

English Language Arts

# SUGGESTED READING LIST

Grades  
**6-8**

This list has been compiled from several sources including the American Library Association, the International Reading Association, and state reading lists, when available. The books on this list are not required reading nor is this intended to be an all-inclusive list. As always, parents and teachers are encouraged to review the selections to ensure the appropriateness for individual students.

## Fiction

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**Little Women** | *Louise May Alcott*  
**The Glory Field** | *Walter Dean Myers*  
**Year of Impossible Goodbyes** | *Sook Nyui Choi*  
**The Little Prince** | *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*  
**The Cat Ate My Gymsuit** | *Paula Danziger*  
**Nothing But The Truth** | *Avi*  
**The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle** | *Avi*  
**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** | *Arthur Conan Doyle*  
**A Single Shard** | *Linda Sue Park*  
**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** | *Ann Brashares*  
**Al Capone Does My Shirts** | *Gennifer Choldenko*  
**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key** | *Jack Gantos*  
**The Chocolate War** | *Robert Cormier*  
**Anpao: An American Indian Odyssey** | *Jamake Highwater*

## Fiction Continued ...

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**My Angelica** | *Carol Lynch Williams*  
**Maniac Magee** | *Jerry Spinelli*  
**A Christmas Carol** | *Charles Dickens*  
**A Wrinkle in Time** | *Madeleine L. Engle*  
**Dear Mr. Henshaw** | *Beverly Cleary*  
**The Snow Goose** | *Paul Gallico*  
**The Maze** | *Will Hobbs*  
**The Princess Bride** | *William Goldman*  
**Replay** | *Sharon Creech*  
**Treasure Island** | *Robert Louis Stevenson*  
**The Westing Game** | *Ellen Raskin*  
**Holes** | *Louis Sachar*  
**Hatchet** | *Gary Paulsen*  
**Tangerine** | *Edward Bloor*  
**Baseball in April** | *Gary Soto*  
**Bloomability** | *Sharon Creech*  
**Bridge to Terabithia** | *Katherine Paterson*  
**Rules** | *Cynthia Lord*  
**The Witch of Blackbird Pond** | *Elizabeth George Speare*

## Fantasy and Folklore

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**Redwall (series)** | *Brian Jacques*  
**Howl's Moving Castle** | *Diana Wynne Jones*  
**Dandelion Wine** | *Ray Bradbury*  
**A Series of Unfortunate Events (series)** | *Lemony Snicket*  
**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass** | *Lewis Carroll*

## Fantasy and Folklore Continued ...

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**Eragon** | *Christopher Paolini*

**The Hobbit** | *J.R.R. Tolkien*

**A Walk in Wolf Wood** | *Mary Stewart*

**Spirited (Once Upon a Time)** | *Nancy Holder*

**Once Upon a Marigold** | *Jean Ferris*

**Indian in the Cupboard** | *Lynne Reid Banks*

**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** | *C.S. Lewis*

**The Shepherd Moon** | *H.M. Hoover*

**Tuck Everlasting** | *Natalie Babbitt*

**The Book of Three** | *Lloyd Alexander*

**The Secret of NIMH** | *Robert C. O'Brien*

**The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales** | *Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm*

**Ella Enchanted** | *Gail Carson Levine*

**Touching Spirit Bear** | *Ben Mikaelson*

**Eva** | *Peter Dickinson*

**Loch** | *Paul Zindel*

## Historical Fiction

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**Across Five Aprils** | *Irene Hunt*

**Lyddie** | *Katherine Paterson*

**Grandfather's Journey** | *Allen Say*

**Child of the Owl** | *Laurence Yep*

**The Life History of a Star** | *Kelly Easton*

**Bull Run** | *Paul Fleischman*

**Steal Away** | *Jennifer Armstrong*

**After the Dancing Days** | *Margaret Rostkowski*

**The Night Journey** | *Kathryn Lasky*

## Historical Fiction Continued ...

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**Crispin: The Cross of Lead** | *Avi*  
**Crispin: At the Edge of the World** | *Avi*  
**Out of the Dust** | *Karen Hesse*  
**The Witch of Blackbird Pond** | *Elizabeth George Speare*  
**The Slave Dancer** | *Paula Fox*  
**Fair Weather** | *Richard Peck*  
**Double Dutch** | *Sharon Draper*  
**Torn Thread** | *Anne Isaacs*  
**My Brother Sam is Dead** | *James Lincoln Collier*  
**The Midwife's Apprentice** | *Karen Cushman*  
**The Borning Room** | *Paul Fleischman*  
**Jacob, Have I Loved** | *Katherine Patterson*  
**Rifles for Watie** | *Harold Keith*

## Poetry

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**Where the Sidewalk Ends** | *Shel Silverstein*  
**The Distant Talking Drum: Poems from Nigeria** | *Isaac Olaleye*  
**Sweet Corn** | *James Stevenson*  
**The Ballad of the Pirate Queens** | *Jane Yolen*  
**In a Circle Long Ago: A Treasury of Native Lore from North America** | *Nancy Van Laan*  
**Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems** | *John Grandits*  
**The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere** | *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*  
**A Maze Me: Poems for Girls** | *Naomi Shihab Nye*  
**Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States** | *Lori Carlson, ed.*  
**Peeling the Onion: An Anthology of Poems** | *Ruth Gordon*

## Poetry Continued ...

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**American Sports Poems** | *R.R. Knudson*

**Opening Days: Sports Poems** | *Lee Bennett Hopkins*

**The Pied Piper of Hamelin** | *Robert Browning*

**Goops and How to Be Them** | *Gelett Burgess*

**When the Frost Is on the Punkin** | *James Whitcomb Riley*

**Over the River and Through the Woods** | *Lydia Maria Child*

**Rudyard Kipling: Complete Verse** | *Rudyard Kipling*

**A Child's Garden of Verses** | *Robert Louis Stevenson*

**Favorite Poems Old and New** | *Helen Ferris Tibbets*

## Nonfiction

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**Fire in Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People who Fight Them** | *Karen Magnuson Beil*

**Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story** | *Benjamin Carson and Cecil Murphey*

**Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition** | *Elizabeth Cody Kimmel*

**Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II** | *Penny Colman*

**Cheaper by the Dozen** | *Frank B. Gilbreth and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey*

**Whole New Ballgame** | *Sue Macy*

**A Night to Remember** | *Walter Lord*

**You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?** | *Jean Fritz*

**Boy** | *Roald Dahl*

**Mistakes that Worked** | *Charlotte Jones and John O'Brien*

**A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull** | *Joseph Bruchac*

**Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo** | *Zlata Filipovic*

**Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery** | *Russell Fredman*

**I Was a Teenage Professional Wrestler** | *Ted Lewin*

## Nonfiction Continued ...

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**The Great Fire** | *Jim Murphy*

**Wildlife Rescue: The Work of Dr. Kathleen Ramsay** | *Jennifer Dewey*

**Farewell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment** | *Jeanne Houston*

**Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction** | *David Macaulay*

**Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance** | *Jennifer Armstrong*

**Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story** | *Andrea Warren*

**The Rifle** | *Gary Paulsen*

**Guts** | *Gary Paulsen*

## Drama

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**Inherit the Wind** | *Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee*

**The Miracle Worker** | *William Gibson*

**Brian's Song** | *William Blinn*

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** | *William Shakespeare*

**The Taming of the Shrew** | *William Shakespeare*

**Pygmalion** | *George Bernard Shaw*

**Up the Down Staircase** | *Bel Kaufman*