

Watertown Middle School Suggested Summer Reading Grades 6,7 & 8

*This list provides suggestions for students looking for good summer reading. Students may choose other books as well as they work to complete the summer-reading assignments provided by their teachers.

Adventure

- **Avi: *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*** Charlotte crosses the Atlantic in 1832 on a ship with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew.
- **Cooney, Caroline: *Goddess of Yesterday*** Caught up in the Trojan War, Anaxandra must reinvent herself to appease the gods and save her own life in this exciting novel.
- **Farmer, Nancy: *A Girl Named Disaster*** While journeying to Zimbabwe, 11-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.
- **Hobbs, Will: *Jason's Gold*** When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon in 1897 reaches 15-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 5,000 mile journey to strike it rich.
- **Holm, Jennifer: *Boston Jane: an Adventure*** Schooled in lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory.
- **Horowitz, Anthony: *Stormbreaker*** After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, 14-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI 6.
- **Ibbotson, Eva: *Journey to the River Sea*** Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.
- **London, Jack: *The Call of the Wild*** During the gold rush, a kidnapped dog becomes the leader of a wolf pack.
- **Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds: *The Fear Place*** Doug learns to face his fears while camping in the Rockies with his older brother.
- **O'Dell, Scott: *Black Star, Bright Dawn*** Bright Dawn runs the Iditarod alone when her father is injured.
- **Ralston, Aron: *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*** A canoe trip through Minnesota's lake country becomes a fight for survival for Mark and his diabetic cousin.
- **Voight, Cynthia: *Homecoming*** Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.
- **White, Robb: *Deathwatch*** A young man nearly loses his life while working as a guide on a desert hunting trip.

Contemporary Issues

- **Anderson, Laurie Halse: *Prom*** Eighteen-year-old Ashley wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ashley's involvement transforms her life.
- **Bauer, Joan: *Rules of the Road*** Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.
- **Bloor, Edward: *Tangerine*** Twelve-year-old Paul who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
- **Coman, Carolyn: *Many Stones*** After her sister Laura is murdered in South Africa, Berry and her estranged father travel there to participate in the dedication of a memorial in her name.

- **Curtis, Christopher Paul: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*** The ordinary interactions and everyday 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.
- **Danziger, Paula: *P.S. Longer Letter Later*** Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state.
- **Giff, Patricia Reilly: *Pictures of Hollis Woods*** A troublesome 12-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.
- **Henkes, Kevin: *Olive's Ocean*** On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.
- **Holt, Kimberly Willis: *My Louisiana Sky*** Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.
- **Holt, Kimberly Willis: *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*** During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, 13-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.
- **Ingold, Jeanette: *Mountain Solo*** Back at her childhood home in Missoula, Montana, after a disastrous concert in Germany, a teenage violin prodigy contemplates giving up life with her mother in New York City and her music as she, her father, stepmother, and stepsister hike to a pioneer homesite where another violinist once faced difficult decisions of his own.
- **Lord, Cynthia: *Rules*** Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.
- **Lupica, Mike: *Heat*** 13-yr-old Mike Arroyo is a Little League ballplayer with a dream to pitch in the Little League World Series. To reach his goal, Mike's South Bronx All Stars will have to beat the best New York team in the regional championship to be played in Yankee Stadium. This fast paced novel has plenty of emotion, crackling dialogue and a rich cast of characters, and is the companion to *Travel Team*.
- **Mikaelsen, Ben: *Stranded*** This is the story of a disabled twelve-year old girl who winds up in a situation in which she is responsible for the lives of two whales.
- **Myers, Walter Dean: *Monster*** While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom, in the form of a film script, as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.
- **O'Connor, Barbara: *How to Steal a Dog*** Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her over worked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.
- **Ritter, John: *The Boy Who Saved Baseball*** The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.
- **Roberts, Kristi: *My 13th Season*** Already downhearted due to the loss of her mother, thirteen-year-old Fran decided to give up her dream of becoming the first female in professional baseball after a coach attacks her just for being a girl.
- **Sones, Sonia: *One of those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*** "This book tells the hideous story of what happens when my mother dies and I'm dragged three thousand miles away from my gorgeous boyfriend, Ray, to live in L.A. with my father, who I've never even met because he's such a scumbag that he divorced my mom before I was born. The only way I've ever even *seen* him is in the movies, since he's this mega-famous actor. Everyone loves my father. Everyone but me."
- **Weeks, Sarah: *So B. It*** After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, 12-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.
- **Wilhelm, Doug: *The Revealers*** Tired of being bullied and picked on, three seventh-grade outcasts join forces and, using scientific methods and the power of the Internet, begin to create a new atmosphere at Parkland Middle School.
- **Yang, Gene Luen: *American Born Chinese*** An Independent graphic novel about Jin Wang who struggles to fit in with his white classmates, the efforts of the Monkey King to be revered as a god, and the destructive Chin-Kee who embarrasses his cousin Danny.
- **Yolen, Jane: *Armageddon Summer*** Fourteen-year-old Marina and 16-year-old Jed accompany their parents' religious cult, the Believers, to await the end of the world atop a remote mountain, where they try to decide what they themselves believe.

Fantasy

- **Allende, Isabel:** *City of Beasts* “Enticingly mixing anthropological details and grotesque Amazonian creatures with believable teen protagonists, this survival tale becomes a scary page-turner with a wonderful sense of magical fantasy and realism. Try the sequels, *Kingdom of the Golden Dragon* and *Forest of the Pygmies*.
- **Almond, David:** *Skellig* Unhappy about his baby sister’s illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.
- **Avi:** *Perloo the Bold* Rabbit-like creatures called Montmers are enemies of the coyote-like Felbarts. Among the Montmers is mild-mannered Perloo, whose fate is to bring peace to the two tribes.
- **Barker, Clive:** *Abarat* It begins in the most boring place in the world: Chickentown, U.S.A. There lives Candy Quackenbush, her heart bursting for some clue as to what her future might hold. Try the sequel: *Abarat: Days of Magic, Nights of War*, where Candy must fight for her life.
- **Blair, Thomas:** *The Sabatini Prophecy* Davey Boehm reluctantly moves to North Carolina to live with his Aunt and Uncle for a year while his parents are in China on business. Once he arrives there his is thrust into the middle of a centuries-old prophecy involving his ancestors, the town, the local Native American tribe, and a magical great oak tree. Readers will be excited to see how Davey handles everything and whether or not he’ll be able to come out on top.
- **Clements, Andrew:** *Things Not Seen* When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.
- **Colfer, Eoin:** *The Supernaturalist* In the not-too-distant future, in a place called Satellite City, thirteen-year-old Cosmo Hill is unfortunate enough to come into the world unwanted by his parents. And so, as are all orphaned boys his age, Cosmo is dipped in a vaccine vat and sent to the Clarissa Frayne Institute for Parentally Challenged Boys-freight class.
- **Cooper, Susan:** *King of Shadows* Nat is chosen to be an actor in a troop that is to perform at the reconstructed Globe Theatre. Just before the performance, he becomes ill and awakens in London where he is to play the role of Puck in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* under the great William Shakespeare himself. Adventure, action, time travel and mystery combine to make this an appealing read. Try her *Dark is Rising series*.
- **DiCamillo, Kate:** *The Tale of Despereaux : Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread* The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.
- **DuPrau, Jeanne:** *The City of Ember* In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.
- **Funke, Cornelia:** *The Thief Lord* Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with – and protection from – Venice’s “Thief Lord.”
- **Hoeye, Michael:** *Time Stops for No Mouse: a Hermux Tantamoq Adventure* When Linka Perflinger, a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into his shop to be repaired and then disappears, Hermux Tantamoq is caught up in a world of dangerous search for eternal youth as he tries to find out what happened to her.
- **Ibbotson, Eva:** *The Secret of Platform 13* Ode Gribble, a young hag, joins an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on a journey from their magical island kingdom to London through a tunnel which opens every nine years for nine days, to try and rescue the young prince who had been stolen as an infant nine years before.
- **Kladstrup, Kristin:** *The Book of Story Beginnings* After moving with her parents to Iowa, twelve-year-old Lucy discovers a mysterious notebook that can bring stories to life and which has a link to the 1914 disappearance of her great uncle.
- **LeGuin, Ursula:** *The Wizard of Earthsea* A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.
- **McGraw, Eloise Jarvis:** *The Moorchild* Feeling that she is neither fully human nor “Folk,” a changeling learns her true identity and attempts to find the human child whose place she had been given.
- **Napoli, Donna Jo:** *Bound* In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, 14-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child’s feet so that she alone might marry well.

- **Nimmo, Jenny:** *Midnight for Charlie Bone* Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking.
- **Oppel, Kenneth:** *Airborn* Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.
- **Riordan, Rick:** *The Lightning Thief* Percy Jackson always knew he wasn't like other kids. After a series of very strange events, Percy learns that he is, in fact, the son of a mortal woman and the Greek god Poseidon. He is sent to Camp Half-Blood to learn how to survive the constant attacks from monsters like Medusa, the Minotaur, and Ares, the God of War.
- **Riordan, Rick:** *The Sea of Monsters* Percy and his friends set out to find his best friend, Grover, who is held prisoner on an island somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle, before heading out to save Camp Half-Blood from mythological monsters.
- **Riordan:** *The Titan's Curse* When the goddess Artemis disappears while hunting a rare, ancient monster, a group of her followers joins Percy and his friends in an attempt to find and rescue her before the winter solstice, when her influence is needed to sway the Olympian Council regarding the war with the Titans.
- **Riordan:** *The Battle of the Labyrinth* When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near.
- **Sleator, William:** *Marco's Millions* Twelve-year-old Marco's love for travel and for his younger sister Lilly, who has psyuniverses, gaining the ability to go wherever he wished without growing old.
- **Stewart, Trenton Lee:** *The Mysterious Benedict Society* Once Reynie Muldoon, an eleven-year-old orphan, responds to an advertisement searching for "gifted children looking for special opportunities", he finds himself mired in a world of adventure shrouded in mystery. If plot twists and strange happenings appeal to you, don't miss Reynie's amazing escapades.
- **Wrede, Patricia:** *Dealing with Dragons* Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

Science Fiction

- **Adams, Douglas:** *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect, from the planet Betelgeuse, hitchhike from one adventure to another throughout the universe.
- **Anderson, M.T.:** *Feed* In the future America, everyone has a "feed"- a computer implant in your brain that allows you instantaneous access to everything; shopping, classes, television, each other. But when Titus meets a girl whose feed is malfunctioning, he doesn't know how to help her and he must make a life-changing choice.
- **Bradbury, Ray:** *Fahrenheit 451* A group of citizens attempt to preserve literature in a society that bans and burns books.
- **Dickinson, Peter:** *Eva* A young girl awakens after an accident to discover that her brain has been transplanted into the body of a chimpanzee.
- **Farmer, Nancy:** *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm* In 2194 three children of a general in Zimbabwe are captured and put to work in a plastic mine.
- **Farmer, Nancy:** *The House of the Scorpion* 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.
- **Haddix, Margaret Peterson:** *Among the Hidden* In the future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.
- **Halam, Ann:** *Siberia* Sloe and her mother are imprisoned in slave camp on the barren Siberian wasteland when Sloe's mother reveals to her the five seedlings that will grow into different animals with the proper care. Armed with this knowledge, Sloe faces many dangers and hardships in order to discover the truth behind these seedlings and her father's mysterious disappearance when she was an infant.
- **Rex, Adam:** *The True Meaning of Smekday* Twelve-year-old Gratuity "Tip" Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted. She must try to stop another alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.
- **Verne, Jules:** *Journey to the Center of the Earth* An expedition into a crater in Iceland leads to the

center of the earth.

Historical Fiction

- **Alvarez, Julia:** *Before We Were Free* In the early 1960's in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.
- **Anderson, Laurie Halse:** *Fever 1793* In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.
- **Avi:** *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.
- **Beatty, Patricia:** *Charley Skedaddle* During the Civil War, a 12-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman.
- **Blackwood, Gary:** *The Year of the Hangman* The year is 1777. What side should the kidnapped 15 year-old Creighton take? Does he join his new friends, the patriots, including Benjamin Franklin or stay true to his English heritage?
- **Blackwood, Gary:** *The Shakespeare Stealer* A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.
- **Branford, Henrietta:** *Fire, Bed, and Bone* In 1381 England, a hunting dog recounts what happens to his beloved master Rufus and his family when they are arrested on suspicion of being part of the peasants' rebellion led by Wat Tyler and the preacher John Ball.
- **Choldenko, Gennifer:** *Al Capone Does My Shirts* A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
- **DeFelice, Cynthia:** *The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker* Twelve-year-old Lucas becomes a doctor's apprentice in 1849 after his family dies of consumption.
- **Gratz, Alan:** *Samurai Shortstop* It's Tokyo, just before the turn of the century, Toyo, a sixteen-year-old at the country's most prestigious boarding school, finds that competition is brutal and that honor takes many forms. He is proud of his athletic abilities and must face the challenges of a new sport brought by the westerners called "besuboru".
- **Hesse, Karen:** *Witness* In 1924 Vermont, a town turns against its own when the Ku Klux Klan moves in.
- **Kadohata, Cynthia:** *Kira – Kira* 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. Then Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the family begins to fall apart. It is Katie who has to find a way to remind them that there is always something glittering - -kira-kira - -.
- **Lawrence, Iain:** *Lord of the Nutcracker Men* An English boy during World War I comes to believe that the battles he enacts with his toy soldiers control the war his father is fighting on the front.
- **Lasky, Kathryn:** *Beyond the Burning Time* In the winter of 1691, accusations of witchcraft surface in a small New England village and twelve-year-old Mary Chase must fight to save her mother from execution. You may aJewish persecutions begin.
- **Lester, Julius:** *Pharaoh's Daughter* This title is an imaginative telling of Moses's life in the mysterious ancient Egyptian palace.
- **Levine, Ellen:** *Catch a Tiger by the Toe* At the height of the McCarthy witch-hunt, Jamie's dad is fired from his job and tried as a Communist. Will he name names?
- **Lowry, Lois:** *The Silent Boy* Katy Thatcher was the bright and curious daughter of the town doctor. She also wanted to be a doctor, to know about people, and was fascinated by her father's work. Her curiosity and understanding allowed her to develop a friendship with the small boy Jacob who was different. It was she who unraveled the mystery of what had occurred to him and why.
- **McMullen, Margaret:** *When I Crossed No-Bob* Ten years after the Civil War's end, twelve-year-old Addy, abandoned by her parents, is taken from the horrid town of No-Bob by schoolteacher Frank Russell and his bride, but when her father returns to claim her she must find another way to leave her past behind.
- **Napoli, Donna Jo:** *Stones in Water* Roberto's life changes forever when German soldiers raid the theater where he's watching a movie. Rounded up and packed off to a brutal work camp, he and his friend vow

- to stay together in the face of this horror.
- **O'Dell, Scott: *Sarah Bishop*** Fifteen-year-old Sarah is left an orphan during the Revolutionary War and flees to the woods when the British accuse her of committing a crime.
 - **Paulsen, Gary: *The Quilt*** A six-year-old boy goes to spend the summer with his grandmother Alida in a small town near the Canadian border. With the men all gone off to fight, the women are left to run the farms. Soon the house fills with women who come to wait, and to work on a quilt together. This is no common, everyday quilt, but one that contains all the stories of the boy's family. The quilt tells the truth, past and future: of happiness, courage, and pain; of the greatest joy, and the greatest loss. And, as they wait, the women share these memorable stories with the boy.
 - **Rees, Celia: *Witch Child*** In 1659, 14-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans in Salem, Massachusetts.
 - **Rostkowski, Margaret: *After The Dancing Days*** A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of World War I forces 13-year-old Annie to redefine the word "hero" and to question conventional ideas of patriotism.
 - **Salisbury, Graham: *Under the Blood Red Sun*** A Japanese family in Hawaii encounter prejudice after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.
 - **Spinelli, Jerry: *Milkweed*** In Warsaw in 1939, a boy wanders the streets and survives by stealing what food he can. He knows nothing of his background. Is he a Jew? A Gypsy? Was he ever called something other than Stophief? Befriended by a band of orphaned Jewish boys, he begins to share their sleeping quarters. He understands very little of what is happening to him.
 - **Uchida, Yoshiko: *Journey to Topaz*** A Japanese-American family are detained in a detention camp during World War II.
 - **Updale, Eleanor: *Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?*** In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.
 - **Westall, Robert: *Kingdom by the Sea*** A 12-year-old boy flees his London home during World War II and wanders the English countryside with a dog he has found.
 - **Whelan, Gloria: *Angel on the Square*** In 1913 Russia, 12-year-old Katya eagerly anticipates leaving her St. Petersburg home, though not her older cousin Misha, to join her mother, a lady in waiting in the household of Tsar Nicholas II, but the ensuing years bring world war, revolution, and undreamed of changes to her life.

Humor

- **Howe, James: *The New Nick Kramer, or My Life as a Babysitter*** Nick hopes the way to a girl's heart is through sharing a class in childcare. If he fails, it means dancing in a tutu at halftime.
- **Howe, Norma: *The Adventures of Blue Avenger*** When sixteen-year-old David Schumacher changes his name to Blue Avenger, astonishing things start to happen. You may also enjoy the sequel *Blue Avenger Cracks the Code*.
- **Lynch, Chris: *Slot Machine*** When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at St. Paul's Seminary Retreat Center, he and his two best friends are forced to try out various sports in order to find out where they belong.
- **Peck, Richard: *A Year Down Yonder*** Overbearing, feisty Grandma Dowdel scares just about everybody in her small town, but Mary Alice, her fifteen-year-old granddaughter, appreciates her heart of gold. This sequel to *Long Way From Chicago* is a funny, outrageous story.
- **Pinkwater, Daniel: *The Neddidad: How Neddie Took the Train, Went to Hollywood, and Saved Civilization*** Neddie Wentworthian lives in Los Angeles in the late 1940s, land of "movie stars, restaurants shaped like hats and doughnuts, tar pits, and fancy schools". When his family decides to move to Chicago Neddie embarks on one of the strangest journeys one could imagine. On his way he is given a gift from a shaman: a meteorite that could determine the fate of humanity. Neddie's convoluted adventures in the Grand Canyon and Los Angeles (let's not forget to mention the aliens!) will leave you laughing as the fate of the universe hangs in the balance. This is a wild ride!
- **Sleator, William: *Oddballs*** 10 hilarious semi-autobiographical stories that will have you laughing out loud. The author relates offbeat incidents from his family and how he and his three siblings developed confident, independent spirits.
- **Tolan, Stephanie: *Surviving the Applewhites*** Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents

and interests he never knew he had.

- **Weeks, Sarah:** *My Guy* Guy Strang's mother is engaged to a professional clown and Guy must make a plan to stop the wedding. This is the third installment of the Guy series.
- **Yee, Lisa:** *Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time* After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer- school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father. This book is a sequel to the ever-popular *Millicent Min, Girl Genius*.

Multicultural

- **Joseph, Lynn:** *Color of My Words* When life gets difficult for Ana Rosa, a 12- year-old would-be writer living in a small village in the Dominican Republic, she can depend on her older brother to make her feel better--until the life-changing events on her 13th birthday.
- **Klass, David:** *Danger Zone* When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.
- **Lee, Marie:** *Necessary Roughness* Sixteen-year-old Korean American Chan moves from Los Angeles to a small town in Minnesota, where he must cope not only with racism on the football team but also with the tensions in his relationship with his strict father.
- **Myers, Walter Dean:** *Monster* While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.
- **Naidoo, Beverley:** *No Turning Back* After running away from an abusive home, 12-year-old Siphon tries to survive in Johannesburg.
- **Namioka, Lensey:** *Ties that Bind, Ties that Break* Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.
- **Paulsen, Gary:** *The Crossing* Manny, an orphan trying to survive in a Mexican border town, attempts to cross over into the United States with the help of an alcoholic Vietnam veteran he befriends.
- **Staples, Suzanne Fisher:** *Dangerous Skies* Two children, one white, one African-American, are implicated in a murder.
- **Staples, Suzanne Fisher:** *Under The Persimmon Tree* A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman, Nusrat in Peshawar, Pakistan, after Najmah flees her native Afghanistan during the 2001 war; and together they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones after the war ends.
- **Whelan, Gloria:** *Homeless Bird* When 13-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.
- **Lynch, Chris:** *Gold Dust* In 1975, 12-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.

Mysteries

- **Abrahams, Peter:** *Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery* Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown of Echo Falls.
- **Aiken, Joan:** *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* Humorous story of the adventures of three children trying to survive among wicked adults and wolves in the English countryside.
- **Almond, David:** *Skellig* Michael's new neighborhood is full of surprises, including the dusty, fly-specked resident of his crumbling garage. Despite the heartbreak of a seriously ill baby sister, Michael tries to help this eccentric being in this story filled with mystery and mysticism.
- **Avi:** *Wolf Rider* After receiving an apparent crank call from a man claiming to have committed murder, fifteen-year- old Andy finds his close relationship with his father crumbling as he struggles to make everyone believe him.
- **Balliett, Blue:** *Chasing Vermeer* A Vermeer painting is stolen. Petra and Calder, two bright, quirky sixth-graders, come together to solve the crime that has the whole world baffled. Going beyond a simple mystery, this story explores the meaning of art and the nature of coincidence.
- **Blackwood, Gary:** *Shakespeare's Spy* Widge, an orphan boy, who has joined Shakespeare's acting company, begins to investigate when several thefts occur backstage.

- **Bruchac, Joseph:** *Skeleton Man* After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and maybe even for her life.
- **Christie, Agatha:** *And Then There Were None* Guests on an island disappear one by one until those remaining realize the killer is among them.
- **Colfer, Eoin:** *Half-moon Investigations* Twelve-year-old Fletcher Moon, the youngest qualified private detective in the world, receives a diploma and gold-plated detective's shield after completing an Internet course. He sets out to solve petty crimes at school but is forced to go on the run when, while investigating the town's biggest crime family, his badge is stolen and he is framed for several crimes he did not commit.
- **Cooney, Caroline:** *Code Orange* While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.
- **Cormier, Robert:** *The Rag and Bone Shop* Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.
- **Duncan, Lois:** *Killing Mr. Griffin* A trick on an English teacher inadvertently results in death.
- **Ehrlich, Amy:** *Joyride* Having all her life unquestioningly abided by her mother's decisions to move frequently and remain aloof to outsiders, fourteen-year-old Nina begins to wonder about the reasons for their way of life.
- **Hahn, Mary Downing:** *Wait Till Helen Comes* Two children dislike their stepsister but try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.
- **Ibbotson, Eva:** *The Star of Kazan* After twelve-year-old Annika, a foundling living in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.
- **Plum-Ucci, Carol:** *The Body of Christopher Creed* Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.
- **Raskin, Ellen:** *The Westing Game* Heirs of an eccentric millionaire must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritances.
- **Snyder, Zilpha Keatley:** *The Witches of Worm* Jessica brings an unattractive skinny cat that looks like a worm home with her, but now he seems to be making her do wicked things, and she believes that he may be a witch's cat.
- **Vande Velde, Vivian:** *Never Trust a Dead Man* Wrongly convicted of murder and punished by being sealed in the tomb with the dead man, 17-year-old Selwyn enlists the help of a witch and the resurrected victim to find the true killer.
- **Van Draanen, Wendelin:** *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.
- **Werlin, Nancy:** *The Killer's Cousin* After being acquitted of murder, 17-year-old David goes to stay with relatives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he must face his past as he learns more about his strange young cousin Lily.
- **Westall, Robert:** *Yaxley's Cat* After Yaxley disappears, villagers fear his cat will uncover their secret.

Non-Fiction

- **Dash, Joan:** *The Longitude Prize* The story of John Harrison, inventor of watches and clocks, who spent forty years working on a time-machine which could be used to accurately determine longitude at sea.
- **Fleischman, John:** *Phineas Gage: a Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science*
- This is the true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.
- **Giblin, James Cross:** *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth* This book is a fascinating biographical look at the Booth brothers who stood on opposing sides of the Civil War politics. Interesting insights as to why one brother became the infamous assassin of President Lincoln.
- **Gutman, Dan:** *Cal Ripken, Jr.: My Story* Tells, in his own words, the story of the personal life and baseball career of the star player for the Baltimore Orioles, Cal Ripken. Adapted from *The Only Way I Know*, by Cal Ripken, Jr. and Mike Bryan.

- **Hawk, Tony: *Between Boardslides and Burnout: my notes from the Road*** Tony Hawk, skateboard legend, gives an over-the-shoulder look into his life on the road through the use of fantastic full color photography and diary entries.
- **Janeczko, Paul: *Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing*** Janeczko relates how different codes came to be, why they were needed, and gives some historical examples. The book also contains information and exercises (with answers) on deciphering codes and provides children with the tools to make their own field kit.
- **Krull, Kathleen: *Leonardo da Vinci*** Scrupulously researched and juicily anecdotal, Kathleen Krull's portrait of Leonardo will not only change children's ideas of who Leonardo da Vinci was, but also what it means to be a scientist.
- **Lee, Carol Ann: *A Friend Called Anne: one girl's story of war, peace, and a unique friendship with Anne Frank*** The story of Anne Frank's best friend before Anne went into hiding. She remembers her friendship with Anne, her own experiences of the Holocaust, and accepting the fame of Anne's diary.
- **Levine, Karen: *Hana's Suitcase: a True Story*** A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.
- **Li, Moying: *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution*** Moying Li reveals the events of her life from age twelve to adulthood when the Cultural Revolution of Mao Zedong destroyed family customs and life as they knew it.
- **Miller, Debra A.: *Hurricane Katrina Devastation on the Gulf Coast*** Tells the story of Hurricane Katrina, a monster storm that struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005, virtually destroying New Orleans and other cities, killing almost twelve hundred people, and leaving more than a million residents homeless.
- **Maurer, Richard: *The Wright Sister: Katherine Wright and her Famous Brothers*** Katherine Wright ran the household for her older brothers and their father during the years when Orville and Wilbur were developing and promoting their airplane. A graduate of Oberlin College, she gave up her career as a teacher to help them turn their airplane from a curiosity into a viable business. Quotations from diaries and letters bring the close-knit Wright family to life.
- **Murphy, Jim: *An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*** Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.
- **Murphy, Jim: *Inside The Alamo*** An overview of the struggle between the Texan settlers and Mexico's General Santa Anna for control of Texas, with a detailed description of the 1836 siege of the Alamo. Includes biographical sketches and quotations of some of those involved.
- **Myers, Walter Dean: *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*** A biography of Muhammad Ali, whose style changed the sport of boxing and whose attitude shook the world as he became a symbol of the antiwar movement during the Vietnamese conflict and a defender of civil rights.
- **Pressburger, Chava, ed.: *The Diary of Petr Ginz, 1941-1942*** The diary covers 11 months preceding Petr's deportation to the Theresienstadt concentration camp.
- **Warren, Andrea: *Escape from Saigon*** Over a million South Vietnamese children were orphaned by the Vietnam War. This affecting true account tells the story of Long, who, like more than 40,000 other orphans, is Amerasian—a mixed-race child—with little future in Vietnam. *Escape From Saigon* allows readers to experience Long's struggle to survive in war-torn Vietnam, his dramatic escape to America as part of "operation Babylift" during the last chaotic days before the fall of Saigon, and his life in the United States as "Matt, part of a loving Ohio family.
- **Wulffson, Don: *The Kid Who Invented the Trampoline: More Surprising Stories about Inventions*** Learn about the fascinating stories behind 50 different inventions including false teeth, parking meters, Post-it Notes, and leotards
- **Yu, Chun: *Little Green: Growing up During the Chinese Cultural Revolution*** Chun Yu, born in a small city in China, describes her childhood growing up in the middle of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution.