

Recommended Reads for Year 6



Title	Author	Synopsis
Millions	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless.
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotsen	The enchanting tale of an orphaned girl, Maia, who is whisked away from London, on a journey to the Amazon Rainforest.
Boy in the Tower	Polly Ho-Yen	From the seventeenth floor of the tower block where he lives with his mother, Ade watches as the buildings fall around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room.
Beetle Boy	M G Leonard	Darkus's life is turned upside down when his father goes missing. Darkus refuses to accept that his father is dead and he is determined to find out what happened for himself. Sent to stay with his uncle, he discovers the strange neighbours have a yard full of junk – and beetles.
Wolf Brother	Michelle Paver	Six thousand years ago. Evil stalks the land. Only twelve-year-old Torak and his wolf-cub companion can defeat it. Their journey together takes them through deep forests, across giant glaciers, and into dangers they never imagined.
The Last Wild	Piers Torday	In a world where animals no longer exist, twelve-year old Kester Jaynes sometimes feels like he hardly exists either. Locked away in a home for troubled children, he's told there's something wrong with him. So when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he's finally gone a bit mad. But the animals have something to say...

<p>Rooftoppers</p>	<p>Katherine Rundell</p>	<p>Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. True, there were no other recorded female survivors from the shipwreck that left baby Sophie floating in the English Channel in a cello case, but Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help. Her guardian tells her it is almost impossible that her mother is still alive - but "almost impossible" means "still possible." And you should never ignore a possible. A magical story set on the rooftops of Paris.</p>
<p>Holes</p>	<p>Louis Sacher</p>	<p>Stanley Yelnats the 4th is accused of stealing a pair of sneakers donated to charity by a famous athlete, Clyde Livingston. He is sentenced to 18 months at Camp Green Lake, a boys' juvenile detention center in Texas. There, each boy must spend his day in the desert, which contained a lake during the 1800s, digging a hole five feet deep and five feet in diameter. But what are they digging for?</p>
<p>Once</p>	<p>Morris Gleitzman</p>	<p>One day, at dinnertime at the orphanage, something amazing happened to Felix. He got a whole carrot in his soup. Full of disbelief and excitement he thought his parents had sent him a message. Their problems were finally over. They were coming to take him home. But his parents were not on their way, they had put him there for a reason. Set during WWII, this is the story of a young Jewish boy who sets off on a dangerous adventure.</p>
<p>Letters from the Lighthouse</p>	<p>Emma Carroll</p>	<p>February, 1941. After months of bombing raids in London, twelve-year-old Olive Bradshaw and her little brother Cliff are evacuated to the Devon coast. The only person with two spare beds is Mr Ephraim, the local lighthouse keeper. Desperate to be helpful, Olive becomes his post-girl, carrying secret messages (as she likes to think of the letters) to the villagers. But Olive has a secret of her own. Her older sister Sukie went missing in an air raid, and she's desperate to discover what happened to her.</p>

Wonder	R. J. Palacio	<p>Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.</p> <p>Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?</p>
Street Child	Berlie Doherty	<p>When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls. Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends. . .only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe. Will Jim ever manage to be free? Set in Victorian London, this story is based on the life of the boy who inspired Dr Barnado.</p>
Oranges in No Man's Land	Elizabeth Laird	<p>Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. The city has been torn in half by civil war and a desolate, dangerous no man's land divides the two sides. Only militiamen and tanks dare enter this deadly zone, but when Granny falls desperately ill, Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.</p>
Room 13	Robert Swindells	<p>Fliiss Morgan has a nightmare on the night before her school trip to Whitby. Every night Ellie-May Sunderland is drawn to the landing outside the mysterious Room 13, which does not seem to exist during the day. Fliiss and her friends attempt to unravel the mystery of the room, and determine the identity of its sinister inhabitant.</p>

Clockwork	Philip Pullman	It's a snowy winter night in the town, and a young apprentice clockmaker is in despair. Tradition holds that each apprentice must design and build a mechanical figure to be added to the town's impressive clockwork. But on the night before his work is due to be unveiled, young Karl has not even begun work on his design. No wonder, then, that when a shadowy, sinister stranger enters the tavern where Karl sits, and offers him a wondrous piece of clockwork, a knight so intricate, so real, that to pass it off as his own would make Karl forever famous, Karl is ... tempted.
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C. S. Lewis	When the Pevensie children, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are sent out of London during World War II, they have no idea of the magical journey they are beginning. In the darkness of the old country house where they are sent, the children stumble through an old wardrobe to the land of Narnia, where animals talk and magic exists.
The Machine Gunners	Robert Westall	Set during the Second World War, the story follows six children living in the fictional town of Garmouth which regularly suffers bombing raids by the German Luftwaffe. When Chas McGill finds a crashed German Heinkel 111 bomber he removes a fully operational machine gun and over 2000 rounds of ammunition. With the help of his friends, Cem, Clogger, Carrot Juice, Audrey and Nicky they set up their own den called "Fortress Caporetto", named after a World War I battle in which Chas's grandfather fought.
Why the Whales Came	Michael Morpurgo	'You keep away from the Birdman,' warned Gracie's father. 'Keep well clear of him, you hear me now?' But Gracie and her friend Daniel discover the Birdman isn't mad or dangerous as everyone says. Yet he does warn them to stay away from the abandoned Samson Island - he says it's cursed. And when the children are stranded on Samson by fog, Gracie returns to hear tragic news. Could the Birdman be right?