

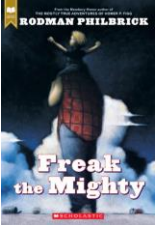
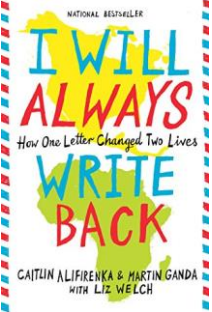



## Read & Walk Themed Extension books: Unity & Acceptance

	title/author	Summary
	<p>The Crossover by Kwame Alexander</p>	<p>The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a hot new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. An accomplished author and poet, Alexander eloquently mashes up concrete poetry, hip-hop, a love of jazz, and a thriving family bond</p>
	<p><i>Fish in a Tree</i> Lynda Mullaly Hunt</p>	<p>Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.</p>
	<p><i>Freak the Mighty</i> Rodman Pilbrick</p>	<p>A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty". MAX. FREAK. BEST FRIENDS. FOREVER. I never had a brain until Freak came along. . .That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along. Freak was weird, too. He had a little body, and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together, they were Freak the Mighty.</p>
	<p>I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives- Caitlin Alifirenka, Martin Ganda, Liz Welch</p>	<p>The true story of two pen pals: <b>Caitlin</b>, a typical American teenager, and Martin, a poor but incredibly bright and hard-working boy in the African country of Zimbabwe who's struggling to get enough money to stay in school. Caitlin has no concept of Martin's poverty and sends him photographs and small gifts.</p>

	<p>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus-Dusti Bowling</p>	<p><b>“Aven is a perky, hilarious, and inspiring protagonist whose attitude and humor will linger even after the last page has turned.” — <i>School Library Journal</i> (Starred review)</b></p> <p>Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she’ll have to answer the question over and over again.</p> <p>Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It’s hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven’s about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.</p>
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## Book Options for Students Entering Grade 6

Title/Author	Summary
<p>Amal Unbound - Aisha Saeed</p>	<p>A story set in the modern day. It's about a young girl named Amal who lives with her family in a small village named Nabay Chak in Pakistan. Amal loves school and learning and dreams of becoming a teacher one day, but is forced to leave it all behind after a terrible twist of fate.</p>
<p>New Kid- Jerry Craft</p>	<p>12-year-old Jordan Banks is a black boy who lives in Washington Heights. Jordan loves art and wishes to go to art school. Instead, his mother makes him go to Riverdale Academy Day (RAD) School, which she calls "one of the best schools in the state". However, RAD is not a very diverse school, having few students of color. During his first day at Riverdale, Jordan is overwhelmed. He is helped by Liam Landers, a fellow student assigned to be Jordan's guide, and whose family has attended RAD for 3 generations.</p>
<p><i>The War that Saved My Life</i>- Kimberly Brubaker Bradley</p>	<p>Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada’s twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn’t waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?</p>
<p>Percy Jackson Series 1-5 by Rick Riordan</p>	<p>Book 1 -Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction — Zeus’ master bolt. Along the way, he must face a host of mythological enemies determined to stop him. Most of all, he must come to terms with a father he has never known, and an Oracle that has warned him of betrayal by a friend.</p>

Any Titles by Mike Lupica	"A newspaper sports journalist, Mike Lupica not only conveys excitingly the details of whatever sport he has chosen as background, but he also creates characters, preteens and teens who think, behave and, best of all, speak like their peers. Lupica explores families, friendships and fans complexly." — <b>Chicago Tribune</b>
Refugee by Alan Gratz	Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE. <b>Josef</b> is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family aboard a ship bound for the other side of the world... <b>Isabel</b> is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America... <b>Mahmoud</b> is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe... All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow.
Any title from the I Survived Series By Lauren Tarshis	<b>Each book in my series tells a terrifying and thrilling story from history, through the eyes of a boy who lived to tell the tale.</b> <i>I Survived the American Revolution, 1776</i> <i>I Survived The Great Molasses Flood, 1919</i> <i>I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005</i>
Knockout - K.A. Holt	<b>Knockout</b> is a middle grade novel written from the perspective of a kid who wants nothing more than to be treated as normal. When formerly medically fragile Levi discovers his love for boxing, he finds himself in the ring with those who love him most. He knows he's strong enough to fight for his life.
Wonder - R.J. Palacio	Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face. Wonder begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include the perspectives of his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others.
One Crazy Summer - Rita Williams-Garcia	"One Crazy Summer" is a children's novel of historical fiction by Rita Williams-Garcia. Set during the summer of 1968 in Oakland, California, the book follows the lives of the Gaither sisters, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern, as they visit with their mother who abandoned them some seven years before.