

Summer Reading List from the Middle School Library

Fiction



Agosín, Marjorie. *I Lived on Butterfly Hill*. 2014.

Celeste has a beautiful life in Valparaíso, a seaside city in Chile. Then her country is taken over by a militaristic dictator, and her parents must go into hiding. Celeste is sent to live in Maine, lost and afraid in a strange, new place. Can she ever go home?

Aslan, Austin. *The Islands at the End of the World*. 2014.

Stranded in Honolulu when a strange cloud causes a worldwide electronics failure, Leilani and her father must make their way home to Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Quickly, Leilani is running out of the medication that controls her seizures—and the world is slowly breaking down. For fans of *Divergent*...and the sequel comes out this summer!

Balliett, Blue. *Pieces and Players*. 2015.

Put together Petra, Calder, and Tommy from *Chasing Vermeer* with Early from *Hold Fast* and Zoomy from *The Danger Box*—what do you have? Well, if there's an art thief on the loose (and there is!), you have a fun new puzzle mystery set right here in Hyde Park.

Banks, Angelica. *Finding Serendipity*. 2015.

Tuesday McGillycuddy's mother is the famous author Serendipity Smith. When she and Baxterr, the most civilized of dogs, discover that Serendipity has gone missing, they set out on an adventure. In their quest, they discover the mysterious, unpredictable, and magical Beginning: the land where stories come from.

Barnett, Mac and Jory John. *The Terrible Two*. 2015.

Miles Murphy is known pretty much for one thing: pranking. When he moves to the sleepy town of Yawnee Valley (also known pretty much for one thing: cows), he expects to spice things up with a few tricks. The problem? His new school already has a prankster. And he's good. Really good. Take a look at this new one from one of our favorite authors!

Britt, Fanny. *Jane, the Fox, and Me*. Illus. by Isabelle Arsenault. 2013.

In this beautiful graphic novel from Canada, Hélène seeks refuge in the pages of *Jane Eyre* while kids at school ostracize her, but she finally finds friendship (and an inspiring fox) on a school camping trip.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Killer of Enemies*. 2013.

This edgy, violent thriller stars Apache hunter Lozen, who has been forced into becoming a monster hunter for tyrants who are holding her family hostage after the apocalypse. Can she find a way out?

Camper, Cathy. *Lowriders in Space*. Illus. by Raúl the Third. 2014.

Lupe, Flapjack, and Elirio dream of owning their own garage, but they need the cash from the Universal Car Competition even to hope of getting there. The problem? They don't have their own car...yet. Check out this fun graphic novel for an out-of-this-world adventure!

de Fombelle, Timothée. *Vango: Between Sky and Earth*. 2014.

In 1934, Vango, a young Frenchman who is about to take his priestly vows, finds himself falsely accused of murder. To clear his name, he must sneak across Europe in train, boat, and zeppelin, always staying one step ahead of the police (and assassins!), in search of clues to his hidden past.

Doctorow, Cory. *In Real Life*. Adapted and illus. by Jen Wang. 2014.

Anda loves Coarsegold Online, the massive multiplayer role-playing game that she plays every day. Things get a lot more complicated when Anda meets a gold farmer—a poor Chinese kid whose job is to earn game power-ups to sell to people like Anda. This graphic novel combines real issues with lively art.

Flake, Sharon. *Unstoppable Octobia May*. 2014.

Octobia May lives in her aunt's boarding house in the South in 1953, surrounded by an African American community that has plenty of secrets. She spends her days snooping to see if Mr. Davenport in room 204 is really a vampire, but the crime she discovers might be even scarier.

Gaiman, Neil, ed. *Unnatural Creatures*. 2013.

The sixteen short stories gathered by Gaiman (author of *Coraline* and *The Graveyard Book*) in this collection range from the whimsical to the terrifying. This menagerie is filled with all kinds of magical creatures—werewolves and sunbirds and beings never before classified—while the stories themselves span brand-new and classic literature.

Giles, Lamar. *Fake ID*. 2014.

Nick Pearson is hiding in plain sight. In fact, his name isn't really Nick Pearson. He shouldn't tell you his real name, or why his family just moved to Stepton, Virginia. And he definitely shouldn't tell you about his friend Eli Cruz and the major conspiracy Eli was uncovering when he died. But he's going to tell you—unless he gets caught first . . .

Goldblatt, Mark. *Finding the Worm*. 2015.

In 1970 Queens, Julian struggles to write an essay as punishment for a crime he did not commit, prepares for his bar mitzvah, and is worried by the serious illness of one of his closest friends. This book that's both funny and serious is great for fans of Jordan Sonnenblick.

Grove, S.E. *The Glass Sentence*. 2014.

In this complex fantasy, the Great Disruption caused all of the continents to be flung into different time periods. Years later, Sophia just wants to be reunited with her uncle, Shadrack Elli, Boston's best cartologer, who has been kidnapped by a villain who is convinced that some even more earth-shattering changes are on their way.

Howland, Leila. *The Forget-Me-Not Summer*. 2015.

Sisters Marigold, Zinnia, and Lily can't wait for summer vacation at home in L.A., but their parents send them to stay with Great-aunt Sunny on Cape Cod instead. Now these city girls have to get along sharing one bedroom in a small town. Did you love *The Penderwicks*? Check out this brand-new offering!

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Half a World Away*. 2014.

Jaden was adopted by an American family after years in Romanian orphanages and is still pretty convinced that his parents will abandon him. Now, Jaden's parents are set to adopt another child—this time from Kazakhstan—and while they're dealing with some unexpected surprises there, Jaden develops a close bond with a toddler who has a mental disability.



Lee, Stan and Stuart Moore. *The Zodiac Legacy: Convergence*. Illus. by Andie Tong. 2015.

When Steven Lee wanders off on his class trip to a Hong Kong museum, he stumbles upon a secret experiment to impart the powers of the Chinese zodiac onto a military leader. Steven ruins the test, though, and he finds himself winding up with the superpowers of the Tiger. Now Steven must race against the clock to find the other folks who've ended up with the zodiac powers before the experimenters do.

Loftin, Nikki. *Nightingale's Nest*. 2014.

Little John and his family are reeling from his sister's accidental death. While working with his father cutting down trees, he discovers Gayle, a foster child who says she lives in a nest in a tree. Her magical, musical voice can heal the wounded—but can she help Little John heal his heart?



Martin, Ann M. *Rain Reign*. 2014.

Rose loves homonyms, like her name (rose-rows), so when her dad brings home a dog one rainy night, she knows exactly what to name her: Rain (rain-reign-rein). After a terrible storm, though, Rain goes missing, and Rose goes on a difficult journey to bring her back, uncovering some mysteries about her life along the way.

McEwan, Ian. *The Daydreamer*. 1994.

Written by a famous author of adult literature, this book tells seven stories about a boy whose daydreams get him caught up in some unusual situations—being transformed into cat or making his family disappear. For all of your literary and classic needs.

Moriarty, Jaclyn. *A Corner of White*. 2013.

Madeleine lives in Cambridge, England, struggling to cope with her mother's illness. Elliot lives in the Kingdom of Cello, a parallel universe where colors are evil, and is in search of his missing father. The pair begins exchanging notes through a crack between their worlds and finds they can be of great help to each other. Their story continues in a sequel, *The Cracks in the Kingdom*.

Mull, Brandon. *Rogue Knight*. 2014.

In this second book in the *Five Kingdoms* series by the author of *Fablehaven*, Cole Randolph comes to the kingdom of Elloweer in search of his kidnapped friends. He and his new companions must turn to a new kind of magic as a strange force is wiping out entire towns without a trace and the Rogue Knight is upsetting the balance of power in Elloweer.

Mulligan, Andy. *Ribblestrop: Life is Dangerous*. 2014.

If your school motto is “Life is dangerous,” you know you’re in for an exciting ride. When Sam gets sent to Ribblestrop School, he discovers that the roof’s gone, the headmaster’s a bit strange, and he’s one of only four students—but things get even wackier when he discovers a series of tunnels underneath the school that have some sinister secrets.

Nelson, Jandy. *I'll Give You the Sun*. 2014.

Artistic twins Jude and Noah each have only half the story of why they broke apart. Their art becomes a force of its own as they negotiate love, loss, lies, and the possibility of reuniting their lives. This explosive, gritty, and beautiful novel is for fans of John Green or Rainbow Rowell.

Polonsky, Ami. *Gracefully Grayson*. 2014.

Grayson is overjoyed to get the part of Persephone in the play at her school in Chicago, especially since it gives everyone a chance to see her as she really is. You see, everyone has always seen Grayson as a boy, even though she knows that inside, she’s a girl. It’s her time to shine.

Rex, Adam. *Smek for President!*. 2015.

Tip and her alien friend J.Lo journey to New Boovworld in their space car Slushious, to clear J.Lo’s name with Captain Smek after J.Lo screwed up the Boov’s plans to take over Earth. Pick up this sequel to *The True Meaning of Smekday* (which inspired the movie *Home*) if you’re looking for a hilarious read.

Reynolds, Jason. *The Boy in the Black Suit*. 2015.

Soon after his mother's devastating death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his neighborhood, Bed-Stuy in Brooklyn. Attending and assisting with funerals, he overhears other people's grief, which begins to help him deal with his own. But it's Lovey, the tough and no-nonsense girl he meets at her grandmother's services, who finally helps him heal.

Robert, Na'ima B. *She Wore Red Trainers*. 2014.

Since Ali's mother died, he's found the most comfort in his Muslim faith. Amirah, meanwhile, wishes to stick to her deen (righteous path) but also wants a bit of adventure in her life. When Ali and Amirah meet, it's love at first sight. Can Ali and Amirah have a halal "happily ever after"?



Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. *Marina*. 2014.

Oscar escapes from his boarding school life to explore rundown homes in 1979 Barcelona, where he finds Marina, a mysterious girl who lives with her father, a reclusive artist. The pair embarks on an expedition to a cemetery and gets dragged into a creepy mystery, running into mad scientists, horrifying automatons, and formerly human monsters.

Tingle, Tim. *How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story*. 2013.

Isaac, a Choctaw boy, tells the story of how his Native tribe was forced to leave their homeland and how he became a ghost on their journey to Oklahoma. He joins a panther shapeshifter and a talking dog to help the ghost of a young girl rescue her sister, who is still alive but has been kidnapped by white settlers.

Volponi, Paul. *Game Seven*. 2015.

Julio dreams of playing shortstop for Cuba's national team, but he finds out that his father's escape to the US to play for the Marlins cuts out that chance. Now Julio has the opportunity to do the same thing as his papi—but can he leave his country and family behind?

Wilson, G. Willow. *Ms. Marvel: No Normal*. 2014.

Kamala is an ordinary girl from Jersey City—until she's suddenly wakes up with superpowers. But the new Ms. Marvel has lots of questions about her identity: teenage girl, Muslim, and . . . Inhuman? When Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she also unlocks a powerful secret behind them.

Yaccarino, Dan. *Zorgoochi Intergalactic Pizza: Delivery of Doom*. 2014.

Luno delivers pizzas from his family's pizzeria all over the galaxy with his friends Clive (a mutated garlic head) and Chooch (a robot pizza oven), hopping from planets filled with killer mushrooms to the Mozzarella Monks' sanctuary. But there's trouble when Vlactron, evil pizza maker extraordinaire, is after the Golden Anchovy—the most powerful pizza topping in the Universe!

Poetry

Grimes, Nikki. *Planet Middle School*. 2011.

Joylin, a basketball player who loves sports and hates girly-girl stuff, is not at all happy with all the changes—at home, at school, with friends and especially with herself. Why are boys suddenly so cute? Why does she suddenly want to pierce her ears and wear make-up? When disaster strikes, weirdness screeches to a halt, and Joylin discovers who she truly is.

Heppermann, Christine. *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*. 2014.

Steeped in evocative, and provocative, images of wolves, witches, princes and forests, reviewers have called this collection of poems “harrowing,” “unsettling,” “subversive,” “caustic, funny and heartbreaking.” All true. A must-read for contemporary girls who are beginning to realize that life may not be a fairy tale.

Janeczko, Paul B., ed. *The Death of the Hat : A Brief History of Poetry in 50 Objects*. Illus. by Chris Raschka. 2015.

Time periods: early Middle Ages to contemporary times. Poets: Ciu Tu to Rita Dove. Objects: A Bookworm to A Birthday Card. Fifty objects, fifty poems, fifty poets, sixteen centuries.

Koertge, Ron. *Coaltown Jesus*. 2013.

Walker shouldn't have been so surprised to find Jesus standing in the middle of his bedroom in Coaltown, Illinois. After all, he'd prayed for whoever was up there to help him and to help his mom, who hadn't stopped crying since his brother Noah died two months ago. But since when have prayers actually been answered? And since when has Jesus been so . . . irreverent?

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *The Red Pencil*. 2014. Illus. by Shane Evans.

This novel in free verse recounts the story of Amira, a young Sudanese girl, who must flee to a refugee camp when her village is brutally attacked by militants. Her father dead, her village and home life destroyed—the horrors she has witnessed have left her unable to speak. Then she is given a single red pencil.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. 2014.

Winner of the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, this memoir was given the following citation: “Using words that sing with both the complexity and simplicity of a symphony, and memories that both sting and inspire, Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* is an intimate journey of victory, sorrow, and discovery. Sharp social commentary of a country's struggle to live up to its ideals, an honest portrayal of the strength of family, and the delicate blossoming of a young writer make this memoir in verse a gift to all who read it.”



Nonfiction

Albee, Sarah. *Why'd They Wear That?: Fashion As the Mirror of History*. 2015.

Pestered by fleas? Take a small dead animal and drape it around your neck. [Elizabethans] Too much facial hair? Rub it off with a rock. [Ancient Egyptians] Hungry? Boil your ruff collar up and serve hot. [Puritans] Yum. Take a sometimes hilarious, sometimes disgusting look at history through the lens of fashion dos and don'ts.

Bell, Cece. *El Deafo*. 2014.

Starting at a new school is always nerve-racking, but even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest. In this graphic novel memoir, Cece tells the story of her childhood growing up deaf and struggling to make new friends. Then Cece discovers that maybe her super hearing aid is a superpower!

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Strike!: The Farm Workers' Fight for Their Rights*. 2014.

It's September 8, 1965. The Delano's vineyards are full of grapes and waiting to be picked. The average picker, a Filipino farm hand earning around \$1.20 an hour and living in a corrugated metal shack, is ready to face permanent unemployment for better working conditions. Today the Delanos can wait. Today the

workers strike. Follow the dramatic story of César Chávez, Larry Itliong, and over 1,000 farm workers who bring a nation to its knees in order to create the United Farm Workers of America labor union. ¡Viva La Causa!

Charleyboy, Lisa, and Mary Beth Leatherdale, eds. *Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices*. 2014.

Divided into four sections, “Roots,” “Battles,” “Medicines,” and “Dreamcatchers,” contemporary Native artists challenge stereotypes about heritage and culture in an extraordinary compilation that explores home, identity, love and fitting in.

Fleming, Candace. *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*. 2014.

Here is the tumultuous, true story of the Romanovs—Russia’s last royal family and the wealthiest monarchy in the world. It is also the story of the starving peasant farmers, factory workers toiling for little pay, and disillusioned World War I soldiers fighting in the trenches—the people they ruled. You will be transported to a time when both a family and an empire come tumbling down.



Johnson, Rebecca L. *Chernobyl's Wild Kingdom: Life in the Dead Zone*. 2015.

What happens when a nuclear power plant explodes? On April 26, 1986, in northern Ukraine, the Chernobyl Power Plant did just that. Discover the consequences of the long-term effects of radiation on wildlife in the Exclusion Zone, a part of the world that was completely abandoned after the accident.

Joffo, Joseph, adapted by Kris. *A Bag of Marbles*. Illus. by Vincent Bailly. 2013.

In this graphic novel adapted from a well-known memoir, Joseph and his older brother, Maurice, must hide their Jewish heritage in Nazi-occupied Paris and embark on a harrowing journey to reach their other brothers in the free zone. The beautiful artwork makes the dangerous cat-and-mouse situation all the more real, while detailed maps help you trace the history of occupied France.

Miles, Lisa. *Ballet Spectacular: A Young Ballet Lover's Guide and an Insight into a Magical World*. 2015.

Lavishly illustrated with photographs, this guide to ballet takes you to London for a visit behind the scenes at The Royal Ballet, where you will discover how a ballet is created, what life in a ballet company is like, be introduced to famous dancers, and learn about world-famous ballets.

O'Connell, Caitlin and Donna M. Jackson. *The Elephant Scientist*. 2011.

Observing African elephants in their native habitat, scientist Caitlin O'Connell began to unearth secrets about elephants and the way they communicate. Join her as she makes her startling discoveries.

Reef, Catherine. *Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life*. 2014.

Nontraditional, controversial, rebellious, and politically volatile, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are remembered for their provocative paintings as well as for their deep love for each other. This dual biography incorporates archival photos and full-color reproductions to tell their remarkable and unforgettable story.

Rosen, Michael J. *Place Hacking: Venturing Off Limits*. 2015.

Leaping from the Eiffel Tower in a wingsuit. Scaling Shanghai Tower, one of the world’s tallest buildings. Camping on the roof of Philadelphia’s abandoned Eastern State Penitentiary. Boldly going where no one is supposed to go. Read about it. Please, don’t go there. :)

Scheunemann, Pam. *Trash to Treasure: A Kid's Upcycling Guide to Crafts: Fun, Easy Projects with Paper, Plastic, Glass & Ceramics, Fabric, Metal, and Odds & Ends.* 2013.

Whew! Say that title five times fast! From bottle-top pop art to felted tin-can organizers, discover ways to make all kinds of useful crafts while helping the environment. And if you want to find a treasure at a garage sale this summer, you can get some great tips about that, too. So start upcycling!

Sheinkin, Steve. *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights.* 2014.

On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked Port Chicago, killing 320 servicemen and injuring hundreds more. Two hundred sailors refused orders to return to work in such unsafe conditions. They called it standing up for justice. The Navy officers called it mutiny. The officers were white; the sailors were black. This is the story of the 50 men who refused to back down.

von Holleben, Jan, and Antje Helms. *Does This Happen to Everyone?: A Budding Adult's Guide to Puberty.* 2014.

So your body is changing, you're confused by new feelings. You have a million and one questions you'd like to ask but don't know how? Don't panic. Get the answers here. (Oh, and yes, it does happen to everyone . . .)

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America.* Illus. by Jamey Christoph. 2015.

This picture book biography provides a brief overview of the life of Gordon Parks, the man the new arts wing of Lab is named after. Learn about the first African American photographer for magazines like Life and Vogue, as well as the first Black director in Hollywood, and how his photography helped expose the effects of racism on Chicago's South Side and in Washington, D.C.

