



**MAYFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL:
2020 SUMMER READING RECOMMENDED FICTION READING for
Students Entering 6th GRADE**

All students are required to read two (2) books over the summer. The following is a list of titles recommended by Mayfield teachers and librarians. This list is also available at mayfieldschools.org

Kwame Alexander. Crossover (2015 Newbery Medal)

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. Series includes Rebound and Booked. *Realistic*.

Katherine Applegate. Home of the Brave

Kek comes from Africa and has been sent to a new home. In America, he wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter—cold and unkind. But slowly he makes friends, including a sad cow that reminds Kek of home. *Realistic*.

Katherine Applegate is also the 2013 Newbery Award winner for The One and Only Ivan about an easygoing gorilla living at the local mall who has grown accustomed to humans watching him through glass walls.

Kelly Barnhill. The Girl Who Drank the Moon. (2017 Newbery Medal)

This winner of the 2017 Newbery Medal has a strong female protagonist, Luna, who is taken from her family and saved by a kindhearted witch who accidentally gives her magical powers. Barnhill is also the author of The Witch's Boy. *Fantasy*

Holly Black. Doll Bones

Black's tale of friendship and the trials of growing up is set against the backdrop of a spooky ghost story. *Realistic*

Andrew Clements. Extra Credit

It isn't that Abby Carson can't do her schoolwork; it's just that she doesn't like doing it. And that means she's pretty much failing sixth grade. Unless she wants to repeat, she'll have to complete an extra-credit project: find a penpal in a foreign country. *Realistic*

Leslie Connor. Waiting for Normal

Living in the small trailer with her mother who is barely able to take care of herself, 12-year-old Addie makes the best of things, but misses her caring stepfather and sisters. Maybe one day something close to normal can happen for her, too. *Realistic*

Jerry Craft New Kid

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. *Realistic*.

Sharon M. Draper. Blended

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves. Also the author of Double Dutch and Out of My Mind. *Realistic*

John Feinstein. The First Major: The Inside Story of the 2016 Ryder Cup, Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open, Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl

Eighth grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie are thrilled to give their budding journalism careers a boost at some major sporting events, but end up giving their sleuthing skills a major workout, too. *Sports Mysteries*

Rita Williams-Garcia. One Crazy Summer

It is 1968, and three sisters have been put on a California-bound plane to spend a month with their mother, a poet who ran off years before. She sends the girls to a center run by the Black Panther Party so she can work on her poetry. Over the next four weeks, Delphine, Vonetta and Fern spend a lot of time learning about revolution and staying out of their mother's way. Sequels: P.S. Be Eleven and Gone Crazy in Alabama *Historical*

Mark Goldblatt. Twerp

A terrible bullying incident involving fellow student, Danley Dimmel, prompted the week-long suspension of Julian Twerski (Twerp) and his friends from their sixth grade class. When he returns to school, in lieu of writing a report on William Shakespeare, Twerp's teacher, Mr. Selkirk, asks him to keep a journal. Sequel: Finding the Worm. *Historical*



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Veera Hiranandani. [The Night Diary](#). (2019 Newbery Honor Book)

Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. *Historical*.

Will Hobbs. [Go Big or Go Home](#)

Brady and his cousin Quinn love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a meteorite after it crashes into his bedroom. *Science Fiction, Sports*

Jennifer L. Holm. [The Fourteenth Goldfish](#).

Science-lovers will love this series! Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. Weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Also: [Turtle in Paradise](#). [The Third Mushroom](#). *Realistic*.

Anthony Horowitz. Alex Rider series: [Stormbreaker](#), [Point Blank](#), [Skeleton Key](#), [Eagle Strike](#), [Scorpia](#), [Ark Angel](#)

After his death, Alex Rider discovers that his uncle was not a banker, but a secret agent for the British Intelligence – and now the MI6 wants Alex to continue his uncle's dangerous missions! *Adventure*

Erin Entrada Kelly. [Hello, Universe](#) (2018 Newbery Medal Award)

Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner *bayani* (hero). *Realistic*.

E.L. Konigsburg. [The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place](#)

While her parents are in Peru, Margaret Rose is delighted when her beloved uncles rescue her from Camp Talequa and bring her to stay with them at their wonderful house. But she soon discovers that something is terribly wrong. *Realistic*

Gordon Korman. [Restart](#), [Schooled](#), [The Sixth-Grade Nickname Game](#), [No Dogs Allowed](#), [The Swindle Series](#), [Ungifted](#)

Korman is a comedic writer who has approximately 55 books to his credit. *Realistic*

Ingrid Law. [Savvy](#).

At age 13, all the Beaumonts discover their supernatural power—their savvy. Mibs can't wait to turn thirteen, but she needs more than magic when Poppa is hurt in a terrible accident just before her birthday. A Newbery Honor Book. Sequel: [Scumble](#). *Fantasy*

Mike Lupica. [The Only Game](#), [Lonestars](#), [Heat](#), [Summer Ball](#), [Travel Team](#), [The Big Field](#)

In addition to coaching his own children in sports, Mike Lupica is a sports writer for the New York Daily news and has been a TV anchor on ESPN. He writes novels for young adults, many of which have been on the New York Times bestseller lists. *Sports Fiction*

Wendy Mass. [Every Soul A Star](#), [A Mango Shaped Space](#), [Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall](#), [11 Birthdays](#)

Wendy Mass is a bestselling author of realistic fiction for young adults. *Realistic Fiction*

Meg Medina. [Merci Suarez Changes Gears](#). (2019 Newbery Medal).

Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between. Merci knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. Also: [The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind](#). *Realistic*.

Ben Mikaelson. [Petey](#).

Set 1922, Petey is born with severe cerebral palsy and at the age of 2, his parents commit him to a state institution. Petey struggles to communicate, is bound to his wheelchair and is later moved into a nursing home where he befriends a boy who that learns there is much more to Petey than meets the eye. *Historical*.

Gary Paulsen. [Brian's Return](#)

After having survived alone in the wilderness, Brian finds that he can no longer live in the city but must return to the place where he really belongs. Conclusion to [Hatchet](#), [The River](#), [Brian's Winter](#), & [Brian's Hunt](#) *Adventure; Survival*



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Jason Reynolds [Ghost](#)

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. Other books in the series: [Patina](#), [Sunny](#), and [Lu](#) *Realistic*

Gary D. Schmidt. [Okay for Now](#).

As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, Doug Swietek has all the stats stacked against him. As Doug struggles to be more than the “skinny thug” that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally—a fiery young lady who helps Doug find the strength to endure his troubles. Schmidt is also the author of [The Wednesday Wars](#). *Realistic*.

Ruta Sepetys. [Between Shades of Gray](#).

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life—until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp. Also: [Salt to the Sea](#). *Historical*.

Jordan Sonnenblick. [Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie](#)

Steven enjoys the normal life of a 13-year-old: he plays a mean set of drums, hopes Renee will notice him, and puts up with his little brother, Jeffrey. But, aggravation turns to fear when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia. Sequel: [After Ever After](#). Also the author of [Falling Over Sideways](#), [Zen and the Art of Faking It](#). *Realistic; Humor*

Amy Timberlake. [One Came Home](#)

To find out what really happened to her purportedly dead sister, sharpshooting 13-year-old Georgie Burkhardt and her sister’s one-time suitor Billy McCabe follow the trail of pigeon hunters and discover far worse going on near Placid, Wisconsin, in 1871. *Historical*

Clare Vanderpool. [Moon Over Manifest](#). (2011 Newbery Award)

Abilene Tucker is initially disappointed by the Depression town she encounters before finding a hidden box of mementos and letters that mention a spy. Vanderpool is also the author of [Navigating Early](#), two boys' quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters. *Historical*.

Jasmine Warga [Other Words for Home](#)

Jude never thought she’d be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. *Realistic*.

Renee Watson. [Piecing Me Together](#).

A powerful story about a girl striving for success in a world that too often seems like it's trying to break her, Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Newbery Honor- and Coretta Scott King Author Award-winner has also written [This Side of Home](#), [What Momma Left Me](#). *Realistic*.

Alicia D. Williams [Genesis Begins Again](#) (Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King)

There are ninety-six things Genesis hates about herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. Like #95: Because her skin is so dark, people call her charcoal and eggplant—even her own family. And #61: Because her family is always being put out of their house, belongings laid out on the sidewalk for the world to see. When your dad is a gambling addict and loses the rent money every month, eviction is a regular occurrence. *Realistic*.

Lauren Wolk. [Beyond the Bright Sea](#). (2018 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction)

Creating mystery and suspense in an unusual setting, Wolk spins an intriguing tale of an orphan determined to find her roots, set in the 1920s.... Crow is a determined and dynamic heroine with a strong intuition, who pieces together the puzzle of her past while making profound realizations about the definition of family. *Historical*. Wolk is also the author of Newbery Honor–winner [Wolf Hollow](#).

Jacqueline Woodson. [Brown Girl Dreaming](#). (2015 Newbery Honor Book)

This Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor author tells her story of what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 70s in both the North and the South through a collection of poems about family, writing, and growing up during the Civil Rights Movement. *Memoir Free Verse Poetry*. Woodson is also the author of [Locomotion](#), [Feathers](#), and [After Tupac and D Foster](#).



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You may also want to check out ala.org for a list of all Newbery Award books. The Newbery Medal has been awarded annually since 1922 by the Association for Library Service to Children to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.