



Summer Reads for **MIDDLE SCHOOL** Students
 Recommended books for students entering **sixth through eighth grades.**

Books				
Title	Author	Summary	Copyright	Lexile Level
Anya's Ghost	Vera Brosgol	Anya, embarrassed by her Russian immigrant family and self-conscious about her body, has given up on fitting in at school, but falling down a well and making friends with the ghost there just may be worse.	2011	GN 300L
The Berlin Boxing Club	Robert Sharenow	In 1936 Berlin, fourteen-year-old Karl Stern, considered Jewish despite a non-religious upbringing, learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust.	2011	880L
Inside Out and Back Again	Thanhha Lai	Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.	2011	800L
Okay for Now	Gary Schmidt	14 year old Doug moves to a new town and immediately has to overcome the stigma of having a delinquent brother and abusive father. With help from the local library and a savvy classmate, he navigates through the difficulties that come his way and finds a way to build a positive reputation and place in the community.	2011	850L
Rapunzel's Revenge	Nathan and Shannon Hale	Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls. Rapunzel dreams of a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. She climbs over the wall and finds out the truth. Her real mother, Kate, is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. In this Old West retelling, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso and to take on outlaws--including Gothel.	2008	GN 500L
Ida B: And her Plans to Maximize Fun...	Katherine Hannigan	In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and she must attend public school.	2006	970L
The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)	Barbara Kerley	Thirteen-year-old Susy Clemens wants the world to know that her papa, Mark Twain, is more than just a humorist and sets out to write a comprehensive biography of the American icon.	2010	AD 1090L
Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories	Richard Peck	A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.	2004	750L



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<u>Blizzard's Wake</u>	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	In March of 1941, when a severe blizzard suddenly hits Bismarck, North Dakota, a girl trying to save her stranded father and brother inadvertently helps the man who killed her mother four years before.	2004	910L
<u>Kira-Kira</u>	Cynthia Kadohata	Records the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.	2006	740L
<u>Savvy</u>	Ingrid Law	Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.	2010	1070L
Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem	Rosalyn Schanzer	A non-fiction account of the events surrounding the Salem Witch Trials.	2011	NC 1190L
A Boy and his Bot	Daniel H. Wilson	When timid young Code falls down a hole into Mekhos, where everything is made of metal and circuitry, he must obtain the legendary Robonomicon from evil Immortals in order to save the robots of this subterranean world and return home.	2012	830L
The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister	Kami Kinard	Eighth-grader Kara McAllister chronicles her efforts when she tries to use the scientific method to transform her social blunders into romantic victories.	2012	810L
Corsets & Clockwork: 13 Steampunk Romances	Various Authors	This collection features some of the hottest writers in the teen genre, including: Ann Aguirre, Jaclyn Dolamore, Tessa Gratton, Frewin Jones, Caitlin Kittredge, Adrienne Kress, Lesley Livingston, Dru Pagliassotti, Dia Reeves, Michael Scott, Maria V. Snyder, Tiffany Trent, and Kiersten White who provide dark, urban fantasies that come to life in the newest collection of Steampunk stories, <i>Corsets & Clockwork</i> .	2011	varies
Flawless	Lara Chapman	In this modern take on the Cyrano story, brilliant and witty high school student Sarah Burke, who is cursed with an enormous nose, helps her beautiful best friend try to win the heart of a handsome and smart new student, even though Sarah wants him for herself.	2011	HL 720L



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The Truth about Sparrows	Marian Hale	Twelve-year-old Sadie promises that she will always be Wilma's best friend when their families leave drought-stricken Missouri in 1933. But once in Texas, Sadie learns that she must try to make a new home--and new friends, too.	2004	820L
Lockdown	Walter Dean Myers	Reese wants to get out of juvie and has a chance when he's picked for a work program at a senior citizens' home. But it's not easy when people judge you because of a label and you need to protect your friend from getting jumped without getting into trouble yourself.	2010	730L
Little Blog on the Prairie	Cathleen Davitt Bell	Thirteen-year-old Genevieve's summer at a frontier family history camp in Laramie, Wyoming, with her parents and brother is filled with surprises, which she reports to friends back home on the cell phone she sneaked in, and which they turn into a blog.	2010	820L
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.	2006	1000L
After Ever After	Jordan Sonnenblick	Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.	2010	820L
<u>The Chocolate War</u>	Robert Cormier	A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.	2004	820L



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Popular Series				
Title	Author	Summary	Copyright	Lexile Range
<u>Books of Elsewhere: The Shadows</u>	Jacqueline West	When eleven-year-old Olive and her distracted parents move into an old Victorian mansion, Olive finds herself ensnared in a dark plan involving some mysterious paintings, a trapped and angry nine-year-old boy, and three talking cats.	2011	770-870L
<u>A Series of Unfortunate Events</u>	Lemony Snicket	After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.	1999-2006	1000-1370L
<u>Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow</u>	James Rollins	Connecticut middle-schooler Jake and his older sister Kady are transported by a Mayan artifact to a strange world inhabited by a mix of people from long-lost civilizations who are threatened by prehistoric creatures and an evil alchemist, the Skull King.	2009	680-700L
<u>Dark is Rising Series: Over Sea, Under Stone</u>	Susan Cooper	Three siblings on vacation in Cornwall find an ancient manuscript which sends them on a dangerous quest that entraps them in the eternal battle between the forces of the Light and the Dark.	2007	570-1090L
<u>Hound of Rowan</u>	Henry Neff	After glimpsing a hint of his destiny in a mysterious tapestry, twelve-year-old Max McDaniels becomes a student at Rowan Academy, where he trains in "mystics and combat" in preparation for war with an ancient enemy that has been kidnapping children like him.	2008	810-910L
<u>Hero and the Crown</u>	Robin McKinley	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.	2007	900-1200L
<u>Artemis Fowl</u>	Eoin Colfer	When demons begin appearing on Earth unpredictably, foreshadowing a cataclysmic breakdown of their magic, Artemis and his friends face a new foe--a twelve-year-old girl whose intellect just might match Artemis's own--as they try to prevent catastrophe.	2002	600-740L
<u>Books of Umber: Happenstance Found</u>	P.W. Catanese	A boy awakens, blindfolded, with no memory of even his name, but soon meets Lord Umber, an adventurer and inventor, who calls him Happenstance and tells him that he has a very important destiny--and a powerful enemy.	2009	700-740L
<u>Penderwicks on Gardam Street</u>	Jeanne Birdsall	The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.	2010	800-940L



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<i>Favorite Authors</i>				
Gary Soto	<u>R.L. Stine</u>	<u>Christopher Paolini</u>	<u>Gary Paulsen</u>	<u>Mike Lupica</u>
<u>Eoin Colfer</u>	<u>Meg Cabot</u>	<u>Mitali Perkins</u>	<u>Margaret Peterson Haddix</u>	<u>Jerry Spinelli</u>

<i>Favorite Websites</i>	
<u>Teen Reads</u> – book reviews, games, contests, polls, and information about new and popular books and series.	<u>http://www.teenreads.com/</u>
<u>Guys Read</u> – books, magazines, and other information organized by guys for guys about guy stuff and things guys like.	<u>http://www.guysread.com/</u>
<u>San Antonio Public Library</u> – the public library hosts events all summer long and has numerous books for teens.	<u>http://www.mysapl.org/</u>