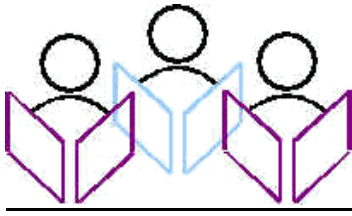


SUGGESTED READING FOR GRADES 7 AND 8



The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curacao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand, until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed.

When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy. Phillip remembers his mother's warning about black people: "They are different, and they live differently."

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Hannah thinks tonight's Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos

Joey battles with attention deficit disorder and struggles to pay attention and gain some control of his life. He is a survivor with an enormous heart.

Red Scarf Girl by Ji li Jiang

In this autobiography, the author recalls how her life turned upside down when China's Cultural Revolution branded her family as enemies of the people.

The Acorn People by Ron Jones

An honest and humorous book about children attending a summer camp for handicapped kids where the author served as a counselor and developed a special bond with the children.

A View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

For the first time in history, a sixth grade class may win an Academic Bowl, find out how friendship plays a part in winning.

A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor by Harry Mazer

On a quiet Sunday morning, while Adam and his friends are fishing near Honolulu, a surprise attack by Japanese bombers destroys the fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Even as Adam struggles to survive the sudden chaos all around him, and as his friends endure the brunt of the attack, a greater concern hangs over his head: Adam's father, a navy lieutenant, was stationed on the USS *Arizona* when the bombs fell. During the subsequent days Adam — not yet a man, but no longer a boy — is caught up in the war as he desperately tries to make sense of what happened to his friends and to find news of his father.

Harry Mazer, whose autobiographical novel, *The Last Mission*, brought the European side of World War II to vivid life, now turns to the Pacific theater and how the impact of war can alter young lives forever.

Cast Two Shadows by Ann Rinaldi

In South Carolina in 1780, fourteen-year-old Caroline sees the Revolutionary War take a terrible toll among her family and friends and, along with a startling revelation about her own background, comes to understand the true nature of war.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much until this summer that's full of big changes. It's tough for Toby when his mother leaves home to be a country singer. Toby takes it hard when his best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. Now their sleepy town is about to get a jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver, billed as the fattest boy in the world. Toby is in for a summer unlike any other, a summer sure to change his life.

Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath

Eleven year old Primrose, who lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed

by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, *DRUMS, GIRLS, AND DANGEROUS PIE* is a heart warming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck

"If your teacher has to die, August isn't a bad time of year for it," begins Richard Peck's latest novel, a book full of his signature wit and sass. Russell Culver is fifteen in 1904, and he's raring to leave his tiny Indiana farm town for the endless sky of the Dakotas. To him, school has been nothing but a chain holding him back from his dreams. Maybe now that his teacher has passed on, they'll shut the school down entirely and leave him free to roam. No such luck. Russell has a particularly eventful season of schooling ahead of him, led by a teacher he never could have predicted—perhaps the only teacher equipped to control the likes of him: his sister Tansy. Despite stolen supplies, a privy fire, and more than any classroom's share of snakes, Tansy will manage to keep that school alive and maybe, just maybe, set her brother on a new, wiser course.

As he did in *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*, Richard Peck creates a whole world of folksy, one-of-a-kind characters here—the enviable and the laughable, the adorably meek and the deliciously terrifying. There will be no forgetting Russell, Tansy, and all the rest who populate this hilarious, shrewd, and thoroughly enchanting novel.

A Child Called It by David Pelzer

Dave Pelzer shares his unforgettable story of the many abuses he suffered at the hands of his alcoholic mother and the averted eyes of his neglectful father. Someone with no one to turn to, his dreams barely kept him alive. Through each of his struggles, readers will find themselves enduring his pain, comforting his loneliness and fighting for his will to survive.

Shoeless Joe and Me by Dan Gutman

When Joe Stoshack hears about Shoeless Joe Jackson — and the gambling scandal that destroyed the star player's career — he knows what he has to do. If he travels

back in time with a 1919 baseball card in his hand, he just might be able to prevent the infamous Black Sox Scandal from ever taking place. And if he could do that, Shoeless Joe Jackson would finally take his rightful place in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

But can Stosh prevent that tempting envelope full of money from making its way to Shoeless Joe's hotel room before the big game?

One Fat Summer by Robert Lipsyte

For Bobby Marks, summer does not equal fun.

While most people are happy to take off their heavy jackets and long pants, Bobby can't even button his jeans or reach over his belly to touch his toes. Spending the summer at Rumson Lake is sheer torture. This particular summer promises to be worse than usual. His parents can't stop fighting. His best friend, Joanie, goes home to New York City and won't tell him why. Dr. Kahn, a rich, stingy estate owner who hires him to manage an enormous lawn, is working him to death. And to top it off, a local bully won't stop torturing him. Bobby is about to find out just how terrifying and exhilarating one fat summer can be.

The Freedom Writers' Diary by Erin Gruwell

With powerful entries from the students' own diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students.

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Zinkoff is like all kids — running, playing, riding his bike. Hoping for snow days, wanting to be his dad when he grows up. Zinkoff is not like the other kids — raising his hand with all the wrong answers, tripping over his own feet, falling down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." The kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it.

Once again, Newbery Medal-winning author Jerry Spinelli uses great wit and humor to create the unique story of Zinkoff as he travels from first through sixth grades. *Loser* is a touching book about the human spirit, the importance of failure, and how any name can someday be replaced with "hero."

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

Bobby Phillips is an average fifteen-year-old boy. Until the morning he wakes up and can't see himself in the mirror. Not blind, not dreaming—Bobby is just plain *invisible*. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to Bobby's new condition; even his dad the physicist can't figure it out. For Bobby that means no school, no friends, no life. He's a missing person. Then he meets Alicia. She's blind, and Bobby can't resist talking to her, trusting her. But people are starting to wonder where Bobby is. Bobby knows that his invisibility could have dangerous consequences for his family and that time is running out. He has to find out how to be seen again—before it's too late.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

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.

When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the Warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away. Set in 1935, when guards actually lived on Alcatraz Island with their families, Choldenko's second novel brings humor to the complexities of family dynamics and illuminates the real struggle of a kid trying to free himself from the "good boy" stance he's taken his whole life.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. She even runs away from the Regans, the one family who offers her a home. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she plans to take Josie with her. Yet behind all her plans, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, fixing each

moment of her time with them in pictures she'll never forget.

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry

In perhaps her strongest work to date, Lois Lowry once again creates a mysterious but plausible future world. It is a society ruled by savagery and deceit and that shuns and discards the weak. Left orphaned and physically flawed, young Kira faces a frightening, uncertain future. Blessed with an almost magical talent that keeps her alive, she struggles with ever broadening responsibilities in her quest for truth, discovering things that will change her life forever.

As she did in *THE GIVER*, Lowry challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, how people could evolve, and what could be considered valuable. Every reader will be taken by Kira's plight and will long ponder her haunting world and the hope for the future.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

A wonderful middle-grade novel narrated by Kenny, 9, about his middle-class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up.

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary Schmidt

Not only is Turner Buckminster the son of the new minister in a small Maine town, he is shunned for playing baseball differently than the local boys. Then he befriends smart and lively Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from Malaga Island, a poor community founded by former slaves. Lizzie shows Turner a new world along the Maine coast from digging clams to rowing a boat next to a whale. When the powerful town elders, including Turner's father, decide to drive the people off the island to set up a tourist business, Turner stands alone against them. He and Lizzie try to save her community, but there's a terrible price to pay for going against the tide.

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Fisher Staples

Life is both sweet and cruel to strong-willed young Shabanu, whose home is the windswept Cholistan Desert of Pakistan. The second daughter in a family with no sons, she's been allowed freedoms forbidden to most Muslim girls. But when a tragic encounter with a wealthy and powerful landowner ruins the marriage plans of her older sister, Shabanu is called upon to sacrifice everything she's dreamed of. Should she do what is necessary to uphold her family's honor—or listen to the stirrings of her own heart?

Walk Two Moons, by Sharon Creech

Salamanca is looking for her mother and travels from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents. She hears the amazing story of Phoebe Winterbottom and also learns how her mother disappeared.

Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Civil War story of Henry Fleming who was drawn to the glory of a military conflict. Eventually he learns about the horrors of war and some things about himself in the process.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

Jim the Boy by Tony Earley

The story of a ten year old boy growing up in the Depression-era town of Aliceville, North Carolina. It captures the pleasures and struggles of the days when America itself was struggling to come into its own.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

A timeless story of dedication to one's dreams. Drawn by his exquisite craftsmanship, an adolescent boy begins to assist the master potter in 12th century Korea.

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron

Lucky is a true heroine, especially because she's not perfect: she does some cowardly things, but she takes pains to put them to rights.

Eleven Seconds by Travis Roy

Eleven seconds was all it took. Eleven seconds to stop cold a shining career scarcely before it had taken off on the ice.

Travis Roy was a promising twenty-year-old hockey star. Then moments into his first collegiate game as a Boston University freshman, a freak accident drove Travis into the boards. A cracked fourth vertebra left him paralyzed from the neck down. That fateful October night in 1995 signaled the death of one dream - but also the eventual rebirth of a special kind of hope. For, though imprisoned for months in a hospital bed, then confined to a wheelchair, Travis gradually found the grit and the will to reclaim for himself a fulfilling and productive life. Eleven seconds is a story about America's love affair with sports and the people who embrace its never-die spirit. Most of all, it is the story of one young man who surrendered to no limits and defied all odds, both before and after the tragedy that ended his game.

The Golden Goblet by Eloise McGraw

Ranofer struggles to thwart the plottings of his evil brother, Gebu, so he can become master goldsmith like their father in this exciting tale of ancient Egyptian mystery and intrigue. Newbery Honor Book.

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff

The summer of 1944 was *supposed* to be as carefree as the past summers of Lily's life -- spent in Rockaway, in her family's house by the Atlantic Ocean. But World War II changes everything: Lily's best friend moves away to a wartime factory town, and Lily's father heads overseas to the war. Then Lily meets Albert, a refugee from Hungary who has a very tragic past. The secrets these two children share and the special friendship they form will change both their lives forever.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

In 1832, Charlotte Doyle, a thirteen-year-old school girl, is returning to her family in America from her school in England. Charlotte's voyage takes place on the Seahawk, a seedy ship headed by a murderously cruel captain and sailed by a mutinous crew. Charlotte gets caught up in the bitter feud between captain and crew, which eventually leads to her being found guilty of a murder. This novel is thrilling and fast-paced, "A breathtaking, seafaring adventure...." -- School Library Journal, starred review

Half Magic by Edward Eager

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.

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

Cheerful and witty 14-year-old Miri loves her life on Mount Eskel, home to the quarries filled with the most precious linder stone in the land, though she longs to be big and strong enough to do quarry work like her sister and father. But Miri experiences big changes when the king announces that the prince will choose a potential wife from among the village's eligible girls-and that said girls must attend a new Princess Academy in preparation. Princess training is not all it's cracked up to be for spunky Miri in the isolated school overseen by cruel Tutor Olana. But through education-and the realization that she has the common mountain power to communicate wordlessly via magical "quarry-speech"-Miri and the girls eventually gain confidence and knowledge that helps transform their village.

Rules by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"--- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

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.

Firegirl by Tony Abbott

Tom, a seventh grader, tells about the arrival of Jessica, a new student who was badly burned in a fire and is attending St. Catherine's while she gets treatment at a local hospital. The students in Tom's class are afraid of her because of her appearance but little by little he develops a friendship with her that changes his life.

Hope was Here by Joan Bauer

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Blackwater by Eve Bunting

Thirteen-year-old Brodie Lynch was ready for the perfect summer of adventure along the awesome Blackwater River. That was before everything changed forever. When a harmless prank goes too far, the unthinkable happens. Brodie's lies make him a hero, but inside, his guilt tears at him like the treacherous current of the Blackwater itself, which has become a horrifying reminder of his part in the tragedy. In this gripping new coming-of-age novel, a young boy is faced with a choice between right and wrong and ultimately learns that truth can offer hope in even the darkest moments.

Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop

William encounters many adventures in a fantasy world. A magical castle comes alive in his hands. A story of sorcery, wizards, and magic.

Criss Cross by Lynne Perkins

She wished something would happen. Something good. To her. Looking at the bright, fuzzy picture in the magazine, she thought, *Something like that.* Checking her wish for loopholes, she found one. Hoping it wasn't too late, she thought the word *soon.*

Wrestling Sturbridge by Rich Wallace

Stuck in a small town where no one ever leaves and relegated by his wrestling coach to sit on the bench while his best friend becomes state champion, Ben decides he can't let his last high school wrestling season slip by without challenging his friend and the future.

Whale Talk by Chris Chutcher

Intellectually and athletically gifted, T.J., a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

**Annotations from library catalog and publishers' descriptions as well as reviewing sources including School Library Journal, Kirkus, Horn Book, Booklist, amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com*

SUGGESTED YOUNG ADULT CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

Louisa May Alcott
Lloyd Alexander
Joan Aitken
Isaac Asimov
Avi
Lynne Reid Banks
Patricia Beatty
Jay Bennett
Ray Bradbury
Joseph Bruchac
Eve Bunting
Betsy Byars
Matt Christopher
Beverly Cleary
James Collier
Caroline Cooney
Susan Cooper
Eoin Colfer
Sharon Creech
Karen Cushman
Roald Dahl
Marguerite DeAngeli
Paula Danziger
Kate DiCamillo
Lois Duncan
Paula Fox
Jack Gantos
Jean Craighead George
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Virginia Hamilton
Karen Hesse
S.E. Hinton
Will Hobbs
Horowitz
Irene Hunt
Jeff Kinney
E.L. Konigsburg
Gordon Korman
Jim Kjelgaard
Kathryn Lasky

Ursula LeGuin
Madeline L'Engle
Jack London
Lois Lowry
Mike Lupica
Patricia MacLachlan
Ann M. Martin
Harry Mazer
Norma Fox Mazer
Ann McCaffrey
Lurlene McDaniel
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Joan Lowery Nixon
Scott O'Dell
Christopher Paolini
Katherine Paterson
Gary Paulsen
Richard Peck
Christopher Pike
Rodman Philbrick
Wilson Rawls
Anne Rinaldi
J.K. Rowling
Cynthia Rylant
Louis Sacher
William Sleator
Lemony Snicket
Elizabeth Speare
Jerry Spinelli
Mildred Taylor
J.R. R. Tolkien
Cynthia Voigt
Bill Wallace
Yoko K. Watkins
Jane Yolen

