



## 2011 Summer Reading List Grades 7, 8, and 9



### Side Splitting Laughs

#### ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Jeff Kinney (series)***

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship. Also in the series are *Roderick Rules*, *Last Straw*, and *Dog Days*.

#### ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, Sherman Alexie***

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.

#### ***Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko***

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

#### ***Notes from the Midnight Driver, Jordan Sonnenbliek***

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

#### ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain***

In this classic story of boyhood escapades on the shores of the Mississippi River, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn together find trouble and adventures wherever they go.

### A Trip Back in Time

#### ***A Northern Light, Jennifer Donnelly***

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

#### ***When you Reach Me, Rebecca Stead***

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

***Year of the Hangman, Gary L. Blackwood***

In 1777, having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, fifteen-year-old Crieighton becomes part of developments in the political unrest there that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history.

***The Boy Who Dared, Susan Campbell Baroletti***

When 16-year-old Helmuth Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmuth's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.

***Something Upstairs: a Tale of Ghosts, Avi***

When he moves from Los Angeles to Providence, Rhode Island, Kenny discovers that his new house is haunted by the spirit of a black slave boy who asks Kenny to return with him to the early nineteenth century and prevent his murder by slave traders.

***The Book Thief, Marcuz Zusak***

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Leisel-a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

***Chains, Laurie Halse Anderson***

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

**Best Friends Forever**

***Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Ann Brashares***

During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since early childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their different summer experiences.

***Every Soul a Star, Wendy Mass***

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun; but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe.

***Eggs, Jerry Spinelli***

Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

***Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson***

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

***Define. Normal, Julie Anne Peters***

When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

***Faith, Hope and Ivy June, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor***

During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes, and communities, and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites they have a lot in common.

***Emma Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree, Lauren Tarshis***

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results, when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

## **Exploring Other Cultures**

***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party, Ying Hang Compstine***

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

***Keeper, Mai Peet***

In an interview with a young journalist, World Cup hero, El Gato, describes his youth in the Brazilian rain forest and the events, experiences, and people that helped make him a great goalkeeper and renowned soccer star.

***The Crossing, Gary Paulsen***

Thirteen-year-old Manny, a street kid fighting for survival in a Mexican border town, develops a strange friendship with an emotionally disturbed American soldier who decides to help him get across the border.

***Playing for Pizza, John Grisham***

After losing an important game for his team, NFL backup quarterback Rick Dockery is fired; but his agent finds him an opportunity to play for the Panthers of Parma, and moves to Italy hoping for a second chance.

***Extra Credit, Andrew Clements***

Three young middle-school-age children, Abby, Amira, and Sadeed, exchange letters back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan and begin to bridge a gap across cultural and religious divides.

## **A Fabulous Adventure**

***Maxim Ride: the Angel Experiment, James Patterson***

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

***Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen**

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, while he also learns to survive his parents' divorce.

Series, #1 *Hatchet*, #2 *The River*, #3 *Brian's Winter*, #4 *Brian's Return*, #5 *Brian's Hunt*.

***Stormbreaker (Alex Rider Series)*, Anthony Horowitz**

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. (Sequel-*Point Blank*)

***I'd Tell You That I Love You, But Then I'd Have To Kill You*, Ally Carter**

While in training at a school for exceptional girls and future spies, Cammie Morgan falls in love with the most ordinary guy.

***Peeled*, Joan Bauer**

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.

***Dragon's Keep*, Janet Lee Carey**

In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with that reflects only one of her mother's dark secrets.

**Realistic Fiction**

***All Shook Up*, Shelley Pearsall**

When thirteen-year-old Josh goes to stay with his father in Chicago for a few months, he discovers-to his horror-that his dad has become an Elvis impersonator.

***Bystander*, James Preller**

Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to not standing by and watching as the bully at his new school hurts people, but although school officials are aware of the problem, Eric may be the one with a solution.

***Driver's Ed*, Caroline B. Cooney**

Three teenagers' lives are changed forever when they thoughtlessly steal a stop sign from a dangerous intersection and a young mother is killed in an automobile accident there.

***Holes*, Louis Sachar**

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

***Hoot*, Carl Hiaasen**

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

**So B. It, Sarah Weeks**

After spending her life With her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

**Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson**

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

**Fantasy/Science Fiction**

***The Graveyard Book, Neil Gaiman***

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

***The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan***

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

***Eragon, Christopher Paolini***

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters.

***The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch, Joseph Delaney (Series)***

Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."

***Uglies, Scott Westerfeld***

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job it is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

***Witch & Wizard, James Patterson***

A sister and brother, along with thousands of young people, have been kidnapped and either thrown in prison or turned up missing after accusations of witchcraft were made against them, and the ruling regime will do anything in order to suppress life and liberty, music and books.

***The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins***

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

***The Giver, Lois Lowry***

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve-Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth

about the society in which he lives.

***The Magic Thief, Sarah Prineas***

Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and instead gets a strong jolt of magic, but, instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply.

**Sport Stories**

***Pop, Gordon Korman***

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.

***Heat, Mike Lupica***

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

***Double Dutch, Sharon M. Draper***

Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies.

***SLAM!, Walter Dean Myers***

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

***Swindle, Gordon Korman***

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back; planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A book summary: Summarizing a book is a good way to remember its main events and ideas, the character's names, and important facts.

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Main events and ideas	Chapter Main events and ideas	Chapter Main events and ideas
Chapter Main events and ideas	Chapter Main events and ideas	Chapter Main events and ideas
Chapter Main events and ideas	Chapter Main events and ideas	Chapter Main events and ideas