Great Books for 6th Graders
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Alston, B.B. **Amari and the Night Brothers**, 2021. JFIC Book #1
Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor African American girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

Bildner, Phil. **A High Five for Glenn Burke**, 2020. JFIC
After researching Glenn Burke, the first major league baseball player to come out as gay, sixth-grader Silas Wade slowly comes out to his best friend, Zoey, and then his coach, with unexpected consequences.

Callender, Kacen. **Moonflower**, 2022. JFIC
Moon's depression is overwhelming. Therapy doesn't help, and Moon is afraid that their mom hates them because they're sad. Moon's only escape is traveling to the spirit realms every night.

Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish**, 2021. JFIC
Bullied and shamed her whole life, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

Gemeinhart, Dan. **The Midnight Children**, 2022. JFIC
When lonely Ravani Foster discovers his new friend Virginia and her six mysterious runaway companions are in danger, he must fight to keep them safe, or lose the only person who has ever understood him.

Harrell, Rob. **Wink**, 2020. JFIC
After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school.

King, Amy Sarig. **Attack of the Black Rectangles**. 2022. JFIC
Mac is outraged when he discovers that several words in his classroom copy of Jane Yolen's *The Devil's Arithmetic* are blacked out.
Lane, Kathlees. **Pity Party**, 2021. JFIC
A grab bag of deliciously dark short fiction set in middle school that explores anxieties and twists them into funny, resonant, and reassuring psychological thrills.

Leyh, Kat. **Snapdragon**, 2020. JGN
Snap's town has a witch and when Snap's dog goes missing, the first place she looks is the witch's house.

LeZotte, Ann Clare. **Show Me a Sign**, 2020. JFIC
Mary Lambert has always felt safe and protected on her beloved island of Martha's Vineyard. Her great-great-grandfather was an early English settler and the first deaf islander. Recent events have delivered winds of change when a scientist arrives.

Ortega, Claribel. **Witchlings**, 2022. JFIC
Each year, Witchlings who participate in the Black Moon Ceremony are placed into a coven. Seven isn't placed in one of the five covens--she's a Spare, and her only option is competing in an impossible task.

Perez, Cecilia P. **Tumble**, 2022. JFIC
Adela Ramírez has a decision to make when her stepfather proposes adoption. With a new brother due and a school play on her mind, everything is moving too fast.

Sass, A.J. **Ellen Outside the Lines**, 2022. JFIC
Ellen, an autistic thirteen-year-old, navigates a new city, shifting friendships, a growing crush, and her queer and Jewish identities while on a class trip to Barcelona, Spain.

Warga, Jamine. **The Shape of Thunder**, 2021. JFIC
Estranged from the best friend whose brother killed her sister in a school shooting, a grieving Cora receives a message on her twelfth birthday from her friend, asking for her help with creating a time portal to prevent the tragedy.

Zaczek, Alyssa. **Martin McLean, Middle School Queen**, 2020. JFIC
Seventh-grader Martin McLean has trouble expressing himself except at Mathletes competitions and, now, as a female impersonator but his first-ever drag show fall on the same night as an important Mathletes tournament.