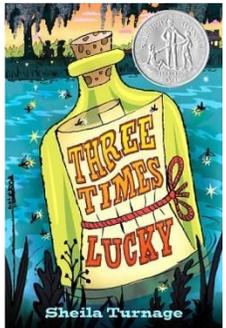
# 2017 Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 6

**Directions:** Every student entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall must read one book from the following list. Choose a book that will both interest and challenge you. Make sure you fill out the notes form as you read. Be prepared to both discuss the book and write about it when you return in the fall.



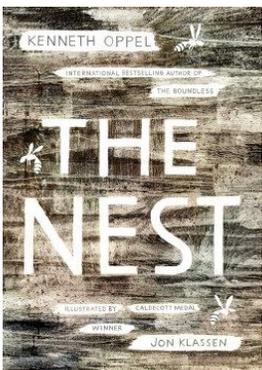
***Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (science fiction)** If they have already read *Found*, students may also read a subsequent book in this series.

Combining suspense, mystery, and science fiction with a lot of action, Margaret Peterson Haddix has once again created a story to keep readers on the edge of their seats. A plane suddenly appears with 36 unattended babies. All are adopted and grow up in contemporary America. When 13-year-old adoptees Chip and Jonah receive mysterious letters, they search for clues about their origins. Together with Jonah's sister Katherine, they find ties to the FBI and unexplained characters that disappear right before their eyes. In the climatic ending, some of the more confusing story elements come together and we understand the role of time travel in the story. With fully developed characters and strong relationships and conversational dialog, this book takes you into the immediate lives of the young teens. The fascinating twists and turns of the plot, chapter-ending cliff-hangers, and strong, positive portrayal of adoption will keep all readers hooked until the end.



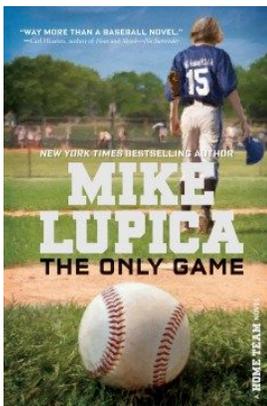
***Three Times Lucky* (& its sequel: *The Ghost of Tupelo Landing*) by Sheila Turnage (realistic fiction)**

Rising sixth grader Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. Although Mo hopes someday to find her "upstream mother," she's found a home with the Colonel--a café owner with a forgotten past of his own--and Miss Lana, the fabulous café hostess. She will protect those she loves with every bit of her strong will and tough attitude. So when a lawman comes to town asking about a murder, Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth in hopes of saving the only family Mo has ever known.



***The Nest* by Kenneth Oppel (fantasy)**

Steve just wants to save his baby brother--but what will he lose in the bargain? Haunting gothic tale for fans of *Coraline*, is one of the most acclaimed books of the year, receiving six starred reviews. For some kids summer is a sun-soaked season of fun. But for Steve, it's just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves. So when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to "fix" the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. All he has to do is say "Yes." But "yes" is a powerful word. It is also a dangerous one. And once it is uttered, can it be taken back? Celebrated author Kenneth Oppel creates an eerie masterpiece in this compelling story that explores disability and diversity, fears and dreams, and what ultimately makes a family.



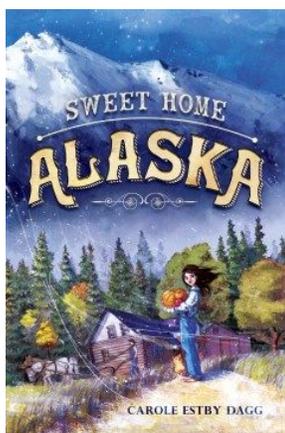
### ***The Only Game* by Mike Lupica (sports)**

Best friends Jack and Gus have dreamed of their chance at the Little League World Series for years, so when Jack quits the seventh-grade team after the first practice, everyone is astonished. Down their star player, the Rays—including Gus—turn on Jack, who finds friends in the funny, overweight "Teddy Bear" Madden and Cassie Bennett, the confident star of the girls' softball team. These new alliances help Jack confront the true reason he gave up the sport he loves, and a loving family environment helps Jack get back into the swing of things. Though the supportive nature of Jack's family and friends verges on saccharine, and the seventh-graders are often too wise for their years, many will find comfort in a story where community and friendships reign supreme.



### ***Pax* by Sara Pennypacker**

*Pax* by Sara Pennypacker \*Starred Review\* Peter and Pax, his pet fox he found as a kit on the day of his mother's funeral, are inseparable. That is, until Peter's dad enlists in the military and Peter is forced to abandon Pax before moving to his grandfather's house. Almost as soon as he gets there, however, he slips out, determined to hike the hundreds of miles back to where he left his pet. Not long into his journey, he is injured and reluctantly taken in by Vola, a war veteran and amputee who stubbornly lives on her own. In chapters from the fox's point of view, Pax struggles in the wild until a grizzled old fox agrees to help him get home. Pennypacker alternates between Pax's and Peter's perspectives, while the simmering war between unnamed countries grows dangerously close to home. As she slowly reveals secrets about Peter's and Vola's pasts, she sensitively and engagingly explores questions about anger, wildness, isolation, and family. Meanwhile, both fox and boy grow in unexpected ways.



### ***Sweet Home Alaska* by Carole Dagg (historical fiction)**

If Laura Ingalls Wilder had lived in Alaska, she might have written this novel. Like young Laura, the improbably named Terpsichore Johnson relocates with her family from their Wisconsin home—but not to the prairie. They move to rural Alaska because it's 1934, and the Depression has hit hard. In those dark days Franklin Roosevelt began a colony there for "pioneers" who were willing to try to make a go of the inhospitable wilderness; the plot of this heartwarming novel is based on that little-known historical project. "Trip" is inspired by and frequently invokes the Little House books as she staunchly attempts to find her place in her new home and among new friends. And is she ever a whiz at growing pumpkins and cooking. Dagg does a fine job evoking a realistic sense of time and place, with a few historical figures adding to the authentic flavor. Trip's a beautifully realized heroine, and readers will be heartened by her and her friends' efforts to develop a sense of communal spirit in their new, pristine colony.



