



Middle School Recommended Reading List

- The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle (Hugh Lofting)-When his colleague disappears, Dr. Dolittle sets off with his assistant, Tommy Stubbins, his dog, Jip, and Polynesia the parrot on an adventurous voyage over tropical seas to floating Spidermonkey Island. Newbery Medal.
- The Devil's Arithmetic (Jane Yolen)-Hannah resents stories of her Jewish heritage and of the past until, when opening the door during a Passover Seder, she finds herself in Poland during WWII where she experiences the horrors of a concentration camp, and learn why she needs to remember the past.
- Summer of my German Soldier (Bette Greene)-Sheltering an escaped German prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old Jewish girl in Arkansas.
- The Yearling (Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings)-A young boy living in Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.
- The Wind in the Willows (Kenneth Grahame)-The escapades of four animal friends who live along a river in the English countryside, Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.
- The Incredible Journey (Sheila Burnford)-A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.
- King of the Wind (Marguerite Henry)-Sham and the stable boy Agba travel from Morocco to France to England where, at last, Sham's majesty is recognized and he becomes the "Godolphin Arabian," ancestor of the most superior Thoroughbred horses.
- Justin Morgan Had a Horse (Marguerite Henry)-An unusual work horse, raised in Vermont and known originally as "Little Bub," becomes the sire of a famous American breed and takes the name of his owner, Justin Morgan. Newbery Honor.
- Misty of Chincoteague (Marguerite Henry)-Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction. Newbery Honor.
- Here Lies the Librarian (Richard Peck)-Fourteen-year-old Eleanor "Peewee" McGrath, a tomboy and automobile enthusiast, discovers new possibilities for her future after the 1914 arrival in her small Indiana town of four young librarians.
- Fair Weather (Richard Peck)-In 1893, Rosie's family travels to Chicago to attend a fair and they meet the legendary Buffalo Bill.
- Princess Academy (Shannon Hale)-While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. Newbery Honor.
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Mildred D. Taylor)-A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand. Newbery Medal.
- Things Not Seen (Andrew Clements)-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.
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond (Elizabeth George Speare)-In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends a old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft. Newbery Medal.
- The Twenty-One Balloons (William Pene duBois)-Relates the incredible adventures of Professor William Waterman Sherman who in 1883 sets off in a balloon across the Pacific, survives the volcanic eruption of Krakatoa, and is eventually picked up in the Atlantic. Newbery Medal.
- The City of Ember [series] (Jeanne Duprau)-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.
- Hatchet (Gary Paulsen)-After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. Newbery Honor.
- The Midwife's Apprentice (Karen Cushman)-In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.
- Catherine Called Birdy (Karen Cushman)-The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. Newbery Honor.
- The Door in the Wall (Marguerite DeAnjeli)-A crippled boy in fourteenth-century England proves his courage and earns recognition from the King. Newbery Medal.
- Johnny Tremain (Esther Forbes)-After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution. Newbery Medal.
- Carry On, Mr. Bowditch (Jean Lee Latham)-A fictionalized biography of the mathematician and astronomer who realized his childhood desire to become a ship's captain and authored The American Practical Navigator. Newbery Medal.
- The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed (Heather Vogel Frederick)-Following their mother's death, Captain Goodspeed brings twelve-year-old Patience and six-year-old Tad aboard his whaling shipages. Patience is thrilled to use her excellent mathematical skills to help navigate the shipages.
- Iron Thunder (Avi)-To earn a living after his father died fighting for the Union, thirteen-year-old Tom takes an ironworking job building a Union ship, but Confederates see Tom's job as an opportunity to spy out the vessel.
- Calico Bush (Rachel Field)-A young girl who leaves France with her parents for a home in the new world, becomes a "bound-out-girl" to a family in Maine. Newbery Honor.
- Om-kas-toe of the Blackfeet (Kenneth Thomasma)-Life changes dramatically for the Blackfeet people in the early 1700's when a twin brother and sister discover a strange animal and succeed in bringing it back to the tribe.

- Cheaper by the Dozen (Frank B. Gilbreth)-Tells the story of efficiency experts Frank and Lillian Gilbreth and their twelve children.
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH (Robert C. O'Brien)-Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived. Newbery Medal.
- Wednesday Wars (Gary D. Schmidt)-During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in. Newbery Honor.
- Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy (Gary D. Schmidt)-In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers (and Turner's) want to change into a tourist spot. Newbery Honor.
- The Hobbit (J.R.R. Tolkien)-Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.
- Bloomability (Sharon Creech)-When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers an expanding world and her place in it.
- Foster's War (Carolyn Reeder)- When his older brother joins the army during WWII in order to escape the rages of an authoritarian father, eleven-year-old Foster fights his battles on the home front.
- I Can't Believe I Have To Do This (Jan Alford)-Twelve-year-old Dean Matthews receives a journal as a birthday present from his mother and records the events of the following year. At first, he is very unhappy about having to do this, but he learns valuable lessons along the way.
- My Louisiana Sky (Kimberly Holt)-Growing up in Louisiana in the 1950's, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings with her stern but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.
- Frightful's Song (Jean Craighead George)-Forty years after writing *My Side of the Mountain*, Ms. George returns to the Catskills for the third book about Sam Gibley growing up living off the land, and the peregrine partner that will never be far from his heart.
- The Longest Ride (Denise Patrick)-At fifteen, Midnight Son has already lived quite a courageous life. In the sequel to *The Adventure of Midnight Son*, the author tells a powerful coming-of-age story about the true meaning of responsibility, bravery, and honor in the face of adversity.
- Moon Over Tennessee (Craig Crist-Evans)-In the spring of 1863, a thirteen-year-old boy leaves his home on a farm in northeastern Tennessee with his father, who has joined the confederate army. This is a moving personal narrative in the form of a journal.
- The Storyteller's Beads (Jane Kurtz)-During the political strike and famine of the 1980's, two Ethiopian girls, one Christian and the other Jewish and blind, struggle to overcome many difficulties, including their prejudices about each other, as they flee their native country.
- At the Sign of the Star (Katherine Sturtevant)-In 17th century London, Meg dreams of becoming a bookseller like her father.
- The Barn Burner (Patricia Willis)-Ross is suspected of having set fire to a barn in 1933.
- The Stranger Next Door (Peg Kehret)-A clever cat's heroism helps two twelve-year-old boys become friends after their families, one of whom is in a witness-protection program, move to neighboring houses.
- I'm Not Who You Think I Am (Peg Kehret)-Ginger is the target of mistaken identity by a disturbed mother.
- Angel on the Square (Gloria Whelan)-In 1914, Katya, the daughter of a lady-in-waiting, sees her safe world fall apart when the Tsar is deposed in war-torn Russia.
- A Single Shard (Linda Sue Park)-Tree-ear, an orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. Newbery Medal.
- Takeoffs and Landings (Margaret Peterson Haddix)-Two teenagers begin to overcome their guilt over their father's death and reconnect with each other and their emotionally distant mother when they accompany her on a two-week speaking tour.
- Among the Hidden [series] (Margaret Peterson Haddix)-In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until under "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.
- Walk Across the Sea (Susan Fletcher)-Teenage Eliza McCully defies the townspeople and her father to help a Chinese boy who has been kind to her at a time when Chinese immigrants are shunned.
- The Impossible Journey (Gloria Whelan)-In 1934, thirteen-year-old Marya and her younger brother, Georgi, set out alone on a long journey into Siberia to find their mother after she and their father are exiled for opposing Stalin.
- Jackie's Wild Seattle (Will Hobbs)-Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildfire rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.
- Daughter of Venice (Donna Jo Napoli)-Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donata, roams the streets of sixteenth-century Venice dressed as a boy.
- Green Angel (Alice Hoffman)-Hunted by grief and her past after losing her family, fifteen-year-old Green retreats into her ruined garden as she struggles to survive emotionally and physically on her own. This was written in response to Sept. 11, 2001.
- Tree Castle Island (Jean Craighead George)-After building his own canoe, fourteen-year-old Jack tries it out in his beloved Okefenokee Swamp, where an accident tests his survival skills and leads him to a shocking discovery.
- Albino Animals (Kelly Milner Halls)-Learn about albino animals, the genetics that causes albinism, and the survival challenges albinos face.
- Whittington (Alan Armstrong)-Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story. Newbery Honor.
- The Bark of the Bog Owl [Wilderking trilogy] (Jonathan Rogers)-Young Aidan is surely meant for greater things than keeping sheep. After a series of adventures, Aidan joins his siblings, battles a giant, and leads a covert operation in this Christian fantasy.
- The Secret of the Swamp King (Jonathan Rogers)-In this fantasy based very loosely on the biblical story of King David, teenaged Aidan has become the triumphant, giant-slaying hero of the court of King Darrow of Corenwald. Darrow, increasingly

- paranoid and depressed, sends Aidan on an impossible quest to retrieve the mysterious frog orchid, whose essence is the cure for melancholia. He must travel to the depths of the Feechifen Swamp—a journey from which no Corenwalder has ever returned.
- The Dark Hills Divide [Land of Elyon series] (Patrick Carman)—Alexa is spending another summer in Bridewell with her father. She's eager to solve the mystery that lurks in the forests and the The Dark Hills which townspeople fear.
 - Eyes Like Willy's (Juanita Havill)—Willy, a German boy enjoys friendship during several summers in Austria with two French siblings until WWI puts them on opposing sides.
 - Nine Days a Queen: The Short Life and Reign of Lady Jane Grey (Ann Rinaldi)—Lady Jane Grey who at fifteen was Queen of England for nine days before being executed, recounts her life story from the age of nine.
 - Hidden Child (Isaac Millman)—The author details his difficult experience as a young Jewish child living in Nazi-occupied France during the 1940's.
 - The Klipfish Code (Mary Cassanova)—Twelve-year-old Marit who was sent away to supposed safety and who longs to join her parents in the Norwegian Resistance, takes great risks for the cause of freedom as her resentment grows toward the Nazi's presence and her grandfather's refusal to oppose them.
 - Listening for Lions (Gloria Whelan)—Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.
 - Odd Man Out (Sarah Ellis)—Kip grabbed the flashlight from his pack and pushed his way through the wall head first, landing with a thump he soon discovers a binder on a shelf and so the mystery begins.
 - Rules (Cynthia Lord)—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 a young paraplegic. Newbery Honor.
 - The Wright 3 (Blue Balliett)—Superleuths Petra and Calder, along with Calder's old friend, Tommy, are cryptically drawn into another art mystery—this time involving a Frank Lloyd Wright architectural masterpiece, the Robie House.
 - Maniac Magee (Jerry Spinelli)—After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. Newbery Medal.
 - Loser (Jerry Spinelli)—Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.
 - Night of the Howling Dogs (Graham Salisbury)—An enormous earthquake and tsunami strike Halape, Hawaii in 1975, and test the survival skills of a Boy Scout troop and others who are camping on the beach at the time of the anomalies.
 - Way Down Deep (Ruth White)—Once a foundling in the town of Way Down Deep, Ruby Jane lives contentedly in the local boarding house until a family moves to town with information unlocking Ruby's unknown past.
 - The View from Saturday (E.L. Konigsburg)—Four students, each with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Newbery Medal.
 - Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie [Dear America series] (Kristiana Gregory)—In her diary, thirteen-year-old Hattie chronicles her family's arduous 1847 journey from Missouri to Oregon on the Oregon Trail.
 - Standing in the Light [Dear America series] (Mary Osborne)—Catherine Logan, a young girl from a Quaker family, reflects in her diary the experiences she has growing up in the late 1700's in the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania. Suddenly she is captured by the Lenape Indians!
 - The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung [Dear America series] (Laurence Yep)—Wong travels from China to join his uncle during the Gold Rush era.
 - Valley of the Moon: the Diary of Maria Rosalia DeMilagros [Dear America series] (Sherry Garland)—This is the 1845 diary of teenage Maria, servant to a wealthy Spanish family who took her in when her Indian mother died.
 - Get Along Little Dogies: the Chisholm Trail Diary of Hallie Lou Wells (Lisa Waller Rogers)—Hallie Lou Wells persuades her father to let her go in his place on a cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail in 1878.
 - The War Within: A Novel of the Civil War (Carol Matas)—In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah's family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah reexamines her views regarding slavery and the war.
 - Jackie's Wild Seattle (Will Hobbs)—Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother Cody spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.
 - Wild Man Island (Will Hobbs)—Fourteen-year-old Andy visits the Alaskan wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death and becomes stranded on Admiralty Island.
 - Kensuke's Kingdom (Michael Morpugo)—When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive—until he finds he's not alone.
 - The Ravenmaster's Secret (Elvira Woodruff)—The eleven-year-old son of the Ravenmaster at the Tower of London befriends a Jacobite rebel being held prisoner there. It is a riveting historic adventure.
 - Where I'd Like to Be (Frances O'Roark Dowell)—Maddie, Logan and other foster children at a Tennessee orphanage build a fort they can go to and call their own.
 - When My Name Was Keoko (Linda Sue Park)—With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during WWII, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.
 - Project Mulberry (Linda Sue Park)—While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more. Between the chapters are short dialogues between the author and main character about the writing of the book.
 - The Black Canary (Jane Louise Curry)—Twelve-year-old James has no interest in music in spite of the fact that both of his parents are musicians, but when he discovers a portal to the seventeenth century London, he finds that his great voice and the fact that he is biracial might serve him well.
 - The Mysterious Benedict Society (Trenton Lee Stewart)—After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected to go on 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.

- The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey (Trenton Lee Stewart)-Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.
- The Snow Goose (Paul Gallico)-A young girl and a crippled, isolated artist become friends during WWII, when they work together to nurse a wounded bird to health.