Year 6 Suggested Texts: A Guide For Parents

We know that choosing books for your Year 6 reader can be very tricky. When on the hunt for challenging texts it can be all too easy to direct them to young adult fiction – where the themes may not be appropriate.

On the other hand, all too often children become 'stuck' in a book series, which although they enjoy, no longer offers a suitable challenge. The David Walliams book series or Wimpy Kid book series, which may have suited the younger lower KS2 reader, or really got them interested in books, no longer supports new language acquisition.

The texts below have been grouped in the following sections: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Chilling Stories, Real Life, Adventure, War, Mysteries, Humour, Animals and Other.

Many of the books below are held within our school library and class book corners, however you may want to purchase one or two (or loan them from Watford Central Library) to support your child's reading development at home too!

Fantasy

Skellig – David Almond
The Various – Steve Augarde
Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer
The Bag of Bones – Vivian French
Inkheart trilogy – Cornelia Funke
Coraline – Neil Gaiman
The Weirdstone of Brisingamen – Alan Garner
Pure Dead Magic – Debi Gliori
Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver
Truckers – Terry Pratchett
The Spiderwick Chronicles – Lynne Reid Banks
'Goblins' series – Philip Reeve
Wonderstruck – Brian Selznick
The Amulet of Samarkand – Jonathon Stroud
The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien
The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making – Catherynne M. Valente
Tanglewreck – Jeanette Winterson

Science Fiction

Supernaturalist – Eoin Colfer
Grinny: Grinny and You Remember Me – Nicholas Fisk

Among the Hidden – Margaret Peterson Haddix
Double Identity – Margaret Peterson Haddix
Maphead – Lesley Howarth
The Giver – Lois Lowry
Other Worlds: 10 Amazing Sci Fi Stories – Rick Riordan ed.
Timesnatch – Robert Swindells
Hydra – Robert Swindells

Chilling Stories

The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman
Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror – Chris Priestley
Horowitz Horror – Anthony Horowitz
Breathe – Cliff McNish
At the Firefly Gate – Linda Newberry
Chill – Alex Nye
Tales from the Tunnel's Mouth – Chris Priestley
Tales of Terror From the Black Ship – Chris Priestley
Marianne Dreams – Catherine Storr

Real Life

Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman (science/ethics)
Tangerine – Edward Bloor (blindness)
The Eighteenth Emergency – Betsy Byars (bullying)
The 10PM Question – Kate De Gold (worry/anxiety)
Running on Cracks – Julia Donaldson (running from home – mature themes)
Step By Wicked Step – Anne Fine (step parenting)
Dead End in Norvelt – Jack Gantos (boredom, friendship)
Love, Aubrey – Suzanne LaFleur (family)
Hangman - Julia Jarman (bullying)
The Boy At the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf (refugee and migration)
The View from Saturday – E.L. Konisburg (friendship)
The Other Side of Truth – Bevery Naidoo (refugee)
Wonder – R.J. Palacio (appearance)
Illegal – Eoin Colfer (migration)

Adventure

Noah Barleywater Runs Away – John Boyne
Ruby Holler – Sharon Creech
Danny: the champion of the world – Roald Dahl
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane – Kate DiCamillo

Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz
The Devil and his Boy – Anthony Horowitz
Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E. L. Konigsburg
Outlaw: the Legend of Robin Hood – Tony Lee
The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively
Mortal Engines – Phillip Reeves
Varjak Paw – S. F. Said
The Invention of Hugo Cabret – Brian Selznick
Wonderstruck – Brian Selznick

War

The Skylark's War – Hilary McKay
The Swallow's Flight – Hilary McKay
Warboy – Michael Foreman
Once/Now/Then/After – Morris Gleitzman
Goodnight, Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian
War Horse – Michael Morpurgo
At the Firefly Gate – Linda Newberry
Johnny and the bomb – Terry Pratchett
My Friend the Enemy – Dan Smith
The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall
Carrie's War – Nina Bawden
Doodlebug Summer – Alison Price
Soldier Dog – Sam Angus

Mysteries

Chasing Vermeer – Blue Bailliett
The Crossroads – Chris Grabenstein
Silver Fin – Charlie Higson
The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd
The Case of the London Dragonfish – Joan Lennon
The Sign of the Black Dagger – Joan Lingard
Magnus Finn and the Selkie Secret – Janis Mackay
Out of the Depths – Cathy MacPhail
Flood and Fang – Marcus Sedgwick
Nightfall in New York – Katherine Woodfine
The Girl of Ink and Stars – Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Humour

How to Train Your Dragon - Cressida Cowell
How to Speak Dragonese - Cressida Cowell
The Meanwhile Adventures – Roddy Doyle
Boom! – Mark Haddon
Ribblestrop – Andy Mulligan
Goblins series – Philip Reeve
Holes – Louis Sachar
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom – Loius Sachar
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat – Dave Shelton
Gangsta Granny – David Walliams
Ratburger – David Walliams

Animals

The Midnight Fox – Betsy Byars
The Tale of Despereaux – Kate DiCamillo
Charlotte's Web – E.B.White
Flush – Carl Hiaasen
One Boy and His Dog – Eva Ibbotson
A Coyote in the House – Elmore Leonard
The Call of the Wild – Jack London
Going Home –Cliff McNish
Why the Whales Came – Michael Morpurgo
The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips – Michael Morpurgo
War Horse – Michael Morpurgo
Catscape – Mike Nicholson
Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver
The Outlaw Varjack Paw – S.F. Said
Black Beauty – Anna Sewell
Time Travelling With A Hamster – Ross Welford

All the books on the list above have been read, checked and deemed appropriate by the Year 6 teaching team.

If you want to ensure that other books your child may select at bookshops are suitable for your child, we recommend the website 'Common Sense Media'

A not for profit website that reviews and provides ratings for all forms of media and technology with the goal of providing information on their suitability for children and young people.

common sense media