

## Reading Suggestions From Wapiti Regional Library

### Grade Six Reading List

**Title: Africa is my Home: a child of the Amistad**

**Author:** Edinger, Monica

**Description:** A tale of a child, Sarah Margru Kinson, who arrives in America on the slave ship Amistad describing her capture, her witness to a mutiny, and the Supreme Court trail that prompts her return to Africa.

**Title: Barnum's Bones: How Barnum Brown Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World**

**Author:** Fern, Tracey E.

**Description:** Documents the work of an early twentieth-century paleontologist, a boy who grew up to work for the American Museum of Natural history and discovered the first documented skeletons of the Tyrannosaurus Rex and other noteworthy species.

**Title: A Black Hole in NOT a Hole**

**Author:** DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami

**Description:** Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space.

**Title: Breaking Stalin's Nose**

**Author:** Yelchin, Eugene

**Description:** In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

**Title: Bridge to Terabithia**

**Author:** Paterson, Katherine

**Description:** The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

**Title: Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team**

**Author:** Vernick, Audrey

**Description:** The story of the Baseball Hall of Fame honorees, tracing how the Acerra family of New Jersey formed their own semi-pro baseball team in the 1930s and became the longest-running all-brother team in history.

**Title: Brown Girl Dreaming**

**Author:** Woodson, Jacqueline

**Description:** Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Title: Built to Last: Building America's Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers**

**Author:** Sullivan, George

**Description:** Americans didn't let mountains stand in the way of trade with the American West – they tunneled right through them to make the Cascade Tunnel and Hoosac Tunnel. When water and power were needed, they build huge dams. Faced with water to cross, they built beautiful bridges.

**Title: Case Closed?: Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science**

**Author:** Hughes, Susan

**Description:** Examines how developments in modern science, such as DNA analysis and spectroscopy, have helped to reopen archaeological mysteries about ancient cities, Egypt's first female pharaoh, a missing expedition to find the Northwest Passage, and more, with illustrations, maps, and photographs.

**Title: The Dark is Rising**

**Author:** Cooper, Susan

**Description:** On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is one of the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the dark.

**Title: Dead End in Norvelt**

**Author:** Gantos, Jack

**Description:** In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

**Title: Double Fudge**

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Description:** His younger brother's obsession with money and the discovery of long-lost cousins Flora and Fauna provide many embarrassing moments for twelve-year-old Peter.

**Title: Elijah of Buxton**

**Author:** Curtis, Christopher Paul

**Description:** In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

**Title: Emily's Runaway Imagination**

**Author:** Cleary, Beverly

**Description:** Emily decides that the town of Pitchfork needs a library, and comes up with a plan to make it happen. Can she make her dream come true?

**Title: Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini**

**Author:** Fleischman, Sid

**Description:** A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business, the story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos, and author's notes.

**Title: The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**

**Author:** Kelly, Jacqueline

**Description:** In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate learns about love from the older three of her six brothers and studies the natural world with her grandfather which leads to an important discovery.

**Title: Explore!: The Most Dangerous Journeys of All Time**

**Author:** Kespert, Deborah

**Description:** Describes dangerous journeys made by explorers and adventurers and some of the tricks that help one survive in extreme environments.

**Title: The Fairy Ring: Or, Elsie and Frances Fool the World**

**Author:** Losure, Mary

**Description:** Relates the story of two early-twentieth-century cousins who believed they saw real fairies, created photographs using paper cut-outs when they were teased by adult family members, and inadvertently drew the attention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a fellow believer.

**Title: Fearless**

**Author:** Woodruff, Elvira

**Description:** In late seventeenth-century England, eleven-year-old Digory, forced to leave his hometown after his father is lost at sea, becomes an apprentice to the architect Henry Winstanley, who built a lighthouse on the treacherous Eddystone Reef -- the very rocks that sank Digory's grandfather's ship years before.

**Title: Fossil Fish Found Alive: Discovering the Coelacanth**

**Author:** Walker, Sally M.

**Description:** Describes the 1938 discovery of the coelacanth, a fish previously believed to be extinct, and subsequent research about it.

**Title: Found**

**Author:** Haddix, Margaret Peterson

**Description:** When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

**Title: The Giant and How He Humbugged America**

**Author:** Murphy, Jim

**Description:** When a 10-foot tall purported "petrified man" is unearthed from a backyard in upstate New York in 1869, the discovery immediately turns into a spectacle of epic proportions. News of the giant spreads like wildfire, and well over a thousand people come to view him in the first five days alone! Everyone has their own idea of his true origin: Is he an ancient member of the local Onandaga Indian tribe? Is he a biblical giant like Goliath? Soon the interests of world-renowned scientists and people from around the globe are piqued as arguments flare over who he is, where he came from, and if he is real--or just a hoax.

**Title: Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!" Voices From a Medieval Village**

**Author:** Schlitz, Laura Amy

**Description:** A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor.

**Title: The Great Wall of Lucy Wu**

**Author:** Shang, Wendy Wan-Long

**Description:** Eleven-year-old aspiring basketball star and interior designer Lucy Wu is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit and Lucy will have to share a room with her for several months, shattering her plans for a perfect sixth-grade year.

**Title: Greenglass House**

**Author:** Milford, Kate

**Description:** At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house sending Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure.

**Title: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad**

**Author:** Adler, David A.

**Description:** An introduction to the life and achievements of the heroic former slave, how, after managing her own escape, returned thirteen times to guide other slave to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

**Title: Hokey Pokey**

**Author:** Spinelli, Jerry

**Description:** Welcome to Hokey Pokey. A place and a time, when childhood is at its best: games to play, bikes to ride, experiences to be had. There are no adults in Hokey Pokey, just kids, and the laws governing Hokey Pokey are simple and finite. But when one of the biggest kids, Jack, has his beloved bike stolen, and by a girl, no less, his entire world, and the world of Hokey Pokey, turns to chaos.

**Title: Listening for Lucca**

**Author:** LaFleur, Suzanne

**Description:** Thirteen-year-old Siena's visions of the past intensify when her family moves to the Maine coast hoping her little brother will begin speaking, and she connects with residents of the house from many years earlier who faced a similar problem.

**Title: A Long Way From Chicago**

**Author:** Peck, Richard

**Description:** A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

**Title: Loot: How to Steal a Fortune**

**Author:** Watson, Jude

**Description:** When Alfie McQuinn, the notorious jewel thief, is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels," and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had--and the perfect partner to carry on the family business.

**Title: Mystery on Everest: a Photobiography of George Mallory**

**Author:** Salkeld, Audrey

**Description:** Discusses the life of British mountain climber, George Mallory, the discovery of his body seventy-five years after his death, and the debate over whether Mallory was the first person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

**Title: One Crazy Summer**

**Author:** Williams-Garcia, Rita

**Description:** In the summer of 1968, after traveling to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome to discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

**Title: Operation Yes**

**Author:** Holmes, Sara Lewis

**Description:** In her first ever teaching job, Miss Loupe uses improvisational acting exercises with her sixth-grade students at an Air Force base school, and when she experiences a family tragedy, her previously skeptical class members use what they have learned to help her, her brother, and other wounded soldiers.

**Title: Perseus**

**Author:** McCaughrean, Geraldine

**Description:** With the aid of his father Zeus, young Perseus vanquishes the serpent-haired Medusa whose gaze turns people to stone and rescues the Princess Andromeda and Danae, his mother.

**Title: The Search for Delicious**

**Author:** Babbitt, Natalie

**Description:** The Prime Minister is compiling a dictionary and when no one at court can agree on the meaning of delicious, the King sends his twelve-year-old messenger to poll the country.

**Title: the Search for Wondla**

**Author:** DeTerlizzi, Tony

**Description:** Living in isolation with a robot on what appears to be an alien world populated with bizarre life forms, a twelve-year-old human girl called Eva Nine sets out on a journey to find others like her.

**Title: Secrets of the Sphinx**

**Author:** Giblin, James Cross

**Description:** Discusses some of Egypt's most famous artifacts and monuments, including the pyramids, the Rosetta Stone, and, especially, the Great Sphinx, presenting research and speculation about their origins and their future.

**Title: Seymour Simon`s Extreme Earth Records**

**Author:** Simon, Seymour

**Description:** Explores the extreme parts of the planet, from the driest desert and the snowiest mountains to the deepest depths of the ocean and the highest waterfalls.

**Title: The Softwire: Virus on Orbis 1**

**Author:** Haarsma, P.J.

**Description:** When twelve-year-old Johnny and his sister arrive on Orbits in a space ship of orphans, he finds he has a unique ability to communicate with computers.

**Title: Splendors and Glooms**

**Author:** Schlitz, Laura Amy

**Description:** When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

**Title: Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist**

**Author:** Halls, Kelly Milner

**Description:** Cryptozoology is the study of animals that may or may not be real: familiar animals like Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, and those that are less familiar like the Marozi of Kenya, the Orang-pendek of Sumatra and the Thylacine of Tasmania. Meet these and more in this introduction to cryptozoology.

**Title: The Tarantula In My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets**

**Author:** George, Jean Craighead

**Description:** A collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.

**Title: Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World**

**Author:** Montgomery, Sy

**Description:** When Temple Grandin was born, her parents knew she was different. Years later she was diagnosed with autism. While Temple's doctor and father both recommended an institution, her mother believed in her. Temple went to school instead. Today, Dr. Temple Grandin is a scientist and professor of animal science.

**Title: Texting the Underworld**

**Author:** Booraem, Ellen

**Description:** Conor O'Neill faces his cowardice and visits the underworld to bargain with the Lady who can prevent the imminent death of a family member, but first Ashling, the banshee who brought the news, wants to visit his middle school.

**Title: Time For Andrew: A Ghost Story**

**Author:** Hahn, Mary Downing

**Description:** 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.

**Title: Titanic: Voices From the Disaster**

**Author:** Hopkinson, Deborah

**Description:** On April 15, 1912, the magnificent ocean liner the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg and sank beneath the icy North Atlantic seas. Hopkinson weaves together archival photographs and the voices of real Titanic survivors and witnesses to the disaster to bring the horrors of that terrible night to life.

**Title: Tom's Midnight Garden**

**Author:** Pearce, Phillippa

**Description:** Tom prowls through his relative's home at night, discovers a Victorian garden where none exists in the day and there he meets Hatty.

**Title: Turtle in Paradise**

**Author:** Holm, Jennifer L.

**Description:** In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in faraway Key West, Florida.

**Title: Whittington**

**Author:** Armstrong, Alan W.

**Description:** Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

**Title: Will Sparrow's Road**

**Author:** Cushman, Karen

**Description:** In 1599 England, twelve-year-old lying, thieving Will Sparrow runs away, meets many colorful characters on the road, and then reluctantly joins a traveling "oddities" exhibit, where he learns to see beyond appearances.

**Title: Wonder**

**Author:** Palacio, R. J.

**Description:** Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.