



June 2010

Dear Parents,

The Derryfield Middle School is pleased to provide you and your student(s) with an optional summer reading list. Many parents and students ask us for suggested reading for over the summer. This list includes a variety of books from all genres. It is also a list for our entire middle school, from sixth grade through eighth grade, from average readers to more advanced readers. Some of the novels on the list will be more appropriate for sixth graders, while others will be more appropriate for eighth graders. Similarly, some of the novels are more challenging and complex than others, some with themes about difficult issues.

We encourage you to use this list to help you start your reading search. For those of you who like to monitor your child's reading, we encourage you to research some of these titles a little more to make sure you are comfortable with them. We hope that you will read alongside your child(ren) this summer, as this provides some excellent opportunities for intellectual growth and development.

In an effort to be more environmentally conscious and allow space for more great books, we have decided not to provide you with a paper copy. This Middle School Summer Reading list will be accessible through the Derryfield web page (www.derryfield.org). Once you reach The Derryfield School web page, look for the "Academics" menu. Underneath that, you will find a link to the "Library" section, where you will be able to download and view the 2010 Middle School Summer Reading Recommendations.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for an enjoyable summer. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jipson
Librarian

“Young readers are asking for substance. They are asking for respect. They are asking for books that challenge, and confirm and console. They are asking for us to listen to their questions and to help them find their own answers.”

—Karen Hesse, Newbery acceptance speech, Horn Book, September/October 1998

**The Derryfield Middle School
Summer Reading List
Summer 2010**

Listed in no particular order, but with new additions at the beginning.

The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John Ritter. Penguin Group

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. Also try other books by this author.

The Canning Season by Polly Horvath. Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

Coraline by Neil Gaimon. HarperCollins Publishers

When a girl moves into an old house, she finds a door leading to a world that eerily mimics her own, but with sinister differences.

Bloody Jack (and sequels) by Louis Meyer. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

While disguised as a boy, Jacky Faber experiences adventure and romance on the high seas in this exciting page turner.

The True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex. Hyperion Books for Children

Twelve-year-old Gratuity ("Tip") Tucci has many adventures when the Boov declare Earth a colony, rename it "Smekland" (in honor of glorious Captain Smek), and force all Americans to relocate to Florida via rocketpod.

The Beacon Street Girls Series by Annie Bryant. Simon & Schuster

The escapades of a group of Boston girls.

Science Fair by Dave Berry and Ridley Pearson. Disney Press

Eighth grader Toby Harbinger finds evidence of cheating at an annual science fair, but no one wants to believe him when he points to the wealthiest students in the school. Instead teachers and administrators decide that Toby is a liar whose goal is to disparage those who always win the contest.

Warriors Series by Erin Hunter. HarperCollins Publishers

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by the powerful ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day.

Mistmantle Chronicles Series by M.I. McAllister. Hyperion/Miramax Kid

McAllister's (Ghost at the Window) brisk and colorful tale-part Redwall, part Wind in the Willows-introduces Urchin, an orphaned squirrel born on a night of riding stars and destined for great things (and potentially great danger) on the mystical, and mist-enshrouded island of Mistmantle.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series by Rick Riordan. Hyperion/Miramax Kid

Percy Jackson is a half-blood, son of a Greek god. Read about his adventures in a modern mythical world.

The Goose Girl (and sequels) by Shannon Hale. Bloomsbury USA

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

Also try other books by this author.

Airborn (and sequels) by Kenneth Opel. HarperCollins Publishers

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.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko. Penguin Group

Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she's denied admittance to the school, the stark setting of Alcatraz begins to unravel the tenuous coping mechanisms Moose's family has used for dealing with her disorder.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood has a tough year ahead of him. First of all, his teacher Mrs. Baker, keeps giving him the evil eye. Second of all, the class bully keeps threatening to do Number 167 (and you don't even want to know what Number 167 is). Third of all, his father keeps calling him the Son Who is Going to Inherit Hoodhood and Associates. But things are changing, and while reciting his favorite curses from Shakespeare's plays, Holling might just find the true meaning of his own story.

The Penderwicks (and sequel) by Jeanne Birdsall. Random House Children's Books

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Simon & Schuster

As Bethany approaches her thirteenth birthday, her parents act more oddly than usual. Her mother cries constantly, and her father barely lets Bethany out of his sight. Then one morning he hustles the entire family into the car, drives across several state lines — and leaves Bethany with an aunt she never knew existed. Bethany has no idea what's going on. She's worried her mom and dad are running from some kind of trouble, but she can't find out because they won't tell her where they are going. Bethany's only clue is a few words she overheard her father tell her aunt: "She doesn't know anything about Elizabeth."

H.I.V.E. by Mark Walden. Simon & Schuster

Otto Malpense may only be thirteen years old, but so far he has managed to run the orphanage where he lives, and he has come up with a plan clever enough to trick the most powerful man in the country. He is the perfect candidate to become the world's next supervillain. That is why he ends up at H.I.V.E., handpicked to become a member of the incoming class.

39 Clues Series by multiple authors. Scholastic, Inc.

The 39 Clues is Scholastic's groundbreaking new series, spanning 10 adrenaline-charged books, 355 trading cards, and an online game where readers play a part in the story and compete for over \$100,000 in prizes.

The Anybodies (and sequels) by N.E. Bode. HarperCollins Publishers

Fern discovers that she was swapped at birth and leaves her tragically dull parents for an unforgettable adventure with her true father, the Bone.

King of Shadows by Susan Cooper. Simon & Schuster

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Once Upon a Marigold by Jean Ferris. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

Fly by Night by Frances Hardinge. HarperCollins Publishers

Twelve-year-old Mosca Mye hasn't got much. Her cruel uncle keeps her locked up in his mill, and her only friend is her pet goose, Saracen, who'll bite anything that crosses his path. But she does have one small, rare thing: the ability to read. She doesn't know it yet, but in a world where books are dangerous things, this gift will change her life.

Only You Can Save Mankind (and sequels) by Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins Publishers

The alien spaceship is in his sights. His finger is on the Fire button. Johnny Maxwell is about to set the new high score on the computer game Only You Can Save Mankind. Suddenly: We wish to talk. Huh? We surrender. The aliens aren't supposed to surrender — they're supposed to die! Now what is Johnny going to do with a fleet of alien prisoners who know their rights under the international rules of war and are demanding safe-conduct?

Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo (and sequels) by Obert Skye. Simon & Schuster

Fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps (a.k.a. "Lev") lives a wretched life in Burnt Culvert, Oklahoma. But his life is about to change and his destiny be fulfilled as he learns about a secret gateway that bridges two worlds — the real world and Foo, a place created at the at the beginning of time in the folds of the mind that makes it possible for mankind to dream and hope, aspire and imagine. But Foo is in chaos, and three transplants from that dreamworld have been sent to retrieve Lev, who alone has the power to save Foo.

Skullduggery Pleasant (and sequel) by Derek Landy. HarperCollins Publishers

Meet Skullduggery Pleasant. Ace Detective, Snappy Dresser, Razor-tongued Wit, Crackerjack Sorcerer, and Walking, Talking, Fire-throwing Skeleton — as well as ally, protector, and mentor of Stephanie Edgley, a very unusual and darkly talented twelve-year-old. These two alone must defeat an all-consuming ancient evil. The end of the world? Over his dead body.

Looks by Madeleine George. Penguin Group

Meghan Ball is both the most visible and the most invisible person in school. Her massive size is impossible to ignore, yet people freely spill their secrets in front of her, perhaps because they think she isn't listening. But she is. Now her attention has turned to a new girl: Aimee Zorn, with her stick-figure body and defiant attitude. Meghan is determined to befriend Aimee, and when she ultimately succeeds, the two join forces to take down their shared enemy.

Life as We Knew It (and companion book) by Susan Beth Pfeffer. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

When Alex's parents disappear in the aftermath of tidal waves, he must care for his two younger sisters, even as Manhattan becomes a deadly wasteland, and food and aid dwindle.

Firestorm (and sequels) by David Klass. Square Fish

Jack Danielson is in a race against time to save the oceans and the future.

The Alchemyst (and sequels) by Michael Scott. Random House Children's Book
Nicholas Flamel lives. But only because he has been making the elixir of life for centuries. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the Book of Abraham the Mage. It's the most powerful book that has ever existed. In the wrong hands, it will destroy the world.

Fairest by Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins Publishers
Homely Aza, abandoned at birth, not only sings like a lark, she can throw her voice and mimic others, a skill she calls illusing. In a chance meeting, the treacherous new queen discovers Aza's talent and blackmails the girl into secretly providing her voice for all of the queen's public singing.

An Abundance of Katherines by John Green. Penguin Young Readers Group
When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson. Henry Holt & Co.
Sometime in the near future, Jenna Fox, 17, awakens from an 18-month-long coma following a devastating accident, her memory nearly blank.

The Schwa Was Here (and sequel) by Neal Shusterman. Penguin Group
Eighth-grade Brooklynite "Antsy" Bonano narrates this quirky tale of how a classmate, Charles Schwa, who seems to appear and disappear in thin air, acts as a catalyst among an unlikely crew.

The Hunger Games (and sequel) by Suzanne Collins. Scholastic, Inc.
In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. Little, Brown Young Readers
Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis. Scholastic, Inc.
Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known in his hometown as the boy who made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass. But things change when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South.

The Traitor's Gate by Avi. Simon & Schuster Children's
John Huffam is sure the tall man's beard is false. He's sure of little else in November 1849, the year he is fourteen, the year his father is sentenced to London's Whitecross Street Prison. Maybe the man following John—who claims to be one Inspector Copperfield—can explain why. What John learns on his own is that there's a traitor on the loose, somewhere. And he must uncover the villain—no matter who it might be.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. Little, Brown & Co.
Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete.

Dragon's Keep by Janet Lee Carey. Harcourt

By learning to accept the dragon claw that mars her hand, a princess fulfills her destiny and saves her country from war.

Epic and Saga by Connor Kostick. Penguin Group (USA)

Generations ago, violence was banned on New Earth. Society is governed and conflicts are resolved in the arena of a fantasy computer game, Epic. Everyone plays. If you win, you have the chance to go to university, get more supplies for your community, and fulfill your dreams; if you lose, your life both in and out of the game is worth nothing. Follow Erik as he dares to subvert the rules of Epic.

Evil Genius (and sequel) by Catherine Jinks. Harcourt

Meet Cadel Piggott, a seven-year-old Australian boy with an incredible mind and a proclivity toward mischief. Following a string of disasters, which Cadel engineers (e.g., hacking into the city's power grid), his desperate adoptive parents take him to a psychologist, Dr. Thaddeus Roth. But instead of refocusing Cadel on more positive activities, Dr. Roth encourages the boy to develop increasingly destructive plans, such as orchestrating massive traffic jams and manipulating his classmates' emotions so that they turn on one another.

Beastly by Alex Flinn. HarperCollins Publishers

Kyle Kingsbury is a gorgeous high school freshman, spoiled rotten. When Kyle humiliates a girl at school, she transforms him into a horrific-looking creature. Kyle's only hope for breaking the spell lies in finding true love. This is a lighthearted and contemporary twist on Beauty and the Beast

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio by Lloyd Alexander. Henry Holt & Co., Inc.

A beautiful Kirkassi girl, cold-eyed villains and smiling killers, a bazaar merchant peddling slightly used dreams - could any young adventurer ask for more? Not Carlo Chuchio, who is seeking hidden treasure on the legendary Road of Golden Dreams.

Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan. HarperCollins Publishers

Meet Marley, a yellow furball of a puppy who quickly grows into a large, rowdy Labrador retriever. With an appetite for nearly anything he can get his mouth around, including couches and fine jewelry, Marley is always getting into trouble. Some may say he's the world's worst dog. But those who know and love Marley accept him as a dog like no other.

Or try the adult version, *Marley & Me*.

Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood by Ibtisam Barakat. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux

In this groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat captures what it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war. With candor and courage, she stitches together memories of her childhood.

Freak Show by James St. James. Penguin Young Readers Group

Billy Bloom is gay, but it's mostly theoretical, as he hasn't had much experience. When he has to move to Florida, he can't believe his bad luck. His new school is a mix of Bible Belles, Aberzombies, and Football Heroes, none of which are exactly his type. Billy's efforts to fit in and stand out at the same time are both hilarious and heartrending.

Stargirl and Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli. Random House Children's Books

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school.

Also try *Loser* by the same author.

Peak by Roland Smith. Harcourt Children's Books

The emotional, tension-filled story of a fourteen-year-old boy's attempt to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Freak by Marcella Pixley. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux

Read about an unforgettable heroine, an outsider who dares to confront the rigid conformity of junior high, and in the process manages not only to save herself but to inspire and transform others. Teased and taunted in school, Miriam is pushed toward breaking, until, in a gripping climax, she finds the inner strength to prove she's a force to be reckoned with.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, Inc.

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

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen. Random House Children's Books

A 12-year-old receives an unexpected birthday present from his grandmother: his late grandfather's riding lawn mower. Since his family's lawn is postage-stamp size with grass that "never seemed to grow enough to need mowing," he's initially unsure what to do with the machine. But he soon realizes that he can earn money mowing neighbors' lawns—perhaps even enough to buy a new inner tube for his bike.

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid (and sequels) by Jeff Kinney. Amulet Books

It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary.

Shark Girl by Kelly Bingham. Candlewick Press

On a sunny day in June, at the beach with her mom and brother, fifteen-year-old Jane Arrowood went for a swim. And then everything - absolutely everything - changed. Now she's counting down the days until she returns to school with her fake arm, where she knows kids will whisper, "That's her - that's Shark Girl," as she passes. In the meantime there are only questions.

Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah. Scholastic, Inc.

Sixteen-year-old Amal makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time and everyone has a reaction. But she stands by her decision to embrace her faith and all that it is, even if it does make her a little different from everyone else. Can she handle the taunts of "nappy head," the prejudice of her classmates, and still attract the cutest boy in school?

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin. Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?

Uglies (and sequels) by Scott Westerfeld. Simon & Schuster Trade

Scott Westerfeld's UGLIES trilogy follows the high-tech adventures of Tally Youngblood. As an ugly, then a pretty, and finally a special, Tally works to take down a society created to function with perfect-looking people who never have a chance to think for themselves.

Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You by Hanna Jansen. Carolrhoda Books

The fictionalized account of a girl who survives the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

Cirque du Freak Series by Darren Shan. Little, Brown

Cirque du Freak is the frightening saga of a young boy whose visit to a mysterious freak show leads him on a journey into a dark world of vampires.

Heat by Mike Lupica. Philomel

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Flipped by Wendelin van Draanen. Knopf Books for Young Readers

Juli Baker devoutly believes in three things: the sanctity of trees, the wholesomeness of the eggs she collects from her backyard flock of chickens, and that someday she will kiss Bryce Loski. Unfortunately, Bryce has never felt the same. Frankly, he thinks Juli Baker is a little weird--after all, what kind of freak raises chickens and sits in trees for fun? Then, in eighth grade, everything changes.

Alabama Moon by Watt Key. Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Moon has spent most of his life in a camouflaged shelter in the forest with his father, a Vietnam veteran who distrusts people and the government. His life suddenly changes when the land is sold to a lawyer and his father dies. Moon is turned over to the local boys' home but Moon escapes and is chased by the constable, an emotionally unstable bully who becomes obsessed with capturing him. Much of the story revolves around multiple chases, captures, and escapes.

Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce. HarperCollins

Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make their own garage into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town with valuable painting that they consider turning to crime.

Under the Baseball Moon by John H. Ritter. Philomel

Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player.

Twilight (and sequels) by Stephenie Meyer. Little, Brown, & Co.

When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

The Water Mirror (and sequels) by Kai Meyer. Margaret K. McElderry Books.

In a place similar to Venice, Italy, two teenaged orphans, apprenticed to a maker of magic mirrors, begin to realize that their fates are tied to the magical protector known as the Flowing Queen and to the ruler of Hell, respectively.

The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson

Read about the adventures of a group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents.

The Misfits by James Howe. Aladdin

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names. Also try *Totally Joe* by the same author.

Feed by M. T. Anderson. Candlewick

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who wants to control herself.

Dragon's Breath (and others) by E.D. Baker. St. Martin's Press

Having recovered their human shape, Emerald and Eadric try to help Aunt Grassina find the special objects needed to break the spell that turned Grassina's true love, Haywood, into an otter.

Switchers (and sequels) by Kate Thompson. Currently not published. Look for library copies.

Tess, who has the ability to change into animal form, must choose between good and evil as she tries to decide whether to "Switch" into a phoenix or a vampire for the rest of time.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. HarperCollins

The American classic about a young girl's coming of age at the turn of the century.

A Great and Terrible Beauty (and sequels) by Libba Bray. Bantam Doubleday Dell

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

The Two Princesses of Bamarre by Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins

With her adventurous sister, Meryl, suffering from the Grey death meek and timid Princess Addie sets out to find a cure.

All Rivers Flow to the Sea by Alison McGhee. Candlewick Press

When a car accident leaves a teenage girl in a coma, her surviving sister struggles with grief and guilt as she faces the inevitability of moving on -- and letting go. Heart-rending, honest, and ultimately hopeful, this first young adult novel from the acclaimed author of SHADOW BABY and SNAP is the poetically told story of a teenager overwhelmed by trauma and loss yet steadied by loyal friendships and, finally, the solace of first love.

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling. Scholastic

Follow Harry Potter in his adventures at Hogwarts.

The Eye of the World (The Wheel of Time Series) by Robert Jordan. Tor

Three young friends, Rand, Matt and Perrin, are attacked by subhuman monsters, bestial Trollocs. With the help of Lady Moiraine, an Aes Sedai, a woman who can wield the One Power and her Warder, Lan, the young boys flee their homeland. But they are pursued relentlessly by the forces of the evil Dark One-- and begin an adventure across an imaginative, fantastical world of strange wonders and deadly horror-- where goodness stands on the brink of destruction--for the Wheel of Time is weaving a web in the pattern of ages, a web to entangle the world.

Define "Normal" by Julie Anne Peters. Little, Brown Young Readers

When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

Breath by Donna Jo Napoli. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

In this re-imagining of the Pied Piper tale, a boy afflicted with cystic fibrosis in the Middle Ages is an outcast. When the townsfolk of Hameln are affected by a grain mold, he survives an outbreak of madness, followed by a plague of rats.

Peaches (and sequel) by Jodi Lynn Anderson. HarperCollins Children

In a *Ya-Ya Sisterhood* for teens, *Peaches* combines three unforgettable heroines who have nothing in common but the troubles that have gotten them sentenced to a summer of peach picking at a Georgia orchard.

Half Magic (and sequels) by Edgar Eager. Harcourt Children's Books

Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic

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

Also try other books by this author.

Artemis Fowl Series by Eoin Colfer. Hyperion

Begin at the beginning and follow the adventures of a twelve-year-old evil genius as he tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson. Simon & Schuster

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.

The Wreckers (and sequels) by Iain Lawrence. Random House Children's Books

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded.

Eragon (and sequels) by Christopher Paolini. Random House Children's Books

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Under a War Torn Sky by Laura M. Elliott. Hyperion

After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, nineteen-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff. Random House Children's books

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently. (Newbery Honor)

The Warriors by Joseph Bruchac. Darby Creek

Jake Forrest enjoys playing lacrosse on the Algonquin Indian reservation where he lives. He understands the way the game ties into his people's view of the world and their history. After his mother gets a job as an attorney, however, and enrolls Jake in a fancy Washington, D.C., boarding school, Jake finds his world disrupted.

Also try other books by this author.

This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen. Penguin

Raised by a mother who's had five husbands, eighteen-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician.

Also try other books by this author.

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes. HarperCollins

A journal entry of a classmate killed in an accident sends 12-year-old Martha on an unintended pilgrimage. (Newbery Honor)

Chasing Vermeer (and sequels) by Blue Balliett. Scholastic

When strange and seemingly unrelated events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (and sequels) by Dyan Sheldon. Candlewick Press

Mary Elizabeth Cep (or Lola, as she prefers to be called) longs to be in the spotlight. But when she moves to New Jersey with her family and becomes a student at Dellwood "Deadwood" High, Lola finds the role of resident drama queen already filled, by the Born-to-Win, Born-to-Run-Everything Carla Santini.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare. Bantam Doubleday Dell

In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft. (Newbery Award)

The Last Goodie by Stephen Schwandt. Free Spirit

Haunted by the still unsolved abduction of his babysitter twelve years before, high-school senior and track star, Marty Oliver, stumbles on a new lead in the case and finds himself involved in a dangerous adventure.

The Pendragon Series by D. J. McHale. Simon & Schuster

Bobby Pendragon is a Traveler, and he and others like him are in a battle to save all of time and space and its worlds from the dominion of the evil Saint Dane.

River to the Journey Sea by Eva Ibbotson. Penguin

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.

Also try *The Star of Kazan* (and other books) by the same author.

The Last Shot: a Final Four Mystery by John Feinstein. Random House Children's Books

When Stevie Thomas wins a sports writing contest and gets to cover the Final Four college basketball championship in New Orleans, he knows it's going to be the most unbelievable weekend of his life. And unbelievable it is, but in unexpected ways.

Peter and the Starcatchers (and sequels) by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson. Disney Press

In an evocative and fast-paced adventure on the high seas and on a faraway island, an orphan boy named Peter and his mysterious new friend, Molly, overcome bands of pirates and thieves in their quest to keep a fantastical secret safe and save the world from evil.

Drowning Anna by Sue Mayfield. Hyperion

When Anna Goldsmith moves from her posh city school to a small town, everyone's gossiping. What starts as innocent teasing leads to mean remarks, and even violence, toward frightened Anna. But Hayley's cunning leaves a deeper impression on Anna than anyone, even her best friend Melanie, could have ever anticipated.

The Color of Magic by Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins

On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle, a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. There's an avaricious but inept wizard, a naive tourist whose luggage moves on hundreds of dear little legs, dragons who only exist if you believe in them, and of course THE EDGE of the planet...

Also try other books by this author.

Deathwatch by Robb White. Dell

An exciting novel of suspense, based on a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon who believes that anything can be had for a price.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier. Laurel-Leaf

Jerry Renault dares to disturb his universe by refusing to carry out the assignment he has been given by the malevolent Archie Costello and the Vigils.

Killing Mr. Griffin by Lois Duncan. Laurel-Leaf

A group of high school students kidnaps a strict teacher to get even with him—but they don't know about his weak heart.

The Last Mission by Harry Mazer. Laurel-Leaf

Jack enlists in the Air Force at fifteen to get back at Hitler, but the reality of being a gunner on bombing raids is not what he expected.

Homecoming (and sequels) by Cynthia Voigt. Fawcett

After their unstable mother abandons them in the middle of a trip, stout-hearted Dicey, 13, leads her brothers and sister on a long walk to find a home with their feisty grandmother.

The Goats by Brock Cole. Farrar Straus

Stripped naked by fellow campers and left on a deserted island for a joke, wimpy Howie and Laura grow in self-respect as they figure out how to survive humiliation, natural dangers, and each other.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. Aladdin

When the small plane taking him to his divorced father crashes, Brian, the only survivor, is stranded in the Canadian wilderness and must work out his own survival.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers. Scholastic

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry's stint in Vietnam brings home to him the agony and futility of war as he learns to kill and watches his comrades die.

Weetzie Bat by Francesca Lia Block. HarperTrophy

Also in Dangerous Angels. Harper, 1998.

Lanky lizards! Punk teens Weetzie and Dirk search for love in a modern fairy tale that is funny, moving, and unlike any book you've read before.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli. HarperTrophy

Young Jeffrey Magee comes out of nowhere to become a legend as he brings the warring racial factions of the town to Two Mills together. (Newbery Award)

Downriver by Will Hobbs. Dell

Fifteen-year-old Jesse and other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival team abandon their adult leader, steal his van and rafts, and run the dangerous white waters of the Grand Canyon.

Also try other books by this author.

Make Lemonade (and sequels) by Virginia Euer Wolff. Point

A gutsy and exquisitely touching verse novel in which slovenly Jolly, 17, hires sensible La Vaughn, 14, to help her with her two little kids by different fathers.

There's a Girl in My Hammerlock by Jerry Spinelli. Simon & Schuster

Did Marie join the boys' wrestling team for herself or to win Eric?

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman. HarperTrophy
The hilarious journal of a young girl recreates the Middle Ages, fleas and all.
Also try other books by this author.

Tomorrow: When the War Began (and sequels) by John Marsden. Houghton Mifflin
When a band of teenage friends returns from a wilderness camping trip to find their town—and their country—in the hands of invaders, they begin their own guerrilla war.
If you like this series, check out *While I Live (The Ellie Chronicles)*.

Holes (and sequel) by Louis Sachar. Farrar
There is no lake at Camp Green Lake, but why does the evil-tempered woman who is the warden make Stanley Yelnats and his fellow prisoners dig deep holes in it every day? (National Book Award and Newbery Award)

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer. Putnam
Jenna Boller, a tall, gawky girl who is a whiz at selling shoes, and gruff Mrs. Madeleine Gladstone, “the supremely aged president of Gladstone’s Shoes,” learn mutual respect and affection on a long sales trip, in a story full of wisdom, grace, and laughs.
Try other Joan Bauer books as well: *Sticks*; *Stand Tall*; *Hope Was Here* (Newbery Honor); *Thwonk*; *Backwater*; and *Squashed*.

Chasing Redbird by Sharon Creech. HarperCollins
Zinny, intrigued with the history of an old trail, sets out to restore it and learns her family’s hidden secrets.
Also try other books by this author.

Ruby in the Smoke (and sequels) by Philip Pullman. Knopf
The death of her father and the theft of a priceless ruby are twin mysteries which challenge sixteen-year-old Sally Lockhart in Victorian England.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer. Simon Pulse
To most people around him, Matt is not a boy, but a beast. A room full of chicken litter with roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. But for El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium -- a strip of poppy fields lying between the U.S. and what was once called Mexico - - Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself for Matt *is* himself. They share identical DNA.
Try other Nancy Farmer books as well: *Sea of Trolls* and *The Land of Silver Apples*.

Son of the Mob (and sequel) by Gordon Korman. Hyperion Press
Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.
Also try other books by this author.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (and sequels) by Ann Brashares. Delacorte
During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their different summer experiences.

The Shakespeare Stealer (and sequels) by Gary Blackwood. Puffin
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.

Inkheart (and sequels) by Cornelia Funke. Chicken House

Meggie lives a quiet life alone with her father, a bookbinder. But her father has a deep secret--he possesses an extraordinary magical power. One day a mysterious stranger arrives who seems linked to her father's past. Who is this sinister character and what does he want? Suddenly Meggie is involved in a breathless game of escape and intrigue as her father's life is put in danger. Will she be able to save him in time?

Also try *The Thief Lord* by the same author.

The Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz. Puffin

Spy thrillers starring fourteen year old Alex Rider.

Things Not Seen (and sequels) by Andrew Clements. Puffin

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.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen. Knopf

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Also try *Flush* and *Scat* by the same author.

A Wrinkle in Time (and sequels) by Madeleine L'Engle. Yearling

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. (Newbery Award)

The Dark Is Rising Series by Susan Cooper. Aladdin

Novels about a world where the conflict between good and evil reaches epic proportions.

The Chronicles of Prydain Series by Lloyd Alexander. Yearling

The adventures of Taran the Assistant Pig-keeper and his quest to become a hero.

The Hero and the Crown (and sequel) by Robin McKinley. Ace

Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the Blue Sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

Among the Hidden (and sequels) by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Aladdin

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 another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging (and sequels) by Louise Rennison. HarperCollins

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi. HarperTrophy

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

Sabriel (and sequels) by Garth Nix. HarperTrophy

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

The Best YA Fantasy Novels of All Time—So Far (in chronological order)

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien. Houghton Mifflin. Ballantine boxed set.

(The Hobbit. 1937)

The Fellowship of the Ring.

The Two Towers.

The Return of the King.

The seminal work which established the pattern of heroic fantasy and inspired the blossoming of the genre.

The Earthsea Trilogy by Ursula LeGuin. Bantam

A Wizard of Earthsea

The Tombs of Atuan

The Farthest Shore

Tehanu

Read the whole Earthsea cycle—a tale about a reckless, awkward boy named Sparrowhawk who becomes a wizard's apprentice after the wizard reveals Sparrowhawk's true name. The boy comes to realize that his fate may be far more important than he ever dreamed possible.

House of Stairs by William Sleator. Puffin

Five very different teenagers wake up in a place that is nothing but interlocking flights of stairs, where a machine gives them food pellets in a puzzling response pattern. How will they react to the situation—and to each other—when they find out that cruelty is what the machine rewards?

Watership Down by Richard Adams. Avon

A band of brave rabbits in search of a new warren becomes a metaphor for the dynamics of leadership and power.

Z for Zachariah by Robert O'Brien. Aladdin

After a nuclear holocaust, a breathless cat and mouse game results when the last girl on earth finds out that the last man wants to make her his slave.

The Dragonriders of Pern Series by Anne McCaffrey. Bantam

Adventures in a pseudo-Medieval world where people live in isolated communities centered on the Harper, or tradition singer, bond with their personal dragons and, periodically, must hide from a poisonous rain called Thread.

Dragonsong

Dragonsinger

Dragondrums

The Sword of Shannara by Terry Brooks. Ballantine

In a book which confirmed Tolkien's pattern of heroic fantasy, the half-elf Shea and his brother flee their home of Shady Vale pursued by the skull bearer to find the magic world of Shannara and face a final confrontation with the Lord of Evil.

Beauty by Robin McKinley. Harper

Beauty and the Beast from a contemporary psychological perspective, a book which originated the many modern retellings of folk and fairy tales.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams. Ballantine

The hilarious journey of Arthur Dent and his friend Ford Prefect, a space hitchhiker, who escape from Earth seconds before it is demolished and travel to a variety of galactic civilizations while gathering information for a guidebook.

Interstellar Pig by William Sleator. Puffin

A boy plays an addictive board game with his strange neighbors, where the object is to control the “piggy”—which quite literally represents the fate of the world.

Ender’s Game (and sequels) by Orson Scott Card. Tor

Stun guns and space ships are featured in the education of a boy who is being trained at a space school to be the leader who will save the world from the threat of the aliens they call the Buggers.

Redwall (and sequels) by Brian Jacques. Ace

The first in a number of volumes of heroic animal fantasy—like *Wind in the Willows*—set in the Middle Ages with lots of graphic violence.

The Silver Kiss by Annette Curtis Klause. Laurel-Leaf

A sad and romantic teen love story in which one of the parties just happens to be a vampire.

The Giver (and sequels) by Lois Lowry. Laurel-Leaf

In a seemingly perfect society, Jonas is chosen to be trained by the old man he calls The Giver to be the community’s official memory—and he begins to understand the dreadful price they have paid for a serene and pleasant life.

Also try other books by this author.

His Dark Materials Series by Phillip Pullman. Knopf

The most innovative fantasy trilogy since *Lord of the Rings* tells of two young people’s fearful quest with the canal people called Gyptians, armored polar bears, and witches to do battle for a vast cause focusing on a city glimpsed in the Northern Lights.

The Golden Compass

The Subtle Knife

The Amber Spyglass

Blood and Chocolate by Annette Curtis Klause. Bantam

When Vivian, a member of a werewolf pack, falls in love with a human boy, she longs to share her secret with him. He would understand, wouldn’t he?

Skellig by David Almond. Delacorte

Who is this strange being Michael has found lying in the garage—owl-man, bird-creature, the Angel of Death?

Lost Years of Merlin (and sequels) by T. A. Barron. Philomel

Emrys, a young boy washed ashore on the coast of Wales with no memory, must return to the mythical island of his birth to discover his true parentage and the name that is his destiny, “Merlin.”

Dealing with Dragons (and sequels) by Patricia C. Wrede. Harcourt

The Princess Cimorene has never met anyone (or anything) like the dragon Kazul. But then, she’s never met a witch, a jinn, a death-dealing talking bird, or a stone prince either. The bored princess has run away from her very proper royal family looking for some excitement--she’s about to find it.

“Good literature makes you think, “Wow, that’s just the way I feel!”
“Great literature makes you think, “Wow, I never thought of that before!”
—Anonymous