



Marilyn Grant, Principal

Judson Hamilton, AP

Susan Monahan, AP

Josephine Aulicino, AP

6th Grade Recommended Reading List

Al Capone Does My Shirts/ Gennifer Choldenko-FICTION

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

Amelia's War/ Ann Rinaldi-HISTORICAL FICTION

When a Confederate general threatens to burn Hagerstown, Maryland, unless it pays an exorbitant ransom, twelve-year-old Amelia and her friend find a way to save the town.

Artemis Fowl / Eoin Colfer-SCIENCE FICTION

Artemis Fowl creates an extraordinarily powerful computer with stolen fairy technology, but his business deal hopes go sour when a Chicago businessman steals his invention and mortally wounds Artemis's loyal bodyguard.

Because of Winn-Dixie / Kate DiCamillo-FICTION

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Brian's Winter/ Gary Paulsen-FICTION

Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Bud, Not Buddy/ Christopher Paul Curtis-HISTORICAL FICTION

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Charlie Bone and the Time Twister/ Jenny Nimmo-FANTASY

While at Bloor's Academy, Charlie Bone gets a surprise when Henry Yewbeam arrives from the year 1916 and needs Charlie's help to stay alive.

The City of Ember/ Jeanne DuPrau-SCIENCE FICTION

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

Crispin/ Avi-HISTORICAL FICTION

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Esperanza Rising/ Pam Munoz Ryan-FICTION

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

-Nelson Mandela-

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Fever 1793/ Laurie Halse Anderson-HISTORICAL FICTION

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone/ J.K. Rowling-FANTASY

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Hatchet/ Gary Paulsen-FICTION

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

Hush/ Jacqueline Woodson-FICTION

Shows the effects of a witness protection program on a family.

Island of the Blue Dolphins/ Scott O'Dell-FICTION

Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key/ Jack Gantos-FICTION

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting weird.

The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians/ Rick Riordan-FANTASY

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

The Midwife's Apprentice/ Karen Cushman-HISTORICAL FICTION

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

The Other Side: Shorter Poems/ Angela Johnson-POETRY

A collection of poems reminiscent of growing up as an African-American girl in Shorter, Alabama.

Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex/Nathaniel Philbrick-NON-FICTION

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged sperm whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. Based on the author's adult book "In the Heart of the Sea".

Stargirl/ Jerry Spinelli-FICTION

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changed Mica High School forever.

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Walk Two Moons/ Sharon Creech-FICTION/MYSTERY

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Witness/ Karen Hesse-HISTORICAL/ POETRY

A history-inspired novel, told in the voices of eleven characters, about two young girls, one Jewish and the other African-American, who come to the attention of the newly formed Ku Klux Klan in a small Vermont town in 1924.

Wonder/ R.J. Palacio-FICTION

August Pullman has a facial deformity and has been home schooled until now. He wants to be treated as a normal kid, but everyone around him feels the effects of his decision to attend 5th grade.

Classic Literature Reading List for Middle School Students

By: LuAnn Schindler

Many middle school students enjoy the connection with a young adult novel, but classic literature never goes out of style. Several humanities organizations have established a classic literature reading list that emphasizes the importance of reading timeless books. This abbreviated list introduces new characters and alien worlds to the middle school set. Several of these books are commonly taught in middle school English classes, so adding them to a summer reading list can give your child an advantage when they come up during the school year.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
1984 by George Orwell
Little Women (Little Women, #1) by Louisa May Alcott
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
Dracula by Bram Stoker
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
Animal Farm by George Orwell
The Swiss Family Robinson: The Graphic Novel by Richard Blandford
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

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