

READING LIST

Levels 7 and 8

2008-2009

Adler, C.S.: *Ghost Brother*

Wally has to come to terms with the accidental death of his older brother. He fails miserably when he attempts to do things at which his brother excelled.

Alcott, Louisa May: *Little Women*

The March girls – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy manage to lead interesting lives despite their father's absence and the family's lack of money. Using her own experience, Louisa May Alcott writes one of the first great family stories.

Asimov, Isaac: *Fantastic Voyage*

Four men and one woman journey into the living body of a man to save his life. They are reduced to microscopic size and board a miniaturized sub to travel to a blood clot in the brain of scientist Benes.

Austen, Jane: *Pride and Prejudice*

Some wealthy, young and very eligible bachelors move into the neighborhood of five pretty, unmarried sisters. This story takes place in 18th century England and tells the tale of courtship, love, and marriage.

Avi: *The Man Who Was Poe*

It is night and Edmund is all alone. His mother, sister, and aunt have disappeared. Who can he turn to for help?

Avi: *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

In 1832, Charlotte boards the brig, *Seahawk*. Charlotte discovers that she is alone among a dozen rough and crude crewmen. She is the only passenger from England to the United States.

Bauer, Marion Dane: *On My Honor*

Promises are hard to keep, but this time breaking a promise resulted in the death of a best friend.

Bellairs, John: *The Vengeance of the Witch Finder*

Lewis and his uncle are in England visiting their cousin. Lewis accidentally unleashes the ghost of Malachiah Pruitt. Can Lewis fight the maniacal wizard, or will all of the Barnavelts die?

Blos, Joan W.: *A Gathering of Days*

A story, written as a journal, of a young girl's life in New England after the death of her mother.

Boom, Corrie ten: *The Hiding Place*

A true story of Corrie ten Boom and her family during the Nazi invasion and occupation of Holland. They join the Dutch Underground, hiding Jewish people in their home and aiding their escape from the Nazi's.

Bronte, Charlotte: *Jane Eyre*

A story of a girl growing up and all the disappointments and the triumphs she experiences. This is truly a classic.

Bunting, Eve: *Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island*

When fourteen-year-old Danny incurs the wrath of a local street gang, he flees in desperation to Alcatraz Island hoping to blend in with the sightseers and lose the pursuing gang. Instead he is trapped there for the night.

Bunting, Eve: *Spying on Miss Muller*

Jessie and her best friends in boarding school have always loved their teacher, Miss Muller, who is half-German and half-Irish. But now their country, Ireland, is at war with Germany. Can they trust Miss Muller, or is she really a spy?

Card, Orson Scott: *The Ender's Game*

Clark, Clara Gillow: *Nellie Bishop*

Nellie's mother is very mean and plans to sell Nellie to any man to marry. Nellie wants no part of this. Would you?

Clements, Andrew: *The Landry News*

Cara Landry is a new kid in school and has a teacher that just likes to read the newspaper and drink coffee. Cara decides to start her own newspaper in class- *The Landry News*. Is this going to cause trouble for her teacher?

Colfer, Eoin: *Artemis Fowl, The Arctic Incident*

Collier, James L. and Christopher: *Jump Ship to Freedom*

This is an award winning historical trilogy that describes the troubles and triumphs in the Black experience during the post-Revolutionary War period. A courageous young slave, Daniel Arabus, is trying to recover money earned by his father. Money that will buy freedom for his mother and himself.

Collier, James L. and Christopher: *War Comes to Willy Freeman*

This story portrays the struggles of a young, free, Black girl who disguises herself as a boy while she searches for her mother who has been captured by the British.

Collier, James L. and Christopher: *The Winter Hero*

Justin Conkey was too young to fight in the Revolutionary War, but now it's 1787 and Justin is fourteen. There's a new war raging called Shay's Rebellion. Justin is ready to fight and wants to be a hero. Will he be a hero or run away? (By the authors of *My Brother Sam is Dead*.)

Crane, Stephen: *The Red Badge of Courage*

A story of a young boy named Henry who goes to fight in the Civil War. In his first battle, will he run or fight? Story of courage, fear, conflict and death.

Creech, Sharon: *Walk Two Moons*

Salmanca Tree Hiddle, proud of her country roots and the "Indianness" in her blood, travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents.

Cross, Gillian: *Pictures in the Dark*

Charlie is a student photographer. One night he takes the oddest picture.

Curtis: *Bud, Not Buddy*

Struggling to find his own identity, Bud, Not Buddy, must learn to survive after facing so many problems. Will he ever find his father?

Dahl, Michael: *The Worm Tunnel*

Finnegan Zwake and his Uncle Stoppard are on an archaeological dig in Aguluar. Digging too deeply can stir up trouble, not to mention murder.

DiCamillo, Katie: *The Tiger Rising*

Dickens, Charles: *A Tale of Two Cities*

This great novel tells of the terror and suffering of a cast of characters during the French Revolution. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Dickens, Charles: *Great Expectations*

Truly a classic. This is the story of Pip, raised by his cranky old sister and her kind and loyal husband. Pip has a plain, working life until one day he is summoned to the home of the rich, eccentric Mrs. Havisham.

Farmer, Nancy: *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*

It is 2194 in Zimbabwe. General Matsika's three children sneak out of their house to go on an adventure. As soon as they reach town they are in trouble—they're kidnapped! The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm are hired to find General Matsika's children.

Farmer, Nancy: *A Girl Named Disaster*

Nhamo's mom has died and she is only 12. Her aunts want her to marry this very cruel man. She doesn't want to and runs away to find her father. She travels throughout Africa looking for him. Does she live long enough to find him?

Fox, Paula: *The Slave Dancer*

Jessie, a young boy, is kidnapped and forced to play his fife on a slave ship. Horrors are faced each day on board the *Moonlight*.

Gaines, Ernest J.: *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman*

This is a powerful novel of one women's courageous battle for freedom.

George, Jean: *My Side of the Mountain*

City-bred Sam Gribble describes his year surviving as a runaway in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

Giff, Patricia Reilly: *Nory Ryan's Song*

Historical fiction of the hard times in Ireland faced by a young girl during the potato famine. Great story!

Giff, Patricia Reilly: *Pictures of Hollis Woods*

Gunther, John: *Death Be Not Proud*

This is a deeply moving book, written by the father of an intelligent boy's fight for life after discovering a brain tumor.

Hamilton, Virginia: *The House of Dies Drear*

Papa buys a huge isolated house in Ohio—Thomas wasn't sure he was glad. Funny things keep happening, frightening things. A hundred years ago, Dies Drear and two slaves he was hiding were murdered.

Hautzig, Esther: *The Endless Steppe*

A true story of the Rudomin family's arrest and banishment to Siberia by the Russians during World War II. For five years, Esther and her family struggle to survive. This is their story.

Hemingway, Ernest: *The Old Man & the Sea*

Hesse, Karen: *Letters from Rifka*

Rifka and her family are leaving Russia because of the terrible treatment of Jews. They are fleeing to America. Rifka is left behind as her family boards a ship to America. Will they ever be reunited?

Hinton, S.E.: *Rumble Fish*

Rusty James is the #1 tough guy among the junior high kids who hang out at Benny's, a pool hall. Rusty James wants to be just like his brother, Motorcycle Boy. This is their story.

Holm, Anne: *North to Freedom*

A story of a twelve-year-old boy raised in an Eastern European prison camp who remembers no other life. He suddenly has an opportunity to escape. This begins his terrifying journey across Italy, Switzerland, France, and Denmark.

Holm, Jennifer: *Our Only May Amelia*

Being a pioneer in the state of Washington in 1899 is hard and especially if you are the only girl ever born in the settlement. May Amelia can't seem to ever act like a "proper young lady."

Holt, Kimberly Willis: *Dancing in Cadillac Light*

Jaynell Lambert loves to climb into old cars and pretend to drive away. It is 1968, Grandpa moves in, the road will be paved, and men will walk on the moon. This is the story of Jaynell and her family's dream of turning their lives into something grand? Will it happen?

Knowles, John: *A Separate Peace*

A story of Gene, a lonely intellectual, and Phineas, a handsome athlete, and what happened between them at school during the early years of World War II.

Lawrence, Lain: *The Wreckers*

An evil village exists where the people lure ships into the bay to wreck upon their shores. Can John Spencer escape after his boat is wrecked?

L'Engle, Madeline: *An Acceptable Time*

A time gate opens and drops Polly into a world that existed 3,000 years ago. Will she be able to get back to the present, or will she face a group of people who believe in human sacrifice?

L'Engle, Madeline: *Troubling A Star*

Vicky Austin is going to take a trip—it's the opportunity of a lifetime—to Antarctica. As she meets her fellow travelers it become clear that some of them are not what they seem. Who can be trusted? This story is an adventure into icy danger.

Levin, Gail Carson: *The Wish*

Wilma is an 8th grader at Claverford Middle School and is not at all popular. She wants to be the most popular girl in school. Then one day she meets an old lady who grants her wish. What will happen?

Lowry, Lois: *Gathering Blue*

Magorian, Michelle: *Goodnight, Mr. Tom*

This is a story of an eight-year-old boy evacuated during the London Blitz to a small English village. This is a most powerful novel of a young, abused boy who begins to heal with the help of a grumpy old man, Mr. Tom.

Matas, Carol: After the War

After WWII is over Ruth returns to her home only to find she is the only family member to survive the Holocaust. She has nowhere to turn until she joins an underground organization.

Mazer, Norma Fox: *Goodnight, Maman*

In 1940 Karin Levi's world is a mess. The Nazis have occupied Paris where she lives. She and her family must hide; they are Jews. Karin must leave her sick mother behind and travel to America. Will Karin make it? Will she ever see her mother again?

McCaugherean, Geraldine: *The Pirate's Son*

England 1717! Thrown out of school and having to take care of his sister, Nathan Gull must learn to survive. The travel by ship to Madagascar but run into pirates when they get there.

Nix, Garth: *Seventh Tower-The Fall*

Tal has lived in a castle of seven towers his whole life. With his father missing and his mother sick Tal must try and save his family by stealing a sunstone. To do this he must leave the castle. Will he survive?

Nolan, Han: *Dancing on the Edge*

Miracle McCloy knows there is something different about her. She was born after her mother was struck and killed by an ambulance. She is raised by her psychic grandmother Gigi. Miracle is an unforgettable story about finding oneself.

O'Dell, Scott: *The Black Pearl*

A sixteen-year-old boy finds an oyster with a most fabulous pearl inside. But he has taken it from the cave of the monster, Manta Diablo.

O'Dell, Scott: *My Name is Not Angelica*

An account of a great slave rebellion of 1733 is given by Raisha, an African girl who was kidnapped and taken aboard a slave ship to St. John's Island in the West Indies.

O'Dell, Scott: *Zia*

Zia, the niece of Karana, from the Island of the Blue Dolphin, wants to meet her aunt that was left so long ago. She sets out to rescue her Aunt Karana.

Paterson, Katherine: *Bridge to Terabithia*

This is a story of two children who find friendship after being bullied by classmates. A wonderful but sad story and that truly makes one think.

Paulsen, Gary: *Brian's Hunt*

Paulsen, Gary: *Canyons*

Fifteen-year-old Brennan Cole becomes obsessed with a skull he finds while camping near Dog Canyon. What is the mystery that holds Brennan?

Paulsen, Gary: *The River*

Brian Robeson once again is stranded in the wilderness but this time it is his choice. Derek Hotzer, a government psychologist, accompanies him to observe survival techniques. Derek is struck by lightning and needs immediate attention. Brian must do something or Derek will die. (If you read *Hatchet*, this is must read.)

Peck, Robert Newton: *A Day No Pigs Would Die*

A novel of life and death set among Shaker farmers in Vermont during the 1920s. It deals with a boy's coming of age at 13, his adventures, fears, and triumphs.

Pullman, Philip: *The Ruby in the Smoke*

Sally Lockhart is trying to solve the puzzle of her father's death. To do this she needs to journey into the underworld of Victorian London. Pursued by villains, this daring sixteen-year-old uncovers two dark secrets.

Regan, Dian Curtis: *Princess Nevermore*

Princess Quinella lives underground. She longs to travel to outer Earth which she views through the wishing pool. One day, by accident, she gets her wish.

Reiss, Johanna: *The Upstairs Room*

When the German army occupied Holland, Annie and her family were in great danger because they were Jewish. Fortunately, another family risked their lives to help them.

Rinaldi, Ann: *An Acquaintance With Darkness*

Fourteen teen old Emily is living in Washington, D.C. at the time of Lincoln's assassination. Is her friend's family involved? What exactly does her Uncle Valentine, with whom she lives, really do? The city and Emily are reeling with confusion, suspicion, and fear.

Rinaldi, Ann: *Time Enough for Drums*

Rowlings, J.K.: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Harry's miserable life with the Dursleys changes forever when a mysterious letter arrives by owl messenger. He finds friends, magic, and destiny.

Rowlings, J.K.: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

Harry returns to Hogwarts and real trouble begins when someone or something, starts turning students into stone.

Rowlings, J.K.: *Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix*

Rowlings, J.K.: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Sirius Black, an infamous wizard, has escaped from the dread fortress of Azkaban. He could be headed to Hogwarts.

Rowlings, J. K.: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

During Harry's fourth year at Hogwarts a mysterious competition that hasn't occurred for 100 years has Harry and his friends very curious.

Rylant, Cynthia: *The Islander*

Sachar, Louis: *Holes*

A young boy is wrongly accused of stealing a pair of shoes and is sent to a horrible detention home in the middle of Texas to dig holes.

Shreve, Susan: *The Gift of the Girl Who Couldn't Hear*

Eliza, a seventh grade girl and gifted singer, thinks she is fat and ugly when once she was just fine. She doesn't know what is happening to her. Tryouts are about to begin for the seventh grade musical that she has been dreaming about since third grade. But she doesn't want to tryout now. Lucy, her best friend who is deaf, is going to tryout. Lucy shows Eliza the true gift of courage.

Smith, Betty: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

The Nolans live in the slums of Brooklyn in the early 1900's. This story tells of the struggles and of the resourcefulness of a family to survive.

Snicket, Lemony: *A Series of Unfortunate Events*

This is a series of the events of the Baudelaire children and what happens to them after their parents are killed. You may read any book in the series.

Spinelli, Jerry: *Crash*

Crash Coogan is the seventh grade football sensation. Penn Webb, his neighbor, has always been his favorite target when making fun of someone. But Crash soon realizes Webb is a much better person than he is no matter how many touchdowns he scores. Did a prank go too far?

Spinelli, Jerry: *The Library Card*

Mongoose finds a library card hidden among the candy he has shoplifted; his friend throws the card away, but the card comes back. Then one hot summer day, Mongoose wanders into a library because it is air- conditioned. The adventure begins.

Spinelli, Jerry: *Stargirl*

Who is Stargirl? Where did she come from? She is so different from everyone else at her high school. Can she fit in? Does she even want to?

Steinbeck, John: *The Pearl*

Kino was a poor Indian fisherman who could barely support his wife and little son. Fate stepped in when Kino found a large pearl in the sea.

Steinbeck, John: *The Red Pony*

Story of a boy, Josh, who lives on a farm with his mom, dad, and hired hand, Billy Buck. It tells of his beloved Red Pony, birth of a colt, and his many dreams.

Taylor, Mildred: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

This story is about the life of a Black family in Mississippi during the Depression told through the eyes of Carrie who experiences her first taste of social injustice and refuses to swallow it.

Taylor, Theodore: *The Cay*

Twain, Mark: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

The classic tale of Tom Sawyer's friend, Huck.

Voigt, Cynthia: *The Callender Papers*

Jean Wainwright is summoned by Mr. Theil to go through boxes of his wife's family things—the Callenders. The more she learned, the more danger she faced.

Wells, H.G.: *The War of the Worlds*

The world is at war with the invasion of Martians. This story is set in England in the late 19th/early 20th centuries.

Yollen, Jane: *The Devil's Arithmetic*

It is Passover and Hannah opens the door to symbolically welcome the prophet, Elijah. Suddenly she finds herself in a Polish village in 1940. It is during the Holocaust. Dram or reality—which is it?

Zindel, Paul: *The Pigman*

Two high school sophomores, John and Lorraine, meet Mr. Pignati, a lonely man, through a prank telephone call. This is their story.