

Reading Ideas for the Summer of 2008

Downingtown Middle School/ Lionville Middle School

Newbery Winners 1997 to 2008

The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg: Four students with their own stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse: In free verse, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Holes by Louis Sachar: As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert. There he finds a real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Bud, not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis: A ten-year-old living in Flint, Michigan during the Depression, escapes a bad foster home. He sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--a renowned bandleader.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck: The remembrances of the year fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty grandmother. This book is a sequel to A Long Way from Chicago.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park: A thirteen-year-old boy in 12th century Korea is fascinated with the skill of a local craftsman. Tree-Ear lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi: A thirteen-year-old boy is orphaned in 14th century England. He suddenly finds himself the object of harm and he has no idea why.

The Tale of Despereaux: being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo: Fairy tale adventure of a small mouse Despereaux Tilling, who has unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat.

Kira-kira by Cynthia Kadohata: Japanese-American sisters in the late 1950's and early 1960's as seen through the eyes of the younger Katie. The family moves to Georgia and older sister Lynn develops a terminal illness.

Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins: Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron: A 10-year-old girl living with a guardian in a tiny CA town struggles to find her higher power. Lucky who is both self-reliant and insecure is only one of many strongly defined characters.

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz: Inhabitants between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor tell their stories in verse or prose. Historical information about the time period is interspersed throughout the book.

Fiction Too Good to Miss

Schooled by Gordon Korman: Will 14-year-old Cap Anderson who has grown up on a 60's era commune be able to survive in a modern middle school? Pizza, changing classes, checkbooks, TV, dances and more are all new experiences.

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Gennifer Choldenko: Two students find themselves arriving late to their elite private school on the first day. Though Kirsten and Walk are very different, they unknowingly share a secret connection.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis: Elijah was the first child born to runaway slaves in Buxton, Canada. Now as an eleven-year-old in 1860, he sees first hand what it is like for slaves who attempt to escape from the American South. This is a Newbery Honor book for 2008.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen: Paine Underwood lands in jail for sinking a casino boat that he knew was causing pollution. His children Noah and Abbey decide they can help expose the boat's operator who seems to be unstoppable. Anyone who liked Hoot will like this book.

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson: Frannie is a sixth grader growing up in 1971. Why is the pale, longhaired boy, dubbed Jesus Boy attending her predominantly black middle school and not the white school? This is a Newbery Honor book for 2008.

On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck: Davy Bowman has two heroes, his dad who served in WWI and his brother now a pilot in WWII. A humorous and warm account of what it was like to be a boy on the homefront collecting tin cans, milkweed, rubber and more while hanging out with a best friend.

Castle Corona by Sharon Creech: Two orphaned peasant children hide as the king's men ride past in pursuit of a thief. Shortly thereafter, they discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona.

Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt: Newbery Honor book for 2008 finds 7th grader Holling spending Wednesday afternoons with his English teacher reading Shakespeare and learning about his world. History, humor and wisdom abound.

Cracker! : The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata: Cracker has been a show dog, then pet, now bomb sniffing canine in Vietnam. The story is told from dog and human viewpoints.

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller by Sarah Elizabeth Miller: Anne Sullivan was a true miracle worker. With impaired vision and a childhood of adversity, she went on to make history as Helen's Keller's teacher.

Reaching for Sun by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer: A girl with cerebral palsy meets a boy who sees her and not her disability. Free-verse poems tell the story of Josie and her family in the course of one year.

Travel Team by Mike Lupica: Twelve-year-old Danny Walker is cut from the travel basketball team supposedly because of his size. Does the team created with other cast-offs have a chance of winning?

Heat by Mike Lupica: Cuban American Michael Arroyo dreams of pitching in the Little League World Series. A rival team has challenged his eligibility and he cannot produce a birth certificate to prove he is only twelve years old.

First Light by Rebecca Stead: Fantasy, science-fiction, mystery and adventure meet in this story of Peter and his family in Greenland for his father's research on global warming. Peter meets Thea who belongs to a society living under the ice. Fans of Neil Shusterman's Downsiders and Jeanne DuPrau's Book of Ember might like this book.

The Lacemaker and the Princess by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley: It is 1788 in Versailles, France. Isabella, a young but skilled lacemaker is brought into the palace as a friend to Princess Therese. The book gives a unique look into palace life on the eve of the French Revolution.

Popular Series at the Middle School

Hermux Tantamoq by Michael Hoeye

- [Time Stops for No Mouse](#)
- [The Sands of Time](#)
- [No Time Like Show Time](#)
- [Time to Smell the Roses](#)

Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos

- [Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key](#)
- [Joey Pigza Loses Control](#)
- [What Would Joey Do?](#)
- [I Am Not Joey Pigza](#)

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

- [Uglies](#)
- [Pretties](#)
- [Specials](#)
- [Extras](#)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

- [Greg Heffley's Journal](#)
- [Rodrick Rules](#)

Maximum Ride by James Patterson

- [The Angel Experiment](#)
- [School's Out Forever](#)
- [Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports](#)
- [The Final Warning](#)

Warriors series by Erin Hunter

- Warriors
 - [Into the Wild](#)
 - [Fire and Ice](#)
 - [Forest of Secrets](#)
 - [Rising Storm](#)
 - [A Dangerous Path](#)
 - [The Darkest Hour](#)
- Warriors: The New Prophecy
 - [Midnight](#)
 - [Moonrise](#)
 - [Dawn](#)
 - [Starlight](#)
 - [Twilight](#)
 - [Sunset](#)
- Warriors: Power of Three
 - [The Sight](#)
 - [The Dark River](#)
 - [Outcast](#)

Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzi & Holly Black

- [The Field Guide](#)
- [The Seeing Stone](#)
- [Lucinda's Secret](#)
- [The Ironwood Tree](#)
- [The Wrath of Mulgarath](#)

Alex Rider Adventures by Anthony Horowitz

- [Stormbreaker](#)
- [Point Blank](#)
- [Skeleton Key](#)
- [Eagle Strike](#)
- [Scorpia](#)
- [Ark Angel](#)
- [Snakehead](#)

Gilda Joyce by Jennifer Allison

- [Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator](#)
- [Gilda Joyce: the Ghost Sonata](#)
- [Gilda Joyce: the Ladies of the Lake](#)

Twilight Saga by Stephenie Meyer

- [Twilight](#)
- [New Moon](#)
- [Eclipse](#)

The Young James Bond by Charles Higson

- [SilverFin](#)
- [Blood Fever](#)
- [Double or Die](#)

Five Ancestors by Jeff Stone

- [Tiger](#)
- [Monkey](#)
- [Snake](#)
- [Crane](#)
- [Eagle](#)

Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix

- [Among the Hidden](#)
- [Among the Impostors](#)
- [Among the Betrayed](#)
- [Among the Barons](#)
- [Among the Brave](#)
- [Among the Enemy](#)
- [Among the Free](#)

The Clique by Lisi Harrison

- [The Clique](#)
- [Best Friends for Never](#)
- [Revenge of the Wannabes](#)
- [Invasion of the Boy Snatchers](#)
- [The Pretty Committee Strikes Back](#)
- [Dial L for Loser](#)
- [It's Not Easy Being Mean](#)
- [Sealed With a Diss](#)
- [Bratfest at Tiffany's](#)

For additional ideas:

- Read first chapters of many of the books on this list by accessing your school's library catalog. Locate the title and click on the More Information tab.
- Novelist K-8 on POWERLIBRARY is available at www.ccls.org. One needs a public library card to use this service.
- Check <http://moodle.cciu.org/TeacherCenter/moodle/login/index.php> and log on as a guest to see 2008-09 Reading Olympics List

If You Prefer Nonfiction, Check Out These Titles

Basic Kayaking: All the Skills and Gear You Need to Get Started (no author).

Beading: Bracelets, Barrettes, and Beyond by Thiranut Boonyadhistarn. A do-it-yourself craft book.

Better Homes and Gardens New Junior Cook Book.

Bicycle Science Projects: Physics on Wheels by Robert Gardner.

Can You Feel the Force by Richard Hammond. "Packed with amazing facts, figures, and experiments to try out for yourself."

Crafty Magic by Nick Huckleberry Beak. Includes instructions on how to perform a variety of tricks.

Digital Photo Madness: 50 Weird & Wacky Things To Do With Your Digital Camera by Thom Gaines.

The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon.

Fooled You: Fakes and Hoaxes Through the Years by Laurie Keller.

The Leaping Sliding Sprinting Riding Science Book: 50 Super Sports Science Activities by Bobby Mercer.

The North Pole Was Here: Puzzles and Perils at the Top of the World by Andrew C. Revkin.

Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People by Albert Marrin.

Our World: A Country-by-Country Guide by Millie Miller. Quick and interesting trivia from around the world.

Profiles in Sports Courage by Ken Rappoport. Well-known sports figures are included.

Racing: the Ultimate Motorsports Encyclopedia by Clive Gifford.

Scholastic Book of World Records Ultimate Quiz Challenge by Jenifer Corr Morse.

Seven Wonders of the Natural World by Amy Graham.

Special Effects: An Introduction to Movie Magic by Ron Miller.

Spy Technology by Ron Fridell.

Take A Beach Walk by Jane Kirland. Discovery guide to nature at the beach.

Tents, Tigers and the Ringling Brothers by Jerry Apps. For circus lovers.

Weather Projects for Young Scientists by Mary Kay Carson. Includes storm facts, environmental issues, weather instruments and possible careers.

The Usborne Art Treasury by Rosie Dickins. Art history and exciting projects.

A Writing Kind of Day: Poems for Young Poets by Ralph Fletcher.