

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Florence M. Gaudineer Summer Reading  
2019-2020

**Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis

Bud, Not Buddy is the story of 10-year-old orphan Bud Calloway trying to find his family in the Great Depression. Bud runs away from abusive foster parents, tries and fails to ride the rails, and walks for miles and miles to get to Grand Rapids, where he believes his father lives.

**Crash** by Jerry Spinelli

Crash Coogan, is a seventh grader who is good at sports and being aggressive. His best friend is Mike Deluca. The story opens with Crash, a bully, tormenting his neighbor, Penn, a vegetarian and pacifist. As Crash evolves into a more compassionate person, he realizes that friends can come in many forms and bullying hurts yourself as well as others.

**It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)** by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah, the funny guy who hosts *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child to exist. But he did exist--and from the beginning, the often-misbehaved Trevor used his keen smarts and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government.

**Jacob's Rescue** by Malka Druker & Michael Halperin

Based on a true story that takes place in Warsaw, Poland during the Holocaust, Jacob's Rescue is a tale of righteous courage during a dark time in history. A poor Polish family rescues Jacob and his brothers from the danger of the Nazis where they face the reality of life under the harshest conditions.

**Maniac McGee** by Jerry Spinelli

Jeffrey is an orphan whose parents died in a trolley accident when he was three. Without a home, he moves in with his aunt and uncle who dislike each other to the

point of not communicating. While living with them in their sad, lonely house, Maniac runs away during a school musical never to return. His adventures take him to a new town and some lovely and surprising discoveries about where he is from and that families come in all shapes and sizes.

**Song for a Whale** by Lynee Kelly

Twelve-year-old Iris has always felt different because she was born deaf. When she finds out about Blue 55, a whale who is unable to communicate with other whales, she becomes determined to find a way to connect with the lonely sea mammal.

**The Bridge Home** by Padma Venkatraman

This middle grade novel follows two sisters, Viji and Rukku, who are living on the streets of the Indian city of Chennai. They form a family with other street children and learn the pleasures and pitfalls of growing up without adult supervision.

**The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA** by Brenda Woods

Woods is a Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author and might be the perfect person to tell this emotional story of a young boy befriending an African American World War II veteran in the segregated American South.

**The Young Landlords** by Walter Dean Myers

In this story of a group of young friends who come into possession of a rundown apartment building. These devoted buddies try to make their Harlam neighborhood a better place to live.

**Better Nate Than Ever** by Tim Federle

Eighth-grader Nate Foster is a boy in love with Broadway but stuck in small-town western Pennsylvania, a misfit in a family that values sports and God. While his parents spend a weekend away to try to save their marriage, Nate's best friend Libby helps him execute a crazy plan: to sneak off to New York City to try out for [E.T.: The Musical](#) and return home before his parents notice. New York City is more amazing than he dreamed -- and the auditions more excruciating. Through heartache, joy, fear, and wild hope, Nate takes the biggest chance of his young life and has an adventure that changes his life in ways he didn't expect.

