

**MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH
SUMMER READING LIST 2008
(Please choose 2 books)**

6th grade:

***Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters* by Lesley Blume**

Realistic Fiction RL 5.5 Lexile 650

Eleven-year-old Cornelia is the daughter of two world-famous pianists – a legacy that should feel fabulous, but instead feels just plain lonely. Her world becomes more exciting with the arrival of a new neighbor who has a servant and a bulldog.

***Penny From Heaven* by Jennifer Holm**

Historical Fiction RL 4.5 Lexile 730

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also leaning a secret about her father's death.

***Rules* by Cynthia Lord**

Realistic Fiction RL 3.9 Lexile 780

Twelve-year-old Catherine is in search of a normal life, but how is that possible with a brother who has autism and a family that revolves around his disability?

***Project Mulberry* by Linda Sue Park**

Realistic Fiction RL 4.3 Lexile 690

While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience and more.

***Letters From Wolfie* by Patti Sherlock**

Realistic Fiction RL 6.0 Lexile 760

Certain that he is doing the right thing by donating his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program in Vietnam, thirteen-year-old Mark begins to have second thoughts when the Army refuses to say when and if Wolfie will ever return.

***Black Storm Comin'* by Diane Lee Wilson**

Historical Fiction RL 6.7 Lexile 860

Twelve-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train. Colton risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and the South.

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7th grade:

***Blood on the River: James Town* by Elisa Carbone**

Historical Fiction RL 4.8 Lexile 820

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan, Samuel Collier, settles in the new colony of James Town where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

***Shug* by Jenny Han**

Realistic Fiction RL 4.0 Lexile 680

A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South.

***Alabama Moon* by Watt Key**

Realistic Fiction RL 5.3 Lexile 720

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.

***Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver**

Fantasy RL 4.4 Lexile 660

Secluded from the people of the clans, Torak is raised in the forest by his father. But when his father is killed, for the first time in his life, Torak finds himself alone. He cannot imagine how he will survive. But survival is only the beginning.....

***The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan**

Fantasy RL4.7 Lexile 740

Classic Greek mythology is mixed with modern adventure in this action-packed series. After learning he is a demigod, Percy Jackson is sent to a summer camp on Long Island, where he meets the father he never knew – Poseidon, God of the Sea.

***A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama* by Laura Amy Schlitz**

Historical Fiction RL 5.0 Lexile 690

At the Barbary Asylum for Female Orphans, eleven-year-old Maud is adopted by three spinster sisters moonlighting as mediums who take her home and reveal to her the role she will play in their séances.

***The Invention Of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick**

Realistic Fiction RL 6.0 Lexile 820

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

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8th grade:

***The Green Glass Sea* by Ellen Klages**

Historical Fiction RL 5.0 Lexile 790

It is 1943, and almost eleven-year-old Dewey is on a train to New Mexico, where she will live with her father. She doesn't know exactly where in Mexico, the corporal who took her to the station can't tell her. It's wartime, and so many things are secret.

***Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson**

Historical Fiction RL 4.4 Lexile 700

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.

***Black Duck* by Janet Taylor Lisle**

Realistic Fiction RL 5.0 Lexile 790

When Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body in an evening suit washed up on the shore, they are certain this has to do with smuggling liquor. It is spring 1929, Prohibition is in full swing, and many in their community are involved.

***Gossamer* by Lois Lowry**

Realistic Fiction RL 5.4 Lexile 660

While learning to bestow dreams, a your 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.

***Heat* by Mike Lupica**

Realistic Fiction RL 6.9 Lexile 940

Born in Cuba, Michael lost his mother to cancer when he was very young. His father brought Michael and his brother Carlos to America with the hope of seeing Michael pitch in the Little League World Series.

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

Nonfiction RL 5.1 Lexile 960

Weaving science, history, culture, and folklore, Albert Marrin welcomes you to the fearsome, fascinating world of these astonishing champions of survival - RATS

***Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Science Fiction RL YA Lexile 770

A meteor is headed on a collision course towards the moon. What will this mean for Miranda and her community? Told in Miranda's diary entries, this is a heart-pounding account of her struggle to hold on to hope in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar time.