

Pioneer Middle Incoming Sixth Grade Fiction Summer Reading List

Realistic Fiction

Absolutely Almost

Lisa Graff

Reading level 4.7, 288 pages

Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him. Calista, Albie's new nanny, helps Albie to uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

A Week in the Woods

Andrew Clements

Reading level 5.5, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 190 pages

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

Because of Mr. Terupt

Rob Buyea

Reading level 3.7, 269 pages

It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything.

Force Out

Tim Green

Reading level 4.7, 282 pages

Joey and Zach have always been best friends. They're also two of the best baseball players in their league. Their dream is to play together on the Center State select team, and they will do anything to help each other get there. Then the unthinkable happens: the boys learn there's only one open spot on the select team. Suddenly Joey and Zach go from being best friends to biggest rivals, and Joey has to decide his next move. He can play the biggest game of his life, or he can use their secret to force Zach out. How far should Joey go to win?

Heat

Mike Lupica

Reading level 5.3, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 220 pages

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old. Michael's parents cannot offer proof of his age.

Mick Harte Was Here

Barbara Park

Reading level 4.5, 89 pages

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls the death of her younger brother Mick in a bicycle accident and how she and her family reacted to the tragedy.

Rules

Cynthia Lord

Reading level 3.9, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 200 pages

Frustrated with a life that revolves around the needs of her autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a "normal" existence, but instead finds her world further complicated and enriched by friendship with a young paraplegic.

The Skin I'm In

Sharon Flake

Reading level 4.1, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 171 pages

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, insecure about her very dark skin, rejects the support of a new teacher, Miss Saunders, whose skin looks blotched because of a rare medical condition. Soon Maleeka learns to love herself and accept love from others.

Historical Fiction

Al Capone Does My Shirts

Gennifer Choldenko

Reading level 3.5, Fountas & Pinnell level X, 225 pages

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there. Moose has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Nory Ryan's Song

Patricia Reilly Giff

Reading level 4.3, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 148 pages

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors to survive.

Penny from Heaven

Jennifer L. Holm

Reading level 4.0, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 274 pages

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

The Watsons go to Birmingham, 1963

Christopher Paul Curtis

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 210 pages

The everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Weasel

Cynthia DeFelice

Reading level 5.0, 119 pages

Alone in the frontier wilderness in the winter of 1839, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as Weasel and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge.

Fantasy

11 Birthdays

Wendy Mass

Reading level 4.1, 267 pages

Peculiar things begin to happen when Amanda and Leo plan to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately after celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together.

Breadcrumbs

Anne Ursu

Reading level 4.8, 312 pages

Once upon a time, Hazel and Jack were best friends. But that was before he stopped talking to her and disappeared into a forest with a mysterious woman made of ice. Now it's up to Hazel to go in after him. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen."

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

Kate DiCamillo

Reading level 4.3, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 231 pages

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers.

The Fourteenth Goldfish

Jennifer L. Holm

Reading level 4.1, 195 pages

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager, which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother.

Gregor the Overlander

Suzanne Collins

Reading level 4.8, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 311 pages

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

The One and Only Ivan

Katherine Applegate

Reading level 3.6, 305 pages

Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

Mystery

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

Chris Grabenstein

Reading level 4.5, 291 pages

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students. He must work together with his friends to solve puzzles and escape the library.

Flush

Carl Hiaasen

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 263 pages

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of a floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Runaway Twin

Peg Kehret

Reading level 4.7, 197 pages

Thirteen-year-old Sunny, accompanied by a stray dog, takes advantage of a windfall to travel from her Nebraska foster home to Enumclaw, Washington, to find the twin sister from whom she was separated at age three.

Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story

Mary Downing Hahn

Reading level 4.6, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 186 pages

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Who Could That Be at This Hour?

Lemony Snicket

Reading level 5.5, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 258 pages

Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue.

Humor

The Best School Year Ever

Barbara Robinson

Reading level 5.4, Fountas & Pinnell level P, 117 pages

The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Roald Dahl

Reading level 4.8, Fountas & Pinnell level R, 155 pages

Each of the five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his or her own way.

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading

Tom Greenwald

Reading level 5.4, 220 pages

Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading, but eventually his schemes go too far.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

Jack Gantos

Reading level 4.9, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 154 pages

While Joey is really a good kid, he just can't sit still, pay attention or follow the rules, and he can't help it – especially when his meds aren't working.

Summer Reading is Killing Me!

Jon Scieszka

Reading level 3.9, Fountas & Pinnell level P, 73 pages

At the beginning of summer vacation, Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books.

Series Fiction

39 Clues series

Various authors – the author of book #1, *Maze of Bones*, is Rick Riordan

When their aunt dies, Dan and Amy—along with other Cahill descendants—are faced with an unusual choice: inherit one million dollars or participate in a perilous treasure hunt. The first book in this series is *Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan.

Dear America/My America/My Name is America series

Various authors

These series include historical fiction books inspired by letters and diaries written during different historical periods. The *Dear America* books are told from girls' perspectives and the *My America* books are from boys' perspectives.

Goddess Girls series

Joan Holub

This series puts a modern spin on Greek classics. Follow Athena, Persephone, Aphrodite, and Artemis as they negotiate the ins and outs of Mount Olympus Academy. The first book in this series is *Athena the Brain*.

Harry Potter series

J. K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. The first book in this series is *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

I Survived series

Lauren Tarshis

Each book in the series tells a terrifying and thrilling story from history through the eyes of a boy who has lived to tell the tale.

Origami Yoda series

Tom Angleberger

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. The first book in this series is *The Strage Case of Origami Yoda*.