

# 6th Grade Pre AP LA

## Novel List

In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade we begin teaching the skill of **annotation** (highlighting and note taking in the text), so students are **required** to purchase the first two novels on this list. The last novel we will be reading in Subtext on the iPads. Info will be coming to you later about purchasing that last novel.

### *The Thief and the Beanstalk* by P. W. Catanese



Everyone knows the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. Everyone also knows that Jack's adventure made him a very rich man. But what they don't know is what happened a long time after Jack... That's where Nick comes in. Orphaned and desperate, Nick joins a nasty band of thieves in hopes of a warm meal and a little protection. In exchange Nick must help them break into the lavish white castle rumored to belong to an old man named Jack. Legend says it's full of riches from Jack's quest up a magical beanstalk decades ago. When Nick's dangerous mission leads him straight to Jack, he sees a chance to climb the famed beanstalk for himself. But what Nick doesn't know is that things are different from when Jack made his climb. There are new foes at the top now. Ones with cruel weapons and foul plans – plans that could destroy the world as Nick knows it. Will Nick come down the beanstalk a hero? Will he come down at all?



### *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman

Sometimes, even in the middle of ugliness and neglect, a little bit of beauty will bloom. Award-winning writer Paul Fleischman dazzles us with this truth in *Seedfolks*--a slim novel that bursts with hope. Wasting not a single word, Fleischman unfolds a story of a blighted neighborhood transformed when a young girl plants a few lima beans in an abandoned lot. Slowly, one by one, neighbors are touched and stirred to action as they see tendrils poke through the dirt.

### *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

by Christopher Paul Curtis



The year is 1963, and self-important Byron Watson is the bane of his younger brother Kenny's existence. Constantly in trouble for one thing or another, from straightening his hair into a "conk" to lighting fires to freezing his lips to the mirror of the new family car, Byron finally pushes his family too far. Before this "official juvenile delinquent" can cut school or steal change one more time, Momma and Dad finally make good on their threat to send him to the deep south to spend the summer with his tiny, strict grandmother. Since the story is set in 1963, the family must make careful preparations for their trip, for they cannot count on food or housing being available on the road once they cross into the South. The slow, sultry pace of life has a beneficial effect on all of the children until the fateful day when a local church is bombed, and Kenny runs to look for his sister.