

7th & 8th Grades

Classic Fiction

- ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*** by Lewis Carroll
Alice has zany adventures when she falls down a rabbit hole and meets up with a white rabbit, a queen of hearts and other bizarre characters.
- ***Anne of Green Gables*** by L.M. Montgomery
After moving in with her maiden aunt and bachelor uncle, an independently minded young woman has a series of adventures.
- ***Call of the Wild*** by Jack London
Buck, a dog stolen from his home, survives the merciless life of the Arctic North.
- ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** by Roald Dahl
Read either the play or the novel to learn about lucky lottery winners and the eccentric owner of a chocolate factory.
- ***The Chocolate War*** by Robert Cormier
Candy sales and student fears - this is a bitter story about one student's resistance and the high price that he pays.
- ***The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*** by Paul Zindel
Here is a tale about Tillie who is trying to balance school life with her crazy family life. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The Friends*** by Rosa Guy
Rejected by her classmates because of her Caribbean accent and manners, a West Indian girl is forced to become friends with a poverty stricken girl -- the only one who will accept her.
- ***Hoops*** by Walter Dean Myers
A ragtag team of players from Harlem learns the art of basketball from a former pro. (ALA Best Book)
- ***I am the Cheese*** by Robert Cormier
A teenage victim of amnesia and mysteriously administered "truth drugs" sifts through haunted memories. He is fearful that revealing one will put his life in danger. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Jacob Have I Loved*** by Katherine Patterson
Set in the 1940s, a young girl searches for her identity and fights off the jealousy she feels for her talented, beautiful twin sister. (Newbery Medal)
- ***Julie of the Wolves*** by Jean Craighead George
Here is the story of a girl caught between two cultures - Eskimo and European. (Newbery Medal)
- ***The Jungle Book*** by Rudyard Kipling
Orphaned as an infant, Mowgli is raised by wolves and speaks the language of the wild when he meets the greatest enemy -- man.
- ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*** by C.S. Lewis
This is an extraordinary excursion into magical lands and enchanted happenings. This is the first volume of The Chronicles of Narnia.
- ***Little Women*** by Louisa May Alcott
The four March sisters play with games and feminism as they grow up in Concord, Massachusetts during the Civil War.
- ***The Moves Make the Man*** by Bruce Brooks
A black athlete shares his skills and interest in basketball with a white baseball

player. As their friendship grows, the game begins to reflect their lives. (Newbery Honor Book)

- ***Old Yeller*** by Fred Gipson
Travis and his faithful old dog prove to be a match for thieving raccoons, grizzlies, mad wolves, and renegade bulls.
- ***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton
This story of two rival gangs in Oklahoma is told from the point of view of a young Greaser named Ponyboy. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The Pigman*** by Paul Zindel
Two lonely high school students learn to befriend Mr. Pignati who lives in his dreams and makes daily visits to the baboons in the zoo.
- ***The Red Pony*** by John Steinbeck
Here is the moving story of a boy's love for his horse.
- ***The Sign of the Beaver*** by Elizabeth George Speare
When Matt is left alone to guard his family's home in the wilderness of Maine, he has no option but to trust his Native American neighbors. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***Summer of Monkeys*** by Wilson Rawls
Jay has big plans to capture monkeys and train them to help his crippled twin sister.
- ***The Swiss Family Robinson*** by Johan Wyss
A family is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island in the Pacific.
- ***Tales of Mystery and Imagination*** by Edgar Allen Poe
The threat of evil pervades Poe's stories.
- ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson
Pirates and buried treasure make this a timeless adventure.
- ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*** by Betty Smith
Francie Nolan outwits poverty as she learns to survive and thrive in Brooklyn just before WW I.
- ***Where the Lilies Bloom*** by Vera and Bill Cleaver
Living in the mountains of Appalachia, the Call family struggles to survive all manners of hardships.
- ***The Wind in the Willows*** by Kenneth Grahame
Toad, Badger, Mole, and their friends enjoy comical and heart-warming adventures.
- ***The Witch of Blackbird Pond*** by Elizabeth George Speare
A girl rebels against her Puritan surroundings, and her efforts culminate in a witch-hunt and trial. (Newbery Medal)

Contemporary Fiction

- ***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** by Gennifer Choldenko
This humorous novel is about Moose Flanagan and his family's move to Alcatraz Island in 1935, where his father gets a job in the prison that houses famous criminals.
- ***The Best Little Girl in the World*** by Steven Levenkron
This is a gripping tale of young woman who battles with her sense of self-control and struggles with anorexia.
- ***Beware, Princess Elizabeth*** by Carolyn Meyer
Imprisonment. Betrayal. Lost love. Murder. What more must a princess endure?
- ***Black Mirror*** by Nancy Werlin
Convinced her brother's death was murder rather than suicide, sixteen-year-old

Frances begins her own investigation into suspicious student activities at her boarding school. (ALA Best Book)

- ***Blue is for Nightmares*** by Laurie Faria Stolarz
“It all started with weird emails and freaky phone calls. Now someone is leaving Drea white lilies – the same death lilies showing up in Stacy’s dreams. Everybody thinks it’s just a twisted game – until another girl in school is brutally murdered.” The first in a series by the author.
- ***The Boxes*** by William Sleator
This intricately plotted sci-fi thriller takes on the human psyche as well as the very nature of time itself.
- ***Bud, not Buddy*** by Christopher Paul Curtis
Bud Caldwell, an orphan on the run from an abusive foster home, sets out to track down his supposed dad, a man he has never seen.” Even in the worst scenarios, Bud’s problems will make the reader laugh. Corretta Scott King Award winner.
- ***Building Blocks*** by Cynthia Voigt
Young Brann travels back in time where he meets his father as a boy and learns more about the behavior he thinks is odd in his grown-up father.
- ***Catherine, Called Birdy*** by Karen Cushman
Laugh out loud at the hilarious misadventures of a young medieval lady in the year 1290. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***Constance*** by Patricia Clapp
Constance arrives on the Mayflower and learns to live and love in the New World.
- ***Crash*** by Jerry Spinelli
Seventh grader Crash Coogan is a jock, jokester and a tormentor of Penn Webb. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Counting on Grace*** by Elizabeth Winthrop
Inspired by a Lewis Hine photo of a child at work in a Vermont cotton mill in the early twentieth century, Winthrop imagines the story of Grace, twelve, torn from her one-room schoolhouse and forced to work long hours in the textile mill as a "doffer," turning cotton into thread, alongside her mother, in the spinning room.
- ***The Diaries of Melanin Sun*** by Jacqueline Woodson
Melanin Sun finds his identity by learning to accept people for who they are.
- ***Dragonwings*** by Laurence Fisher
Moon Shadow arrives in San Francisco at the turn of the century to join his father whom he has never seen. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***The Edge on the Sword*** by Rebecca Tingle
In ninth-century Britain, fifteen-year-old Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred, finds she must assume new responsibilities when she is betrothed in order to strengthen a strategic alliance against the Danes.
- ***The Egypt Game*** by Zilpha Keatly Snyder
School friends create their own Egyptian temple in a deserted lot and attract a murderer's attention. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***Ella Enchanted*** by Gail Carson Levine
A lively heroine is cursed at birth with having to be obedient whenever a direct command is given to her. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***The Fifth of March, A Story of the Boston Massacre*** by Ann Rinaldi
Rachel Marsh is a young servant in the house of John and Abigail Adams. As the Revolutionary War draws near, she is divided between her political loyalties and a young British soldier.
- ***Flush*** by Carl Hiaasen
This entertaining adventure is a pro-ecology novel about the Underwood family and

a casino boat polluting the harbor. The villains are very villainous; the good guys have problems; and the story is humorous.

- ***From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*** by E.L. Konigsberg
When Claudia decided to run away, she planned very carefully. She would be gone for just long enough to teach her parents a lesson in "Claudia appreciation."
(Newbery Medal)
- ***Gathering Blue*** by Lois Lowry
Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.
- ***A Gathering of Days*** by Joan Blos
Catherine Hall's journal includes her reflections of everyday life in New Hampshire in 1830.
- ***The Goats*** by Brock Cole
Two teens learn personal and physical survival skills when they are deserted on an island during a vicious camp prank. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Half-Human*** by Bruce Coville
Here is a collection of stories about creatures that are part human, animal and plant and their struggles to understand their true identities.
- ***A Handful of Stars*** by Rafik Schami
Although his father forced him to leave school, a Syrian boy discovers a way to be a journalist in Damascus where speaking the truth can have dangerous consequences.
- ***Hatchet*** by Gary Paulsen
Another favorite survival story set in the wilderness of Canada. And if you like this, check out *Brian's Winter*, also by Paulsen. (Newbery Honor)
- ***Hole in the Sky*** by Pete Hautman
This is a fast-paced novel of four teens who "try to survive in the wake of a deadly flu virus that has destroyed most of Earth's population by 2028." There are exciting rescue attempts and narrow escapes, as told by all four teens.
- ***Holes*** by Louis Sachar
Stanley Yelnats is sentenced to the bizarre Camp Green Lake where he finds the secret to end a long running curse on his life. (ALA BestBook; Newbery Medal)
- ***Homecoming*** by Cynthia Voigt
Three siblings, abandoned by their parents, do everything they can to stay together and find a home.
- ***Incident at Hawk's Hill*** by Allan W. Eckert
A shy, lonely six-year-old wanders into the Canadian prairie and spends a summer under the protection of a badger. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***Indian in the Cupboard*** by Lynne Reid Banks
A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.
- ***Jason's Gold*** by Will Hobbs
Here is the survival story of fifteen-year-old Jason Hawthorn as he races through the wilderness with his husky to meet his brothers on the Klondike goldfields of 1897. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The Land*** by Mildred Taylor
This prequel to *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* tells of how the Logan family acquired land after Emancipation. (ALA Best Book; Coretta Scott King Award)
- ***The Last Mall Rat*** by Erik E. Eskilsen
At fifteen, Mitch Grant is too young to get a job, and there's nothing to do in his

economically depressed, rural New England town except hang out at the mall, eyeing things he can't afford to buy. Then he's befriended by a slick shoe salesman, who comes up with a way to provide money for Mitch and a degree of revenge for himself: he hires Mitch to scare rude customers in the parking lot with a menacing demeanor and a repeated warning.

- ***Letters from Rifka*** by Karen Hesse
Rifka and her family have fled Russia's brutal treatment of the Jews for a new life in America, but the road to freedom is full of terrible obstacles. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The Lost Years of Merlin*** by T.A. Barron
This tale of Merlin's youth is filled with Celtic and Druidic legends. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Love That Dog*** by Sharon Creech
Told in verse, this story celebrates a young writer's favorite pet.
- ***The Midwife's Apprentice*** by Karen Cushman
Beetle, a homeless girl, is found in a manure pile and apprenticed to a medieval village midwife. (Newbery Medal)
- ***The Misfits*** by James Howe
What's it like being outside the popular crowd? Bobby and the Gang of Five keep you laughing and thinking.
- ***Motown and Didi*** by Walter Dean Myers
Despite the pressures of living in Harlem, Motown and Didi find hope in their futures. (Coretta Scott King Award)
- ***The Mozart Season*** by Virginia Euwer Wolff
Allegra is a gifted, young musician who learns an important lesson about herself and her family when she enters a summer competition. (ALA Best Book)
- ***On My Honor*** by Marion Dane Bauer
When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***The Other Side of Truth*** by Beverly Naidoo
Two Nigerian children are caught in the civil fighting in their homeland in the 1990s. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Out of the Dust*** by Karen Hesse
Set in the Dustbowl of the Depression, Billie Jo's life is turned upside down by a terrible accident -- she is scarred inside and out. (Newbery Medal)
- ***Owl in Love*** by Patrice Kindl
A fourteen-year-old girl, who can transform herself into an owl at will, discovers interesting new relationships with both humans and owls when she develops a crush on her science teacher. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Rain is Not My Indian Name*** by Cynthia Leitich Smith
Tired of staying in seclusion since the death of her best friend, a fourteen-year-old Native American girl takes on a photographic assignment with her local newspaper to cover events at the Native American summer youth camp.
- ***Rainbow Jordan*** by Alice Childress
Neglected by her teenage mother, Rainbow was put in a foster home. This is a powerful story of an African American girl on the precipice of adulthood. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Redwall*** series by Brian Jacques
Enter a fantasy adventure about a gentle band of mice and battle-seasoned army of rats. (ALA Best Book)

- ***The Ropemaker*** by Peter Dickinson
Tilja is bitter when she discovers the magic powers of her mother and grandmother have not been passed to her, but her younger sister. (Printz Award)
- ***Series of Unfortunate Events*** by Lemony Snicket
The Baudelaire orphans have disastrous adventures.
- ***The Silver Kiss*** by Annette Klaus
A mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's terminal illness. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Slap Your Sides*** by M.E. Kerr
An insightful look at Quaker conscientious objectors during WW II.
- ***So Far from the Bamboo Grove*** by Yoko Kawnshima Watkins
A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.
- ***Sold*** by Patricia McCormick
Lakshmi, thirteen, knows nothing about the world beyond her village shack in the Himalayas of Nepal, and when her family loses the little it has in a monsoon, she grabs a chance to work as a maid in the city so she can send money back home. What she doesn't know is that her stepfather has sold her into prostitution.
- ***Stop Pretending*** by Sonya Sones
As her older sister succumbs to a mental breakdown, Cookie works to keep her own sanity, deal with false friends, and find true love. The poetry is accessible and unpretentious.
- ***Stuck in Neutral*** by Terry Trueman
"Fourteen year old Shawn McDaniel loves the taste of smoked oysters and his mother's gentle hugs. Unfortunately, it's impossible for Shawn to feed himself or hug his mom back." This is a unique journey into the mind of a unique character with cerebral palsy.
- ***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.
- ***Ties That Bind, Ties That Break*** by Lesley Namioka
Ailin refuses to have her feet bound in the fashion of the Chinese and must learn to live in the harsh reality outside of tradition. (ALA Best Book)
- ***The Teacher's Funeral*** by Richard Peck
Fifteen year old Russell Culver hopes that his dreams of joining the harvester teams in the Dakotas of 1904 will be realized upon the death of the teacher. No such luck when the new teacher arrives and turns out to be his worst nightmare!
- ***The Upstairs Room*** by Johanna Reiss
A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***Waiting for the Rain*** by Sheila Gordon
Frikkie and Tengo's friendship may not survive the barriers and racism of apartheid. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Walk Two Moons*** by Sharon Creech
A thirteen-year-old girl has mysterious and touching adventures during a cross country trip with her grandparents. (Newbery Medal)
- ***The Westing Game*** by Ellen Raskin
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. (Newbery Medal)

- ***White Romance*** by Virginia Hamilton
As her all-black high school becomes more racially mixed, Talley befriends a white girl who shares her passion for running and becomes romantically involved with a drug dealer.
- ***Witness*** by Karen Hesse
Written as an exchange of letters, this book chronicles the Ku Klux Klan's entry into Vermont at the early part of the 20th century.
- ***Wolf by the Ears*** by Anne Rinaldi
Harriet Hemings, the illegitimate daughter of Thomas Jefferson and his slave, Sally Hemings, tries to find her identity while she seeks her freedom. (ALA Best Book)
- ***Wringer*** by Jerry Spinelli
A young boy makes a bold stand for what he believes during his town's annual pigeon shoot. (Newbery Honor)
- ***Z for Zachariah*** by Robert C. O'Brien
Ann Burden thinks she is safe in her radiation-free valley after WW III until she encounters an unexpected stranger.

Nonfiction

- ***After the Holocaust*** by Howard Greenfield
This is the story of the children who had been hidden during the Holocaust and how they survived their resurfacing.
- ***Alive*** by Piers Paul Read
Here is the riveting story of a group of soccer players who survive a plane crash high in the Andes Mountains.
- ***And Not Afraid to Dare: The Stories of Ten African-American Women*** by Tonya Bolden
These true stories are of women from ordinary beginnings who overcame racism and sexism to accomplish great things.
- ***Black Potatoes*** by Susan Bartoletti
Set in the mid nineteenth century, this is the compelling story of men, women, and children who defied landlords and searched empty fields in an attempt to survive the Great Famine of Ireland.
- ***Breaking Through*** by Francisco Jimenez
A son of migrant farmers is challenged by his family's constant upheaval.
- ***Carver: A Life in Poems*** by Marilyn Nelson
This collection of poems provides young readers with a compelling, lyrical account of the life of revered African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver. (Newbery Honor; Coretta Scott King Award)
- ***The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia*** by Esther Hautzig
A young girl and her family are exiled to Siberia in 1941.
- ***Farewell to Manzanar*** by Jean Watsuiki Houston
A Japanese family attempts to survive life in a California internment camp during WW II.
- ***Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir*** by Beverly Cleary
This is a humorous account of growing up in Depression-era Oregon.
- ***Guts*** by Gary Paulsen
Here is a brass tacks look at Gary Paulsen's adventure-filled life.

- ***Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad*** by Ann Petry
Harriet Tubman narrowly escapes slavery only to return again and again to help transport other slaves to freedom.
- ***Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit*** by Laurie Lawlor
This compelling biography covers the complete life of Helen Keller, the beautiful deaf and blind girl who would eventually become the embodiment of the new American ideal of striving to succeed.
- ***The Hiding Place*** by Corrie Ten Boom
As a leader of the Dutch Resistance in WW II, she hid scores of Jews from the Nazis.
- ***Homesick: My Own Story*** by Jean Fritz
Twelve year old Jean has lived her whole life in China; will she be able to adjust to America when she returns?
- ***In These Girls, Hope is Muscle*** by Madeleine Blais
A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist tells the story of a high school girls' basketball team's championship season and their fierce, funny, sisterhood-is-powerful quest for excellence.
- ***Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*** by Harriet Jacobs
These compelling selections are about a former slave's freedom and adjustment to that state.
- ***The Invisible Thread*** by Yoshiko Uchida
This Japanese American is sent with her family to the internment camps of Utah during WW II.
- ***Never Cry Wolf*** by Farley Mowat
Hordes of bloodthirsty wolves are slaughtering the arctic caribou, and the government's Wildlife Service assigns naturalist Farley Mowat to investigate. Mowat is dropped alone onto the frozen tundra, where he begins his mission to live among the howling wolf packs and study their ways.
- ***To Be a Slave*** by Julius Lester
This is a compilation, selected from various sources and arranged chronologically, of the reminiscences of slaves and ex-slaves about their experiences from the leaving of Africa through the Civil War and into the early twentieth century. (Newbery Honor Book)
- ***Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist*** by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordon
Vincent van Gogh-one of the 19th century's most brilliant artists-will forever be remembered as the Dutchman who cut off his ear. But this incident only underscores the passion that consumed him-a passion that, when he took up painting at age 27, infused his work.
- ***We Are On Our Own*** by Miriam Katin. Katin has both written and illustrated a graphic memoir describing her experiences as a very young girl with her mother on the run from the Nazis.
- ***Woodsong*** by Gary Paulsen
Dogsledding adventures in the Minnesota wilderness are made more harrowing with wolves, deep snow, and minus-30-degree temperatures.