

Junior High Suggested Summer Reading
Summer 2009
Authors and Series List

Authors:

Sharon Creech

Sharon Creech was born in Ohio and grew up with one sister and three brothers. In college, she discovered her love of story-telling. While teaching high school English and Literature in England and Switzerland, she began her writing career. She has written several books for young adults, including the Newbery Award Winning *Walk Two Moons*. Her other novels include: *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, *Bloomability*, *The Castle Corona*, *Chasing Redbird*, *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*, *Heartbeat*, *Love That Dog*, *Pleasing the Ghost*, *Replay*, *Ruby Holler*, *The Wanderer* and her most recent book, *Hate That Cat*.

Anthony Horowitz

Anthony Horowitz's real life could easily be a novel by itself. Born to a wealthy English family, his father was very mysterious and secretive. Secretly taking their wealth out of Swiss bank accounts, his father hid the money under a fake name and then died. His mother searched for the missing money without success. After being sent to a nightmare of a boarding school at the age of 8, Horowitz had plenty of fodder for creating his stories and intrigue and revenge. He was first published at the age of 23 and has written numerous books and several TV dramas. His series include the *Alex Rider* series, *The Gatekeepers*, and *The Diamond Brothers Mysteries*.

Jeff Kinney

Jeff Kinney says on his Web site, www.wimpykid.com, "I wanted to write a story about all the funny parts of growing up and none of the serious parts. I had a pretty ordinary childhood, but lots of humorous stuff happened along the way." He adds, "My goal was to write a book that made people laugh. There were certain books I read as a kid that really stood the test of time. I wanted to write that kind of book." Humor is such a popular genre for both boys and girls.

Tamora Pierce:

Tamora Pierce has written over 20 fantasy novels in the past 20 years. Among those books are several wonderful series: *The Protector of the Small*, *Song of the Lioness*, and *Bekka Cooper* (the first in her latest series) are among the best she has written. She has created a fantasy world similar to medieval earth where kings and queens rule and knights fight for justice. Some people in her world have a variety of magical abilities and some have none. Mythical creatures abound and are involved in the wars being fought. Pierce creates wonderfully developed characters who are flawed. She specializes in

strong three dimensional female characters, but also creates interesting male characters. All of her novels have plenty of action with a bit of romance and intrigue thrown in to keep you interested.

Series:

Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider is a teen spy for England's M16 Division. In this series he combats evil using just his own strength and cleverness, as well as some gadgets worthy of James Bond. A great read for any teen who is looking for adventure and escape in the pages of a book.

Circle of Magic by Tamora Pierce

Good solid fantasy with four distinct early teen protagonists each of whom must contribute their special abilities for the purpose of defeating an evil force threatening their world. Readers can follow the development of the same characters four years older and wiser, in the next series which takes place four years later - *The Circle Opens*.

Enola Holmes Mysteries by Nancy Springer

Does the last name sound familiar? It should! Enola is the younger sister of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and a lesser known older brother named Mycroft. After her mother disappears under mysterious circumstances, Enola's older brothers want to send her off to boarding school to learn how to be a "proper" lady so she can be married off. Inheriting her mother's love of freedom and her brother's nose for a good mystery, Enola runs away and hides under her brothers' noses in the heart of London. In her quest to find her mother, Enola becomes involved in several mysteries that have both Scotland Yard and Sherlock stumped. Books in the series include *The Case of the Missing Marquess*, *The Case of the Left-Handed Lady*, *The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets*, *The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan*, and *The Case of the Cryptic Crinoline*.

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

The Gregor the Overlander series by Suzanne Collins (the author of *The Hunger Games*) was written between 2003-2007. Gregor is a young man who discovers an entire culture living underneath the city of New York. The Underlanders have a prophecy in which Gregor is a warrior who is supposed to help save their world by going on a quest. The Underlanders' world includes huge rats, mice, spiders, bats, lizards, and cockroaches. Collins' characters grow and mature with each book. Love and loyalty to family are two of the strong themes in this series. Action packed battles and humor keep the story enjoyable, exciting and suspenseful. Books in the series: *Gregor the Overlander* (1), *Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane* (2), *Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods* (3), *Gregor and the Marks of Secret* (4), *Gregor and the Code of the Claw* (5).

Maximum Ride by James Patterson

The books in the series are exciting and fun. Max's "flock" is made up of genetically mutated "bird-kids." After their escape from the School where they were created, the kids have to avoid being recaptured by the Erasers, genetically altered kids who have the look and characteristics of wolves. Books in the series include *The Angel Experiment*, *School's Out – Forever*, *Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports*, and *The Final Warning*.

The Pendragon Series by D. J. MacHale

This is the most amazing series of books. Both boys and girls in grades 6-8 have been avid readers of this series. There are nine in the series so far, and the 10th book will be released on May 12th, 2009. Bobby Pendragon is a "Traveler" on a quest to defeat the evil Saint Dane. He travels through time and space to protect the territories from being destroyed by Saint Dane. Bobby's friends back at home follow his adventures by reading his journals that mysteriously appear through the traveler's ring.

The Warriors and The Warriors New Prophecy by Erin Hunter

This series of books is consistently popular with my 6th graders. Many students have said that these are their favorite books. I have heard them recommending them to other students. If you like cats and fantasy these are the books for you. The stories are interesting and fast paced.