

2013 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST

13 Treasures Trilogy By: Michelle Harrison

Book One: *13 Treasures*

Book Two: *13 Curses*

Book Three: *13 Secrets*

Tanya is no ordinary girl. She can see fairies. But not the fairies we imagine. An intricate mystery and haunting fantasy that captures a rich world of fairy lore where only the color red can offer protection.

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass the Story Behind an American Friendship

By: Russell Freedman

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass met only three times, but their friendship changed a nation. Lincoln was white and President of the United States; Douglass was black and a former slave. Many say they were kindred spirits.

Almost Home By: Joan Bauer

Sugar and her mother lose their home in Missouri. They head to Chicago for a fresh start, only to discover that fresh starts aren't so easy to come by for the homeless. With the help of a rescue dog, Shush; a foster family; a supportive teacher; a love of poetry; and her own grace and good humor, Sugar comes to understand that while she can't control the hand life deals her, she can control how she responds.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart By: Candace Fleming

Traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane, and includes photographs, maps, handwritten notes by Amelia, and sidebars.

The Apothecary By: Meile Meloy

Fourteen-year-old Janie Scott, newly arrived in London from Los Angeles in 1952, becomes friends with a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows, and is drawn into a dangerous adventure with Benjamin when his father is kidnapped and Russian spies try to steal his book of secrets.

Arthur Trilogy By: Kevin Crossley-Holland

Book One: *Seeing Stone*

Book Two: *At the Crossing Places*

Book Three: *King of the Middle March*

In late twelfth-century England, a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seem to have many parallels to his own.

The Ascendance Trilogy By: Jennifer Nielsen

Book One: *The False Prince*

Book Two: *Runaway King*

In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince.

Banner in the Sky By: James Ramsey Ullman

Sixteen-year-old Rudi dreams of being the first to climb the highest mountain in Switzerland.

Behind the Bedroom Wall By: Laura Williams

Ten-year-old Korinna must decide whether to report her parents to her Hitler youth group when she discovers that they are hiding Jews in a secret space behind Korinna's bedroom wall.

Bones Never Lie: How Forensics Helped Solve History's Mysteries

By: Elizabeth MacLeod

Modern forensic science techniques are taken back in time and around the globe to conduct investigations of seven historical mysteries: the mass burial of a Mayan royal family, the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask, the death of Thailand's King Rama VIII, the survival of Russia's Grand Duchess Anastasia, the death of King Tut, and the fate of Marie Antoinette's son.

Breaking Stalin's Nose By: Eugene Yulchin

In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Breathing Room By: Marcia Hayles

Breathing Room takes the reader back to 1940 when tuberculosis often meant a death sentence. Evvy, a young girl, is brought to Loon Lake Sanatorium to be cured. Alone, ill, and far away from family, she eventually befriends other young girls with the same diagnosis.

Bridge of Time By: Lewis Buzbee

Best friends living in contemporary San Francisco find themselves "unstuck," landing in 1864 with the future Mark Twain as their flamboyant companion in this original time-travel tale.

The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne By: Catherine Reef
The Bronte sisters are among the most beloved writers of all time. In this heartbreaking biography, the turbulent lives of these literary siblings are explored and the oppressive times in which they lived.

Call of the Wild By: Jack London

Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves.

Book One: *Capture the Flag* By : Kate Messner

Book Two: *Hide and Seek* By: Kate Messner

When the original Star Spangled Banner is stolen, seventh-graders Anne, Jose, and Henry, all descendants of the Silver Jaguar Society, pursue suspects on airport carts and through baggage handling tunnels while stranded at a Washington, D.C., airport during a snowstorm.

The Crowfield Curse By: Pat Walsh

In 1347, when fourteen-year-old orphan William Paynel, an impoverished servant at Crowfield Abbey, goes into the forest to gather wood and finds a magical creature caught in a trap, he discovers he has the ability to see fays and becomes embroiled in a strange mystery involving Old Magic, a bitter feud, and ancient secrets.

The Fae Prince of Fir Manach Series By: K. R. Flanagan

Book One: *Thane*

Book Two: *Orphan*

Raised in the midst of a clan of sixteenth century Scottish Border Reivers, Thane, an orphaned eleven year old stable boy, is haunted by his dreams. As the answers to his forgotten past are about to be revealed, the sinister Faerie he thought only existed in his dreams attacks his village and threatens his life.

Fenway Fever By: John H. Ritter

Happy 100th Birthday, Fenway Park!"Stats" Pagano may have been born with a heart defect, but he lives for three things: his family's hot dog stand right outside fabled Fenway Park, his beloved Red Sox, and any baseball statistic imaginable. A heartfelt baseball story that will appeal to any fan.

Fever, 1793 By: Lauri Halse Anderson

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 in Philadelphia in 1793.

Flying the Dragon By: Natalie Dias Lorenzi

When Skye's cousin Hiroshi and his family move to Virginia from Japan, the cultural differences lead to misunderstandings and both children are unhappy at the changes in their lives--will flying the dragon kite finally bring them together?

The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T.

Barnum By: Candace Fleming

Chronicles the life of showman P. T. Barnum, discussing how he created his legendary circus, the people and events that shaped his life, and the impact Barnum had on the entertainment industry.

The Great Unexpected By: Sharon Creech

Orphans Naomi and Lizzie, living in America, and grown-up sisters Sybil and Nula, from Ireland, learn what life is truly about as they receive help from one another and open up their hearts to love and forgiveness.

Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace By: Nan Marino

Musical prodigy, Elvis Ruby, was supposed to win the most coveted reality show on television. But with millions of people watching he forgot the words to the song. He forgot the tune. He forgot how to play every single instrument he'd ever known and froze on national TV. So Elvis must run from the paparazzi and spend the summer working with his aunt at Piney Pete's Pancake Palace in the remote wilds of New Jersey.

Icefall By: Matthew J. Kirby

Princess Solveig and her siblings are trapped in a hidden fortress tucked between towering mountains and a frozen fjord, along with her best friend and an army of restless soldiers, all awaiting news of the king's victory in battle, but as they wait for winter's end and the all-encompassing ice to break, acts of treachery make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst.

Inside Out and Back Again By: Thanhha Lei

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

This Journal Belongs to Ratchet By: Nancy Cavanaugh

Ratchet's journal-written on lined paper and filled with a medley of lists, poems, stories, essays, and doodles-offers an enticing blend of strong social views, family secrets, and deeply felt emotions.

Katerina's Wish By Jeannie Mobley

Thirteen-year-old Trina's family left Bohemia for a Colorado coal town to earn money to buy a farm, but by 1901 she doubts that either hard work or hoping will be enough, even after a strange fish seems to grant her sisters' wishes.

Kizzy Ann Stamps By: Jeri Watts

In 1963, as Kizzy Ann prepares for her first year at an integrated school, she worries about the color of her skin, the scar running from the corner of her right eye to the tip of her smile, and whether anyone at the white school will like her. She writes letters to her new teacher in a clear, insistent voice, stating her troubles and asking questions with startling honesty.

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis

By: Pete Nelson

Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.

Liar and Spy By: Rebecca Stead

A story about spies, games, and friendship. Seventh grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: what is a lie, and what is a game?

Lincoln's Grave Robbers By: Steve Sheinkin

A true crime nonfiction thriller -- the first book for teens to tell the nearly unknown tale of the brazen attempt to steal Abraham Lincoln's body!

Long Walk to Water By: Linda Sue Park

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.

Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary

By: Elizabeth Partridge

Recounts the three months of protest that took place before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

The Mighty Mars Rovers : The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity

By: Elizabeth Rusch

On June 10, 2003, a little rover named Spirit blasted off on a rocket headed for Mars. On July 7, 2003, a twin rover named Opportunity soared through the solar system with the same mission: to find out if Mars ever had water that could have supported life.

Navigating Early By: Clare Vanderpool

At the end of World War II, Jack Baker, a landlocked Kansas boy, is suddenly uprooted after his mother's death and placed in a boy's boarding school in Maine. There, Jack encounters Early Auden, the strangest of boys, who reads the number pi as a story and collects clippings about the sightings of a great black bear in the nearby mountains. They embark on a quest on the Appalachian Trail in search of the great black bear. But what they are searching for is sometimes different from what they find.

The One and Only Ivan By: Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

One Boy and His Dog By: Iva Ibbottson

When lonely, ten-year-old Hal learns that his wealthy but neglectful parents only rented Fleck, the dog he always wanted, he and new friend Pippa take Fleck and four other dogs from the rental agency on a trek from London to Scotland, where Hal's grandparents live.

Out of My Mind By: Sharon Draper

Considered by many to be mentally disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Peak By: Roland Smith

Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent—told in his own words—is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.

Penderwick Series By: Jeanne Birdsall

Book One: *Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy*

Book Two: *Penderwicks on Gardam Street*

Book Three: *Penderwicks at Point Mouette*

Meet the Penderwicks, a family who believes in truth and honor, yet can't seem to stay out of trouble.

Red Moon at Sharpsburg By: Rosemary Wells

Even though the odds are against her and the Civil War has ruined her home and given her a view of the darker side of humanity, thirteen-year-old India Moody continues to aspire to become a scientist and attend Oberlin College.

Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics By: John Feinstein

Susan Carol isn't a reporter—she's an Olympian, competing as a swimmer at her first Olympic games in London. Stevie is both proud and envious of her athletic prowess. And he's worried by the agents and sponsors and media all wanting to get up close and personal with Susan Carol. But the more disturbing question becomes—how far might they go to ensure that America's newest Olympic darling wins gold?

Shadow on the Mountain By: Margi Preus

A teenage boy becomes a spy in Nazi-occupied Norway. Espen goes from a life of school, Scouts and soccer games to delivering underground newspapers. Gradually, he advances to transporting secret documents via bicycle or skis and spying on Gestapo locations for the intelligence branch of the Resistance.

The Shakespeare Stealer Series By: Gary Blackwood

Book One: *Shakespeare's Stealer*

Book Two: *Shakespeare's Scribe*

Book Three: *Shakespeare's Spy*

Sent by a rival company to nick William Shakespeare's "Hamlet," an orphan called Widge is welcomed warmly by the Globe group and finds himself an actor and writer with them out on the road when the London theaters are closed at the threat of plague.

Sophia's War By: Avi

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.

Splendors and Glooms By: Laura Amy Schlitz

A Victorian gothic Dickensian novel with a touch of fantasy and a glimmer of hope set in London in 1860. When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival.

Book One: *Spy School* By: Stuart Gibbs

Book Two: *Spy Camp* By: Stuart Gibbs

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

Tangle of Knots By: Lisa Graff

Told in multiple viewpoints, the story is a magnificent puzzle. In a slightly magical world where everyone has a Talent, Cady is an orphan with a phenomenal Talent for cake baking. But little does she know that fate has set her on a journey from the moment she was born.

Unstoppable By: Tim Green

A dramatic, emotional story of a young man who had a dream to be a star football player as he lived in foster homes, while enduring a troubled childhood. This engaging story portrays what it takes to be a winner, even when the battle may be against all odds.

Vietnam Series By: Chris Lynch

Book One: *I Pledge Allegiance*

Book Two: *Sharpshooter*

Book Three: *Free Fire-Zone*

Book Four: *Casualties of War*

Best friends Morris, Rudi, Ivan, and Beck, having been either drafted or enlisted in the military during the Vietnam War, pledge they will come home together, and Morris, a sailor on the USS "Boston," relies on that promise to stay strong while his courage and resolve are tested under attack.

Wonder By: R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. This is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope.