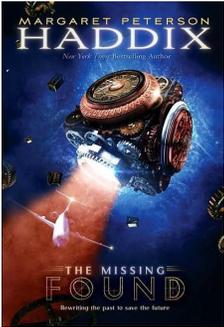


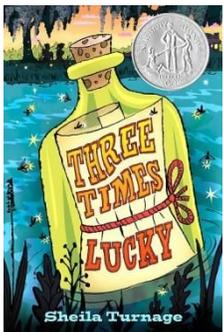
2018 Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 6

Directions: Every student entering the 6th 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.



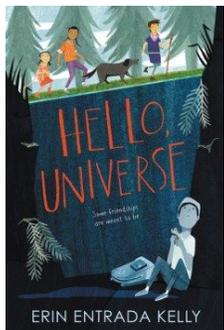
***Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (science fiction)** If they have already read *Found*, students may also read a subsequent book in this series.

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 cliffhangers, 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)**

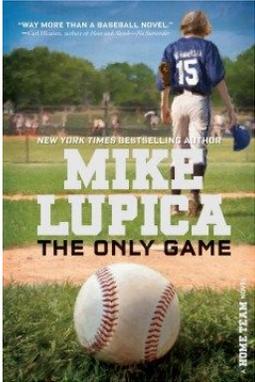
Rising sixth grader Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. Although Mo hopes someday to find her "upstream mother," she's 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.



***Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly (fantasy)**

Four middle-schoolers' fates intertwine one summer in Kelly's touching tale of friendship. Scrawny, taciturn Virgil Salinas can generally be found caring for his guinea pig and avoiding neighborhood bully Chet Bullens. The only people he feels comfortable around are his lola (his Filipino grandmother) and his Japanese American friend Kaori, who fancies herself a psychic. Kaori's quirky self-confidence is a foil to Virgil's insecurities, and when he comes to her for help befriendng a girl in his class, Valencia Somerset, she can't wait to consult her star chart. For her own part, Valencia struggles with nightmares after being rejected by her best friend, and the fact that she's deaf hasn't made finding new friends easy. When she spots Kaori's "business card" on a notice board, she makes an appointment to discuss her troubling dreams. That very day, Virgil goes missing, and Valencia joins Kaori's search for the boy. Chapters alternate between the four kids' perspectives, infusing the story with their unique interests,

backgrounds, beliefs, and doubts. Lola's hilariously grim Filipino folk stories weave in and out of Virgil's mind, ultimately giving him the courage to stand up for himself; and rather than holding her back, Valencia's deafness heightens her perceptiveness. Readers will be instantly engrossed in this relatable neighborhood adventure and its eclectic cast of misfits.



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

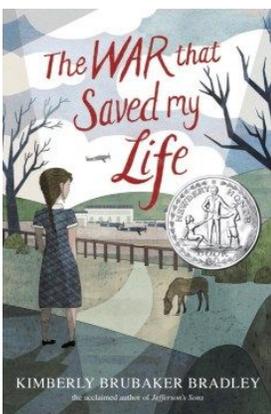
Best friends Jack and Gus have dreamed of their chance at the Little League World Series for years, so when Jack quits the seventh-grade team after the first practice, everyone is astonished. Down their star player, the Rays—including Gus—turn on Jack, who finds friends in the funny, overweight "Teddy 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.



***The War that Saved my Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (historical fiction)**

When word starts to spread about Germans bombing London, Ada's mother decides to send her little brother, Jamie, to the country. Not 11-year-old Ada, though—she was born with a crippling clubfoot, and her cruel mother treats her like a slave. But Ada has painfully taught herself to walk, so when Jaime departs for the train, she limps along with him. In Kent, they're assigned to crotchety Susan, who lives alone and suffers from bouts of depression. But the three warm to each other: Susan takes care of them in a loving (if a bit prickly) way, and Ada finds a sense of purpose and freedom of movement, thanks to Susan's pony, Butter. Ada finally feels worthy of love and respect, but when looming bombing campaigns threaten to take them away from Susan, her strength and resolve are tested. The home-front realities of WWII, as well as Ada's realistic anger and fear, come to life in Bradley's affecting and austere story, and

readers will cheer for steadfast Ada as she triumphs over despair.

- Book Descriptions from Publishers and Follett Titlepeek