

Sixth Grade Reading List, 2020
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Anderson, John David. **Ms. Bixby's Last Day**, 2016. JFIC/JRL AR BL: 5.2

Loving their gifted teacher, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day.

Andrews, Ryan. **This Was Our Pact**, 2019. JGN Lexile 350 AR BL 3.0 Interest ages 10-14

Ben and his friends are determined to find out where the paper lanterns of the annual Autumn Equinox Festival go, so they follow the river as far as they can until the only followers left are Ben and Nathaniel.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts**, 2004. JFIC

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

Colbert, Brandy. **The Only Black Girls in Town**, 2020. JFIC Interest ages 8-12

In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.

Colfer, Eion. **Artemis Fowl**, 2001. JFIC/TEEN Lexile 600 AR BL 5.0

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. First in a series.

Jamieson, Victoria. **When Stars Are Scattered**, 2020. JGN Grade Interest Level: 6

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

Juster, Norton. **The Phantom Tollbooth**, 1989. JFIC Lexile 1000 AR BL 6.7

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

Konigsburg, E. L. **The View from Saturday**, 1996. JFIC/NBRY Lexile 870 AR BL 5.9

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Messner, Kate. **Breakout**, 2018. JFIC BL: 5.4

From multiple perspectives, tells of a time capsule project and the middle schoolers who contribute, including future journalist Nora Tucker and newcomer Elidee Jones, whose brother is in the local prison.

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet**, 1987. JFIC/JRL

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Black Brother, Black Brother**, 2020. JFIC Interest ages: 9-12

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

Sperry, Armstrong. **Call it Courage**, 1968. JNBRY Lexile 830 AR BL 6.2

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

Tatulli, Mark. **Short & Skinny**, 2018. JGN Lexile 370 AR BL 2.8 Interest ages 9-12

As a middle schooler, Mark finds himself on the smaller side of the physical spectrum--being short AND skinny has really wreaked havoc on his confidence. So to end his bullying woes and get the girl--or at least the confidence to talk to the girl--he starts to explore bulking up by way of the miracle cures in the backs of his comics. But his obsession with beefing up is soon derailed by a new obsession: Star Wars, the hottest thing to hit the summer of 1977. As he explores his creative outlets as well as his cures to body image woes, Mark sets out to make his own stamp on the film that he loves.

Tolkien, J. R. R. **The Hobbit**, 1982. JFIC Lexile 1000 AR BL 6.6

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Williams, Alicia. **Genesis Begins Again**, 2019. JFIC/JSCK Grade Interest Level: 6

Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

Yousafzai, Malala. **I Am Malala**, 2014. JBIO Lexile 830 AR BL 5.9

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee.