



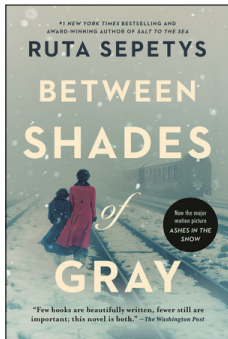
21 Books

Every 6th Grader Should Read



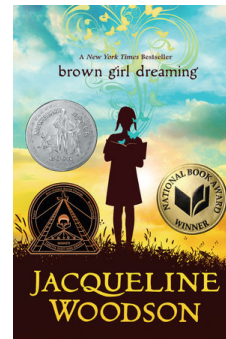
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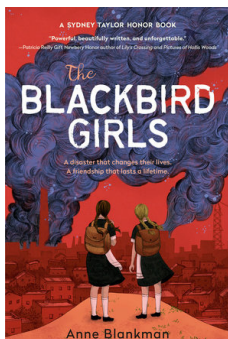


Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys. Fifteen-year-old Lina's life changes when Soviet officers invade and send her family to a work camp. She documents their ordeal through drawings, secretly including clues for her father in prison. Will her hope and courage be enough to help her

family survive?

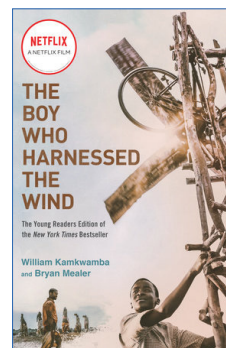


Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. In vivid poems, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights Movement.

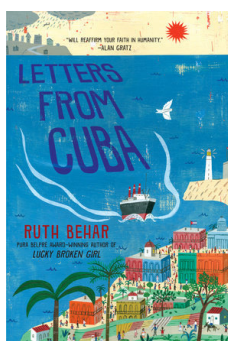


The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman. After a reactor explosion at Chernobyl, enemies Valentina and Oksana must trust each other on a train to Leningrad. As their journey unfolds, the novel intertwines with WWII and Jewish refugees' experiences in Eastern Europe, revealing

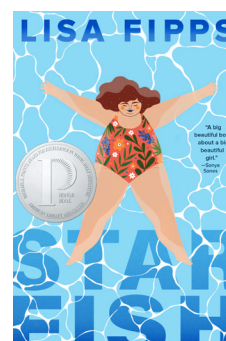
how true friendship can triumph over hatred, intolerance, and oppression.



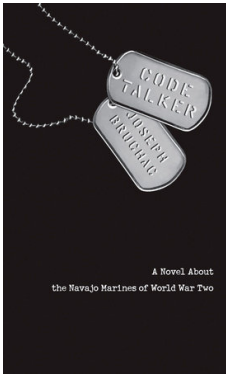
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, illustrated by Anna Hymas. A gripping memoir of survival and perseverance about the heroic young inventor who brought electricity to his Malawian village.



Letters From Cuba by Ruth Behar. The inspiring story of a Jewish girl who escapes Poland to make a new life in Cuba, where she works to rescue the rest of her family.



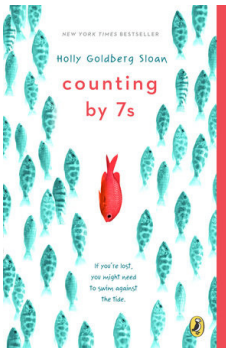
Starfish by Lisa Fipps. Ellie has faced relentless bullying about her weight since childhood, adhering to restrictive "Fat Girl Rules" to avoid criticism. Her refuge is the swimming pool, where she feels free and unburdened. Supported by her dad, therapist, and new friend Catalina, Ellie begins to challenge these rules and embrace her true self.



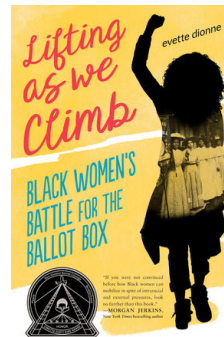
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac. This fictional story is about Ned Begay, a 16-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a Navajo code talker during World War II. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians.



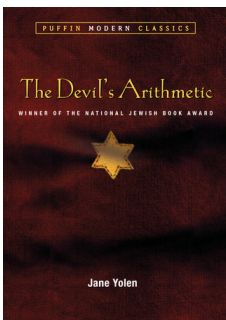
Legend by Marie Lu. What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. When June's brother is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect, they find themselves caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse. They are enemies until they uncover the secret that brought them together, and everything changes.



Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. With the help of her adoptive parents, she has managed to lead a quietly happy life. But after losing them, Willow begins a journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family.



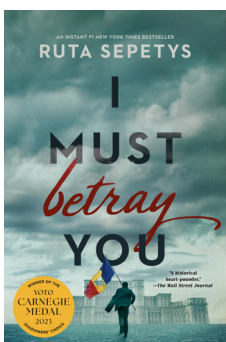
Lifting as We Climb by Evette Dionne. The important, overlooked story of Black women as a force in the suffrage movement—when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle.



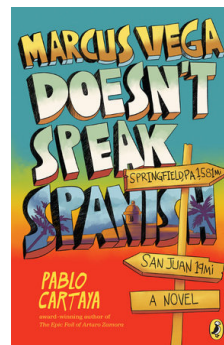
The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen. Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past ... and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await.



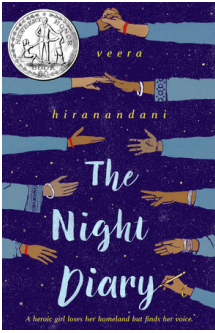
Flight of the Puffin by Ann Braden. When Libby completes a small act of kindness, she doesn't expect it to grow like it does, touching the lives of other kids facing their own struggles with bullying, unaccepting families, or grief. Each child finds the encouragement they need to realize their own worth and feel less alone.



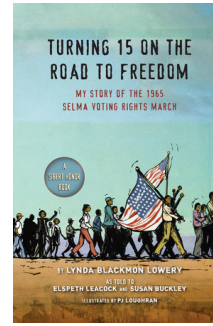
I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys. A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation.



Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya. One boy's search for his father leads him to Puerto Rico in this moving middle-grade novel, for fans of *Ghost* and *See You in the Cosmos*.



The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani. It's 1947, and India has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu 12-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees.



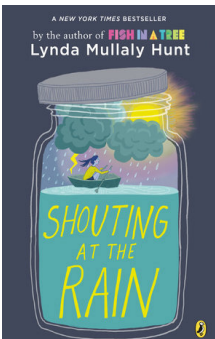
Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, illustrated by PJ Loughran. A memoir of the Civil Rights Movement from one of its youngest heroes—now in paperback with an all-new discussion guide.



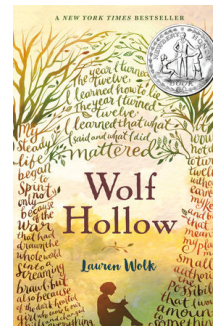
Hands by Torrey Maldonado. A fast-paced read that packs a punch about a boy figuring out how to best use his hands—to build or to knock down.



When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy. A remarkable graphic novel about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a former Somali refugee.



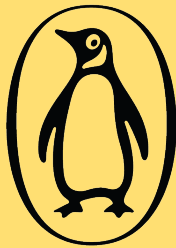
Shouting at the Rain by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. A compelling story about perspective and learning to love the family you have from the author of *Fish in a Tree*.



Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk. When the new girl in school begins to bully Toby, an odd but kind World War I veteran, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice.



Strange Birds by Celia C. Pérez. A story of four kids who form an alternative Scout troop that shakes up their sleepy Florida town. With themes of environmental activism, feminism, and class in a wildly fun read, this is a perfect read for fans of *Hoot*.



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