

2010 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST

Angel on the Square By: Gloria Whelan

In 1913 Russia, twelve-year-old Katya eagerly anticipates leaving her St. Petersburg home, though not her older cousin Misha, to join her mother, a lady in waiting in the household of Tsar Nicholas II, but the ensuing years bring world war, revolution, and undreamed of changes to her life.

Anything But Typical By: Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

11 Birthdays By: Wendy Mass

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

The 13th Reality Series By: James Dashner

The Journal of Curious Letters

The Hunt for Dark Infinity

The Blade of Shattered Hope

Thirteen-year-old Atticus "Tick" Higginbottom begins receiving mysterious letters from around the world signed only "M.G.," and the clues contained therein lead him on a journey to the perilous 13th Reality and a confrontation with evil Mistress Jane.

Book One: *Baseball Great* By: Tim Greene

Book Two: *Rivals*

All twelve-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences.

Blood on the River: James Town 1607 By: Elisa Carbone

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

The Blue Shoe: A Tale of Thievery, Villainy, Sorcery, and Shoes By: Roderick Townley

This fairy tale begins with a mysterious blue-jeweled shoe and centers on the adventures of 13-year-old Hap Barlow, who gets imprisoned and is part of a slave revolt.

Book of a Thousand Days By: Shannon Hale

Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her serving maid are imprisoned in a tower and forced to pose as kitchen maids. Follow this adventure as they try to save their ruined kingdom.

Book of the Maid Servant By: Rebecca Barnhouse

In 1413, a young maidservant accompanies her deeply religious mistress, Dame Margery Kempe, on a pilgrimage to Rome. Includes author's note on Kempe, writer of "The Book of Margery Kempe," considered by some to be the first autobiography in the English language.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer By: James L. Swanson

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

Comet's Curse By: Dom Testa

A comet passes through the earth's atmosphere in 2035 and leaves deadly bacteria that puts the Galahad project in motion involving a selected group of teens.

Elizabeth Van Lew: Civil War Spy By: Heidi Schoof

A biography of a female Union spy during the Civil War, providing soldiers with money, food, and books, and includes information on her childhood, her passion to fight slavery, and her achievements.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate By: Jaqueline Kelly

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important scientific discovery.

Faith, Hope and Ivy June By: Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes, and communities, and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites they have a lot in common.

Fever, 1793 By: Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-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 the yellow fever epidemic.

Flygirl By: Sherri Smith

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

The Girl Who Could Fly By: Victoria Forester

Piper McCloud's ability to fly sets her apart from the other kids, so her mother sends her to an exclusive school for children with exceptional abilities, but even there she does not fit in with the other students.

The Gollywhopper Games By: Jody Feldman

Twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling money from Golly Toy and Game Company.

The Great Wide Sea By: Madaline Herlong

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.

Green By: Laura Peyton Roberts

Abducted by leprechauns on her thirteenth birthday, Lilybet Green learns that there is more to her family tree--and to her bond with her late grandmother--than she ever imagined.

Greetings From Nowhere By: Barbara O'Connor

In North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains, a troubled boy and his mother, a happy family seeking adventure, a man and his lonely daughter, and the widow who must sell the run-down motel that has been her home for decades, meet and are transformed by their shared experiences.

Go Big or Go Home By: Will Hobbs

Extreme sports and extraterrestrial bacteria are the ingredients for a fascinating story set in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Fourteen-year-old Brady begins an exciting summer as he experiences the effects of the meteor that hits his house.

Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor & the Merrimac By: Avi

Thirteen-year-old Tom Carroll takes his place as head of the family after his father dies fighting for the Union; but his job at the local ironworks, where he helps build an iron ship for the Union army, and his loyalty come into question when he is approached by Confederate spies to sell secrets about the ship to the South.

Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy By: Ilene Cooper

Describes the childhood and youth of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States. This book covers JFK's life from birth through prep school graduation and includes photographs, family letters, grade reports and anecdotes.

Leo and the Lesser Lion By: Sandra Forrester

In Depression-era Alabama, twelve-year-old Mary Bayliss Pettigrew struggles to understand why her beloved older brother, Leo, died and whether she, miraculously, survived for some special purpose.

Listening for Lions By: Gloria Whelan

A Thirteen-year-old is left an orphan in British East Africa in 1919 after the influenza epidemic. Her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents mission hospital.

London Eye Mystery By: Siobhan Dowd

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Love, Ruby Lavender By: Deborah Wiles

When her quirky grandmother goes to Hawaii for the summer, nine-year-old Ruby learns to survive on her own in Mississippi by writing letters, befriending chickens as well as the new girl in town, and finally coping with her grandfather's death.

The Magician's Elephant By: Kate DiCamillo

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her.

Mike Stellar: Nerves of Steel By: K.A. Holt

In the year 2174, Mike is suspicious when his family joins an expedition to Mars at the last minute, and his fears are confirmed when all of the adults on the colonizing mission, including his parents, begin to act strangely.

The Missing Series By: Margaret Peterson Haddix

Found

Sent

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P Figg By: Rodman Philbrick

Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army.

Mother Daughter Book Club Series By: Heather Vogel Frederick

Book One: *Mother Daughter Book Club*

Book Two: *Much To Do About Anne*

Book Three: *Dear Pen Pal*

A group of girls participate in a mother daughter book club reading classic novels. Each book in the series combines the social drama of middle school while weaving the storyline themes with the classic novel.

Night of the Howling Dog By: Graham Salisbury

Eighth grader Casey is the Senior Patrol leader of his Boy Scout troop, and they are about to hike and stay in a remote area in their native land of Hawaii. This story of survival takes place in 1975 when an actual earthquake hits the area and a tsunami rushes through the campsite.

Operation Redwood By: Suzanne French

In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends old and new fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.

Pop By: Gordon Korman

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.

Rangers Apprentice Series By: John Flanagan

Book One: *The Ruins of Gorlan*

Book Two: *The Burning Bridge*

Book Three: *The Icebound Land*

Book Four: *The Battle for Skandia*

Book Five: *The Sorcerer of the North*

Book Six: *The Siege of Macindaw*

Book Seven: *Erak's Ransom*

Book Eight: *The King's of Clonmel*

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battle school, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom.

The Red Pyramid By: Rick Riordan

Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

Return to Sender By: Julia Alvaraz

Sixth-grader Tyler Paquette lives in a dairy-farming community in Vermont. His father was injured in a tractor accident and must now turn to undocumented Mexican laborers to run the farm.

Running Out of Time: Margaret Peterson Haddix

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, 13-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and she must escape to save lives.

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer By: John Grisham

Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting By: Jim Murphy

Tells the story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas.

Scat By: Carl Hiaasen

Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher disappears after the class field trip to the Everglades. This environmentally sensitive thriller will keep you guessing until the end.

Savvy By: Ingrid Law

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her magical power unique to each member of her family—just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Sport Mystery Series By: John Feinstein

Book One: *Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*

Book Two: *Vanishing Act*

Book Three: *Cover-Up*

Book Four: *Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series*

Stevie and Susan report for their 8th grade school paper to uncover a mystery that is centered around major sporting events.

Shooting the Moon By: Frances O’Roark Dowell

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie “Peanut” Johnson By: Michelle Green

Recounts the life and baseball career of Mamie Johnson who became one of only three women to play in the Negro Leagues.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963 By: Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in summer of '63.

Where the Mountain Reaches the Moon By: Grace Lin

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

When You Reach Me By: Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Woods Runner By: Gary Paulsen

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Native Americans who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.

Written in Bone: Buried lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland By: Sally Walker
Reports on the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s; and uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship's captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others.

The Youngest Templar: Keeper of the Holy Grail By: Michael Spradlin

Left as a baby at a monastery, Tristan has spent the last 14 years working with the gentle monks and pondering his identity. This action packed saga takes Tristan on a journey with the Templar Knights as they are entrusted to protect the Holy Grail.