

6th Grade Summer Reading Synopses

***The Slave Dancer* by Paula Fox**

The Slave Dancer is a story that movingly and realistically presents one of the most gruesome chapters of history. Jessie Bollier is a boy that often played his fife to earn a few pennies down by the New Orleans dock. As a kidnapped lad on a slave ship, he was made to play his fife, so that slaves could “dance” to keep their muscles strong and bodies profitable. What he endures during this frightful voyage will stay with him for the rest of his life.

***A Day No Pigs Would Die* by Robert Newton Peck**

When young Rob Peck saves a neighbor’s cow, the neighbor gives him a pig as a reward. The pig, Pinky, becomes his constant companion, but every animal on a farm must have its use. In *A Day No Pigs Would Die*, Robert Peck depicts the life of a Shaker family having to make hard choices from an autobiographical point of view.

***Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah**

Adeline Yen Mah paints an authentic portrait of twentieth-century China as well as telling the story of her painful childhood. After her mother dies giving birth to her, she is subjected to the abuse of a stepmother and her spoiled half brother and half sister. Even after winning awards at school, they are not what she yearns for. The love and understanding of a family are the desire of her heart.

***Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter** is a high interest novel about the journey of a boy that was captured by Indians as a child, returned to his white family 11 years later, and the struggles he endures to re-enter the world to which he was

born. True Son's adjustment to become John Cameron Butler again creates a very interesting story as he works through learning a new language, a change in his dress and food, and adjusting to behavior he does not understand.

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck is a high interest three-part comedy. The novel takes a humorous yet wholesome look at the Indiana farm country as America begins the 20th century. Rich with colorful characters, Midwest dialect and poignant plot twists, *The Teacher's Funeral* is the story of Russell Culver and the year the county schoolteacher dies of old age. What follows is a rollicking glimpse of adolescent pranks and dreams in a simpler time.