

Recommended Reading List: Year 6

Author	Title	Blurb
Wendy Meddour	A Hen in the Wardrobe	Witty and warm-hearted, this is a delightful family story spiced with adventure. Everything is distinctly not normal in Ramzi's house. While mum's away studying Domes of the East for her architecture course, dad starts waking in the night to do unusual things such as chasing a hen in Ramzi's wardrobe and trying to catch frogs in the pantry. The truth is, dad's homesick for his village in Algeria. Soon Ramzi is off on a great trip but will he be able to find the help he needs to get dad back to normal?
Joan Lingard	Across The Barricades	Kevin and Sadie just want to be together, but it's not that simple. Things are bad in Belfast. Soldiers walk the streets and the city is divided. No Catholic boy and Protestant girl can go out together - not without dangerous consequences . . .
Grace Nichols	Cosmic Disco	A sparkling galaxy of new poems by one of the UK's most exciting contemporary poets. From Aurora Borealis, Sun – You're a Star and A Matter of Holes, to Lady Winter's Rap, the Earthworm Sonnet and You – a Universe Yourself, this is brilliant poetry with an astonishing range – comic riddles, animals and nature, home truths and the explosive wonder of the cosmos.
Roddy Doyle	A greyhound of a girl	Best-selling Roddy Doyle has written a wonderful, funny and warm-hearted family story about the dying of a granny which weaves together the lives of four generations and a little bit of ghostly mystery too. Mary's relationship with her granny and the feelings she has about her death will touch the heart of readers of all ages.
Louis Sachar	Holes	Wholly original and brilliantly plotted, Holes is a funny and poignant story about surviving. When Stanley Yelnats is falsely accused of stealing a pair of trainers, he is sent off to Camp Green Lake which is not a camp, not green and not near a lake but a boys' detention centre in the middle of the desert. Every day every boy has to dig a hole five foot deep and five foot across because, the Warden says, it's good for them. How Stanley survives and proves that the Warden has a different and far more sinister motive for wanting so many holes to be dug unravels in unexpected and wholly satisfying ways.
Anne Holm	I Am David	You must get away tonight,' the man had told him. David escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe. He is utterly alone – who can he trust? What will await him? And all the while, how can he be sure that they won't catch up with him . . . This is the remarkable story of David's introduction to

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		the world: sea, mountains and flowers, the colours of Italy, the taste of fruit, people laughing and smiling, all are new to David. David learns that his polite manner, his haunted eyes and his thin features are strange to other people. He must learn to fend for himself in this strange new world.
Annabel Pitcher	My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece	Heartbreaking and funny in equal measure, 10-year-old Jamie's direct and wide-eyed account of the emotional chaos he and his family live through following the death of his sister in a terrorist attack is poignant and warm-hearted. Beginning a new life in the Lake District with his older sister and his father, who mourns his daughter through alcohol and a wild rage against her killers, Jamie knows he should feel sadder than he does. The truth is, he can hardly remember his sister; and what is happening with his new school and new friends, especially Sunya, is more urgent – as is his yearning for his absent mother. Emotionally charged, this is a wonderfully touching story.
Michael Morpurgo	Private Peaceful	Heroism or cowardice? A stunning story of the First World War from a master storyteller. Told in the voice of a young soldier, the story follows 24 hours in his life at the front during WW1, and captures his memories as he looks back over his life. Full of stunningly researched detail and engrossing atmosphere, the book leads to a dramatic and moving conclusion. Both a love story and a deeply moving account of the horrors of the First World War, this book will reach everyone from 9 to 90.
Mildred D Taylor	Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.
Katherine Rundell	Rooftoppers	Overall Winner and Winner of Fiction for 5-12's category 2014 Waterstones Children's Book Prize Winner of the Blue Peter Book of the Year 2014 - Best Story Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2014 Abandoned as a baby, Sophie's determination to find her missing mother leads her to Paris where she meets Matteo, living off the local pigeons, washing in rainwater and travelling unseen across the great roofscape of Paris. With Matteo's help Sophie learns the tricks of roof-top living and also how to break into

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		buildings and bamboozle officials – exactly the trick she needs to find her mother. An exciting, tender and original adventure. Shortlisted for the 2013 Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize
Bernard Ashley	Little Soldier	A book about the realities of young boys forced into fighting in rebel armies and the effect it can have. Back home, Kaninda has been trained to carry a gun and use it. When he is taken from Africa by aid workers and brought to a different life in London he finds there are tribes and loyalties of a new kind. Unwillingly Kaninda gets drawn into local conflicts while he longs to return home and take revenge. A moving and thoughtful exploration of the scarring effect of violent conflict.
Robert Westall	The Machine Gunners	'Some bright kid's got a gun and 2000 rounds of live ammo. And that gun's no peashooter. It'll go through a brick wall at a quarter of a mile.' Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods - its shiny, black machine-gun still intact - he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results.... '.... not just the best book so far written for children about the Second World War, but also a metaphor for now.' Aidan Chambers, Times Literary Supplement
Mal Peet	The Penalty	This is the second novel from Mal Peet that features Paul Faustino (the first was Keeper) South America’s top sports journalist. It’s a brilliant thriller, beautifully written and the author’s passion for football shines through in the writing. If you’re football mad or want to be a journalist, don’t look further than this book for inspiration. Now available in audio CD. The first in the trilogy is Keeper and the final one is Exposure.
Sue Townsend	The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged Thirteen and Three Quarters	Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life. Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', Adrian's painfully honest diary is still hilarious and compelling reading thirty years after it first appeared.
Anne Fine	Tulip Touch	Nobody wants to be around Tulip but her outlandish behaviour doesn't matter to Natalie. At first she finds Tulip exciting and she doesn't care that other people are upset by her pranks. But then Tulip's games become increasingly sinister, and Natalie realizes that Tulip is going too far.

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Frank Cottrell Boyce	The Unforgotten Coat	Winner of 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy as she recollects a wonderful friendship that was abruptly ended when Chingis and his family were forced to return to Mongolia. Told with the humour, warmth and brilliance of detail which characterizes Frank Cottrell Boyce's writing, this magical and compelling story is enriched by stunning and atmospheric Polaroid photos.
Peter Dickinson	The Weathermonger	When Geoffrey starts to repair his uncle's motorboat, he and his sister Sally are condemned as witches. Fleeing to France, they find everything to be normal - it seems "The Changes" forcing the English back to a primitive past are the result of a magical spell that must be broken.