

6th Grade Suggested Reading from El Segundo Public Library

Fiction

Reasons to Be Happy – Katrina Kittle

Reasons to be happy: Cat purr vibrating through your skin, jumping on a trampoline in the rain, raw cookie dough, getting yourself all freaked out after a scary movie, dancing like an idiot when no one is watching. What happened to the girl who wrote those things? I miss that girl. She used to be bold and fun. Now she's a big chicken loser. How could so much change so fast?

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/642763>

The Lightning Dreamer – Margarita Engle

"I find it so easy to forget / that I'm just a girl who is expected / to live / without thoughts." Opposing slavery in Cuba in the nineteenth century was dangerous. The most daring abolitionists were poets who veiled their work in metaphor. Of these, the boldest was Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, nicknamed Tula. In passionate, accessible verses of her own, Engle evokes the voice of this book-loving feminist and abolitionist who bravely resisted an arranged marriage at the age of fourteen, and was ultimately courageous enough to fight against injustice. Historical notes, excerpts, and source notes round out this exceptional tribute.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/1547036>

Sammy Keyes series – Wendelin Van Draanen

Sammy lives with her grandmother in a retirement community and loves to ride a skateboard and solve mysteries. She isn't supposed to live there, so often has to hide and be secretive.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/search?query=Sammy%20Keyes>

The Mighty Miss Malone – Christopher Paul Curtis

"We are a family on a journey to a place called wonderful" is the motto of Deza Malone's family. Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But the Great Depression has hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men. When her beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother Jimmie go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. Jimmie's beautiful voice inspires him to leave the camp to be a performer, while Deza and Mother find a new home, and cling to the hope that they will find Father. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression and prove that Deza truly is the Mighty Miss Malone.

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about-us/catalog?q=roll%20of%20thunder%2C%20hear%20my%20cry>

Off the Page – Jodi Picoult and Samantha Van Leer

Delilah and Oliver shouldn't be together. But they *are* together. And just as they're getting used to the possibility that happily ever after may really, truly be theirs, the universe sends them a message they can't ignore: they won't be allowed to rewrite their story. Delilah and Oliver must decide how much they're willing to risk for love and what it takes to have a happy ending in a world where the greatest adventures happen off the page.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/2035451>

Boy Meets Boy – David Levithan

What if you went to a school where it was actually all right to be who you really are? That's the enchanting place David Levithan has created in his highly acclaimed first novel. But even if the gay kids and the straight kids all get along just fine, even if it's all right for the quarterback to be a cross dresser named Infinite Darlene and the cheerleaders to ride Harleys into the pep rally, the road to true love is still a strange and winding path—as Paul discovers when he meets the boy of his dreams.

Charming, funny, delightful, and utterly heartwarming, this YA novel speaks with clarity and depth about our need to love and be loved.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/83186>

I am the Messenger – Markus Zusak

Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/209705>

Out of My Mind – Sharon Draper

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.

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about-us/catalog?q=out%20of%20my%20mind>

Bobby Baseball – Robert Kimmel Smith Ten-year-old Bobby Ellis loves everything about baseball, from the hits to the hot dogs. That's why he calls himself Bobby Baseball! Every day he dreams of becoming a major league pitcher and joining the stars in the Baseball Hall of Fame. And what better place to start his career than right here on his own Kids Club team, the Hawks? But the hawks' coach happens to be Bobby's father, who has other ideas. "You're a natural second baseman," he says, expecting Bobby to be a model player who never makes a single mistake. Get real, Dad! When Bobby pitches three winning games in a row, the Hawks rule. Suddenly Bobby's life seems like one big baseball game—games on the field, games on TV, and games in his mind. Can Bobby keep on winning? Can he count on Dad?

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/597917>

Homeroom Diaries – James Patterson

Margaret "Cuckoo" Clarke recently had a brief stay in a mental institution following an emotional breakdown, but she's turning over a new leaf with her "Happiness Project". She's determined to beat down the bad vibes of the Haters, the Terror Teachers, and all of the trials and tribulations of high school by writing and drawing in her diary. And when life gets really tough, she works through her own moments of uncertainty through imaginary conversations with her favorite literary characters.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/1445695>

Schooled – Gordon Korman

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about-us/catalog?q=schooled%20gordon%20korman>

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Mildred D. Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about-us/catalog?q=roll%20of%20thunder%2C%20hear%20my%20cry>

Fantasy/ Science Fiction

The Grimm Legacy – Polly Shulman

Elizabeth has just started working as a page at the New York Circulating Material Repository - a lending library of objects, contemporary and historical, common and obscure. And secret, too - for in the repository's basement lies the Grimm Collection, a room of magical items straight from the Grimm Brother's fairy tales. But the magic mirrors and seven-league boots and other items are starting to disappear. And before she knows it, she and her fellow pages - handsome Marc, perfect Anjali, and brooding Aaron - are suddenly caught up in an exciting, and dangerous, magical adventure.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/347143>

Keeper of the Lost Cities series – Shannon Messenger

In this riveting debut, a telepathic girl must figure out why she is the key to her brand-new world—before the wrong person finds the answer first. Twelve-year-old Sophie has never quite fit into her life. She's skipped multiple grades and doesn't really connect with the older kids at school, but she's not comfortable with her family, either. The reason? Sophie's a Telepath, someone who can read minds. No one knows her secret—at least, that's what she thinks...

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/search?query=Keeper%20of%20the%20Lost%20CiKes>

Chomp – Carl Hiaasen

When the difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father.

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about-us/catalog?q=chomp%20carl%20hiaasen>

Non-Fiction

Funny, You Don't Look Austistic – Michael McCreary

This unique and hilarious #OwnVoices memoir breaks down what it's like to live with autism for readers on and off the spectrum. Candid scenes from McCreary's life are broken up with funny visuals and factual asides. *Funny, You Don't Look Austistic* is an invaluable and compelling read for young readers with ASD looking for voices to relate to, as well as for readers hoping to broaden their understanding of ASD. <https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/4627687>

Kids Who Did – Kirsty Murray

When the future looks dark, courageous kids bring light and hope into the world. Forty true stories celebrate kids who have protested, prayed, rebelled, saved lives, earned a fortune, lost everything, become world-famous, or fought to survive war and oppression. Fearless kids, feral kids, Olympic champions, human-rights crusaders, climatechange warriors, princes and prisoners, workers and whiz-kids - they all show the true courage of kids.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/4657430>

Women Aviators – Karen Bush Gibson

Detailing the role of women in aviation, from the very first days of flight to the present, this rich exploration of the subject profiles 26 women pilots who sought out and met challenges both in the sky and on the ground. Divided into six chronologically arranged sections, this book composes a minihistory of aviation.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/1331501>

We Are Displaced – Malala Yousafzai

In her powerful new book, Nobel Peace Prize winner and *New York Times*-bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces some of the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/3889489>

Courage to Soar – Simone Biles

In this official autobiography from four-time Olympic goldwinning and record-setting American gymnast Simone Biles, Simone shares how her faith, family, passion, and perseverance against tremendous odds helped make her one of the top athletes and record-breaking gymnasts in the world.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/2948524>

Hey Kiddo – Jarrett J. Kroscozka

Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Hey, Kiddo is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdlesegundo/content/media/4361108>

Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshisune – Pamela S. Turner Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga. This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/2504963>

The Borden Murders – Sarah Miller

In a compelling, linear narrative, Miller takes readers along as she investigates a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby. Most of what is known about Lizzie's arrest and subsequent trial (and acquittal) comes from sensationalized newspaper reports; as Miller sorts fact from fiction, and as a legal battle gets under way, a gripping portrait of a woman and a town emerges.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/2286212>

Arctic Thaw – Stephanie Sammartino McPherson

From oil rigs to military bases, the Arctic has never before hosted so many warring interests, and the stakes have never been so high. Join Stephanie Sammartino McPherson on a journey to the Far North to explore the energy controversies that will decide the future of the Arctic—and of the earth.

<https://scdl.overdrive.com/scdl-elsegundo/content/media/1907756>

Crash: The Great Depression and the Fall and Rise of America – Marc Favreau

Marc Favreau documents the Great Depression—a time when Americans from all walks of life fell victim to poverty, insecurity, and fear—and tells the incredible story of how they survived and, ultimately, thrived. This is the story of the Great Depression in the United States, from the sweeping consequences of the market collapse to the more personal stories of individuals and communities caught up in the aftermath.

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about-us/catalog?q=crash%3A%20the%20great%20depression>

Higher, Steeper, Faster: The Daredevils Who Conquered the Skies – Lawrence Goldstone

The pioneers of early flight performed death-defying feats and broke new technological ground as they took to the skies to thrill crowds and advance the boundaries of human innovation

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about->

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Maya Lin: Thinking with Her Hands – Susan Goldman Rubin

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is one of the most famous memorials in the world. But most people are not as familiar with the college student who won the design competition to build it. This carefully researched volume chronicles Maya Lin's childhood, her battle to create the memorial as she envisioned it, and the incredible body of work she has produced since then. More than simply an art book, this compelling biography of a young woman who became a visionary artist and activist is also a timely celebration of the role of women and minorities in American society--past, present, and future

<https://www.elsegundolibrary.org/about->

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Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild – Catherine Thimmes

From the Sibert medal winning author of Team Moon and the bestselling Girls Think of Everything comes a riveting, timely account of panda conservation efforts in China, perfect for budding environmentalists and activists.

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