

Junior High Suggested Reading List

Before Entering Sixth Grade

Airman by Eoin Colfer **MG - BL: 5.8 - AR Pts: 16.0**

In the late nineteenth century, when Conor discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while planning a daring escape by way of a flying machine.

Amal About by Aisha Saeed **MG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 6.0**

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan **MG - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 5.0**

Amina, a Pakistani American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while dealing with the vandalism of the local Islamic Center and mosque and her best friend Soojin's new friendship with their former nemesis.

Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire by John August **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 9.0**

Arlo Finch is a newcomer to Pine Mountain, Colorado, a tiny town of mystery and magic, but he's already attracted the attention of dark and ancient forces. Book #1

Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 12.0**

Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon. Book #1

Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden **MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 8.0**

Seventh-grader Zoey Albro focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

Blended by Sharon Draper **MG - BL: 4.0 - AR Pts: 7.0**

Eleven-year-old Isabella feels like a push-me-pull-me toy after her parents' divorce. People's comments about her mixed race leave Isabella unsure about her identity. If she is only seen as half of this and half of that, how can she ever feel whole?

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis **MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 4.0**

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. Book #1

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson **MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 5.0**

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer, who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis **MG - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 8.0**

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink **MG** - BL: **6.0** - AR Pts: **8.0**

A spirited pioneer girl relates her adventures on the Wisconsin frontier.

Castle of Llyr (series) by Llyod Alexander **MG** - BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **7.0**

While undergoing training to be a princess, Eilonwy learns about magic for evil purposes.

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau **MG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **9.0**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a messenger, to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

Coraline by Neil Gaiman **MG** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **5.0**

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Crispin: Cross of Lead by Avi **MG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **7.0**

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. Book #1

The Darkdeep by Allyson Braithwaite Codie **MG** - BL: **4.1** - AR Pts: **7.0**

Middle-schoolers Nico, Tyler, Ella, and Opal discover a hidden island in a forbidden cove that appears uninhabited, but something ancient has awakened knowing their wishes, dreams, and darkest secrets.

Dealing with Dragons by Patricia C. Wrede **MG** - BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **8.0**

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee **MG** - BL: **5.9** - AR Pts: **13.0**

Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine **MG** - BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **8.0**

In this novel based on Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given.

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman **MG** - BL: **6.6** - AR Pts: **5.0**

This book is a biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

The False Prince by Jennifer A. Nielsen **MG** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **12.0**

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war. Book #1

Found by Margeret Peterson Haddix **MG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **9.0**

Thirteen-year-old Jonah, his friend Chip, and Jonah's sister, Katherine, are plunged into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, an airplane that appeared out of nowhere, and people who seem to appear and disappear at will. Book #1

Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Boycott by Russell Freedman **MG - BL: 7.7 - Pts: 3.0**

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and give up her seat to a white man. This refusal to give up her dignity sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, a yearlong struggle and a major victory in the civil rights movement.

Frogkisser! By Garth Nix **MG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 15.0**

The evil duke has a bad habit of turning enemies into frogs, and only Anya and her magical lip balm can restore them. To save the kingdom, she is going to have to kiss a lot of frogs.

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams **MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 11.0**

Thirteen-year-old Genesis is self-conscious of the color of her skin and her family's troubles. But then she starts to find a thing or two she likes about herself.

Gilda Joyce: The Ladies of the Lake **MG - BL: 6.3 - AR Pts: 12.0**

Having earned a scholarship to a private girls' high school, self-proclaimed psychic investigator Gilda Joyce investigates the circumstances surrounding the drowning death of a student whose ghost supposedly haunts the campus. Book #2

The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman **MG - BL: 4.0 - AR Pts: 11.0**

High-school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the New-York Circulating Material Repository, and when she gains access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of adventures.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen **MG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 7.0**

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Hoot by Carl Hiassen **MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 9.0**

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke **MG - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 23.0**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force them into service. Book #1

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 13.0**

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods, where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Book #1

Millicent Min, Girl Genius by Lisa Yee **MG - BL: 5.8 - AR Pts: 8.0**

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller by Sarah Miller **MG - BL: 5.8 - AR Pts: 8.0**

At age twenty-one, partially blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills.

Moon Over Manifest by Claire Vanderpool **MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 12.0**

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart **MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 18.0**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledroptha Curtain. Bk #1

Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff **MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 5.0**

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry **MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 4.0**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. The story contains profanity, violence, slurs, and negative stereotypes.

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga **MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 5.0**

Jude is sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Ohio when their Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence. Jude adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper **MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 8.0**

Melody cannot walk or talk, but refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates who dismiss her as having an intellectual disability.

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry **MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 13.0**

Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe from the diabolical Black Stache. The coauthor is Ridley Pearson. Book #1

Pony by R.J. Palacio **MG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 9.0**

This book is a modern classic about a boy on a quest to rescue his father, with only a ghost as his companion and a mysterious pony as his guide.

Race to the Sun by Rebecca Roanhorse **MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 10.0**

Guided by her Navajo ancestors, Nizhoni Begay discovers she is descended from a holy woman and destined to become a monsterslayer.

Refugee by Alan Gratz **MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 10.0**

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. All three go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, and all face unimaginable dangers. Text includes violence, racial/cultural discrimination

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 12.0**

Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 6.0**

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Alberto Hernandez **MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 14.0**

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things, and people, from other universes. Book #1

A Solitary Blue by Cynthia Voigt **MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 11.0**

Jeff's mother, who had deserted the family while he was still very young, returns and drives the wedge even deeper that had developed between he and his father.

The Storm Runner by Jennifer Cervantes **MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 14.0**

To prevent the Maya gods from battling each other and destroying the world, thirteen-year-old Zane must unravel an ancient prophecy, stop an evil god, and discover how his physical disability connects him to his ancestors. Book #1

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 5.0**

This book tells of the adventure of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke **MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 13.0**

Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord".

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata **MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 7.0**

Just when 12-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

The Traitor's Gate by Avi **MG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 10.0**

When his father is arrested as a debtor in 1849 London, fourteen-year-old John Huffam must take on unexpected responsibilities, from asking a distant relative for help to determining why people are spying on him and his family.

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi **MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 8.0**

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech **MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 9.0**

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin **MG - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 7.0**

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and then joins a dragon on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of discovering how to change her family's fortune.

Wizard for Hire by Obert Skye **MG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **12.0**

After fourteen-year-old Ozzy's scientist parents are kidnapped, Ozzy's only help may be a classified ad that says "Wizards for hire." Book #1.0

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick **MG** - BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **4.0**

Twelve-year old Ben, whose story is told in words, loses both his mother and his hearing and leaves home to seek the father he never knew, while Rose, whose story is told in pictures, is also compelled to search for the something missing in her life.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle **MG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **7.0**

Meg Murry and her family receive a surprise visit from an unearthly stranger out of another dimension in time.

Before Entering Seventh Grade

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War by Philip Caputo **MG** - BL: **9.7** - AR Pts: **6.0**

In this stirring chronicle, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Philip Caputo writes for young readers about the Vietnam War, our country's most controversial war.

Anne of Green Gables (Unabridged) by L.M. Montgomery **MG** - BL: **7.3** - AR Pts: **17.0**

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm, and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. Book #1

Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz **MG** - BL: **4.9** - AR Pts: **5.0**

Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement. The plot contains graphic violence. The coauthor is Renée Watson.

The Cuckoo's Child by Suzanne Freeman **UG** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **8.0**

Eleven-year-old Mia refuses to believe that her parents are not coming back after they're reported lost at sea.

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer **UG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **12.0**

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya **MG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **7.0**

Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all, or is he in for a big, epic fail?

Eragon by Christopher Paolini **UG** - BL: **5.6** - AR Pts: **25.0**

A 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon, finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. Book #1

Everlost by Neal Shusterman **MG+** - BL: **5.6** - AR Pts: **12.0**

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing, even skinjacking, to break free. Book #1

Fever by Laura Halse Anderson **UG** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **7.0**

In 1793 Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith **MG+** - BL: **4.3** - AR Pts: **11.0**

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee **MG** - BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **9.0**

Shayla is in junior high, and all the rules have changed. She's suddenly questioning who her best friends are, and some people at school are saying she's not black enough.

The Goose Girl by Shannon Hale **MG+** - BL: **5.9** - AR Pts: **14.0**

Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers. Book #1

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson **MG** - BL: **4.1** - AR Pts: **4.0**

When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.

Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen **MG+** - BL: **5.7** - AR Pts: **5.0**

Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien **UG** - BL: **6.6** - AR Pts: **16.0**

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Homecoming by Cynthia Voight **MG** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **16.0**

Abandoned by their mother, young Dicey fights to keep her and her three siblings together and out of foster homes.

The House of Scorpion by Nancy Farmer **MG+** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **15.0**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones **UG** - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 12.0

Eldest of three sisters, in a land where it is considered to be a misfortune, Sophie is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared Wizard Howl.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins **MG+** - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 15.0

In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16-year-old Katniss's skills are tested when she voluntarily takes her sister's place. Book #1

I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I Have to Kill You by Ally Carter **MG+** - BL: 5.9 - AR Pts: 10.0

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission. Book #1

Leviathan by Scott Westerfield **MG+** - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 12.0

In an alternate 1914 Europe, 15-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, running from the Clanker Powers who are trying to take over the globe, forms an alliance with Deryn, who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly. Book #1

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson **MG+** - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 11.0

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Mockingbird by Katherine Erskine **MG** - BL: 3.6 - AR Pts: 5.0

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school. While at home, she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani **MG** - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 8.0

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing in the pages of her diary.

Nothing But the Truth by Avi **UG** - BL: 3.6 - AR Pts: 4.0

A ninth-grader's suspension for humming "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Peak by Roland Smith **MG+** - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 9.0

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor **MG** - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 10.0

Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.

The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman **UG** - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 9.0

In nineteenth-century London, sixteen-year-old Sally, a recent orphan, becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby

Ruby Red by Kerstin Gier MG+ - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 11.0

Sixteen-year-old Gwyneth discovers that she, rather than her well-prepared cousin, carries a time-travel gene, and soon she is journeying with Gideon, who shares the gift, through historical London trying to discover whom they can trust. Book #1

Shadowland by Meg Cabot UG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 9.0

Susannah moves to California where she has contact with two ghosts.

Shield of Stars by Hilari Bell MG+ - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 10.0

When the justice he works for is condemned of treason, fourteen-year-old and semi-reformed pickpocket Weasel sets out to find a notorious bandit who may be able to help save his master's life. Book #1

Shuri: A Black Panther Novel by Nic Stone MG - BL: 6.2 - AR Pts: 8.0

Follow Shuri as she sets out on a quest to save her homeland of Wakanda.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli UG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 6.0

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz MG+ - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 7.0

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements MG+ - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 9.0

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt MG - BL: 5.9 - AR Pts: 12.0

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to religion classes, seventh grader Holling stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of Shakespeare and he learns about the world he lives in.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 8.0

Sixteen game players, heirs to Sam Westing's fabulous fortune, are all suspected of his murder. This book is part mystery story, part play-along game, and part do-it-yourself puzzle.

Before Entering Eighth Grade

Alice in Lace by Phyllis Naylor **UG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 5.0**

While planning a wedding as part of an assignment for her eighth-grade health class, Alice thinks about her father and older brother's love lives and learns that you cannot prepare for all of life's decisions. Book #8

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat

MG - BL: 7.2 - AR Pts: 7.0 A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a you-are-there style that blends suspense, science and cultural insight.

Athletic Shorts by Chris Crutcher **UG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 6.0**

This collection of six short stories features characters from earlier books by Chris Crutcher.

Best Little Girl in the World by Steven Levenkron **UG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 9.0**

This story captures the terrifying reality of anorexia nervosa, the girl who is its victim, her desperate family, and the therapist who is her last hope for survival.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak **UG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 18.0**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials by Ann Rinaldi **MG+ - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 8.0** While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman **UG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 8.0**

The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Code Orange by Caroline Cooney **MG+ - BL: 6.2 - AR Pts: 8.0**

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and could infect all of New York City.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank **MG+ - BL: 6.5 - AR Pts: 14.0**

A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps. The text contains mild profanity.

Escape from Aleppo by N.H. Senzai **MG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 9.0**

Nadia's family is forced to flee their home in Aleppo, Syria, when the Arab Spring sparks a civil war in this timely coming-of-age novel.

Etiquette Espionage by Gail Carriger **UG - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 11.0**

In an alternate England of 1851, spirited 14-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where, she is surprised to learn, lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette but also diversion, deceit, and espionage. Book #1

Games by Carol Gorman **MG+ - BL: 3.8 - AR Pts: 8.0**

When fourteen-year-old rivals Boot Quinn and Mick Sullivan fight once too often, the new principal devises the punishment of having to play games together at his office, where they learn which battles are worth fighting.

The Glory Field by Walter Dean Myers **UG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **12.0**

This story follows a family's 250-year history from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants.

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth by James Cross Giblin **MG** - BL: **8.3** - AR Pts: **12.0**

First-hand accounts of family, friends, and colleagues help to create images of Edwin Booth and his brother John Wilkes. This book traces the events leading up to the assassination and describes the effects of the deed on his family and the country.

The Great Wide Sea by M.H. Herlong **MG+** - BL: **4.1** - AR Pts: **9.0**

Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas **UG** - BL: **3.9** - AR Pts: **13.0**

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter, an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances, addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty. The plot contains profanity and racial violence.

Healer's Apprentice by Melanie Dickerson **MG+** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **14.0**

In this story loosely based on the SLEEPING BEAUTY fairy tale, seventeen-year-old Rose, a healer's apprentice, falls in love with the betrothed Lord Hamlin, who is seeking the sorcerer who cursed his future bride.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti **MG** - BL: **7.8** - AR Pts: **6.0**

This photo-illustrated book looks at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends. Included are profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis.

House of Stairs by William Sleator **UG** - BL: **6.3** - AR Pts: **7.0**

Five orphans of widely varying personalities are involuntarily placed in a house of endless stairs as subjects for a psychological experiment.

Legend by Marie Lu **UG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **11.0**

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-olds famous criminal Day and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover they have a common enemy. Book #1

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer **MG+** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **14.0**

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the Moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Book #1

Lord of the Flies by William Golding **UG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **9.0**

After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy.

Mare's War by Tanita S. Davis **UG** - BL: **4.9** - AR Pts: **12.0**

Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during WWII as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

Matched by Allyson Braithwaite Condie UG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 13.0

Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but when she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen, and Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner UG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 15.0

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. The plot contains violence. Book #1

The Pearl by John Steinbeck UG - BL: 7.1 - AR Pts: 4.0

Kino, a poor Mexican pearl-diver, believes he has received the answer to his prayers when he finds a great pearl worth a fortune, but tragedy soon follows.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings MG+ - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 8.0

First hailed as a hero for his dramatic water rescue of a little boy, thirteen-year-old Brady soon makes a discovery that puts him at the heart of a tragedy. Alone with his dark secret, Brady is forced to choose between his friends and the right thing.

The Rithmatist by Brandon Sanderson MG+ - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 13.0

As wild chalklings threaten the American Isles and Rithmatists are humanity's only defense, Joel can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice.

The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan MG - BL: 7.0 - AR Pts: 12.0

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. Book #1

Runaway by Wendelin Van Draanen MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 9.0

After running away from many foster homes, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country, keeping a journal of her experiences and struggle to survive.

Seraphina: A Novel by Rachel Hartman UG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 18.0

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce, and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares UG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 9.0

During their first summer apart, four teenage best friends stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their summer experiences.

Slot Machine by Chris Lynch UG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 8.0

When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at Christian Brothers Academy Retreat Center, he and his two best friends are forced to try various sports in order to find out where they belong.

Splintered by Anita G. Howard UG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 16.0

A descendant of the inspiration for ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND, 16-year-old Alyssa fears she is mentally ill like her mom until she finds that Wonderland is real and, if she passes a series of tests to fix past mistakes, she may save her family. #1

Surviving Antartica: Reality TV 2083 by Andrea White **MG+** - BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **11.0**

In the year 2083, five fourteen-year-olds deprived of the opportunity to continue their educations reenact Robert Scott's 1910-1913 expedition to the South Pole as contestants on a reality TV show, secretly aided by the Department of Entertainment.

Trash by Andy Mulligan **MG+** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **8.0**

Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a Third World country's dump.

Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix **MG** - BL: **5.6** - AR Pts: **14.0**

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike and the fire that took the lives of her friends.