Waldorf Grade 6 Book Recommendations

In sixth grade, the 11/12 year-old is usually beginning to experience the onset of puberty. Growth happens at an increasingly rapid rate and the child often goes through a time of alarm, not recognizing who he or she is anymore. Just as a single example, somewhere during the time of puberty a girl’s larynx grows to three times its original size and a boy’s, seven times its original size. This growth rate will never be repeated in the life span of human development.

Along with this physical growth comes a wonderful burst of new capacities of judgement. Sixth graders can be very fine company, capable of interesting insight and discussion. However, it is important to keep in mind that they are still children. Rome is the literary/cultural focus of the curriculum in grade 6. Lawfulness becomes an important anchor for the sixth grader. Clear structure, consequences for law breaking, and contracts for increasing responsibility are the best for helping a child through the difficult range of feelings that burst forth at this age. Keeping the child energetically concentrated on the work of learning is therapeutic and teaches the child that work helps tangled feelings move forward and lighten. To listen sympathetically to the upsets inevitable at this time, and then to re-focus on work to be done constitutes good practice for these youngsters. They are relying on adults for this. “Contracts toward increasing responsibility,” is a good “slogan” for sixth graders: once work is completed, negotiations and privileges can begin!

For Waldorf Teachers and Parents

A Handbook for Waldorf Class Teachers  Kevin Avison
Awakening Intelligence  Magda Lisseau
Evaluation, Homework, and Teacher’s Support  David Mitchell, ed.
Finding Your Self  Torin Finser
From Images to Thinking  David Mitchell, ed.
Growing Up Healthy in a World of Digital Media  Michaela Glöckler
Immersion Learning: A Travelogue  Frans Lutters
Leaving Room for the Angels  Reg Down
Rubicon  Monica Ruef and Rudolf Steiner
Second Grade Development, Observation and Assessment  Else Gottgens (Though titled, “second grade” it can be useful, in sections, for assessing at any age)
Solving the Riddle of the Child  Christof Wiechert
Tapestry of a Waldorf Curriculum  Tobias Richer
Tending the Spark  Betty Staley
The Waldorf Main Lesson  Eric G. Müller
The Temperaments and the Arts  Magda Lissau
Working with Anxious, Nervous, and Depressed Children  Henning Koehler and Joseph Baily
For Meeting Children's Needs in the Grade 6 Waldorf Classroom

- Developing the Observing Eye by Cynthia Lange
- Difficult Children: There Is No Such Thing by Henning Koehler and Joseph Bailey
- Educating the Will by Michael Howard
- Helping Children on Their Way by Elizabeth Auer
- Learning about the World through Modeling by Arthur Auer
- Observing the Class Observing the Children by David Mitchell, ed.
- Raphael: The Mysteries of Illness and Healing by Michaela Glöckler, M.D.
- The Four Temperaments by Helmut Eller
- Will-Developed Intelligence by Patricia Livingston and David Mitchell
- Working with Anxious, Nervous, and Depressed Children by Henning Koehler and Joseph Bailey

For Curriculum Development in Waldorf Grade 6:

Mathematics and Geometry in Waldorf Grade 6

- Active Arithmetic by Henning Andersen
- Finding the Path by Bengt Ulin
- First Steps in Proven Geometry by Ernst Schuberth
- Geometry Lessons in a Waldorf School by Ernst
- Math Lessons for Elementary Grades by Dorothy Harrer
- Mathematics Lessons for the Sixth Grade by Ernst Schuberth
- Making Math Meaningful, A Source Book for Middle School by Jaimie York
- Making Math Meaningful A 6th Grade Workbook by Jaimie York
- Mensuration by Amos Franceschelli
- The Waldorf Approach to Arithmetic by Herman von Baravalle
- Teaching Mathematics in Rudolf Steiner Schools by Ron Jarman
- Triangle, Circle, and Soul by Harry Kretz

Language Arts in Waldorf Grade 6

- An English Grammar by Rudolf Schmid
- An English Manual by Dorothy Harrer
- Fire the Imagination — Write On! by Dorit Winter
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge by Gloria Cooper
- Spelling by Hand by Jeremy Herrmann
- Teaching Language Arts in a Waldorf School by Roberto Trostli, ed.
- The Power of Grammar by Anne Greer
History in Waldorf Grade 6

Ancient Mythologies: India, Persia, Babylon, Egypt Charles Kovacs
Ancient Rome Charles Kovacs
On Teaching History Henry Barnes
Roman Lives Dorothy Harrer (a great resource, written as a reader for sixth grades)
Teaching History Christof Lindenberg
The Book of the Ancient Romans Dorothy Mills
The Revelations of Evolutionary Events Evelyn Debusschere

Science in Waldorf Grade 6

A Phenomena-Based Physics Manfred von Mackensen
An Introduction to a Study of the Stars C.R. Mirbt
Earth Science Hans Ulrich Schmutz
Physics the Waldorf Way Grade 6 Roberto Trostli
Sensible Physics Teaching Stephen Edelglass and Michael D’Aleo
Sky Phenomena, A Guide to Naked Eye Observation of the Stars Norman Davidson
The Bee Book Jakob Streit
The Stars: A New Way to See Them H. A. Rey

Geography in Waldorf Grade 6

Earth Science Hans Ulrich Schmutz
Longitude Dava Sobel
Man in Nature Carl Sauer

Music and Recorder in Waldorf Grade 6

At Home in Harmony Meg Chittenden
Building the Chorus Arnold Logan
Music from around the World for Three Part Recorder Ensemble Michael Preston
Recorder Ensemble Stephen Bernstein
Songs of Heaven and Earth Merwin Lewis
The Importance of Being Musical Cynthia Frangello
Voyage in Song and Story Jennette Resnick
Drama and the Class Play in Waldorf Grade 6

- 25 Plays Inspired by Waldorf Teachers  David Mitchell, ed.
- Eureka! The Life and Times of Archimedes  John Trevillion and Jeffrey Spade
- Hawthorne Valley Harvest  William Ward, ed.
- Pedagogical Theater  Arthur Pittis
- Three Plays for Small Classes  Vivian Jones-Schmidt

Art in Waldorf Grade 6

- Creative Pathways  Elizabeth Auer
- Eurythmy: A Creative Force in Humanity  Sylvia Bardt
- Kinesthetic Learning for Adolescents  Leonore Russell, ed.
- Learning About the World through Modeling  Arthur Auer
- Learning to See the world through Drawing  Elizabeth Auer
- Painting at School  Dick Bruin and Attie Lichthardt
- The Temperaments and the Arts  Magda Lissau

Readers for Waldorf Sixth Graders

- A Light in the Forest  Conrad Richter
- Anything by the author Gary Paulson
- Anything by the author Rosemary Sutcliff
- Buzzy and the River Rats, volumes I, II, and III  John Hoffman
- Geron and Virtus  Jakob Streit
- I Marched with Hannibal  Hans Bauann
- Little Bee Sunbeam  Jakob Streit
- Lost on a Mountain in Maine  Donn Fendler
  *Men of Iron  Howard Pyle and anything by this author (Robin Hood, King Arthur
- Old Yeller  Fred Gipson and Steven Polson
- *Sir Nigel  Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- The Bee Book  Jakob Streit
- The Bronze Bow  Elizabeth George Speare (Helen Keller’s Teacher)
- The Call of the Wild  Jack London
- The Invisible Boat  Eric Müller
- The Invisible Boat and the Molton Dragon  Eric Müller
- The Star Rider and Anna McLoon  re-told by Jakob Streit
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond  Elizabeth George Speare
  *Where the Red Fern Grows  Wilson Rawls
  *Especially good for reading aloud
For Parents of Waldorf Sixth Graders

Adventures in Parenting  Rachel Ross
Assessment for Learning in Waldorf Classrooms  Sara Ciborsi & Helen-Ann Ireland
Child Development at a Glance  Christian Breme
Into the World: How Waldorf Graduates Fare after High School, Douglas Gerwin, Ilan Safit, ed
Parent Participation in the Life of a Waldorf School  Manfred Liest
Partnerships of Hope  Christopher Schaefer
Rubicon  Rudolf Steiner/Monica
The Wisdom of Waldorf Education for the Future  Rahima Baldwin
Trailing Clouds of Glory  Douglas Gerwin
Waldorf Education: An Introduction  Henry Barnes
Windows into Waldorf  David Mitchell