

Grades 7,8 Summer Reading List 2008

Title	Author	Category	Synopsis
Good masters-Sweet Ladies: Voices from a medieval village	Laura Amy Schlitz	Award Winners	Based upon a 13th century German manuscript, the text and illustrations bring to life a medieval village. - Newbery Medal Winner 2008
The Invention of Hugo Cabret	Brian Selznick	Award Winners	Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. - Caldecott Winner 2008
Elijah of Buxton	Christopher Paul Curtis	Award Winners	Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. Things change when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has
The Wednesday Wars	Gary Schmidt	Award Winners	On Wednesday afternoons, while his Catholic and Jewish schoolmates attend religious instruction, Holling Hoodhood, the only Presbyterian in his seventh grade, is alone in the classroom with his teacher, Mrs. Baker,
The New Way Things Work	David Macaulay	Discovery	How do things work? This illustrated, humorous, easy to understand book richly shows how everything from a toilet to a fire extinguisher works.
Oh, Yuck: The Encyclopedia of Everythign Nasty	Joy Masoff	Discovery	An explanation of gross things such as eye gunk, snot, and cockroaches.
George's Secret Key to the Universe	Stephen Hawking	Discovery	The mysteries of the universe and blackholes explained through the adventures of a fictional character named George.
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Get Lost in Long Reads	Death himself narrates this World War II story set in Germany about a nine year old girl who lives with her foster parents, steals books, and ultimately must survive the danger of the Nazi's rise to power.
Inkheart	Cornelia Funk	Get Lost in Long Reads	Meggie's father Mo has the wonderful and terrifying ability to bring characters from books to life.

Summerland	Michael Chabon	Get Lost in Long Reads	Giants, sea monsters, the destruction of the Earth, and, of course, baseball. A magical fantasy set in Wasington rich with characters and folklore.
Bad Boy: Memoir	Walter Dean Myers	Great Middle School Authors	The author remembers growing up and getting in trouble in Harlem during the 1940s.
145th Street: Short Stories	Walter Dean Myers	Great Middle School Authors	This interconnected series of short stories about the famous street in Harlem explores violence, gangs, sports, and ultimately, survival.
No More Dead Dogs	Gordan Korman	Great Middle School Authors	Cool eighth-grade football jock Wallace Wallace spends detention attending dreaded rehearsals for the school play where he suggests changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. Extremely funny.
Son of the Mob	Gordan Korman	Great Middle School Authors	Vince Luca, the son of a mobster, falls in love with Kendra, the daughter of an FBI agent trying to put his father in jail. Funny and fast paced.
The 6th Grade Nickname Game	Gordan Korman	Great Middle School Authors	Wiley and Jeff learn what happens when they give the most unpopular student in school a cool nickname.
Catalyst	Laurie Halse Anderson	Great Middle School Authors	Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes hates being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.
Fever, 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson	Great Middle School Authors	During the hot mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire, killing people overnight.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney	Growing up and Coming of Age	Greg Heffley gets a journal from his mom ("a JOURNAL, not a diary") and records a middle school year's worth of crazy kid schemes, brushes with bullies, bad units in gym class, bids for student government, school play humiliation, and more.

Rodrick Rules	Jeff Kinney	Growing up and Coming of Age	Whatever you do, don't ask Greg Heffley how he spent his summer vacation, because he definitely doesn't want to talk about it. Greg's attempts to navigate the hazards of middle school, impress the girls, steer clear of the school talent show, and most important, keep his secret safe.
If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period	Gennifer Choldenko	Growing up and Coming of Age	Kirsten's parents are barely speaking to each other, and her best friend has fallen under the spell of the school's queen bee, Brianna. It seems like only Kirsten's younger science-geek sister is on her side.
Stargirl	Jerry Spinelli	Growing up and Coming of Age	Sixteen year old Leo Borlock learns about peer pressure, popularity, and being yourself from a mythical new student named Stargirl.
The Skin I'm In	Sharon Flake	Growing up and Coming of Age	Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class because of her skin color. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka too?
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	Growing up and Coming of Age	Thirteen year old Esperanza goes from living a wealthy life of privilege in Mexico to struggling to survive in 1930's California during the Great Depression.
Tangerine	Edward Bloor	Growing up and Coming of Age	Living in the strange county of Tangerine, Florida, a legally blind boy begins to uncover the ugly truth about his football star older brother. Soccer plays an important role in the story.
A Dog Called Kitty	Bill Wallace	Growing up and Coming of Age	The heartfelt story of the bonding between a boy terrified of dogs and the puppy he saves from certain death.
Harris and Me	Gary Paulsen	Growing up and Coming of Age	Set a few years after World War II, this book tells the story of an eleven year old city boy who visits his cousin's farm for the summer. In the process he must contend with a rooster, cow, and his nine year old prankster cousin Harris.
Flipped	Wendelin van Draanen	Growing up and Coming of Age	Told in alternating voices by chapter, this story details the love / hate relationship between Bryce and Juli, two eighth graders who have known each other for most of their lives.
Crispin: The Cross of Lead	Avi	History with a dash of fiction	Set in 14th century England, this story follows the escape of Crispin, a 13 year old peasant boy accused of a murder he did not commit.

The Watsons go to Birmingham 1963	Christopher Paul Curtis	History with a dash of fiction	Byron Watson the family "official juvenile delinquent" is sent to the deep south to spend the summer with his tiny, strict grandmother. Set against a tragic incident from the Civil Rights movement.
Mississippi Trial, 1955	Chris Crowe	History with a dash of fiction	Hiram returns to visit his grandfather and meets up with people involved in the murder of Emmett Till and the subsequent trial of those accused of the crime.
Al Capone Does my Shirts	Gennifer Choldenko	History with a dash of fiction	Twelve year old Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island in 1935 where his father gets a job as a guard in the prison that is home to all of the famous criminals of
London Calling	Edward Bloor	History with a dash of fiction	Unhappy seventh grader Martin Conway is given an antique radio, transported back to World War II London, and befriended by a boy named Jimmy who convinces him to get involved in the war effort.
The Music of the Dolphins	Karen Hesse	If you like your reading in small parts?	Using sophisticated technology, a fifteen-year-old girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.
Guys Write for Guys Read	edited by Jon Scieszka	If you like your reading in small parts?	A collection of short stories, drawings, poems and memoirs from well known writers of guy fiction.
Tripping Over the Lunch Lady	edited by Nancy Mercado	If you like your reading in small parts?	A series of short stories by popular young adult authors about the challenges of middle school.
Shakespeare Bats Cleanup	Ron Koertge	If you like your reading in small parts?	When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time. It also helps him deal with life, love and loss.
The House of the Scorpion	Nancy Farmer	In a Galaxy Far Far Away: Sci Fi	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.
Life as We Knew It	Susan Beth Pfeffer	In a Galaxy Far Far Away: Sci Fi	Miranda is concerned with the prom and her friends until an asteroid causes a worldwide catastrophe and the deaths of millions of people.
Taken	Edward Bloor	In a Galaxy Far Far Away: Sci Fi	In this tense thriller set 30 years in the future, thirteen year old Charity Meyers is kidnapped. Her parents have 24 hours to pay for her freedom. Hold on as the clock ticks.
The Transall Saga	Gary Paulsen	In a Galaxy Far Far Away: Sci Fi	Thirteen year old Mark, on his first solo camping trip, steps into a mysterious beam of light and is transported to a dangerous and mysterious world where he must learn to survive.

The Seems: The Glitch in Sleep	John Hulme	In a Galaxy Far Far Away: Sci Fi	Seventh grader Becker Drane works for the Seems, a secret organization that makes sure the world keeps running.
You Don't Know Me	David Klass	Issues and Dilemmas	On the surface, John is just like most teens: he goes to high school every day, where he has several good friends and pines over the most popular girl. However, no one knows the terrible fate that awaits John at home.
Stuck in Neutral	Terry Trueman	Issues and Dilemmas	Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, reflects about his life especially his fear that his father is planning to kill him.
Tears of a Tiger	Sharon Draper	Issues and Dilemmas	A high school basketball star struggles with guilt and depression following the drunk driving death of his best friend.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Parttime Indian	Sherman Alexie	Issues and Dilemmas	Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, is a bright 14 year old Spokane Indian who is regularly the target of bullies, loves to draw, and must decide whether or not to leave his reservation for a better life.
The Great Fire	Jim Murphy	It Really Happened / Interesting History	For more than a century, poor Mrs. O'Leary and her cow have shouldered the blame for Chicago's infamous Great Fire of 1871. Now Murphy lays bare the facts concerning one of the biggest disasters in American history
The Story of Title IX	Karen Blumenthal	It Really Happened / Interesting History	Interesting and easy-to-follow chapters highlight the process of creating, revising, fighting for, and ultimately passing this legislation that gave girls and women equal access to physical-education classes, gymnasiums, universities, and graduate schools.
Chew on This	Eric Scholsser	It Really Happened / Interesting History	The true story behind the fast food industry. Fascinating and eye opening.
Blizzard	Jim Murphy	It Really Happened / Interesting History	Snow began falling over New York City on March 12, 1888. What no one realized was that in a very few hours, the wind and snow would bury the city in nearly 21 inches of snow and bring it to a ferocious standstill.
Fablehaven	Brandon Mull	Missing Harry Potter - Great Fantasy Choices	This first book in the <i>Fablehaven</i> series details Kendra and her younger brother Seth as they visit their grandparents and discover a magical and dangerous preserve in the woods for fairies and elves. Written by a former Rochambeau student!
The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	Missing Harry Potter - Great Fantasy Choices	Percy Jackson, a 12 year old wise guy who has been kicked out of six schools in six years, discovers that he is the son of a Greek God and must save mankind.

Elsewhere	Gabrielle Zavin	Missing Harry Potter - Great Fantasy Choices	Having been killed at age 15 by a hit and run driver, Liz finds herself living in a place called Elsewhere where she misses her life and ages backward. A coming of age story with a twist.
Artemis Fowl Series	Eoin Colfer	Missing Harry Potter - Great Fantasy Choices	The best selling series of books that details the adventures of Artemis Fowl, "the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history." By the way, he is twelve years old.
Something Upstairs	Avi	Missing Harry Potter - Great Fantasy Choices	A ghost story with a time traveling twist. Twelve year old Kenny Huldorf moves with his family to Providence, Rhode Island and tries to solve the two hundred year old murder of a slave.
Things Not Seen	Andrew Clements	Missing Harry Potter - Great Fantasy Choices	What would happen if one day you woke up and were invisible? Fifteen year old Bobby finds out.
Heat	Mike Lupica	Sports and Jocks	When Michael Arroyo is on the baseball diamond, everything feels right. He's a terrific pitcher who dreams of leading his South Bronx All-Stars to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.
Travel Team	Mike Lupica	Sports and Jocks	Danny is a basketball fanatic. He is smart, talented, fast, and dedicated, but short. When he fails to make the seventh-grade travel team, he also fails to follow in the footsteps of his legendary father, Richie Walker
Summer Ball	Mike Lupica	Sports and Jocks	Sequel to <i>Travel Team</i> . Now that they are heading off to summer basketball camp, Danny is feeling the pressure of being number one. He plays as well as ever, but he's still the smallest boy on the court.
Miracle on 49th Street	Mike Lupica	Sports and Jocks	Molly Parker, 12, lives in Boston with her recently deceased mother's best friend and family. She is on a mission to meet the Celtics' star player, Josh Cameron, to tell him that she is his daughter.
Heart of a Champion	Carl Deuker	Sports and Jocks	On the day Seth Barham met Jimmy Winter, his life changed. Seth is an unfocused, confused pre-teen who had never come to terms with his father's death when he was seven. On the day he meets Jimmy Winter playing baseball, his life changes forever.
The Life You Imagine: Life Lessons for Achieving your Dreams	Derek Jeter	Sports and Jocks	How did Derek Jeter, the scrawny kid from Kalamazoo, Michigan, come to be a starter with the New York Yankees? Read to find out.

Travels of Thelonious	Susan Schade and John Buller	Who said middle school students are too old for books with pictures?	A chipmunk finds new friends and peace at the Fog Mound at a time when animals only know myths about talking humans who once dominated and nearly destroyed the world.
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	Who said middle school students are too old for books with pictures?	In this stunning, wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family.
Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel	Eoin Colfer	Who said middle school students are too old for books with pictures?	A graphic novel in which a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, but the fairies fight back.
Good Brother, Bad Brother : The Story of Edwin Wilkes Booth and John Wilkes Booth	James Cross Gilbin	Windows into Fascinating Lives - Biographies and Autobiographies	This books tells the life stories of 19th century actors Edwin Booth and his brother John Wilkes Booth, describing their differences and the role John played in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
Marley and Me:Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog.	John Grogan	Windows into Fascinating Lives - Biographies and Autobiographies	A tender story of the author and his family's love for their Labrador retriever, Marley, and how he grew into a mischievous puppy.
We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball	Kadir Nelson	Windows into Fascinating Lives - Biographies and Autobiographies	Through the collective voice of the players, we hear the amazing plays, crazy rules, outright characters, and unforgettable stories of the greats playing in the newly formed Negro league.