

**MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Laureldale, Pennsylvania**

**SIXTH GRADE**

**NOVEL LISTING**

**2010-2011 SCHOOL TERM**

## NOVELS SIXTH GRADE

The Great Gilly Hopkins, Katherine Paterson, (Dell Publishing)

*Gilly is a rebellious foster child who is constantly changing families. When she finally finds a place she can call home, she pulls a stunt which changes everything.*

Violence: none                      Profanity: yes                      Sexual Content: none

Hatchet, Gary Paulsen, (Simon Pulse)

*Thirteen year old Brian Robeson is the only passenger on a small plane flying him to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. The plane drifts off course and finally crashes into a small lake. Miraculously, Brian is able to swim free of the plane, arriving on a sandy tree-lined shore with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present. The novel describes, in gritty detail, Brian's mistakes, setbacks, and small triumphs as, with the help of his hatchet, he manages to survive 54 days alone in the wilderness until his rescue.*

Violence: yes                      Profanity: none                      Sexual Content: none

Julia of the Wolves, Jean Craighead George, (Harper and Row)

*This Newberry Medal winner follows the journey of a young Eskimo girl as she escapes from an arranged marriage to travel to California. Her interaction with a wolf pack is described as she struggles to decide whether to live as an Eskimo or follow modern ways.*

Violence: yes                      Profanity: none                      Sexual Content: yes

Maniac Magee, Jerry Spinelli, (Little, Brown & Co.)

*Maniac Magee is a humor-filled, well-loved novel for intermediate students. After the death of his parents Jeffrey Magee runs away from home in search of a place to belong. He finds himself in Two Mills, Pennsylvania, where the town is divided into two parts, black and white. While there, Jeffrey is labeled Maniac for all of the amazing, crazy feats that he performs. As the story unfolds, Maniac discovers and teaches many important lessons about family, belonging, racism, and friendship. The variety of themes and literary elements within the book make it an excellent choice for the sixth graders.*

Violence: none                      Profanity: yes                      Sexual Content: none

The Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson, (Harper Trophy)

*Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke become unlikely friends. They create a magical kingdom where they reign and feel safe from childhood problems. The plot centers around themes of friendship, bullies, not fitting in, and tragedy. This book offers many teaching opportunities.*

Violence: none                      Profanity: yes                      Sexual Content: none

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science, John Fleischman, (Houghton Mifflin)

*True events of Phineas Gage's experience of a steel rod piercing his skull. Book intertwines science and scientists throughout. Book looks at the development of brain as well as scientific discovery in the 1800s.*

Violence: none                      Profanity: none                      Sexual Content: none

The Watsons go to Birmingham, Christopher Paul Curtis (Yearling)

*Story about Kenny Watson, a young African American boy and the effects the civil rights movement had on him and his family.*

Violence: none                      Profanity: none                      Sexual Content: none

## NOVELS SIXTH GRADE

### Becoming Naomi Leoní, Pam Muñoz Ryan (Scholastic Press)

*Naomi is a young Mexican girl living in a non-traditional family. Naomi's tale is about finding her heritage and search for her family. It is her search to find who she really is and is becoming.*

Violence: none

Profanity: none

Sexual Content: none

### The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, Avi (Harper Trophy)

*Ms. is getting ready to take a sea voyage home to America. She is convicted of murder and escapes punishment. When she reunited with her family nothing is the same.*

Violence: none

Profanity: none

Sexual Content: none

### Taking Sides, Gary Soto (Harcourt Publishers)

*Realistic story about a Hispanic 8<sup>th</sup> grader who plays basketball, moves to more affluent area with mostly white kids, and deals with emotions of: feeling like a traitor to old friends, not being accepted, good sportsmanship, and going up against old friends.*

Violence: none

Profanity: none

Sexual Content: none

### A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L. Engle (Yearling)

*Meg's father is missing and she wants to squash rumors. She and her friends embark on a trip through time and space to save her father.*

Violence: none

Profanity: none

Sexual Content: none

### Where the Red Fern Grows: The Story of Two Dogs and a Boy, Wilson Rawls (Bantam)

*When Billy Colman took care of a dog that was harmed in a dog fight, he reminisces about his childhood days. Billy wanted dogs. He earned money by doing odd jobs and one day earned enough money to buy two coon dogs (Little Ann and Old Dan). Billy and the two dogs had many adventures. Unfortunately, one adventure (a battle with a lion) resulted in Old Dan's death. Little Ann then died of a broken heart. A red fern grew between the two graves. According to the Indian legend the fern symbolized the sacredness of the ground. At the end of the story, Billy admitted that he would like to go back to the Ozarks to visit.*

Violence: none

Profanity: none

Sexual Content: none

### Loser, Jerry Spinelli (Scholastic)

*From his first day of school, Donald Zinkoff stand out from the crowd, however, he just laughs at himself right along with everyone else. When he costs his team the championship on Field Day, he realizes he really is a "loser". In the end, an unexpected tragedy opens the eyes of others to the courageous and generous heart of this quirky little boy.*

Violence: none

Profanity: none

Sexual Content: none