

7th and 8th Grade Additional Lists

Below is a sampling of book lists (from libraries and schools around the country) that include short plot descriptions. These lists, and others like them online, can help you in your search for something good to read.

Reading List for The Maret School

Just a few Award Winners:

Blackwood, Gary L. **The Year of the Hangman**. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2002, 196 p.

In 1777, having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, fifteen-year-old Creighton becomes part of developments in the political unrest there that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history. (YALSA Best Books for Young Adults, and School Library Journal pick, 2003)

Koje, Kathe. **Buddha Boy**. New York: Frances Foster Books, 2003.

Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual and artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call Buddha Boy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school. ([YALSA Best Books for Young Adults, 2004](#)).

Martine, Leavitt. **Keturah and Lord Death**. Asheville, NC: Front Street, 2006, 176 p.

When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love. (2006 Booklist Editor's Choice Award, National Book Award Honor for Young Adult Literature, 2006)

Peck, Robert Newton. **The Teacher's Funeral: a comedy in three parts**. New York: Dial Books, 2004.

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dream of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew is disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies." (ALA Notable Children's Books, 2005).

The Rules of Survival.

Werlin, Nancy. New York, NY: Dial Books, 2006, 272 p.

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother. (National Book Award Honor for Young Adult Literature, 2006)

Classic Fiction:

Adams, Richard. **Watership Down**. 1972, 492 p.

A group of rabbits escapes destruction and have many adventures during their journey to find a new warren. (YALSA 100 Best Books (1950-2000) and Carnegie Medal Winner).

The Arabian Nights. 1946, 303 p.

A young girl's life is spared as long as she is able to tell the Sultan tales. Contents: Scheherazade - The merchant and the genie - The first old man and the hind - The second old man and the two black dogs - The story of the fisherman - The Greek king and the physician Douban - The husband and the parrot - The little The jealous sisters and many more.

Seventh Grade Reading List cont'd.

Asimov, Isaac. **Fantastic Voyage.** 1966, 239 p.

Through the process of miniaturization, five people enter a tiny submarine and are injected into a man's circulatory system where they try to destroy a blood clot located in his brain.

Herriott, James. **All Creatures Great and Small.**

The heartwarming memoir of an English country veterinarian living in the 1930's.

Hinton, S.E. **The Outsiders.** 1967.

Ponyboy, the narrator, relates the story of the Greasers, who are from the lower class, and their conflict with the Socs, who are their middle-class opposite number. For the Greasers, the gang comprises their family, all the family that some of them have. Inevitably, the two sides collide with tragic results.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **Treasure Island.** New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1981, 273 p.

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.

Portrayal of good versus evil, as the young boy accompanies Long John Silver and his band of pirates in search of the buried treasure.

Fantasy and Adventure:

Adams, Douglas. **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.** 1989, 215p. (Read the series).

A humorous sci-fi story about ordinary Englishman Arthur Dent's travels through the galaxy aided by a reference book called The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Allende, Isabel. **City of the Beasts.** New York: HarperCollins, 2002, 416 p.

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.

Allende, Isabel. **Kingdom of the Golden Dragon.** New York: HarperCollins, c2004, 448 p.

Sixteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his grandmother, a writer for a geography magazine, to the remote Forbidden Kingdom in the Himalayas to help locate a sacred statue of a golden dragon before it is stolen by a greedy outsider.

Clement-Davies, David. **Fire Bringer.** New York: Dutton Books, 2000, copyright 1999, 498 p.

A herd of deer is ruled by a tyrant. This classic hero tale is set in a society at once convincingly animal and a sharp reflection of our own.

Duane, Diane. **So You Want to be a Wizard.** Harcourt Brace, 1996, 369 p.

Thirteen-year-old Nita, tormented by a gang of bullies because she won't fight back, finds the help she needs in a library book on wizardry which guides her into another dimension.

DuPrau, Jeanne. **The People of Sparks.** New York: Random House, c2004, 352 p. Having escaped to the Unknown Regions, Lina and the others seek help from the village people of Sparks.

*Dickinson, Peter. **Bone from a Dry Sea.** 1993.

In two parallel stories, an intelligent female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing the lot of her people, and the daughter of a paleontologist is visiting him on a dig in Africa when important fossil remains are discovered.

Fleishman, Peter. **Whirligig.** 1998, 133 p.

"While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he caused, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement."

*Haugaard, Erik Christian. **The Samurai's Tale.** 1984, 234 p.

"In turbulent sixteenth-century Japan, orphaned Taro is taken in by a general serving the great warlord Takeda Shingen and grows up to become a samurai fighting for the enemies of his dead family."

Seventh Grade Reading List cont'd.

LeGuin, Ursula. **Gifts.** Harcourt Children's Books, 2004.

In this well-realized fantasy, the people of the Uplands have unusual and potentially dangerous abilities that can involve the killing or maiming of others. Gry can communicate with animals, but she refuses to use her gift to call creatures to the hunt, a stance her mother doesn't understand. The males in Orrec's line have the power of unmaking—or destroying—other living things. However, because his mother is a Lowlander, there is concern that this ability will not run true to him. When his gift finally manifests itself, it seems to be uncontrollable. His father blindfolds him so that he will not mistakenly hurt someone, and everyone fears him.

*Matas, Carol. **After the War.** 1996, 116 p.

"After being released from Buchenwald at the end of World War II, fifteen-year-old Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children across Europe to Palestine." (YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers).

*McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. **Mara, Daughter of the Nile.** 1985, 279 p.

The adventures of an ingenious Egyptian slave girl who undertakes a dangerous assignment as a spy in the royal palace of Thebes, in the days when Queen Hatshepsut ruled.

Paulsen, Gary. **Brian's Hunt.** New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2003, 112 p.

Two years after having survived a plane crash into the Canadian wilderness, a sixteen-year-old returns to the wild to befriend a wounded dog and hunt a rogue bear.

Sleator, William. **Interstellar Pig.** 1984.

Barney's boring seaside vacation suddenly becomes more interesting when the cottage next door is occupied by three exotic neighbors who are addicted to a game they call "Interstellar Pig." (ALA Notable Children's Book).

Springer, Nancy. **I Am Mordred.** 1998, 164 p.

"When Mordred learns the identity of his father, he struggles with feelings of hatred, but also fights the fate which determines that he will kill the good and gracious king." (YALSA Best Books for Young Adults, 1999).

Westerfeld, Scott. **Uglies**. Simon Pulse, 2005, 448 p.

Tally Younblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Shay, a young friend of Tally's defects to the Smoke before the procedure. When Shay is found missing, Shay is sent looking for Tally and the Smoke. Tally's adventuresome spirit helps her locate Shay and the Smoke.

Westerfeld, Scott. **Pretties**. Simon Pulse, 2005, 384 p.

Upon Tally's sixteenth birthday she undergoes an operation to turn from an ugly duckling into a stunning girl, but she makes a promise just before the surgery to be the guinea pig for a future experiment.

Wrede, Patricia C. **Star Wars, episode III: revenge of the Sith** based on the story and screenplay by George Lucas. New York: Scholastic, c2005, 185 p. Follows Anakin Skywalker as he struggles to cope with his duty as a Jedi Knight and his role as the secret husband of Senator Padm e Amidala, in a volume that chronicles the creation of Darth Vader and the birth of Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia Organa.

Comedy and Drama:

*Ashley, Bernard. **Little Soldier**. 2002, 230p.

"Taken from Africa to a foster home in London after his family is killed by an enemy tribe, Kaninda discovers the meaning of hate and the value of not hating."

*Crew, Linda. **Children of the River**. 1989, 213p.

A young Cambodian girl living in Oregon is torn between remaining loyal to the ways of her people and living the life of a normal American teen. (YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults).

*Gordon, Sheila. **Waiting for the Rain**. 1987, 214 p.

The story of the friendship between a black boy and a white boy in apartheid-ridden South Africa.

Seventh Grade Reading List cont'd.

Hentoff, Nat. **The Day They Came to Arrest the Book**. 1992. 169 p.

"Some students at George Mason High think *Huckleberry Finn* is a racist book."

Keyes, Daniel. **Flowers for Algernon**. Harcourt, 1966.

When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him.

Mcdonald, Janet. **Spellbound**. 2001.

Raven, a teenage mother and high school dropout living in a housing project, decides, with the help and sometime interference of her best friend Aisha, to study for a spelling bee which could

lead to a college preparatory program and four-year scholarship. (YALSA Best Books for Young Adults).

Myers, Walter Dean. **Fallen Angels**. 1988, 309 p.

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Na, An. **Wait for Me**. New York : Putnam, 2006, 240 p.

As her senior year in high school approaches, Mina yearns to find her own path in life but working at the family business, taking care of her little sister, and dealing with her mother's impossible expectations are as stifling as the southern California heat, until she falls in love with a man who offers a way out.

*Namioka, Lensey. **Ties That Bind...Ties That Break**. 1999, 154 p.

"Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound."

Sachar, Louis. **Small Steps**. New York: Delacorte Press, 2006, 272 p.

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

*Whelan, Gloria. **Homeless Bird**. 2000, 216 p.

"When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it." (National Book Award winner).

Mystery and Mayhem:

Cameron, Eleanor. **Court of the Stone Children**. 1973, 191 p.

Aided by the journal of a young woman who lived in nineteenth-century France, Nina solves a murder mystery dormant since the time of Napoleon.

Cary, Kate. **Bloodline: a novel**. New York: Razorbill, 2005, 324 p.

In this story told primarily through journal entries, a British soldier in World War I makes the horrifying discovery that his regiment commander is descended from Count Dracula.

*Crew, Gary. **Angel's Gate**. 1995, 252 p.

" Kimmy encounters two wild children who have grown up in the hills of Australia and tries to protect them from the unknown person who murdered their father.

Hoose, Phillip. **The Race to Save the Lord God Bird**. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, c2004, 196 p.

Tells the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker's extinction in the United States, describing the encounters between this species and humans, and discussing what these encounters have taught us about preserving endangered creatures.

Horowitz, Anthony. **Skeleton Key**. New York: Philomel Books, 2003, 224 p.

“Reluctant teenage-spy Alex Rider, on a routine mission at the Wimbledon tennis championships, gets caught up in Chinese gangs, illegal nuclear weapons, and the suspect plans of his Russian host, General Sarov.”

*Schami, Rafik. **A Hand Full of Stars.** 1992, 195 p.

"A teenager who wants to be a journalist in a suppressed society describes to his diary his daily life in his hometown of Damascus, Syria." (Batchelder Award)

Seventh Grade Reading List cont'd.

Historical Fiction:

*Bosse, Malcolm. **The Examination.** 1994, 29 6p.

"In sixteenth century China, two brothers make their way across the country to Beijing, where Chen, the older brother, is to take the difficult government examinations."

*Choi, Sook Nyul. **Year of Impossible Goodbyes.** 1991, 169 p.

"A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940's, to later escape to freedom in South Korea." (ALA Notable Children's Books and YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults).

Cooper, James Fenimore. **The Last of the Mohicans.** 1993.

Historical fiction of Iroquois Indians and the French and Indian War.

Karr, Kathleen. **Gilbert & Sullivan Set Me Free.** New York: Hyperion, 2004.

This poignant drama is based on a true event in 1914, when the inmates of Sherborn Women's Prison in Massachusetts put on a stunning performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Karr tells the story through the lively first-person narrative of 16-year-old Libby Dodge, who keeps her crime a secret from the thieves, arsonists, prostitutes, and murderers with whom she lives. Libby gets a starring role in the musical, and she finds the freedom she never had in the "outside cheating world."

McKernan, Victoria. **Shackleton's Stowaway.** New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 2005, 317 p.

A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship *Endurance* was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of the toes of his left foot to frostbite, during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

McKissack, Patricia A. **Color Me Dark: The Diary of Nellie Lee Love, The Great Migration North.** 2000.

Eleven-year-old Nellie Lee Love records in her diary the events of 1919, when her family moves from Tennessee to Chicago, hoping to leave the racism and hatred of the South behind.

*Mead, Alice. **Girl of Kosovo.** 2001, 113 p.

"Although Zana, an eleven-year-old Albanian girl, experiences the turmoil and violence of the 1999 conflict in her native Kosovo, she remembers her father's admonition to not let her heart become filled with hate."

Peck, Richard. **Here Lies the Librarian.** Dial Press, 2006, 147 p.

Parentless Peewee, 14 and Jake, the big brother she idolizes, live in rural Indiana in 1914. They run a small garage, but face nasty sabotaging from the rival Kirbys. Weaved into this novel are nuances of rural life in the early years of the 20th century, early feminism, and a history of the automobile.

*Talbert, Marc. **Heart of a Jaguar.** 1995 197 p.

"Balam, a Maya boy struggling to achieve manhood, participates in fasts, prayers, and rituals to appease the gods and bring rain to his village."

Taylor, Mildred D. **The Land.** 2001.

"After the Civil War, Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own." (Prequel to the Newbery Medal winner, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*).

Poetry and Short Stories:

Hesse, Karen. **Witness.** 2001, 161 p.

"A series of poems expresses the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town."

Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States. 1994, 123p.

Poems celebrate themes and moods from Hispanic-American teenage life, from the passion of learning English to the pain of ethnic prejudice.

Seventh Grade Reading List cont'd.

Herriot, James. **James Herriot's Dog Stories.** St. Martin's Press, 2006.

A highly recommended series of short stories about the relationships of dogs and their owners. A lot of goofiness and some sadness, but all told with balance and aplomb.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. **19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East.** HarperCollins, 2002.

In this collection of poetry the author reflects upon the Middle East and her identity as an Arab American. The poems offer effective insight into the daily lives and culture of Arab Americans.

Poe, Edgar Allen. **Eighteen Best Stories by Edgar Allan Poe.**

Or any collection of short stories or poems by Edgar Allan Poe.

Wrede, Patricia C. **Book of Enchantments.** San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, c 1996, 234 p.

Ten "haunting tales" weave a tapestry of magic and metaphor, present and past, heroes and heroines.

Biography:

*Chen, Da. **China's Son : Growing Up in the Cultural Revolution.** 2001, 213p.

"A Chinese American lawyer shares his memories of growing up in rural China during Mao's Cultural Revolution, describing how he struggled to overcome persecution and adversity to achieve an education."

Dahl, Roald. **Going Solo**. 1999, 209 p.

"As a young man working in East Africa for the Shell Company, Roald Dahl recounts his adventures living in the jungle and later flying a fighter plane in World War II."

Filipovic, Zlata. **Zlata's Diary**. c1994, 197 p.

A true story of the siege of Sarajevo as written by a young teen living through it.

Fleischman, Sid. **Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini**. Greenwillow. In a spellbinding biography that details Houdini's rise to fame and his continual self-reinvention, the enthusiasm of fellow magician Fleischman proves infectious. (2007 Notable Children's Book.)

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. **LeBron James: The rise of a star**. Gray & Company Publishers
The biography of whom many call the best high school basketball player ever drawing on material from interviews with family, friends, coaches, and teammates.

Thomas, Joyce Carol (editor). **Linda Brown, You are Not Alone: The Brown v. Board of Education Decision**. Hyperion Books, 2003. 114 p.

Here are personal reflections, stories, and poems from ten of today's most accomplished writers for children, all young people themselves at the time of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Included are pieces by Jean Craighead George, Eloise Greenfield, and Jerry Spinelli to name a few.

White, Michael. **Darwin : a life in science**

An account organized in alternating biographical and scientific chapters explains the influences that shaped Charles Darwin's life and examines his legacy to science and culture.

Non-Fiction:

Alexander, Caroline. **The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition**.

Knopf, 1998, 211p.

"Chronicles Shackleton in Antarctica, where he and his crew were stranded for twenty months."

Behrend, Jackie Eileen. **The haunting's of Williamsburg, Yorktown and Jamestown**. John F. Blair Publishing, 1998, 192 p.

The region has been the scene of violent confrontations between settlers and the original natives, an emotional struggle for independence, a bitter civil war, and, most recently, a transformation into one of the country's finest examples of historic restoration. Some parapsychologists believe that spirits can be awakened by a sudden flurry of activity. With so much activity occurring throughout the area's history, it is little wonder that there are so many documented sightings of ghosts in this triangle.

Seventh Grade Reading List cont'd.

Crowe, Chris. **Getting Away with Murder: the true story of the Emmett Till case**. Dial Book, 2003.

Crowe details what happened on the horrible night, the court proceedings, and how the nation responded-- the "aftershocks" of the unbelievable ruling. Crowe is particularly successful in placing the murder within its larger historical context detailing life both in the segregated Jim Crow South and in Emmett's less volatile but still segregated Chicago.

Guinness World Records, 2007. Guinness, 2997,
Tidbits and facts from around the world. Also includes 60 trading cards.

Haney, Eric. **Inside Delta Force.** Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2007.
An inside look at the group of individuals who make up Delta Force. This book only scratches the surface of the contributions and sacrifices these members make everyday in the name of counterterrorism. The television show the Unit is based on this book.

Northcutt, Wendy. **The Darwin Awards II: unnatural selection.** 2001, 240 p.
Introduction : What are they? -- Penance, seven deadly sins -- Women, femme fatalities -- Water, all washed up -- Technology, engines of destruction -- Men, male-functions -- Animals, pall of the wild -- Explosions, out with a bang! -- Outlaws, crime and punishment -- Disqualified, losing is its own reward -- Classic dozen, better read than dead.

Thimmesh, Catherine. **Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon.** Houghton. Suspenseful and packed with little-known facts, this exploration of the Apollo 11 mission celebrates the passion and dedication of the people behind the scenes. (*2007 Sibert Medal Book, Notable Children's Book.*)

Walker, Sally M. **Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley** . Carolrhoda Books, Inc., a division of Lerner Publishing Group.
In 1864 the H. L. Hunley became the first submarine to sink an enemy ship. It then vanished. For 131 years, the Hunley's fate remained a mystery. Walker has crafted a seamless account of historical and scientific sleuthing to reveal the secrets of the Hunley and her crew, all the while demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of the problem-solving process in our modern world. Walker combines the drama of a wartime shipwreck with compelling scientific writing, to create a work of true distinction. (ALSC Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Winner, 2006.)

Reading list for Mohonason Central School District

(Summaries based on a variety of sources including *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*). For more reading selections check out the ALA - American Library Association Site: Best Books for Young Adults

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/bestbooksyoung.htm>.)



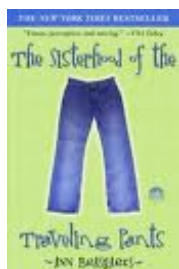
Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance*

Sir Ernest Shackleton, with a crew of 27 men, manage to overcome the impossible when in an attempt to cross the Antarctic continent in 1914, their ship gets trapped in an ice pack for seven months. Facing great hardships, they entire crew manages to survive and are rescued two years after their journey began.



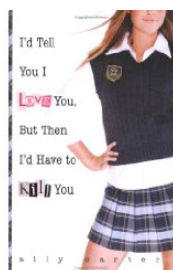
Bauer, Joan. *Hope was Here*

Hope's life gets turned-upside down when he aunt Addie, a cook, decides to move from New York City to a small town in Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways Diner. Hope is not sure how she will handle the move, but is surprised to find comfort, not only in her aunt's food, but in her surroundings including the diner staff, especially, Braverman, the cook's assistant, who becomes her first boyfriend.



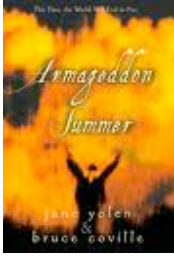
Brashares, Ann. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* or the sequel *The Second Summer of the Sisterhood*

The summer of their 15th year, four best friends spend the summer apart, but are able to stay together through a pair of jeans that travels from one friend to the other over the course of the summer.



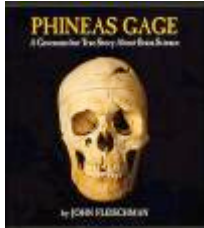
Carter, Ally. *I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You*

Cammie Morgan, 15, is a student at Gallagher Academy, a top-secret boarding school for girls who are spies-in-training. She studies covert operations, culture and assimilation, and advanced encryption, and has learned to speak 14 languages. Her troubles begin when she falls for Josh, a local boy who has no clue about her real identity. Keeping her training secret forces her to lie to her new love, which leads to comic complications.



Coville, Bruce and Jane Yolen. *Armageddon Summer*

The end of the world is coming and Reverend Beelson is ready. Beelson and his 144 True Believers are gathering on Mount Weeupcut in western Massachusetts in order to await Armageddon. Marina and Jed, two teenagers, whose points of view the story is told through, prove to be the voices of sanity and reason as they struggle to make sense of their lives and their beliefs.



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

The incredible story of a railroad foreman who survived for 10 years after a 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain.



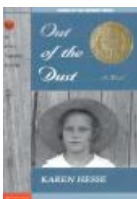
Gruber, Michael. *Witch's Boy*

When a witch stumbles across an ugly baby that nobody wants to raise, she becomes thrown into an unfamiliar world -- motherhood. Since she is so inexperienced in this area, she turns to others in her life to help her raise the baby called Lump. The witch soon realizes just how much a handful he is when he becomes more and more troublesome, especially since he feels neglected from the witch who has to continue her life in service to her goddess.



Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Hidden (Series)*

Born third at a time when having more than two children per family is illegal and punished by the Population Police, Luke has spent all of his 12 years in hiding, until another "third" convinces him the government is wrong and to come out of hiding, but can he?



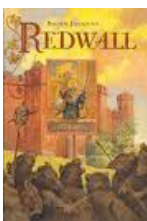
Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*

Told through a journal of free-verse poetry, Billie Jo describes living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl.



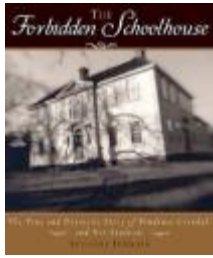
Howe, James. *The Watcher*

The people on the beach call her the Watcher. She sits there all day long with her notebook and writes what she sees. There is plenty to look at too. Children, parents and lifeguards. Margaret finds great comfort in watching others, because she sees things in them that she wishes she had in her own life.



Jacques, Brian. *Redwall*

Cluny is one evil rat. In order to save Redwall Abbey from the likes of him and his villainous hordes, the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior needs to be recovered. Matthias, a young mouse, is convinced that he can get it back, but at what cost?



Jurmain, Suzanne. ***The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students***

In 1831, Prudence Crandall was approached by an African American teenager to join the school she was opening for young white females, Crandall agreed and decided to open a school for African-American females. The story describes the difficulties and torment Crandall faced as a result of this decision from citizens of Canterbury, Connecticut, where the school was based.



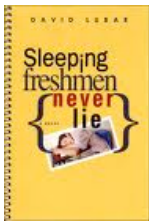
Koss, Amy Goldman. ***The Girls***

What happens when your best friends decide they do not want to be your friend anymore? That is what happens when the leader of a group of friends decides that one of the girls in the group is out, so the others decide to end the friendship with her as well.



Lenhard, Elizabeth. ***Chicks with Sticks: (It's a Purl Thing)***

Mourning the death of her favorite aunt, Scottie seeks comfort in a very unusual hobby – knitting. At first, Scottie tries to hide her knitting from her friends for fear of what they will think of her, but then she comes to embrace it, especially once she is exposed to a very warm and inviting yarn shop called KnitWit. It is through her knitting, that Scottie is able to find herself, as well as rekindle a friendship with her best friend Amanda that had waned over the years. Knitting also ignites a bond with two other girls Tay and Bella who, along with Amanda, make up the Chicks with Sticks knitting group. This unlikely group of friends share one common thread, knitting. Even though knitting is what brings them together, it is their friendship that stitches its way into their hearts.



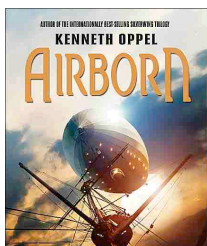
Lubar, David. ***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie***

Scott Hudson begins his freshman year of high school with a rocky start. He immediately becomes the target of bullying both on the school bus and in school. The girl he has a major crush on doesn't know he is alive, and against his better judgment, he gets roped into a number of extracurricular activities including writing a column for the school newspaper and working on set design for the school play. On top of everything else, his mom is pregnant. As a way of expressing his thoughts and feelings of this trying year, Scott decides to keep a journal and fills it with lists and tips for his expected sibling on how to survive freshman year.



Myers, Walter Dean. ***Monster***

Steve Harmon is in prison awaiting trial for murder. At 16, he is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a store, in which the owner was shot and killed. Steve recounts his case and incarceration in the form of a movie screenplay.



Oppel, Kenneth. ***Airborn***

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard the luxury passenger airship *Aurora* when the ship encounters a battered hot air balloon with an unconscious man aboard. Before dying, the man claims to have seen beautiful creatures swarming in the air over an uncharted island. Not until a year later, when Matt meets the man's

granddaughter, Kate de Vries, who boards the *Aurora*, does he learn that the man wasn't hallucinating. Pirates board, rob, and kill, and a fierce storm grounds the *Aurora* on the very island that Kate's grandfather spoke about--which proves to be the pirates' secret hideaway.



Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*

Lyddie Worthen is all by herself. Her parents are gone and her brothers and sisters have been sent to live with other people. In order to possibly reunite with her family, Lyddie decides to get a mill job in Lowell, Massachusetts. It is here that Lyddie works long hours and days in a dust-and lint-filled environment that take its toll on her friend's health. Now she has to make a decision will she speak up about better working conditions or keep quiet in order to protect her job.



Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon* or *Eldest*

While exploring the forest, Eragon witnesses a mysterious explosion. In the center of this blast, Eragon spots a polished blue stone. Eragon thinks he can trade the stone for food for his family, but before he has a chance, it hatches a beautiful sapphire blue dragon. Eragon decides to keep and raise the dragon and must deal with the consequences that go along with his decision.



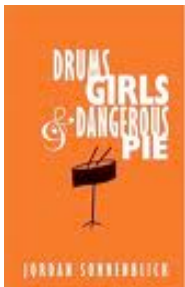
Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials, Book 1)*

Twelve-year-old Lyra is a rough and tumble girl. While her home is with the scholars of Jordan College in Oxford, she finds her greatest enjoyment with the Gyptian children of Oxford's streets and canals. Lyra is content with this life until Uncle Asriel arrives and stirs things up.



Rees, Celia. *Witch Child*

The life of Mary Newbury is told through journal entries that begin in 1659 when Mary watches in horror as her grandmother is hung for being a witch by her English village. Before they can turn on her, she is placed into safety on a ship headed for America. Although Mary does find people who understand and believe in her, she is still in danger.



Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*

Steven Alper is a typical eighth-grader--smarter than some, a better drummer than most, but with the usual girl problems and family trials. Then, on October 7, his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey, falls, has a nosebleed that doesn't stop, and is diagnosed with leukemia. His parents handle the situation differently. His mother spends here days and nights getting Jeffrey to his chemotherapy treatments, and his father retreats into a shell, coming out only occasionally to weep over the mounting medical bills. Steven becomes the forgotten son, who throws himself into drumming, even as he quits doing his homework and tries to keep his friends from finding out about Jeffrey's illness.



Werlin, Nancy. *The Rules of Survival*

Matthew knows firsthand the art of survival. He and his younger sisters, Callie and Emmy are constantly on alert due to their home life consisting of an unpredictable, psychotic mother and a distant father. Since his younger sister, Emmy, is still a baby at the height of their domestic dysfunctional upbringing, Matt decides to write her a letter in order to share with Emmy some of their childhood filled with fear as a warning of what it was like to grow up under the unstable parental supervision of their mother.



Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*

Fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is looking forward to the future – getting her driver's license, falling in love, and just plain growing up. Unfortunately Liz's dream is taken away from her when she is killed in a hit-and-run accident while riding her bike to meet her best friend to look for a prom dress. Now Liz must come to terms with the fact that she is dead and on her way to Elsewhere, where she will begin a new life, one in which instead of aging forward every year, you age backwards a year for every year that you are Elsewhere. Liz rejects Elsewhere and her only family there, her grandmother, and instead chooses to watch Earth on the observation deck to view life going on without her. It is only when she is able to open her mind and heart to Elsewhere, that she is able to see the beauty that lies beneath.

Reading List created by Lone Star School Librarians

The Texas Lone Star list is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table. The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source.

The Lone Star Reading Lists are archived at:
<http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/lonestarlists.html>

Berryhill, Shane. *Chance Fortune and the Outlaws*. Starscape, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-7653-1468-0 (publisher's hardcover). Even though he seems to have no superhero powers, Chance is accepted into the school of his dreams, the Burlington Academy for the Superhuman, where he uses his skills to help his team and battle the forces of Evil.

Try These Too:

The Awakening, Michael Owen Carroll
Demonkeeper, Royce Buckingham
PS 238, Aaron Williams
True Talents, David Lubar

Bryant, Jen. *Pieces of Georgia: A Novel*. Knopf, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-375-93259-5 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-440-42055-2 (paperback). In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.

Try These Too:

Runaway, Wendelin Van Draanen
Sand Dollar Summer, Kimberly Jones
Way Down Deep, Ruth White

Flinn, Alex. *Beastly*. HarperTeen, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-06-087416-2 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-06-087417-9 (library binding). Kyle Kingsbury has everything going for him - money, good looks, and charm - until the day he mocks the wrong girl (a witch in disguise) who transforms him into a terrifying beast. Kyle has two years to find true love before he becomes a monster forever in this very modern retelling of the classic *Beauty and the Beast* story.

Try These Too:

Beast, Donna Jo Napoli
East, Edith Pattou
Fairest, Gail Carson Levine
The Princess and the Hound, Mettie Ivie Harrison
Tattoo, Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Hale, Marian. ***Dark Water Rising***. Holt, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-8050-7585-4 (publisher's hardcover). Almost 8000 people died when a hurricane struck the Galveston coast in 1900. Sixteen-year old Seth survived the storm, found his way home and discovered his talents and strengths while helping to rebuild the island.

Try These Too:

Death Mountain, Sherry Shahan

Hurricane force: In the Path of America's Deadliest Storms, Joseph B. Treaster

The Killing Sea, Richard Lewis

Life as We Knew It, Susan Beth Pfeffer

Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist***. Darby Creek, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-1-58196-049-5 (publisher's hardcover). Get the scientific facts about Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster, Chupacabra, the Mongolian Death Worm, and 50 other legendary creatures, and find out what is true, what is myth, and what just isn't known (yet).

Try These Too:

Cryptid Hunters, Roland Smith

Death Collector, Justin Richards

Oh Rats! The Story of Rats and People, Albert Marrin

Unexplained, Judy Allen

Harper, Suzanne. ***The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney***. Greenwillow, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-06-113158-5 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-06-113159-2 (library binding). Sparrow is the 7th and most powerful daughter in a family of psychics, but she wants nothing to do with her powers until a persistent ghost convinces her to help him out.

Try These Too:

Ghosts I Have Been, Richard Peck

Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator, Jennifer Allison

Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos, R.L. La Fevers

Haydon, Elizabeth. ***The Floating Island: The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme***. Starscape, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-7653-0867-2 (publisher's hardcover). Attacked by pirates and saved by a mermaid, Ven's amazing adventures include a talking cat, ghosts, and a quest for the magical waters of the mysterious floating island.

Try These Too:

Airborn, Kenneth Oppel

Changeling, Delia Sherman

Foundling, D.M. Cornish

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio, Lloyd Alexander

Holm, Jennifer L. ***Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff***. Atheneum, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-689-85281-7 (publisher's hardcover). Ginny is ready for

seventh grade. If she can just complete the ten items on her to-do list, everything will be perfect. But life gets in the way as she deals with family issues, problems with friends, and mishaps at school. What was supposed to be her greatest year is turning into the worst year ever!

Try These Too:

The Actual Real Reality of Jennifer James, Gillian Shields

Right-Under Club, Christine Hurley Deriso

The Very Ordered Existence of Merilee Marvelous, Suzanne Crowley

Korman, Gordon. ***Schooled***. Hyperion, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-7868-5692-3 (publisher's hardcover). Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie, but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

Try These Too:

How Ya Like Me Now, Brendan Halpin

No More Dead Dogs, Gordon Korman

Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli

Kostick, Conor. ***Epic***. Viking, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-670-06179-2 (publisher's hardcover). On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to challenge the system in order to save his father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

Try These Too:

Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card

The Game of Sunken Places, M.T. Anderson

Head Games, Mariah Fredericks

Heir Apparent, Vivian Vande Velde

Invitation to the Game, Monica Hughes

Lurie, April. ***Brothers, Boyfriends, & Other Criminal Minds***. Delacorte, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-385-73124-9 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-385-90152-9 (library binding). April Lundquist's life has suddenly become very exciting. She lives on a street full of mafia bosses and accidentally becomes employed by Salvatore "Soft Sal" Luciano while her older brother Matt is secretly seeing another mobster's daughter. April and her friend Brandi do all they can to save the sometimes annoying, yet over-protective Matt from his impending doom amidst their own hilarious boyfriend problems.

Try These Too:

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko

All American Girl, Meg Cabot

Son of the Mob, Gordon Korman

McNish, Cliff. ***Breathe: A Ghost Story***. Carolrhoda, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-8225-6443-0 (publisher's hardcover). Jack is no stranger to death – he's been close before when his asthma

threatened to overpower him. When he and his mother move into an old farmhouse, Jack actually begins to see the spirits of the Ghost Mother and the four ghost children she is terrorizing. As the Ghost Mother decides she wants a real child to love, Jack is drawn into a struggle with the Other World to save not only his life and his mother's, but also to reunite the ghost children's souls with their loved ones.

Try These Too:

Everlost, Neal Shusterman
Jade Green, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
The Presence, Eve Bunting
Werewolf Rising, R.L. La Fevers

Resau, Laura. ***What the Moon Saw: A Novel***. Delacorte, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-385-73343-4 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-385-90360-8 (library binding). Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

Try These Too:

Chasing the Jaguar, Michele Greene
Defining Dulcie, Paul Acampora
Esperanza Rising, Pam Muñoz Ryan
Feels Like Home, e. E. Charlton-Trujillo

Salisbury, Graham. ***Night of the Howling Dogs***. Wendy Lamb, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-385-73122-5 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-385-90146-8 (library binding). Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii in 1975 find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes followed by a tsunami.

Try These Too:

Alabama Moon, Watt Key
Touching Spirit Bear, Ben Mikaelson
The Trap, John E. Smelcer

Schmidt, Gary D. ***The Wednesday Wars***. Clarion, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-618-72483-3 (publisher's hardcover). In a year filled with cream puff disasters, being forced to study Shakespeare, wearing yellow tights and the Vietnam War, Holling also meets the New York Yankees, makes the cross country track team and learns to stand up to his father.

Try These Too:

Edenville Owls, Robert B. Parker
The Loud Silence of Francine Green, Karen Cushman
One-Handed Catch, MJ Auch
The View from Saturday, E.L. Koningsburg

Scott, Michael. *Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*. Delacorte, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-385-73357-1 (publisher's hardcover). ISBN-13: 978-0-385-90372-1 (library binding). Nicholas Flamel, the greatest Alchemyst of his day, supposedly died in 1418. In reality, he and his wife are still alive and well today. When the book that holds the secret to eternal life is stolen from Flamel, twins Sophie and Josh find themselves the subject of a prophecy giving them the power to save the world.

Try These Too:

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp, Rick Yancey

Harry Potter (series), J.K. Rowling

Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series), Rick Riordan

Shadow Thieves, Anne Ursu

Skulduggery Pleasant, Derek Landy

Smith, Roland. *Peak*. Harcourt, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-15-202417-8 (publisher's hardcover). Peak was born to be a climber. After getting caught and then arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, 14 year-old Peak is "rescued" by his previously absentee father. Peak's father has an even grander plan for Peak; he wants Peak to be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest, no matter what it takes to make it happen.

Try These Too:

Everest (series), Gordon Korman

Hatchet, Gary Paulsen

Runner, Carl Deuker

Shackelton's Stowaway, Victoria McKernan

Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083, Andrea White

Sonnenblich, Jordan. *Zen and the Art of Faking It*. Scholastic, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-439-83707-1 (publisher's hardcover). When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

Try These Too:

I am the Wallpaper, Mark Peter Hughes

If We Kiss, Rachel Vail

Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time, Lisa Yee

Stead, Rebecca. *First Light*. Wendy Lamb, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-375-94017-0 (publisher's hardcover). When twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father's research, he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life and begins an adventure he never imagined possible.

Try These Too:

City of Ember, Jeanne DuPrau

Downsiders, Neal Shusterman

White Darkness, Geraldine McCaughrean

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. Little, Brown, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-316-05777-6 (publisher's hardcover). 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.

Try These Too:

Chasing Vermeer, Blue Balliett

Evil Genius, Catherine Jinks

H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education, Mark Walden

Shakespeare's Secret, Elise Broach

The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin