



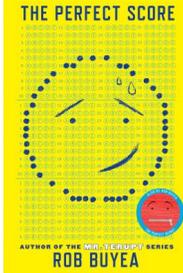
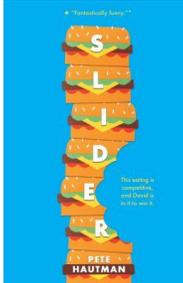
Summer Reading List 2021

Students Entering 6th Grade

	<p><u>A Night Divided</u> by Jennifer Nielson (historical)</p> <p>With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city.</p> <p>But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?</p>
	<p><u>Before the Ever After</u> by Jacqueline Woodson (realistic. sports)</p> <p>For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that--but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it. And most importantly, can those happy feelings ever be reclaimed when they are all so busy aching for the past?</p>
	<p><u>Eventown</u> by Corey Ann Haydu (dystopian)</p> <p>Elodie's family needs a fresh start; everyone says so. The Lively family relocates to Eventown, a planned utopia, with no internet, TV, or cars, and all the houses look the same. Indeed, life in Eventown is comforting and exciting all at once. Their kitchen comes with a box of recipes for Elodie to try. Everyone takes the scenic way to school or work—past rows of rosebushes and unexpected waterfalls. On blueberry-picking field trips, every berry is perfectly ripe. Sure, there are a few odd rules, but it's easy enough to explain—until Elodie realizes that there are only three ice cream flavors in Eventown. Ever. And they only play one song in music class. Everything may be “even” in Eventown, but is there a price to pay for perfection—and pretending?</p>
	<p><u>Ghost</u> by Jason Reynolds (sports)</p> <p>Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?</p>

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	<p><u>Inkling</u> ** by Kenneth Oppel (humor)</p> <p>Ethan's dad is a comic artist whose greatest creation, the mutant superhero Kren, brought him fame and glory. But after his dad's string of successful books, a tragedy strikes the family and now his dad is completely stuck.</p> <p>If only artistic talent were hereditary. Ethan is stuck on a graphic-novel project of his own at school and won't own up to the fact that he can't draw. When one night an ink-blot creation emerges from his father's sketchbook, the family's whole world begins to change.</p> <p>Featuring artwork by the beloved, award-winning illustrator Sydney Smith, Inkling is a timeless story that speaks to the creator in us all.</p>
	<p><u>Perfect Score</u> by Rob Buyea (realistic)</p> <p>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 <i>Because of Mr. Terupt</i>.</p>
	<p><u>Slider</u> by Pete Hautman (realistic, humor)</p> <p>David can eat an entire sixteen-inch pepperoni pizza in four minutes and thirty-six seconds. Not bad. But he knows he can do better. In fact, he'll have to do better: he's going to compete in the Super Pignorino Bowl, the world's greatest pizza-eating contest, and he has to win it, because he borrowed his mom's credit card and accidentally spent \$2,000 on it. So he really needs that prize money. Like, yesterday.</p>
	<p><u>To Night Owl From Dogfish</u>** by Holly Goldberg Sloan & Meg Wolitzer (realistic)</p> <p>Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals as well as the ocean, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads.</p> <p>When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends--and possibly, one day, even sisters.</p> <p>But things soon go off the rails for the girls (and for their dads too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. Now that they can't imagine life without each other, will Bett and Avery (who sometimes call themselves Night Owl and Dogfish) figure out a way to be a family?</p> <p>This fun read is told entirely through email exchanges between Avery and Bett and occasional others.</p>

** Rebecca Caudill 2021 Nominee - The Rebecca Caudill award is Illinois' annual readers choice award for students grades 4-8