



2019 -Entering 6th Grade  
Summer Reading Annotations

***The Finest Hours: A True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue*** (Young Readers Edition) by Michael J. Tougias and Casey Sherman  
This nonfiction book tells the story of a harrowing Coast Guard rescue on the night of February 18, 1952, when four men in a tiny lifeboat overcame insurmountable odds and saved more than 30 stranded sailors. This is a fast-paced adventure story of heroism and survival.

***The First Rule of Punk***\*\* by Celia C Pérez (realistic)

There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school--you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. After a disastrous first day her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself.

***Night Divided*** by Jennifer A. Nielsen (historical)

It's August 13, 1961. Gerta wakes up to see that the Berlin Wall has been built overnight, dividing not only her city but her family as well. Her father and brother are on the west side, Gerta, her mother, and brother is trapped on the east side. When her father smuggles clues encouraging her to dig a tunnel to freedom, Gerta decides to take action. This historical fiction novel will keep readers holding their breath until the last page.

***Perfect Score*** by Rob Buyea (realistic)

It's statewide assessment testing time and none of these sixth graders wants to take the test. When one of the kids has a big idea for acing the test, they're all in. But things get ugly before they get better and in the end, the real meaning of perfect score surprises them all. Another winning read from the author of *Because of Mr. Terupt*.

***Refugee***\*\* by Alan Gratz (survival, adventure)

Joseph is a Jewish boy living in 1930's Nazi Germany. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers - from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although continents and decades separate Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

***Space Case***\*\* by Stuart Gibbs (science fiction)

Dashiell Gibson is a 12 year old living on the Moon, and he is bored out of his mind. Kids aren't allowed on the lunar surface, which means they are trapped inside the tiny moon base with very little to do. When Moon Base Alpha's top scientist turns up dead. Dash senses there's foul play afoot, but no one believes him. Everyone agrees Dr. Holtz went onto the lunar surface without his helmet properly affixed, simple as that. But Dr. Holtz was on the verge of an important new discovery, Dash finds out, and it's a secret that could change everything for the Moonies—a secret someone just might kill to keep..

***Surrounded by Sharks*** by Michael Northrop (adventure)

While on vacation, Davey wakes and heads straight for the beach. He doesn't leave a note for his family. Never mind that "No Swimming" sign! Davey decides to take a swim. As the waves pull him farther from shore, Davey finds himself surrounded by water - and something else, something that is watching and waiting. It's just a matter of time.

***Wishtree*** by Katherine Applegate (fantasy)

Red is an oak tree that is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree" - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. The wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.