

Grade 7 & 8 Summer 2008 Suggested Recreational Reading

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. **Does My Head Look Too Big in This?** 2007.

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,** 2007.

Leaving the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white high school, Junior struggles to find his place in his new surroundings in order to escape his destiny back on the reservation.

Auch, Mary Jane **Ashes of Roses,** 2002.

In the summer of 1911, sixteen year-old Rose Nolan arrived on Ellis Island with the hope of starting a new life. But after most of her family is sent back to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country as she fend for herself.

Bradley, James **Flags of our Fathers,** 2001.

James Brady examines the lives of the six young men (one of them Brady's father) who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945 and were immortalized by a famous photograph.

Budhos, Marina. **Ask Me No Questions,** 2006.

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Christensen, Bonnie, compiler **In My Grandmother's House,** 2003.

Twelve award-winning authors have put together this volume of stories from their memories.

Colman, Penny **Adventurous Women – Eight True Stories about Women who made a Difference.** 2006.

This book presents biographical essays on historical women who challenged expectations.

Coombs, Kate **Runaway Princess,** 2006.

Princess Meg has a big problem, her father has promised her hand in marriage to the first prince who can slay a dragon, defeat a witch, and capture a gang of local bandits. However, with the help of some good friends and a cast of colorful characters, Meg has the chance to win her own hand – if she can complete the three tasks before any of the other kingdom – grubby contestants.

Creech, Sharon **The Wanderer.** 2000.

Thirteen- year- old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty- five-foot sailboat. Along with their uncles and another cousin they are enroute to visit their grandfather in England.

Curtis, Christopher Paul **Bucking the Sarge**, 2004.

With great wit and intelligence, 14- year-old Luther plots to escape his ruthless mother's plans for his life and to find his way in the world outside of Flint, Michigan.

Drez, Ronald J **Remember D-Day: The Plan, the Invasion, and Survivor Stories**, 2004.

The history of this pivotal World War II event is chronicled in a compelling narrative.

Evangelista, Beth **Gifted**, 2005.

Arrogant, mentally gifted George Clark has dreaded the eighth – grade camping trip and its inevitable bullying. But a hurricane and a friend's loyalty make him realize what is important in life.

Farmer, Nancy. **The House of the Scorpion**, 2002.

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. (See also: **The Ear, the Eye and the Arm.**)

Farmer, Nancy. **The Sea of Trolls**, 2004.

Jack lives in a quiet Saxon village and is unexpectedly apprenticed to the Bard who teaches him the ways of magic. But his lessons have just begun when Olaf One-Brow, who leads a berserker raiding party of Northmen, kidnaps him and his sister. They take the two across the sea, where Jack inadvertently dissolves the beauty of Ivar the Boneless's half-troll Queen, Firth. He must embark upon a quest in troll country to find Mimir's Well, so that he can save his sister, Lucy, who Queen Firth has threatened to sacrifice if her beauty is not restored. (Sequel: **The Land of the Silver Apples.**)

Feinstein, John **The Last Shot**, 2004.

After winning a basketball-reporting contest, eight graders, Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four Tournament. There they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. Also try: **Vanishing Act**, 2006.

Ferris, Jean. **Much Ado About Grubstake**, 2006.

When two city folks arrive in the depressed mining town of Grubstake, Colorado in 1888, sixteen-year-old orphaned Arley tries to discover why they want to buy the supposedly worthless mines in the area.

Fleming, Candace **Our Eleanor: a Scrapbook look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life**, 2005.

This book presents a collection of illustrated photographs and stories representing the life and career of Eleanor Roosevelt. It examines her White House years, her years as a delegate to the United Nations and more.

Garner, Eleanor R **Eleanor's Story, an American Girl in Hitler's Germany**, 1999.

This is the memoir of Eleanor Ramrath Garner's youth as an American caught in World War II Germany. Her father is offered a job in Germany and as her family is crossing the Atlantic, war breaks out and the family can't return to America. It puts a human face on the horrors of war and reminds us that each casualty of war is a person, not a number.

Hale, Shannon **Princess Academy**, 2005.

Fourteen year- old Miri regrets that her father never allowed her to work in the quarry with all the other village children. But then she and the other 12 to 17 year-old girls of Mt. Eskel are summoned by the King to attend an academy that will prepare them to meet the Prince, who will select one of them as his bride.

Ibbotson, Eva **The Star of Kazan**, 2004.

The setting is late nineteenth- century Vienna. Annika inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

Kadohata, Cynthia **Kira- Kira. 2005**, 2004.

Plain and poignant words describe the strong love within a Japanese American family from the point of view of younger sister Katie. Personal challenges and family tragedy are set against the oppressive social climate of the South during the 1950's and 1960's.

Kadohata, Cynthia **Weedflower**, 2006.

Twelve- year old Sumiko and her younger brother Tak-Tak live happily with their aunts and uncles on a flower farm in Southern California until the day that Pearl Harbor is bombed. Sumiko and her Japanese- American neighbors become suspects in their own country. When her family is sent to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, they must build a life in the dusty barren desert. Sumiko finds that flowers and friendship can grow in the most unlikely places.

Kent, Rose **Kimchi and Calamari**, 2007.

After getting caught lying on a school project about who his grandfather was, fourteen – year old Joseph Claderno is forced to re-do his assignment. In the process he learns more about his adopted Italian –American family and his Korean heritage than he ever thought possible.

Konigsburg, E. L. **The Outcasts of 19 Schulyer Place**, 2004.

Her eccentric uncles rescue Margaret Rose from an awful experience at summer camp. She, then, in turn wages a campaign to save their splendid, artistically sculptured towers.

Knox, Elizabeth. **Dreamhunter**, 2006.

In a world where select people can enter "The Place" and find dreams of every kind to share with others for a fee, a fifteen-year-old girl is training to be a dreamhunter when her father disappears, leaving her to carry on his mysterious mission. (Sequel: **Dreamquake.**)

Krakauer, Jon **Into Thin Air**, 1997.

The author relates his experience of climbing Mt. Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

Larbalestier, Justine. **Magic or Madness**, 2005.

From the Sydney, Australia home of a grandmother she believes is a witch, fifteen-year-old Reason Cansino is magically transported to New York City, where she discovers that friends and foes can be hard to distinguish. (Sequels: **Magic Lessons** and **Magic's Child.**)

Lawrence, Iain **Gemini Summer**, 2006.

Danny and his brother, Beau, live in the small town of Hog's Hollow. Danny's goal; in life is to have a dog, while his brother dreams of becoming an astronaut. As the boys have eyes on the stars and follow the space race, their father worries about the Vietnam War and begins to dig a nuclear fallout shelter. Then an innocent game turns into a tragic accident and Danny's world changes forever. His only comfort comes from a stray dog the family takes in and who Danny believes to be human. Forced to leave home to protect his dog, they head for Cape Canaveral.

Lee, Carol Ann **A Friend called Anne: One Girl's Story of War, Peace and a Unique Friendship with Anne Frank**, 2005.

This book presents the story of Jacqueline van Maarsen and her friendship with Anne Frank before Anne and her family went into hiding and then she recalls her own life in Nazi- occupied Holland.

Lord, Cynthia **Rules**, 2006.

Catherine has conflicting feelings about her autistic brother David. She loves him but sometimes she resents him and the attention he gets from their parents and often she wishes he would act normal. Despite her frustrations, Catherine has a special relationship with David and the rules she creates for him, such as "no toys in the fish tank" help David better understand the world.

Lubar, David. **Hidden Talents**, 2000.

When thirteen-year-old Martin arrives at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, he falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself. (Sequel: **True Talents.**)

Lupica, Mike **Heat**, 2006.

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt that he is only twelve years- old. He has no parents to offer them proof of age and all of his papers are in Cuba. Also try: **Travel Team**, **Miracle on 49th Street**, and **Summer Ball**.

Martin, Ann **A Corner of the Universe**, 2002.

During the summer that Hattie meets Adam, a childlike uncle she never knew existed and he lifts the corners of her universe.

Meyer, Stephenie. **Twilight**, 2005.

Bored with her new life in a rainy Washington town, Isabella Swan finds her situation transforming into one of thrills and terror when she becomes involved with alluring vampire Edward Cullen, who struggles to keep his identity a secret. (Sequels: **New Moon** and **Eclipse**.)

McCain, John **Character is Destiny: Inspiring Stories Every Young Person Should Know and Every Adult Should Remember**, 2005. This book presents the stories of celebrated historical figures and lesser – known heroes whose values exemplify the best of the human spirit.

McKinley, Robin **Spindle's End**, 2002.

Pernica, an evil fairy, curses the infant princess Briar Rose on her name day. She is then whisked away by a young fairy to be raised in the remote part of a magical country unaware of her real identity.

McWhorter, Diane **A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968**, 2004.

Pulitzer Prize- winner McWhorter uses her childhood memories as a white girl in Birmingham, Alabama to write this distinguished in – depth exploration of the Civil Rights movement in the U.S.

Mazur, Harry **Boy at War: a Novel of Pearl Harbor**, 2001.

While fishing with his friends of Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack. Through the chaos of the subsequent days, he tries to find his father, a Naval Officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona.

Murphy, Jim **An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793**, 2003.

Provides the account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793. This book is filled with reproductions, maps, first hand newspapers accounts of this exciting and appalling history of the yellow fever epidemic that killed off 10% of the population of Philadelphia in 1793.

Oppel, Kenneth **Airborn**, 2004.

Matt, a cabin boy aboard a luxury airship, saves a dying balloonist whose ship has been damaged. The balloonist's last words are about beautiful, winged creatures. One year later, the granddaughter of the balloonist takes passage on the airship, hoping to find the mysterious creatures.

Paolini, Christopher **Eragon**, 2002.

In Aegaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters. **The Eldest** is the sequel.

Peck, Richard **Past Perfect, Present Tense: New and Collected Stories**, 2004.

A collection of short stories that deal with the way things could be.

Peck, Richard **The Teacher's Funeral: a Comedy in Three Parts**, 2004.

Russell growing up in 1904, doesn't like school, so he isn't too upset when his very old teacher Miss Myrt Arbuckle dies. But when his older sister, Tansy, becomes the new teacher, Russell finds himself facing all kinds of new troubles.

Perkins, Lynne Rae **Criss Cross**, 2005.

Teenagers in a small town experience new thoughts and feelings as they question their identities. They connect and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life.

Pierce, Tamora. **Beka Cooper: Terrier**, 2006.

When sixteen-year-old Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve the case of a murdered baby in Tortall's Lower City. (Sequel: **Bloodhound**)

Pierce, Tamora **Trickster's Choice**, 2003.

Alianne, kidnapped and put into slavery, calls forth her mother's courage and her father's spying skills in order to survive the Cooper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. Sequel: **Trickster's Queen**

Reeve, Philip. **Mortal Engines**, 2003.

In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a fifteen-year-old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another. (Sequels: **Predator's Gold**, **Infernal Devices**, and **A Darkling Plain**.)

Reeve, Philip. **Larklight: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space**, 2006.

In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system. (Sequel: **Starcross**.)

Reilly, Matthew **Crash Course**, 2005.

Fourteen year old Jason Chaser races hover cars. Jason and his brother, “the Bug” have been accepted to the International Race School, where they race against great difficulties.

Riordan, Rick **The Lightning Thief**, 2005.

Percy always knew he was different, his ADHD and bad luck have gotten him kicked out of every school he’s ever attended. But when he learns that he is a “half – blood” and the son of the Greek God Poseidon, he finds that the stories he thought were myth are actually his own heritage. Along with his new friends Grover and Annabeth, Percy must complete a dangerous quest that take him from Olympus in the Underworld in order to retrieve a missing thunderbolt and save the earthly world and his own mother. Sequels:

The Sea of Monsters and **The Titan’s Curse**.

Salisbury, Graham. **House of the Red Fish**, 2006.

Over a year after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and the arrest of Tomi's father and grandfather, Tomi and his friends, battling anti-Japanese-American sentiment in Hawaii, try to find a way to salvage his father's sunken fishing boat. (Prequel: **Under the Blood Red Sun**.)

Shusterman, Neal **The Schwa was Here**, 2005.

Is it possible for a human being to be invisible? Schwa nearly is, but Antsy notices him, and the two boys devise a scheme to make big bucks. Both hilarious and touching, this novel is both unique and creative.

Smelcer, John. **The Trap**, 2006.

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

Sonnenblick, Jordan **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie**, 2005.

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen year –old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, school life, and his desire to support his family.

Spinelli, Jerry **Milkweed**. Knopf, 2003.

The homeless Gypsy boy calls himself Stopthief and joins up with other waifs as they elude the Nazi Jackboots who have taken over the streets of Warsaw.

Springer, Nancy **The Case of the Missing Marquess**, 2006.

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the mystery of her missing mother.

Stroud, Jonathan **The Amulet of Samarkand**, 2003

Told from alternative viewpoints, this is a fast – paced London based fantasy of Nathaniel, a 12 year-old apprentice magician and Bartimaeus, the djinni he summons to steal an ancient artifact.

Thompson, Kate. **The New Policeman**, 2007.

When his mother asks for "time" for her birthday, Irish teenager J.J. Liddy sets out to find it and stumbles upon Tir na n'Og, the land of the fairies, where he uncovers secrets about his family history, magic, the music that he loves, and a crime his great-grandfather may or may not have committed.

VanDraanen, Wendelin **Flipped**, 2001.

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Vega, Denise **Click Here (to find out how I survived seventh grade)**, 2005.

Seventh- grader, Erin Swift writes about her friends and classmates in her private blog. It accidentally gets posted on the school Internet site and she learns some important lessons about friendship.

Walker, Sally **Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley**, 2005.

This book tells the story of the Confederate submarine that in 1864 became the first ever to sink an enemy ship. The submarine lay missing on the ocean floor for more that a century. It describes its creation, discovery, skeletons and objects found aboard. Forensic anthropologists put facial reconstructions of several crewmembers together.

Wells, Rosemary. **Red Moon at Sharpsburg**, 2007.

Finding courage she never thought she had, a young Southern girl musters the strength and wit to survive the ravages of the Civil War and keep her family together through it all.

Westerfeld, Scott **Uglies**, 2005.

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to an operation that turns 16 year-old girls into gorgeous beauties. She realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like. **Pretties** and **Specials** are the next books in the trilogy.

Wiesel, Eli **After the Darkness: Reflections**, 2002.

This is a poignant memorial to the Holocaust.

Yolen, Jane **Sword of the Rightful King**, 2003.

This is a thrilling tale of magic and intrigue in King Arthur's Court