

Junior High Suggested Summer Reading  
Summer 2009  
Eighth Grade List

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Fiction:**

**Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia. Hawksong. New York: Dell-Laurel Leaf, 2003.**

The bloody war between the snake shifters and the bird shifters has been going on for so long that no one remembers why they are fighting. Danica, queen of the birds, and Zane, leader of the snakes, are tired of the fighting that has claimed so many lives. As they meet to discuss peace, they discover something else...can a bird and a snake fall in love? Will their enemies give peace and romance a chance?

**Childs, Tera Lynn. Oh My Gods. New York: Dutton Books, 2008.**

When her mother suddenly decides to marry a near stranger, Phoebe, whose passion is running, soon finds herself living on a remote Greek island, completing her senior year at an ancient high school where the students and faculty are descended from gods or goddesses.

**Cooney, Caroline B. Code Orange. New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2005.**

While conducting research for a high school biology report, a teenage boy unwittingly puts himself and others in danger as terrorists become very interested in his research materials.

**DuPrau, Jeanne. Car Trouble. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2005.**

Duff Pringle, a 17-year-old computer "nerd," has six days to get from Richmond, Virginia to San Jose, California to start a new job. Along the way he meets a hitchhiker named Stu, a singer named Bonnie, and two thugs who think he stole their cash. Will he ever make it to California on time?

**Fletcher, Charlie. Stoneheart. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.**

On a class trip in an alternative London, George Chapman accidentally awakens and animates the different statues and monuments in the city. While on the quest to fix his mistake, George finds out that some statues are controlled by an evil force determined to destroy him as part of a world dominations plot while others try to protect and help him.

**Grant, K.M. Blaze of Silver. Boston: Walker & Company, 2007.**

This is the third book in the De Granville trilogy. It's now up to young William to deliver his share of the treasure to ransom King Richard, who is being held captive in Germany.

But the evil Old Man of the Mountain has other plans for the treasure--plans involving an exquisitely crafted revenge. Using principles of their shared Muslim faith to persuade him, an agent of the Old Man of the Mountain convinces Kamil to lead Will and Ellie into a trap, but Kamil repents and seeks a way to save his friends and redeem himself.

**Hale, Marian. The Truth about Sparrows. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2004.**

Set during the Great Depression, Sadie and her family are fighting to survive. They must move from Missouri to Texas so that her dad can find work. Sadie's life changes forever when her family moves into a one-room shack and she is forced to work at the local cannery before school each day. This story is about Sadie's ability to accept her fate and count her blessings in this time of turmoil.

**Hoffman, Alice. Incantation. New York: Little Brown and Company, 2006.**

During the Inquisition, Estrella lives with her mother and grandparents in Spain. Her family has converted to Christianity, but they still secretly practice Judaism. The story is one of love, betrayal, tragedy and hope.

**Key, Watt. Alabama Moon. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006.**

The young boy Moon has been raised in the wilderness with his father who taught him not to trust anyone, especially the government and taught him to be totally independent and self-sufficient. Before his death, his father tells Moon to go to Alaska where he can live with others like their kind. Before Moon gets there, he is taken to a juvenile boy's home. There Moon and two of his friends decide to break out of the home and head for Alaska. As they are living on their own in the wilderness, Moon begins to question his father and his beliefs.

**Mackel, Kathryn. Boost. New York: Dial Books, 2008.**

After moving to a new city, thirteen-year-old Savvy's dreams of playing for elite basketball team are in danger when she is accused of taking steroids.

**Mikaelsen, Ben. Touching Spirit Bear. New York: Harper Trophy, 2002.**

After his anger explodes and he viciously attacks another student, Cole agrees to participate in a punishment program based on Native American Circle Justice. Cole must spend a year alone on a remote Alaskan island, where an encounter with a huge, white Spirit Bear changes his life and begins to heal his spirit.

**Myers, Walter Dean. Sunrise Over Fallujah. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008.**

After 9/11, Robin leaves home and joins the army. While stationed in Iraq he begins writing letters home to his family. He experiences the horrors of war. Myers portrays a soldier's feelings and perspectives of this controversial war.

**Oppel, Kenneth. Airborn. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.**

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

**Papademetriou, Lisa. The Wizard, the Witch & Two Girls from Jersey. New York: Razorbill, 2006.**

Ever since Veronica and Heather got zapped into the pages of *The Queen of Twilight*, the novel has gone completely haywire. Now it's up to a wizard with no magic, an elf reject, a talking squirrel, and two Jersey chicks to tackle the most terrifying evil known to the fantasy genre.

**Paulsen, Gary. Lawn Boy. New York: Wendy Lamb, 2007.**

A 12 year old boy receives a lawn mower for his birthday from his grandmother. Hoping to buy a new inner tube for his bicycle the boy begins a lawn mowing business. Soon his business grows and he meets Arnold a stay-at-home stock-broker. Arnold becomes the boy's business manager. He invests the boy's money and it begins to double even triple.

**Pierce, Tamora. Bekka Cooper: Terrier. New York: Random House, 2006.**

Set in Tortall, the fantasy world Pierce has created for her novels, Bekka Cooper, 16, is a trainee, or a "Puppy", in the Provost's Guard. Bekka is paired with two of the best Guards, or "Dogs," to be trained. Aided by her own gifts of magic, Bekka learns her job, makes friends and uncovers two serial killers who prey on the poor.

**Prevost, Guillaume. The Book of Time. New York: Scholastic, Inc. 2007.**

Sam Faulkner travels back in time to medieval Ireland, ancient Egypt and Renaissance Bruges in search of his missing father.

**Snow, Maya. Sisters of the Sword. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.**

When their treacherous uncle murders their father and older brothers and seizes power as the local Jito, or Lord Steward, Kimi and Hana barely manage to escape with their lives. Disguised as boys, the sisters get positions as servants in Master Goku's dojo, where they perform household tasks and train in their spare time. While there, the girls

make both friends and enemies, as they struggle to keep their identities secret, hone their fighting skills, and plan their revenge.

**Sonnenblick, Jordan. Notes from the Midnight Driver. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006.**

Sixteen-year-old Alex is sentenced to community service at a nursing home because of a drunk driving charge. There he befriends a difficult resident who challenges his thinking and he struggles with romantic feelings for his best friend Laurie. The book has laugh out loud humor and sympathy.

**Yancey, Richard. Alfred Kropp: The Thirteenth Skull. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.**

Alfred's adventures continue in the third novel of spies, magic, and action! Alfred is the last descendent of one of the Knights of the Round Table and must figure out who he can trust in order to find out what the Thirteenth Skull is and save his own life.

**Young, E L (Emma). STORM : The Infinity Code. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008.**

Gadget inventing teenager Will is asked to join three other overachieving techno teens in the Science and Technology to Over-Ride Misery group. Their goal is to stop the development of a deadly weapon designed by a secret society of spies bent on destroying the earth as we know it.

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade Nonfiction:

**Ballard, Robert. Robert Ballard's Lusitania. Edison, N.J. : Chartwell Books, 2007.**

A visually stunning look at the history of the great Cunard Line passenger ship, *Lusitania*, from her birth at Clydebank shipyards in Scotland, to her well publicized and tragic sinking by a German U-boat during WWI. It includes the examination of the wreck by Ballard's underwater exploration team in an effort to answer some of the questions surrounding the sinking.

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow. New York : Scholastic, 2005.**

The story of a generation of German young people who devoted all their energy to the Hitler Youth, the propaganda that gave Hitler his power, and the youths that resisted the Nazi movement.

**Benchley, Peter. Shark Life: True Stories about Sharks and the Sea. New York: Delacorte Press, 2005.**

In this non-fiction follow up to the best seller *Jaws*, the author tells of his adventures with sharks and other sea life. He describes his encounters swimming with sharks, how

to avoid shark attacks, and what he has learned about sharks since *Jaws* was published in 1974.

**Bernall, Misty. She Said Yes: the Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall. New York: Pocket Books, 2000.**

Misty Bernall, the mother of one of the twelve students killed at Columbine High School, tells the story of her daughter's life describing how Cassie, at one point, traveled down a troubled path before dedicating her life to God and sharing the details of the moment when Cassie's affirmation of her faith resulted in her death.

**Downing, David. Aftermath and Remembrance. Milwaukee: World Almanac Library, 2006.**

Examines the challenges facing Jews at the end of World War Two, and discusses the formation of Israel, the Nuremberg Trial, the hunting of war criminals, and the legacy left behind by the Holocaust.

**Freedman, Russell. Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. New York: Holiday House, 2006.**

A great nonfiction book which explains the role of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and others who were instrumental in the success of the bus boycott which lasted over a year. Lots of photographs from the boycott and quotes from the people involved make this book personal and real to students too young to remember this time period.

**Harness, Cheryl. The Ground-breaking, Chance-Taking Life of George Washington Carver and Science & Invention in America. Washington: National Geographic, 2008.**

A biography of George Washington Carver that discusses his childhood, various jobs, education, agricultural skills, travels, legacy and describes the world in which he lived. Includes a time line, a chronology, illustrations, and resources.

**Our White House : Looking in, Looking Out. New York: Candlewick P, 2008.**

Collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there.

**Torres, Laura. Best Friends Forever! New York: Workman Publishing Company, 2004.**

This book provides 199 craft projects that friends can do together. It includes crafts for photos, jewelry, fashion, gifts, and games. Most of the projects can be done with everyday items found around the house.

**Treaster, Joseph B. Hurricane Force : In the Path of America's Deadliest Storms. New York: Kingfisher, 2007.**

“They are among the most powerful, most mysterious forces on Earth.” Joseph B. Treaster survived his first hurricane when he was six years old. Since then he has covered many storms as a reporter for the New York Times. In August 2005, he made his way to New Orleans to write about one of the deadliest and costliest hurricanes in history. This book gives a riveting, first-person account of Treaster’s experience covering Hurricane Katrina and examines the history and nature of hurricanes. Full-color photographs and diagrams.

**Whiteman, Dorit Bader. Lonek's Journey : the True Story of a Boy's Escape to Freedom. New York: Star Bright Books, 2005.**

From 1939 to 1943, a young Polish Jew named Lonek traveled by land and sea from Poland to Palestine. Adversities included persecution, harrowing train rides, life in an orphanage, and trips on decrepit boats, but Lonek survived and became an engineer. Black-and-white photos illustrate the book.

**Wulffson, Don L. and Pam Wulffson. Abracadabra to Zombie : More Than 500 Wacky Word Origins. New York: Dutton Juvenile, 2003.**

Arranged in alphabetical order this book contains more than 300 wacky word origins. Readers will learn where ordinary and extraordinary words and names came from. The back of the book has a list of forgotten words. For example: gloppened meaning surprised: astonished.