

# Pioneer Middle Incoming Sixth Grade Nonfiction Summer Reading List

## *Baby Whale Rescue: The True Story of J. J.*

**Caroline Arnold and Richard Hewett**

Fountas & Pinnell level P, 32 pages

Describes how J.J., a baby gray whale born off the California coast and separated from her mother, was rescued and returned to the open sea.

## *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*

**Steve Sheinkin**

Reading level 6.9, 266 pages

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

## *The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer’s Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors*

**Chris Barton**

Reading level 6.0, 42 pages

Illustrations and easy-to-follow text describe how brothers Bob and Joe Switzer invented fluorescent paint and colors; and explains how fluorescence works.

## *Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story (Young Readers’ Edition)*

**Vicki Myron**

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 214 pages

Follows the development of an endearing kitten abandoned in an Iowa library drop-box into an affable library mascot who made many friendships with the library staff and patrons of all ages.

## *Drawing from Memory*

**Allen Say**

Reading level 4.1, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 63 pages

*Drawing from Memory* is Allen Say's own story of his path to becoming the renowned artist he is today. Shunned by his father, who didn't understand his son's artistic leanings, Allen was embraced by Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist and the man he came to love as his 'spiritual father'.

## *El Deafo*

**Cece Bell**

Reading level 3.3, 233 pages

A graphic novel memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired.

## *For the Love of Chimps: The Jane Goodall Story*

**Martha E. Kendall**

Reading level 6.1, 72 pages

Presents a study of Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees of Africa and chronicles her early fascination with animals and years in the jungles gathering data about the behavioral habits of chimps.

## *Horses*

**Seymour Simon**

Reading level 5.2, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 36 pages

Provides a brief history of horses, including how they evolved and how they have been trained by man for work, sports, warfare, and companionship. Also includes information about different varieties of horses as well as their physical attributes and their eating and breeding habits.

***Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka***

**Jon Scieszka**

Reading level 4.6, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 106 pages

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

***The Librarian Who Measured the Earth***

**Kathryn Lasky**

Reading level 5.8, Fountas & Pinnell level S, 48 pages

Describes the life and work of Erathosthenes, the Greek geographer and astronomer who accurately measured the circumference of the Earth.

***The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System***

**Joanna Cole**

Reading level 3.7, Fountas & Pinnell level P, 40 pages

On a special field trip in the magic school bus, Ms. Frizzle's class goes into outer space and visits each planet in the solar system.

***Math Appeal***

**Greg Tang**

Reading level 3.5, 40 pages

Rhyming anecdotes present opportunities for simple math activities and hints for solving.

***Mythology: Oh My! Gods and Goddesses***

**Mary Frances Budzik**

Reading level 6.7, 128 pages

Introduces ancient Greek, Norse, Egyptian, and Roman mythologies, including Zeus, father of the Greek gods, Norse Freyja, goddess of love, beauty, war, and death, and Egyptian Bastet, goddess of cats.

***Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin***

**Gene Barretta**

Reading level 5.1, Fountas & Pinnell level O, 32 pages

Looks at some of the many things invented by Benjamin Franklin that are still in use in the twenty-first century.

***Oh, Rats! – The Story of Rats and People***

**Albert Marrin**

Reading level 6.2, 42 pages

Describes rat behavior and survival skills and aspects of their relationship with humans, including disease, rats as food, rats as pests, and the training of rats as rescuers.

***Pirates: A Nonfiction Companion to “Pirates Past Noon”***

**Will and Mary Pope Osborne**

Reading level 4.9, 117 pages

What were pirates really like? How did people become pirates? Where did pirates bury their treasure? Dig up the answers to these questions with Jack and Annie's very own guide to pirates.

***The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo***

**Sy Montgomery**

Reading level 5.3, 79 pages

Scientist Lisa Dabek goes to New Guinea to study a strange animal called the Matschie's tree kangaroo.

***Rick Riordan***

**Adam Furgang**

Reading level 7.5, 111 pages

Profiles the life and career of the famous writer, Rick Riordan.

***Shake, Rattle, and Roll: The Founders of Rock and Roll***

**Holly George-Warren**

Reading level 6.4, 32 pages

Collection of one-page biographies with accompanying illustrations of some of the more influential stars of rock music, such as Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Buddy Holly.

***Sharks***

Seymour Simon

Reading level 6.1, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 34 pages

Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and environment of a variety of sharks.

***The Tarantula Scientist***

**Sy Montgomery**

Reading level 5.8, 80 pages

Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird eating tarantula.

***We Are the Ship: The Story of the Negro Baseball League***

**Kadir Nelson**

Reading level 5.9, 88 pages

Describes the glory years of Negro league baseball in the early 1900s, profiling its star athletes and highlighting the challenges faced by the players and the sacrifices made to live out their dreams and play the game they loved.

***Who Was Sally Ride?***

**Megan Stine**

Reading level 5.9, 103 pages

An illustrated biography of Sally Ride, describing the life of the first American woman to travel in space.

***Who Was Steve Jobs?***

**Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso**

Reading level 5.0, 105 pages

A biography of Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, discussing his childhood, family, business sense, and more.