

# LITERATURE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

## 6TH GRADE

**Cise Curtis, Christopher Paul**

*Elijah of Buxton*

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

**Draper, Sharon**

*Out of My Mind*

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

**Frazier, Sundee Tucker**

*The Other Half of My Heart*

Twin daughters of interracial parents, eleven-year-olds Keira and Minna have very different skin tones and personalities, but it is not until their African American grandmother enters them in the Miss Black Pearl Pre-Teen competition in North Carolina that red-haired and pale-skinned Minna realizes what life in their small town in the Pacific Northwest has been like for her more outgoing, darker-skinned sister.

**Gaiman, Neil**

*The Graveyard Book*

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

**Gidwitz, Adam**

*A Tale Dark & Grimm*

Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales Faithful Johannes, Hansel and Gretel, The seven ravens, Brother and sister, The robber bridegroom, and The devil and his three golden hairs.

**Guiberson, Brenda**

*Disasters : Natural and Man-Made Catastrophes Through the Centuries*

In this collection of ten well-known catastrophes such as the great Chicago fire, the sinking of the Titanic, and hurricane Katrina, the author explores the causes and effects, as well as the local and global reverberations of these tragic events.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson**

*Found*

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

**Hale, Shannon**

*Rapunzel's Revenge*

Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls where she dreams about having a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. After climbing over the wall to find the truth, Rapunzel discovers that her real mother is a woman named Kate, who is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. In this Old West retelling of the traditional fairy tale, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso as she takes on

outlaws, including Gothel. Presented in comic book format.

**Holt, K. A.**

***Brains for Lunch : A Zombie Novel in Haiku?!***

At a middle school where zombies, blood-sucking chupacabras, and humans never mingle, "lifer" Siobhan and Loeb, a zombie who likes to write haiku, share an attraction. Story written entirely in haiku.

**Kinney, Jeff**

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid : Greg Heffley's Journal***

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

**Lubar, David**

***My Rotten Life***

Tired of continually having his feelings hurt by popular students and bullies, fifth-grader Nathan agrees to try an experimental formula, Hurt-Be-Gone, and becomes a half-dead zombie, a condition which, he soon discovers, has some real advantages.

**Myers, Walter Dean**

***The Cruisers***

Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.

**Macaulay, David**

***Built to Last***

Reveals the how and why behind some of the most fascinating and enduring structures humankind has ever created.

**Neff, Henry**

***The Tapestry : The Hound of Rowan***

After glimpsing a hint of his destiny in a mysterious tapestry, twelve-year-old Max McDaniels becomes a student at Rowan Academy, where he trains in "mystics and combat" in preparation for war with an ancient enemy that has been kidnapping children like him.

**Nelson, Kadir**

***We Are the Ship : The Story of Negro League Baseball***

Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Illustrations from oil paintings by artist Kadir Nelson.

**Peck, Richard**

***The Ghost Belonged To Me***

This novel combines historical, comical and supernatural events in a most delightful way. The book is not difficult to read or understand and should be well within the reach of most fifth graders and could go up or down. It makes a good read aloud with some great slapstick comedy and not a little historical information.

**Riordan, Rick**

***The Red Pyramid***

Brilliant Egyptologist Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

**Silberberg, Alan**

***Milo : Sticky Notes and Brain Freeze***

In love with the girl he sneezed on the first day of school and best pals with Marshall, the "One Eyed Jack" of friends, seventh-grader Milo Cruikshank misses his mother whose death has changed everything at home.

**Thomson, Sarah**

***Three Cups of Tea***

A middle-grade adapted version of the New York Times bestseller about humanitarianism and providing Muslim children around the world with an education is enhanced with photos, maps, illustrations, and a special afterword by the author's daughter who worked with him as an advocate for the Pennies for Peace program.

**Vanderpool, Clare**

***Moon Over Manifest***

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

**Westerfeld, Scott**

***Leviathan***

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

**Wiles, Deborah**

***Countdown***

Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall. It's 1962, and it seems the whole country is living in fear.

**Williams-Garcia, Rita**

***Jumped***

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.

**Wood, Don**

***Into the Volcano : A Graphic Novel***

While their parents are away doing research, brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg go with their cousin, Mister Come-and-Go, to Kokalaha Island, where they meet Aunt Lulu and become trapped in an erupting volcano. Presented in comic book format.