

Middle School Library Summer Reading Log

Use this log to record all of the books you read over the summer—you may want to use the summer reading list to get you started. You can find the list and this reading log on the library website. Return your reading log in September and receive special recognition during the first month of school. Read one book or one hundred. Have fun!
—Ms. Oakes and Mr. Andracki

Title

Please check one:

Print eBook Audiobook

2016 Summer Reading Suggestions from the Middle School Library

The 2016 Summer Reading List is dedicated to the memory of **Ms. Karen Putman**, who always—always—picked up a copy of the list.

Because this is the last summer reading list from the Middle School Library as we know it, we present to you the 101 best-of-the-best of the summer reading list for every year since 1989—the first year the Middle School Library created a summer reading list. From each list, we have chosen some of the most celebrated, popular, groundbreaking, and beloved books recommended that year, with the annotations exactly as they appeared back then. You'll be able to find these books in your public library, in bookstores, and maybe even already in your home. And don't worry...we included some wonderful books hot-off-the-press, too, to round out the 2016 summer reading recommendations. We know you'll find some treasures on the list. Come visit us in our brand-new space next year and let us know what you loved!

1989

Bradbury, Ray. *Dandelion Wine*.

Doug is 12. It is 1928, summer. He decides to keep track of everything this summer, in a list called "Discoveries and Revelations", to bottle the summer like wine. One of the first entries: "The reason why grownups fight is because they belong to different races."

Cleary, Beverly. *A Girl from Yamhill*.

Autobiography of the author of *Ramona* and *Mouse* and the *Motorcycle* books—fascinating and well-written.

Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*. [Young Adult]

Jerry fights the network that controls his school by refusing to sell chocolates.

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*.

Hannah steps through the door and back into Holocaust-riddled Europe. She alone knows what's coming.

1990

Cooney, Caroline B. *The Face on the Milk Carton*.

15-year-old Jamie discovers that she had been kidnapped when she was 3 years old, and tries to piece together the events that changed the lives of two families forever.

Dahl, Roald. *Boy: Tales of Childhood and Going Solo*.

Dahl's 2-part entertaining autobiography about growing up in Britain & Norway. Many remarkable things happened to Dahl when he was a boy who had many fantastic adventures as an adult, which were the source of ideas for his marvelous books.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *An Acceptable Time*.

The sudden appearance of Zachary, the boy she had met in Greece the previous summer, is only the beginning of a series of events which turn Polly's quiet visit to her grandparents in Connecticut into an extraordinary travel across the millennia.

Macaulay, David. *The Way Things Work.*

Little woolly mammoths help you learn everything you always wanted to know about machines and how they work.

1991

Yep, Laurence. *The Rainbow People.*

A collection of twenty Chinese folktales that were passed on by word of mouth for generations, as told by some old-timers newly settled in the U.S.

Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle.*

The only passenger on a ship sailing from England to America in 1832, Charlotte finds herself accused of murder as she becomes involved in a plot to overthrow the villainous captain.

Jones, Diana Wynne. *Castle in the Air.*

Abdullah, a young and not very prosperous carpet dealer, has long indulged himself in daydreams more exciting than his mundane life. Then, one day, a stranger sells him a magic carpet, his daydreams come true and dangerous adventures become daily fare. This is a sequel to *Howl's Moving Castle*.

Patterson, Katherine. *Lyddie.*

Mrs. Patterson wrote *Bridge to Terabithia*. This new book is about Lyddie Worthen an impoverished Vermont farm girl. In the 1840's, she goes to work in a Massachusetts mill town to earn a wage and gain her independence.

1992

Choi, Sook Nyul. *Year of Impossible Goodbyes.*

Based on the author's childhood experiences in Japanese-occupied Northern Korea during World War II. Ten-year-old Sookan and her family are victimized by the Japanese invaders. As they try to escape to the American side of Korea, Sookan and her brother are separated from their mother but eventually sneak across the 30th parallel on their own.

Crutcher, Chris. *Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories.*

The stereotype of jocks as insensitive dullards is challenged in stories that grapple with the important questions of life as well as with athletic prowess.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The Dark Way: Stories from the Spirit World.*

A collection of 25 folktales, legends, and myths involving the supernatural (ghosts, monsters and other scary creatures), from cultures around the world.

1993

Bauer, Joan. *Squashed.*

A laugh-out-loud story about an overweight, non-conformist teenager, and her efforts to keep her giant pumpkin, Max, safe from thieves until the Rock River Pumpkin Weigh-in.

Hesse, Karen. *Letters from Rifka.*

Refused passage in 1919 because she has ringworm, a young Jewish girl from Russia struggles against bureaucratic tangles and inflexible official before she is finally reunited with her family in America.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary*.

Instead of just presenting a collection of facts, Myers observes the “blending of the four Malcolms into one dynamic personality that is distinctively American in its character”: the child, the teenager, the religious organizer, and the defiantly maturing philosopher.

1994

Jacques, Brian. *Martin the Warrior*.

In the sixth book of the very popular Redwall series, we get the long-awaited tale of how the mouse warrior of Redwall gained his title and fame. Captured and enslaved by the corsair stoat Badrang, young mouse warrior Martin vows to end the evil beast’s plundering and killing. For those not familiar with the earlier books of the series, they are: *Redwall*; *Mossflower*; *Mattimeo*; *Mariel of Redwall*; and *Salamandastron*.

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*.

Jonas lives in a society that is devoid of color, risk, memory and emotion, where everything is decided by the “elders.” A chilling and riveting story that inspires a new appreciation for diversity, love and even pain.

Paulsen, Gary. *Harris and Me*.

An 11-year-old boy is sent to live on his aunt and uncle’s farm. Despite his misgivings, farm life proves to be an exciting adventure filled with back-breaking chores, gut-busting meals, and crazy escapades with his cousin Harris.

1995

Ada, Alma Flor. *Where the Flame Trees Bloom*.

Eleven short stories from the author’s own childhood in Cuba, stories about relatives and friends and the hacienda where she grew up.

Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy*.

The 14-year-old daughter of a rustic knight records the events of her days in the year 1290, writing scathing and funny observations about her family, friends, and would-be suitors. A rebellious heroine, Catherine is determined not to marry the man of her father’s choice.

Salisbury, Graham. *Under the Blood-Red Sun*.

Tomikazu Nakaji’s biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

1996—The list is missing in action! An extra-special prize if you can bring a copy in to show the librarians.

1997

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*.

The ordinary interactions and routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Konigsburg, E.L. *The View from Saturday.*

Four unusual, but not necessarily scholarly, sixth-graders are brought together by a perceptive teacher to form a crackerjack Academic Bowl team.

Soto, Gary. *Novio Boy: A Play.*

Rudy anxiously prepares for and then goes out on a first date with an attractive girl who is older than he is.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash.*

Eighth-grader Crash Coogan looks back on his years as a first-class bully and football sensation, and his transformation into a sensitive friend. A funny story with serious undertones. [available in paperback].

Thomas, Rob. *Rats Saw God.* [Young Adult]

In hopes of graduating, Steve York agrees to complete a hundred-page writing assignment, which helps him to sort out his relationship with his famous astronaut father and the events that changed him from promising student to cynical, underachieving teen. [available in paperback].

1998—Another missing list! Same deal...if you can bring us a copy, we'll have a special prize.

1999

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster.*

Gripping story of the trial of "a decent kid" who is accused of being an accomplice in a robbery shooting. What does innocence really mean?

Peck, Richard. *A Long Way from Chicago.*

Humor is the name of the game: city kids Joey and Mary Alice visit their Grandma Dowdel in southern Illinois during rollicking summer vacations.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.*

In a purely magical fantasy, a wizard-in-training learns of his parents' heroic past and battles the malevolent Voldemort, who destroyed them. Humorous and heartfelt moments at the Hogwarts School trace Harry's transition from neglected nobody to reluctant celebrity. Sequel: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. If you are in England this summer, you may be able to get a copy of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes.*

Stanley Yelnats' incarceration in a juvenile correctional facility sets off the fulfillment of a century's worth of destiny. Winner of both the National Book Award and the Newbery Medal.

2000

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak.* [Young Adult]

A stunning and sympathetic tribute to a teenaged outcast. Melinda is ignored by her parents and ostracized by her classmates. Haven't we all been in some place where we have lost our ability to be heard?

Creech, Sharon. *The Wanderer.*

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin, Cody, record their transatlantic crossing aboard the *Wanderer*, a forty-five-foot sailboat. As they travel with adult family members, stories of the past

and the daily challenges to survive at sea swirl together as each passenger sails toward his destination and his place in the world.

Holt, Kimberly Davis. *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.*

“Fatty, fatty two by four. Can’t get through the kitchen door.” Toby Wilson is having the toughest summer of the life. It’s the summer his mother leaves for good. The summer his best friend’s brother is serving in Vietnam. And the summer 600-pound Zachary Beaver, the fattest boy in the world, arrives in Toby’s sleepy Texas town, turning it upside-down and leaving everyone, especially Toby, changed forever.

2001

Almond, David. *Kit’s Wilderness.*

Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal-mining town of Stonegate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past. Winner of the 2000 Printz Award for Outstanding Young Adult Literature.

Deuker, Carl. *Night Hoops.*

Nick loves basketball and so does his father. In fact, his father loves basketball so much that he has a basketball court built in their backyard for Nick to practice. When Nick’s mother allows a troubled neighbor named Trent Dawson to share the court, Nick initially protests. But as the basketball season progresses and Nick’s Dad becomes more and more demanding, Nick and Trent realize they have more in common than basketball.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House.*

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Korman, Gordon. *No More Dead Dogs.*

Football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

2002 (as you can see, a very good year)

Bruchac, Joseph. *Skeleton Man.*

What has happened to Molly’s parents? Why did they disappear? Who is this mysterious “great-uncle” claiming to be her relative? How much attention should she pay to her horrifying dreams? Can the old Mohawk story her parents used to tell her lead her to safety and maybe even save her life?

Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen.*

It’s possible to feel invisible when you are in high school, but when Bobby Phillips—a U of C Lab School student and Hyde Park resident—steps out of the shower one morning, he really **is** invisible. His only hope for redemption appears at the same time his friendship with Alicia, a blind girl he meets in Regenstein Library, begins to grow. There are many ways to disappear, but only a few ways to really see.

Colton, Larry. *Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on the Little Big Horn.*

This journey into the world of Montana’s Crow Indians follows the struggles of a talented, moody, charismatic young woman named Sharon LaForge, a gifted basketball player and

descendant of one of Custer's Indian scouts. More than just a sports story, this book is a sobering exposé of a part of society long since cut out of the American dream.

Fama, Elizabeth. *Overboard*.

Written by a Lab School parent! One moment of rashness, and Emily Slake finds herself amid hundreds of panicked and drowning people in the dark ocean waters off Sumatra. Miles from shore without a life vest, Emily encounters Isman, a young Muslim boy. Together they swim for their lives, relying on both Emily's physical strength and Isman's Islamic faith.

Na, An. *A Step from Heaven*. [Young Adult]

As a young Korean immigrant, four-year-old Young Ju has been told that the United States is only "a step from heaven." To her surprise, her family must struggle to make a living, learn an incomprehensible language, and deal with prejudice and loss. This novel won the 2002 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.

Nelson, Marilyn. *Carver: A Life in Poems*.

This series of fifty-nine poems portrays George Washington Carver as a private, scholarly man of great personal faith and social purpose. Nelson narrates Carver's life with details of the cultural and political contexts that shaped him, even as he shaped history. This book won the 2001 Coretta Scott King Award.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*.

A collection of over four dozen of Naomi Shihab Nye's poems about the Middle East and about being an Arab American living in the United States. This collection includes newer poems inspired by Sept. 11th, and Nye's increased sense of urgency about the need for peace.

Shan, Darren. *Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare*.

One doesn't plan on becoming a vampire—these things just happen. Though, looking back, Darren is able to pinpoint some decisions he might have made differently. Like, why did he feel compelled to attend the illegal freak show? Why did he spy on Mr. Crepsley? And why couldn't he leave that giant poisonous spider alone? Once you finish this story, you'll definitely want more. The horror continues in the sequels: *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant* and *Cirque du Freak: Tunnels of Blood*.

2003

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*.

Living under a dictatorship doesn't seem to affect Anita, until her last cousins, uncles, and aunts flee to America and the secret police come to search their houses. Little by little, Anita comes to understand that her father and uncles are involved in a plot to kill El Jefe, the dictator, and that her entire family is in great danger. Julia Alvarez is the author of many other books for adults, including *In the Time of the Butterflies*.

Anderson, M.T. *Feed*. [Young Adult]

Ever wished that you could get online at any time, or watch TV during class? In this vision of a future only a few steps removed from now, the Feed, a device implanted in the brain, brings TV programs, chat rooms, and most of all, advertisements, directly into your mind. Titus never questions this reality, until he and his friends go to the Moon for Spring Break. There, he meets Violet, whose Feed has malfunctioned, and begins to question everything he once accepted.

Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion*.

To most people around him, Matt is not a boy but a beast. A room full of chicken litter with roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. But for El Patrón, drug lord of a country called Opium—a strip of poppy fields lying between the U.S. and what was once called Mexico—Matt is deserving only of the best. Matt, grown in a cow for nine months and then harvested, is a clone—El Patrón’s clone. Threatened by El Patrón’s power-hungry family at every turn, and with no hope of escape, Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn’t even suspect. This book is one of the year’s best.

Fleischman, John. *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science*.

Phineas Gage was a railroad worker who, in 1848, survived a 13-pound iron rod that pierced his brain. He survived, but his personality was completely different than it was before the accident. These changes led scientists to unprecedented discoveries about how the human brain works.

Hidier, Tanuja Desai. *Born Confused*. [Young Adult]

Dimple Lala is not “American” enough for her classmates, and not “Indian” enough for her parents, who are trying desperately to keep her connected to her heritage. She fights them every step of the way, until they introduce her to a “suitable” Indian boy. Problem? She actually likes him. Other problem? So does Dimple’s best friend Gwyn. This funny and touching story confronts questions of identity, first love, artistic awakening, and competitiveness between best friends.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception*.

Sammy Keyes has a lot of nerve. Wearing high-tops to a fancy reception at an art gallery. Asking why a framed orange splot is worth \$10,000. But when Sammy tackles a thief who tries to break up the soirée with a stickup, the patrons of the arts are glad she has a lot of nerve. Or are they? Sammy may have stopped a criminal, but the real crime has yet to be discovered—a crime more subtle, more artful, than anything Sammy’s ever seen. She had no idea art could be so dangerous. The latest installment in the further adventures of Sammy Keyes, super-sleuth.

2004

Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer*.

Written by a former Lab School teacher, this mystery takes place in Hyde Park! Petra and Calder are in the same 6th grade class, but they barely know each other until a thief with a mission steals a rare Vermeer painting en route to Chicago. By coincidence—or maybe not?—they begin to discover clues in their own neighborhood. Suddenly finding themselves at the middle of an international art scandal, Petra and Calder must use their intuition, their appreciation for art, and a set of pentominos (mathematical puzzle pieces) in order to solve the crime before the thief destroys the painting. Test your own detective skills by looking for clues embedded in Brett Helquist’s illustrations!

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*.

This old-fashioned tale weaves together the destinies of a romantic, large-eared mouse named Despereaux, a rat who loves lights, a princess, and a hard-of-hearing, much abused girl who dreams of becoming a princess too. Despereaux’s love for both music and the princess doom him to banishment from mouse society (and a likely death from attack rats) in the castle dungeon. Despite this fate, when the Princess is kidnapped, Despereaux knows he must do everything he can to save her as well as himself. This book won the 2004 Newbery Award.

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon*.

When Eragon finds a blue stone in the forest, he hopes it will buy his poor family meat for the winter. But then the stone hatches into a dragon, and Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight, his simple life is shattered, and he and the dragon Saphira are thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power. Paolini began this novel, the first in the forthcoming *Inheritance* series, when he was only fifteen years old.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Locomotion*.

When Lonnie was seven years old, his parents died in a fire. Now he's eleven, and he still misses them terribly. And he misses his little sister, Lili, who was put into a different foster home because "not a lot of people want boys—not foster boys that ain't babies." But Lonnie hasn't given up. His foster mother, Miss Edna, is growing on him. Told entirely through Lonnie's poetry, we see his heartbreak over his lost family, his thoughtful perspective on the world around him, and most of all his love for Lili and his determination to one day put at least half of their family back together. A Coretta Scott King Honor Award winner.

2005

Feinstein, John. *Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*.

March madness—big time basketball, blackmail. Steven Anderson wins a contest that gets him to New Orleans, with press credentials, to cover the college basketball championship games. When he and his fellow winner, Susan Carol, start nosing around the Superdome, they overhear someone warning MSU's star point guard he'd better lose the final game...or else. Who wants MSU to lose, and why? And why is everyone warning them away from the story? March madness is right!

Flake, Sharon G. *Who Am I Without Him?: Short Stories About Girls and the Boys in Their Lives*. [Young Adult]

There is "The Ugly One," whose only solace comes when she is locked inside her own head. And in "Wanted: A Thug," a teenager seeks advice on how to steal her best friend's bad-guy boyfriend. Then there's Erika, who only likes white boys. Sharon Flake takes readers through the minds of girls trying to define themselves while struggling to remain relevant to the boys in their lives. This is a complex, often humorous, always on-point exposition of black youth resolving to find self-worth...any way they know how.

Hautman, Pete. *Godless*.

Fed up with his parents' boring old religion, Jason Bock invents a new god—the town's water tower. He recruits an unlikely group of worshippers whose schemes to make the new faith more exciting turn dangerous. As their religion grows, it takes on a life of its own. When the first ceremony is held high atop the dome of the water tower, things go from merely dangerous to deadly. Jason realizes that inventing a religion is easier than controlling it, but control it he must, before his creation destroys both his friends and himself.

Hoose, Phillip. *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*.

The tragedy of extinction is explained through the dramatic story of a legendary bird, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and of those who tried to possess it, paint it, shoot it, sell it, and—in a last-ditch effort—save it. The quest to save the Ivory-bill culminates in one of the first great conservation showdowns in U.S. history, an early round in what is now a worldwide effort to save species.

Ibbotson, Eva. *The Star of Kazan*.

When Annika is discovered by her long-lost mother, she must leave the family she has grown to love and go live with her new, slightly less desirable family. Things go from bad to worse. What will become of her? This book has everything: foundling babies who are (or are not) the children of rich parents, hidden treasure, horses, mistaken identities, kidnapping, kindly women who can cook up a storm, and...Vienna! A perfect summer read.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*.

Kira-kira means glittering in Japanese. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop them on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. This book will have you laughing through your tears. Keep a box of tissues handy!

2006

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks : A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*.

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four quirky and neighborly sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Howe, James. *Totally Joe*.

This companion book to *The Misfits* takes you into the life of twelve-year-old Joe Bunch—lovable misfit and celebrity wannabe. When he's given the assignment to write his alpha-biography, the story of his life from A to Z, Joe has his doubts. This whole thing could be serious ammunition for bullying if it falls into the wrong hands. But Joe discovers there's more to the assignment--and his life--than meets the eye. Especially when he gets to the letter C, which stands for Colin Briggs, the coolest guy in the seventh grade (seriously)...and Joe's secret boyfriend. By the time Joe gets to the letter Z, he's pretty much bared his soul about everything. And Joe's okay with that because he likes who he is. He's Totally Joe, and that's the best thing for him to be.

Meyer, Stephanie. *Twilight*. [Young Adult]

When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she develops an overwhelming attraction for high-school senior, Edward Cullen. He is mysterious, alluring and extremely handsome. He is also a vampire. This is a love story—with bite.

Scieszka, Jon, ed. *Guys Write for Guys Read*.

Editor Jon Scieszka sums it up best in the foreword: "Hey guys—now here is something for you to read. A bunch of pieces by a bunch of guys...all about being a guy." Some of the guys included in this anthology are: M.T Anderson, Kenneth Opel, Tony DiTerlizzi, Eoin Colfer, Matt Groening, Anthony Horowitz, and Dav Pilkey. All you have to do is complete the quiz at the end of each section...just kidding.

2007

Engle, Margarita. *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*.

A portrait in poems of Juan Francisco Manzano, the poet who was born a slave in Cuba in 1797. Powerful, haunting poems and breathtaking illustrations create a portrait of a life in which even the pain of slavery could not extinguish the capacity for hope.

Lat. *Kampung Boy*. [Graphic Memoir]

This graphic novel is a favorite of millions of readers in Southeast Asia. It recounts the story of Lat, a Muslim boy growing up in rural Malaysia in the 1950's--his adventures, mischief-making, fishing trips, religious study, and work on his family's rubber plantation. Hilarious and affectionate, this novel opens a window into a world that has now nearly vanished.

Miéville, China. *Un Lun Dun*.

Zanna and her friend Deeba discover an entrance to a strange world where they encounter killer giraffes, animated umbrellas, ghost children, and flying double-decker buses. Their task? To save both worlds from the most evil enemy of all...Smog!

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. [Graphic Novel(ish)]

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. When his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life—and his most precious secret—are put in jeopardy.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*.

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. [Graphic Novel]

In an action-packed modern fable about the problems young Chinese Americans face when trying to participate in American popular culture, the lives of three apparently unrelated characters—Jin Wang, Monkey King, and Chin-Kee—come together with an unexpected twist. Presented in comic-book format, and winner of both the National Book Award and a Printz Honor.

2008

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Does My Head Look Big in This?*. [Young Adult]

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf—full-time as a badge of her faith—without losing her identity or sense of style.

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. [Young Adult]

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot. Fortunately, Junior has a sense of humor.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*.

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, Presbyterian Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where she forces him to read the plays of William Shakespeare. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island.

Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. [Young Adult]

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives “unwound” and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives.

Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*.

A brilliant wordless book impossible to describe with words. Perhaps best summed up by Jeff Stone, author of *Bone*, "A shockingly imaginative graphic novel that captures the sense of adventure and wonder that surrounds a new arrival on the shores of a shining new city...."

2009

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. [Young Adult]

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Lin, Grace. *The Year of the Rat*.

In the Chinese Year of the Rat, a young Taiwanese American girl faces many challenges: her best friend moves to California and a new boy comes to school; she must find the courage to forge ahead with her dream of becoming a writer and illustrator; and she must learn to find the beauty in change.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*.

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's 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.

WARNING: **READ A WRINKLE IN TIME** FIRST!!!

2010

Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Mind*.

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

Riordan, Rick. *The Red Pyramid*.

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

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*.

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

2011

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. [Young Adult]

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

Billingsley, Franny. *Chime*. [Young Adult]

In the early twentieth century in Swampsea, seventeen-year-old Briony, who can see the spirits that haunt the marshes around their town, feels responsible for her twin sister's horrible injury until a young man enters their lives and exposes secrets that even Briony does not know about.

Neri, G. *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*. Illustrated by Randy DuBurke. [Graphic Biography]

The true story of eleven-year-old African American Chicagoan Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, told through the eyes of one of his (fictional) classmates. Yummy was a gang member who went on the run after shooting a young girl and was later found dead, shot by members of his own gang. This chilling story makes the narrator—and the reader—ask: how could this have happened?

Perkins, Mitali. *Bamboo People: A Novel*.

Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive must learn to trust each other.

2012

Hartley, A.J. *Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact*.

Darwen Arkwright, raised in a tiny town in England, is expecting life to be different when he is forced to go live with his aunt in Atlanta, Georgia, but he is stunned when an old mirror he finds in his closet reveals an enchanted and dangerous world—whose creatures want something only human children possess.

LaFleur, Suzanne M. *Eight Keys*.

When Elise, orphaned since age three, becomes disheartened by middle school—with its bullies, changing relationships, and higher expectations—keys to long-locked rooms and messages from her late father help her cope.

2013

Gardner, Sally. *Maggot Moon*. [Young Adult]

What if the football hadn't gone over the wall. On the other side of the wall there is a dark secret. And the devil. And the Moon Man. And the brutal regime known as the Motherland doesn't want anyone to know. Standish Treadwell risks all to reveal the truth.

Telgemeier, Raina. *Drama*. [Graphic Novel]

Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of "Moon Over Mississippi" as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going. From the author of *Smile*.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Navigating Early*.

World War II ends. Jack's mother has died. Jack finds himself in a boarding school in Maine with the strangest boy he's ever met: Early Auden. Early is obsessed with a great black bear that reportedly lives in the nearby mountains, and the number pi. Setting out on a quest to find the bear, Jack and Early encounter odd characters who Early spins into a tale, proving that pi is more than a number, it's a story in and of itself.

2014

Black, Holly. *Doll Bones*.

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school, have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures. But one doll is different from the others:

she has secrets. Or so Poppy claims. Is the doll really haunting Poppy? And is its body really made from a dead girl's ashes? A real-life quest to Ohio to bury the doll's bones take the three adventurers on an unforgettable and creepy journey.

Federle, Tim. *Better Nate Than Ever.*

Aided and abetted by his fellow eighth-grader and best friend, Nate escapes the bullying of his classmates and brother to follow his dreams of becoming a Broadway actor. He runs away to New York to audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T." Things go both horribly awry and way better than he ever dreamed--leaving him with no place to sleep, no money for food, no charger for his cell phone, but with a call back! Hilarity ensues.

Lupica, Mike. *QB 1.*

Jake Cullen lives in the shadow of his father and older brother--football legends. When he becomes the starting quarterback for the high school football team and finally has his chance to shine, the weight of the family legacy is crushing. Inspired by the family of Peyton and Eli Manning.

Farrell, Mary Cronk. *Pure Grit : How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific.*

After treating the sick and wounded in the midst of battle, the nurses stationed in the Philippines were rounded up by the Japanese and assigned to a prison camp. "A story of sisterhood and suffering, of tragedy and betrayal, of death and life."

2015

Polonsky, Ami. *Gracefully Grayson.*

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.

Heppermann, Christine. *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty.* [Young Adult]

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.

Bell, Cece. *El Deafo.* [Graphic Memoir]

Starting at a new school is always nerve-wracking, 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!

2016: Hot Off the Press!!!

Appelfeld, Aharon. *Adam and Thomas.*

After all the Jewish people in their town are confined to a ghetto during World War II, Adam's mother sends young Adam out into a nearby forest, with the promise that she'll return by evening. When she does not, Adam realizes that he—along with Thomas, a boy in the exact same situation—will have to hide in the forest alone. This heartbreaking tale of survival was written by a man who went through a similar experience, and it was awarded a 2016 Batchelder Honor for best translated book for young people.

Bardugo, Leigh. *Six of Crows*. [Young Adult]

A gambler, a convict, a wayward son, a lost Grisha (a soldier and master of supernatural powers), a girl who has become a killer, a boy who has become something worse. Six dangerous outcasts set out to perform one impossible and deadly heist...for a price. Dreams may come true but everything might be lost—including the whole world. The first in a series which is both violent and disturbing, magical yet darkly romantic, and always knee-deep in ethical turmoil.

Charleyboy, Lisa, and Mary Beth Leatherdale, eds. *Urban Tribes: Native Americans in the City*.

Thirty young, Indigenous people in the United States and Canada who live in major cities share how they connect to their culture in urban settings, despite their displacement from their people's lands. In breathtaking stories, poems, and art, they show how Native cultures and values can survive—and enrich—city life.

Gleeson, Erin. *The Forest Feast for Kids: Colorful Vegetarian Recipes That Are Simple to Make*.

Attention all cooks and cook-wannabees, vegetarian or otherwise. In this cookbook, you will find fabulous recipes—which span meals, party food, snacks, and beverages. Also party ideas. Also illustrated guides on how to use utensils safely (we cannot emphasize enough how much we want you to read that part, especially if you have yet to attend 7th grade camp). Plus a glossary of culinary terms. Yum!

Hannigan, Kate. *The Detective's Assistant*.

When orphaned eleven-year-old Nell Warne arrives in Chicago, she is shocked to find that her long-lost aunt is a detective working for the famous Pinkerton's National Detective agency! She is also dismayed to find said aunt does not want her. In an effort to prove her worth to Aunt Kitty, Nell quickly makes herself indispensable by cracking codes, wearing disguises, and spying on nefarious criminals. But can she also solve the case of what really happened on the night her best friend disappeared? And will she ever find a home where she's truly wanted? Ms. Hannigan is a Lab School parent!

Lowitz, Leza. *Up From the Sea*.

A novel in verse about the March 2011 tsunami that sent Japan into chaos, told from the point-of-view of Kai, a biracial teenaged boy. "playground cracks/classroom crumbles/cinder blocks shower/sheets of wall collapse....I close my eyes,/pray I'll wake up/from this nightmare,/pray that everything will be normal again." It is not.

Ma, Daishu. *Leaf*. [Graphic Novel]

In this wordless, all-ages graphic novel, our protagonist discovers a leaf that radiates a vibrant light. He returns to a meticulously wrought metropolis--depicted in somber grays and blues--and searches for answers. During his quest, he stumbles upon a man who knows what is happening in the city's labyrinthine ducts; a woman who spends her life studying and classifying obsolete flora; and the truth about the ever-shrinking environment.

Older, Daniel José. *Shadowshaper*. [Young Adult]

Sierra doesn't know what's going on when the familiar murals of her Brooklyn neighborhood start fading eerily fast...and are starting to move around. When her grandfather tells her that she has the gift of Shadowshaping—a Caribbean magic that uses art to connect to spirits—she is thrust into a battle against an anthropologist who wants to harness the power for his own gain. And he'll send killer zombies after anyone who'll try to stop him.

Park, Linda Sue. *Wing & Claw: Forest of Wonders.*

Raffa Santana has always loved the mysterious Forest of Wonders. For a gifted young apothecary like him, every leaf has the potential to unleash a kind of magic. If only Raffa's cautious father would allow him to experiment freely, Raffa knows he could discover miracles. When he treats an injured bat using a red vine he has found in the forest, the bat transforms into something beyond anything he could have imagined. His discovery of disturbing powers of the red vine compel him to embark on a journey to the forbidden city of Glidden, where troubling discoveries threaten all he knows.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Pax.*

With a war looming, Peter's father is preparing for being sent to fight, and sends Peter to live with his grandfather. Before that can happen, though, Peter must abandon his beloved pet fox, Pax, in the woods. Quickly, Peter realizes that he has made a terrible mistake and sets off alone to find the place he knows in his core that he's meant to be...and to discover just where that might be.

Shurtliff, Liesl. *Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood.*

Followed by a wolf, a huntsman, and a porridge-sampling nuisance called Goldie, Red embarks on a quest to find a magical cure for her ailing grandmother. This is the third in a series of inspired fairytale spinoffs; you'll also want to read *Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin* and *Jack: The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk*. Ms. Shurtliff is a Lab School parent!

Malone, Lee Gjertsen. *The Last Boy at St. Edith's.*

Ever since St. Edith's School made the decision to go back to a (mostly) all-girl's school after a failed attempt at going co-ed, Jeremy has checked names off the list of the boys still left one-by-one. Now, he's the last boy left, and he's miserable. Without anyone else like him and with a mother who won't let him transfer, Jeremy hatches a brilliant plot: get kicked out of school. Jeremy, with the help of his best friend, Claudia plays a series of pranks with the hope of getting expelled...but will they go too far?

Marshall, Joseph. *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse.*

Jimmy feels different from his fellow Lakota classmates because his fair hair and blue eyes make him feel "not Indian enough." Jimmy's grandfather takes him on a trip, following the life story of another light-skinned Lakota man: Crazy Horse. Each step of the way, Jimmy and his grandfather visit historical sites important to the leader and warrior, learning about the ways that his past influences his people's present. Along their travels, Jimmy begins to feel more like he belongs.

McCoola, Marika. *Baba Yaga's Assistant.* Illustrated by Emily Carroll. [Graphic Novel]

This graphic novel tells the story of Masha, who grew up on her grandmother's stories about Baba Yaga, the fearsome witch in the woods who eats bad children. Now, Baba Yaga has placed an ad for an assistant, and Masha believes she just might be up for the job...so long as she remembers what her grandmother taught her: stories are useful, magic is fickle, and nothing is too difficult or too dirty to clean.

Murphy, Julie. *Dumplin'.* [Young Adult]

Willowdean's mom runs the most important teen beauty pageant in Texas. "Will," a self-described and proud fat girl, is not what most people would consider pageant material. That doesn't stop Will from entering the pageant anyway, along with three other uncool girls from her high school. As Will starts drifting apart from her best (really, only) friend and begins dealing

with serious romantic feelings for a coworker who also seems interested in her, Will knows that it's her time to shine...even if that's not always easy.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound.*

Buckle up and join your guide—The Groove itself—on a funky tour through the history of some of the most beloved music in U.S. history. Follow The Groove from the very beginning of Motown's hits with the \$800 loan Berry Gordy received from his family to build a studio in a house with the flashing sign outside that read "Hitsville, U.S.A." Along the way, you'll meet names you might recognize: Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder. And you'll learn about their struggle to bring about a cultural revolution through their groovy sound.

Smith, Ronald L. *Hoodoo.*

Hoodoo Hatcher got his name because of the heart-shaped birthmark on his face, which his grandmama says shows that "he got hoodoo in him." Unfortunately, Hoodoo is hopeless at the folk magic that his 1930s Alabama family is famous for. When a mysterious, evil presence called the Stranger comes to town, though, Hoodoo discovers that this dark-cloaked visitor is looking for the "Main de Gloire." There's just one person who can give it to him: Hoodoo. This creepy horror story won the 2016 John Steptoe Award for a new African American author.

Walton, Will. *Anything Could Happen.*

In this small town, everyone is in everyone else's business. Since Matt has two dads, everyone assumes that he's gay. Matt isn't, but his best friend Tretch is. Tretch's problem? He's secretly and hopelessly in love with Matt. On the annual family holiday trip to his grandparents' farm, Tretch isn't sure if he'll ever share his true feelings or keep them bottled up. The only thing he knows for sure is that anything could happen.

The End

Whew!

To get a head start on the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award, you can check out the nominated titles at www.rebeccacaudill.org

The End, really!