Below are the REQUIRED reading titles for each grade level. Following is the Recommended Summer Reading List. Selections include recommendations from teachers, librarians, and students. There are recent award winners as well as classics. Most titles are available in paperback, and many can be found at the Winchester Public Library, at Book Ends, or at your favorite online source.

There are a multitude of excellent young adult books - too numerous to list. The McCall list is a small subset of all the possible choices. If your child is not intrigued by any titles on McCall Recommended Summer Reading List, please seek the assistance of your favorite librarian or book seller.

**REQUIRED READING**

**Grade 6:** *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. In addition, students are expected to read at least two other books over the summer.

**Grade 7:** Select one of the following titles *Nation* by Terry Pratchett or *Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus. In addition, students are expected to read at least two other books over the summer.

**Grade 8:** *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko. In addition, students are expected to read at least two other books over the summer.

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**A Message From the Winchester Public Library**

Dear Middle School students,

Many of you may have participated in the Winchester Public Library Summer Reading Program in the past. This summer you have the opportunity to do so as a middle school student.

Independent and computer based, your program allows you to record titles you read, comment on them and read other students’ comments from anywhere in the world! For every two books you enter online, you will automatically be enrolled in a raffle for an Ipod Touch, $20 gift card to BookEnds, or hardback book of your choice. The more you read, the more chances you have to win!

To enter you will go to the following web address: www.readsinma.org/winpublib. When you sign up initially, please come into the library for your free thank you gift.

In addition to reading, all teens are invited to join us for our regular Wii tournaments and movie afternoons. They can also participate in a Scavenger Hunt for another chance to win a $20 Bookends Gift card. Check out our website for more information. http://winpublib.org/youngAdult.htm

We’re excited about this opportunity and look forward to sharing with you. Happy reading and sharing, Melissa Roderick, Winchester Public Library.

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**Recommended Summer Reading List**

**SCIENCE FICTION**

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Anderson, M.T. *The Game of Sunken Places* and sequel *The Suburb Beyond the Stars*. Friends Brian and Gregory have survived the Game of Sunken Places, but are once again drawn back to cousin Prudence’s house in Vermont, where they discover that something has gone very wrong with time, people have disappeared, and danger is lurking everywhere.

*Bedford, Martyn. *Flip*. A teenager wakes up inside another boy’s body and faces a life-or-death quest to return to his true self or be trapped forever in the wrong existence.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender’s Game* series. Ender Wiggins is a genius who is training to save the planet from impending Alien attacks.

*Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen*. When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it. Also try *Things Hoped For* and *Things That Are*.

*Collins, Suzanne. *Hunger Games*. In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss’s skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister’s place. Sequels: *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay*.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember* and *People of Sparks*. In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. *The Prophet of Yonwood* is the prequel.

*Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion* (Newbery Honor Book 2003). In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Hidden* series. In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all of his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time*. Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Lowry, Lois. *Messenger*. In this novel that unites characters from *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*, Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand. Also try *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*.

Sleator, William. *The Last Universe*. When her desperately ill older brother insists that she take him into their mysterious backyard garden, designed by their quantum physicist great uncle, fourteen-year-old Susan discovers that things are not always what they seem. (Or any other books by William Sleator).

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. Sequels: *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey* and *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoners Dilemma*.

Thompson, Kate. *The New Policeman*. Irish teenager JJ Liddy discovers that time is leaking from his world into Tir na nOg, the land of the fairies, and when he attempts to stop the leak he finds out a lot about his family history, the music that he loves, and a crime his great-grandfather may or may not have committed.

**FANTASY**

Barron, T.A. *Merlin’s Dragon*. Basil, a small, flying lizard who is searching for others like himself, discovers that there is more to him than he knows, as he becomes engaged in Avalon's great war between the evil Rhita Gawr and the forces of good.

Barry, David. *Peter and the Starcatchers*. Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island. (Sequels: *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*, *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*).
*Bunce, Elizabeth C. *Curse Dark as Gold*. Upon the death of her father, seventeen-year-old Charlotte struggles to keep the family’s woolen mill running in the face of an overwhelming mortgage and what the local villagers believe is a curse, but when a man capable of spinning straw into gold appears on the scene she must decide if his help is worth the price.

Farmer, Nancy. *Sea of Trolls*. After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls. (Sequels: *The Land of the Silver Apples* and *The Islands of the Blessed.)*

Flanagan, John. *The Ruins of Gorlan*. When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. Also, the other titles in the *Ranger’s Apprentice* Series

Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart*. Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service. (Sequels: *Inkspell*, *Inkdeath*) Also, *Reckless*

Levine, Gail Carson. *Fairest*. In a land where beauty and singing are valued above all else, Aza eventually comes to reconcile her unconventional appearance and her magical voice, and learns to accept herself for who she truly is.

Lowry, Lois. *Gossamer*. While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteeds.

MacHale, D.J. *Pendragon series*: *Merchant of Death*, *The Lost City of Faar*, *The Never War*, and *Reality Bug*.

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon*. In Aagaesia, 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. (Sequels: *Eldest*, *Brisinger*, and *Inheritance*)

*Pratchett, Terry. The Bromeliad Trilogy* (*Truckers*, *Diggers*, and *Wings*). After generations of existing in the human-sized world, a group of four-inch-high gnomes discover their true nature and origin with the help of a black square called the Thing.

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*. 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. (all books in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians Set, The Kane Chronicles, or The Heroes of Olympus)

Scott, Michael. *The Alchemyst*. While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. *Series: Secrets of the immortal Nicholas Flamel*

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Amulet of Samarkand* (*Bartimaeus Trilogy*, #1). Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace (*The Golem’s Eye* and *Ptolemy’s Gate*).

Stroud Jonathan. *Heroes of the Valley*. Bored with everyday chores and dreaming of long-ago heroes, teenaged Halli Sveinsson devotes himself to practical jokes until a trick he plays on Ragnor of the House of Hakonsson sets off a chain of events that change the course of his life forever.

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

*Auch, Mary Jane. *Ashes of Roses*. Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died.

*Bruchac, Joseph. Code Talker: a novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two*. After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Cooney, Caroline B. *Goddess of Yesterday*. Taken from her home on an Aegean island as a six-year-old girl, Anaxandra calls on the protection of her goddess while she poses as two different princesses before ending up as a servant in the company of Helen and Paris as they make their way to Troy.

Day, Karen. *No Cream Puffs*. In 1980, when twelve-year-old Madison, who loves to play baseball, decides to play in her town’s baseball league, she never envisions the uproar it causes when she becomes the first girl to join.

Duble, Kathleen Benner. *The Sacrifice*. Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom. Also, *Quest*.

Hughes, Dean. *Soldier Boys*. Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during WWII, but the realities of war come to a head when they cross paths at the Battle of Bulge.

Klages, Ellen. *The Green Glass Sea*. It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father—but no one will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he’s working on a top secret government program. Sequel: *White Sands, Red Menace*.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Daughter of Venice*. Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family’s house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice and then must confront the repercussions of her actions. Also, *The Smile*.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bread and Roses, Too*. Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.


*Rinaldi, Ann. The Color of Fire*. Someone is setting fires in New York City... In 1741, America is at war with Catholic Spain. Phoebe watches as her town erupts into mass hysteria when the whites in New York City accuse the black slaves of planning an uprising. With people implicating each other at every turn, Phoebe has to decide if she’s willing to save her friend Cuffee from execution, or if her own conscience and quest for freedom will be singed by her indiscretions.

Slade, Arthur. *Dust*. Eleven-year-old Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

Wiles, Deborah. *Countdown*. "Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that’s hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall. It’s 1962, and it seems the whole country is living in fear."--Dust jacket flap.

**REALISTIC FICTION**

*Alexie, Sherman. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Atkinson, Elizabeth. *I, Emma Freke*. Growing up near Boston with her free-spirited mother and old-world grandfather, twelve-year-old Emma has always felt out of place but when she attends the family reunion her father’s family holds annually in Wisconsin, she is in for some surprises.

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*. While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Sequels: *The Penderwicks on Gardam Street* and *The Penderwicks at Point Mouette*.

Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*. 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.

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
*Dessen, Sarah. The Truth About Forever. The summer following her father’s death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

Feinstein, John. Last Shot: a Final Four Mystery. After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. (Also, Cover-Up, Change-Up, and Vanishing Act)

Fleischman, Paul. Seek Rob becomes obsessed with searching the airwaves for his long-gone father, a radio announcer.

Greenwald, Lisa. My Life in Pink & Green. When the family’s drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem solving talents to come up with solution that might resuscitate the business, along with helping the environment.

Hiaasen, Carl. Hoot (Newbery Honor Book). 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. (Also Flush, Scat and Chomp)

*Lang, Diane. Fat Boy Chronicles. Overweight and bullied by his classmates, teenaged Jimmy Winterpock relates in his English class journal the life-changing events of his freshman year in high school.

Lupica, Mike. Travel Team. After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory. (Also, Summer Ball, Miracle on 49th Street, Heat, and The Big Field)

*Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. Dairy Queen. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school’s rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Smith, Roland. Peak. A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest

*Sones, Sonya. What My Mother Doesn’t Know. Over Christmas vacation, while all of her friends are away, Sophie develops a relationship with Murphy, one of the class nerds. When her friends arrive back in town, she is forced to decide if she will reveal her relationship with Murphy to them. Also try Stop Pretending.

QUICK READS

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. Millions. After their mother dies, two brothers find a huge amount of money which they must spend quickly before England switches to the new European currency, but they disagree on what to do with it.

Cabot, Meg. Princess Diaries series. Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.

Clements, Andrew. A Week in the Woods. The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him. Also try The Report Card, Janitor’s Boy, Frindle, Landry News, No Talking, Room One: A Mystery or Two.

Curtis, Christopher. The Watson’s Go to Birmingham. The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. Also try Bud, Not Buddy.

DiCaMillo, Kate. Because of Winn Dixie. 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.

Gorman, Carol. Dork on the Run (sequel to Dork in Disguise). Having reluctantly agreed to run for sixth-grade president, Jerry, who has been trying to change his image as a dork, finds his opponent playing dirty tricks on him. Also try Dork in Disguise and A Midsummer’s Night Dork.

Gutman, Dan. Babe and Me. With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that homerun in the third game of the 1932

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Lowry, Lois. The Willoughbys. In this tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children’s literature, the four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Mazer, Harry. A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor. While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Bernie Magruder & The Bats in the Belfry. Many residents of Middleburg, Indiana, are already going crazy from the ever-ringing church bells and now, after a bat is spotted in the hotel run by Bernie’s family, they worry that the dangerous Indiana Aztec bat has finally arrived.

O'Connor, Barbara. The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester. After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the Carter, Georgia, pond it came from, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola.

O’Connor, Barbara. How to Steal a Dog. Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother’s calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

O’Dell, Kathleen, Agnes Parker - Keeping Cool in the Middle School. Agnes Parker tries to maintain her old persona and keep a low profile in middle school, but her best friend Prejean’s problems, persistent harassment from the eighth-grade boys, and a friendship with an interesting boy in her art class make it difficult.

Paulsen, Gary. Lawn Boy. Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

MULTICULTURAL

Alvarez, Julia. How Tia Lola Came to Visit – Stay. Ten-year-old Miguel is embarrassed of his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his family.

Alvarez, Julia. Return to Sender. After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

Flores-Galbis, Enrique. 90 Miles to Havana. When unrest hits the streets of Havana, Cuba, Julian’s parents must make the heartbreaking decision to send him and his two brothers away to Miami via the Pedro Pan operation. But when the boys get to Miami, they are thrust into a world where bullies seem to run rampant and it’s not always clear how best to protect themselves.

*Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. The Red Umbrella. In 1961 after Castro has come to power in Cuba, fourteen-year-old Lucia and her brothers are sent to the United States when her parents, who are not in favor of the new regime, fear that the children will be taken from them as others have been.

McCaughranean, Geraldine. The Kite Rider. In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Hauyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

Naidoo, Beverley. The Other Side of Truth. Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport. They are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria.

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Napoli, Donna Jo. **Bound**. In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child’s feet so that she alone might marry well.

Perkins, Mitali. **Bamboo People**. Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.

Preus, Margi. **Heart of a Samurai**. In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Resau, Laura. **What the Moon Saw**. Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother’s life as a healer, her father’s decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world. (Also, **Red Glass** and **The Indigo Notebook**).

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Esperanza Rising**. 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.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **The Dreamer**. A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.

Smith, Roland. **Thunder Caves**. Determined, after his mother's accidental death, to foil his stepfather's plans for his future, fourteen-year-old Jacob travels alone to Africa in search of his father, a biologist studying elephants in a remote area of Kenya.

Voelkel, J. & P. **The Jaguar Stones: Book One Middleworld**. When his archaeologist parents go missing in Central America, fourteen-year-old Max embarks on a wild adventure through the Mayan underworld in search of the legendary Jaguar Stones, which enabled ancient Mayan kings to wield the powers of living gods.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Hush**. Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

Yee, Lisa. **Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time**. After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer-school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father.

**AWARD WINNERS**

Appelt, Kathi. **The Underneath**. (Newbery Honor 2009) An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner’s rundown shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Avi. **Crispin: The Cross of Lead** (Newbery Winner 2002). 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.

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. **Anything But Typical**. Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does my Shirts**. (Newbery Honor Book 2005). 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.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Tale of Despereaux** (Newbery Winner 2003). This is the story of the adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book**. (Newbery Winner 2009) After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt*. (Newbery Winner 2012). In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

Henkes, Kevin. *Olive’s Ocean* (Newbery Honor Book). On a summer visit to her grandmother’s cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Turtle in Paradise*. (Newbery Honor Book 2011) In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Evolution of Capurnia Tate*. (Newbery Honor Book 2010) In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate learns about love from the older three of her six brothers and studies the natural world with her grandfather which leads to an important discovery.


Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*. (Newbery Honor 2007). After inheriting her uncle’s homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

Law, Ingrid. *Savvy*. (Newbery Honor 2009). Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her “savvy”—a magical power unique to each member of her family—just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears: a novel in dialogue*. (Coretta Scott King Award 2006). Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances’s mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. (Newbery Honor 2010). Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*. (Newbery Honor 2010). Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. (Newbery Honor 2008) During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker’s classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. (Newbery Winner 2010) As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1970s 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.

Tolan, Stephanie. *Surviving the Applewhites* (Newbery Honor Book 2003). Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the artsy and eccentric Applewhite family’s Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest*. (Newbery Winner 2011) Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

**BIOGRAPHIES / MEMOIRS**

Barakat, Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. In her memoir set in Ramallah following the 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat describes the life of a child whose world is shattered by war.

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Dahl, Roald. Boy: Tales of Childhood and Going Solo.
Fleming, Candace. Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart
*Kamkwamba, William. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.
Latham, Jean Lee. Carry On, Mr. Bowditch. Nathaniel Bowditch, a nautical wonder and mathematical wizard, grew up in a sailor’s world.
Lowry, Lois. Looking Back: A Book of Memories. Using family photographs and quotes from her books, the author provides glimpses into her life.
McClafferty, Clara Killough. Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium
Myers, Walter Dean. The Greatest Muhammad Ali.
Partridge, Elizabeth. This Land was Made for You and Me. The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie.
Reef, Catherine. Jane Austen: A Life Revealed
Twain, Mark. The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West.

NON FICTION

Aronson, Marc. Witch-Hunt: Mysteries of the Salem Witch Trials
Aronson, Marc. Trapped: How the World rescued 33 Miners From 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert
Cherry, Lynne and Gary Braasch. How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate.
D’Aluisio, Faith. What the World Eats.
* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Hawass, Zahi. Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Boy King

Kehret, Peg. Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays

Lipsyte, Robert. Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made It America’s Favorite Game

Montgomery, Sy. The Man-Eating Tigers of Sundarbans, Quest for the Tree Kangaroo, and Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot.


In Commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary)

Fiction

Avi. Iron Thunder: the Battle Between the Monitor & the Merrimac: a Civil War Novel. Tom’s job as an assistant to Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, makes him a target of Confederate spies.

Blackwood, Gary. Second Sight. In Washington, D.C., during the last days of the Civil War, a teenaged boy who performs in a mind reading act befriends a clairvoyant girl whose frightening visions foreshadow an assassination plot.

Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher. With Every Drop of Blood. While trying to transport food to Richmond, Virginia during the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Johnny is captured by a black Union soldier.

Durrant, Lynda. My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Hodgers, Union Soldier. Enjoying the freedom afforded her while dressing as a boy in order to earn higher pay after emigrating from Ireland, Jennie Hodgers serves in the 95th Illinois Infantry as Private Albert Cashier, a Union soldier in the American Civil War.

**Hunt, Irene. Across Five Aprils.** Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Keith, Harold. Rifles for Watie.

Paulsen, Gary. Soldier’s Heart: A Novel of the Civil War. Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Philbrick, Rodman. The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg. Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War.

Wells, Rosemary. Red Moon at Sharpsburg: A Novel. As the Civil War breaks out, India, a young Southern girl, summons her sharp intelligence and the courage she didn’t know she had to survive the war that threatens to destroy her family, her Virginia home, and the only life she has ever known.

Non Fiction

Allen, Thomas B. Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent. How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War.


Freedman, Russell. Lincoln: A Photobiography

Hamilton, Virginia. Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
Walker, Sally M. **Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley**

**POETRY**

Appelt, Kathi. **Poems from Homeroom: A Writer’s Place to Start**. A collection of poems about the experiences of young people. Includes a section with information about how each poem was written to enable readers to create their own original poems.

Creech, Sharon. **Love that Dog**. A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem. Also try **Heartbeat** and **Hate That Cat**.

Frost, Helen. **Spinning Through the Universe**. A collection of poems written in the voices of Mrs. Williams of room 214, her students, and a custodian about their interactions with each other, their families, and the world around them. Includes notes on the poetic forms represented.

George, Kristine O’Connell. **Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems**. A collection of poems that capture the feelings and experiences of a middle school student.

Kennedy, X. J., ed. **Knock at a Star: A Children’s Introduction to Poetry**. A collection of poems arranged in such categories as poems that make you smile, send messages or share feeling; poems that contain “beats that repeat” or “word play”; and special kinds of poems such as limericks, songs, and haiku.

Smith, Hope Anita. **The Way A Door Closes**. Told through a series of poems, this is the story of CJ’s struggle to accept a father who has walked out on his family.

**RECOMMENDED AUTHORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcott, Louisa May</th>
<th>Gantos, Jack</th>
<th>Park, Linda Sue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander, Lloyd</td>
<td>Giff, Patricia Reilly</td>
<td>Paterson, Katherine</td>
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<td>Asimov, Isaac</td>
<td>Haddix, Margaret Peterson</td>
<td>Paulsen, Gary</td>
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<td>Avi</td>
<td>Hesse, Karen</td>
<td>Peck, Richard</td>
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<td>Barron, T.A.</td>
<td>Hobbs, Will</td>
<td>Pierce, Tamora</td>
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<td>Bauer, Joan</td>
<td>Ibbotson, Eva</td>
<td>Rinaldi, Ann</td>
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<td>Bradbury, Ray.</td>
<td>Jacques, Brian</td>
<td>Soto, Gary</td>
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<td>Clarke, Arthur C.</td>
<td>Lawrence, Iain</td>
<td>Spinelli, Jerry</td>
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<td>Cooney, Caroline</td>
<td>Levine, Gail Carson</td>
<td>Taylor, Mildred</td>
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<td>Cooper, Susan</td>
<td>Lewis, C.S.</td>
<td>Whelan, Gloria</td>
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<td>Creech, Sharon</td>
<td>London, Jack</td>
<td>Van Draanen, Wendelin</td>
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<td>Danzinger, Paula</td>
<td>Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds</td>
<td>Yolen, Jane</td>
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<td>Dickens, Charles</td>
<td>Nixon, Joan Lowery</td>
<td>Yep, Lawrence</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Read Any Good Books Lately? June 2012**

The members of the English faculty at McCall Middle School are pleased to offer a list of adult books that we have enjoyed reading this year. In our effort to support community literacy, we have tried to share a wide variety of our interests, and we hope there is something for everyone. Happy Reading!

**Fiction**

- Allende, Isabel: **Daughter of Fortune**
- Amir & Khalil: **Zahra’s Paradise (graphic novel from web comic)**
- Amirrezvani, Anita: **Blood of Flowers**
- Amis, Martin: **The Pregnant Widow**
- Austen, Jane: **Sense and Sensibility**
- Barnes, Julian: **Sense of an Ending**
- Birch, Carol: **Jemrach’s Menagerie**

* Indicates titles recommended for older readers (7th and 8th grade)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brooks, Geraldine</td>
<td>Caleb’s Crossing: A Novel (2012 Winchester Reads)</td>
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<td>Chang, Jung</td>
<td>Wild Swans</td>
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<td>Cleave, Chris</td>
<td>Little Bee</td>
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<td>Cooke, Carolyn</td>
<td>Daughters of the Revolution</td>
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<td>Dee, Jonathan</td>
<td>The Privileges</td>
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<td>Dewitt, Patrick</td>
<td>The Sisters Brothers</td>
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<td>Egan, Jennifer</td>
<td>Visit from the Goon Squad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erdrich, Louise</td>
<td>Plague of Doves; Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse</td>
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<td>Eugenides, Jeffrey</td>
<td>Marriage Plot</td>
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<td>Gaiman, Neil</td>
<td>American Gods</td>
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<td>Glass, Julia</td>
<td>Widower’s Tale</td>
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<td>Gutcheon, Beth</td>
<td>Good-bye and Amen</td>
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<td>Haruf, Kent</td>
<td>Eventide</td>
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<td>Hoffman, Alice</td>
<td>Red Garden</td>
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<td>Jacobson, Howard</td>
<td>The Finkler Question</td>
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<td>Jen, Gish</td>
<td>World and Town</td>
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<td>Johnson, Mat</td>
<td>Pym</td>
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<td>Majmudar, Amit</td>
<td>Partitions</td>
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<td>McCann, Colum</td>
<td>Let the Great World Spin</td>
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<td>Mohamed, Nadifa</td>
<td>Black Mamba Boy</td>
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<td>Murakami, Haruki</td>
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<td>Otsuka, Julie</td>
<td>Buddha in the Attic</td>
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<td>Packer, Ann</td>
<td>Swim Back to Me</td>
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<td>Patchett, Ann</td>
<td>State of Wonder</td>
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<td>Rachman, Tom</td>
<td>The Imperfectionists</td>
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<td>Rodrigues, Deborah</td>
<td>A Cup of Friendship</td>
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<td>Russell, Karen</td>
<td>Swamplandia</td>
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<td>Sullivan, J. Courtney</td>
<td>Maine</td>
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<td>Suzuma, Tabitha</td>
<td>Forbidden</td>
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<td>Verghese, Abraham</td>
<td>Cutting for Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallace, David Foster</td>
<td>The Pale King, Infinite Jest</td>
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<td>Wolitzer, Hilma</td>
<td>The Uncoupling</td>
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**Nonfiction**

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boo, Katherine</td>
<td>Beyond the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death &amp; Hope in a Mumbai Undercity</td>
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<td>Burden, Wendy</td>
<td>Dead End Gene Pool</td>
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<td>Danticat, Edwidge</td>
<td>Create Dangerously: the Immigrant Artist at Work</td>
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<td>Darst, Jeanne</td>
<td>Fiction Ruined My Family</td>
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<td>Ephron, Nora</td>
<td>I Remember Nothing and Other Reflections</td>
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<td>Fey, Tina</td>
<td>Bossypants</td>
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<td>Foer, Joshua</td>
<td>Moonwalking with Einstein</td>
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<td>Hamilton, Gabriella</td>
<td>Blood, Bones, and Butter</td>
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<td>Kaling, Mindy</td>
<td>Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?</td>
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<td>Larson, Erik</td>
<td>In the Garden of the Beasts</td>
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<td>McCloskey, Jane</td>
<td>Robert McCloskey: a private life in words and pictures</td>
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<td>Murray, Liz</td>
<td>Breaking Night: a Memoir of Forgiveness</td>
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<td>Orenstein, Peggy</td>
<td>Cinderella Ate My Daughter</td>
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<td>Robbins, Alexandra</td>
<td>The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schiff, Stacie</td>
<td>Cleopatra: A Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troost, J. Maarten</td>
<td>Lost on Planet China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wolf, Maryanne</td>
<td>Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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