

Junior High Summer Reading 2007 (Annotated)*

1. Bauer, Joan. HOPE WAS HERE. Putnam, 2000.

After traveling the country, Hope and her guardian aunt settle in rural Wisconsin as waitress and cook at a local diner. When they get mixed up with small-town politics, romance, and unlikely friends, Hope starts to feel that she's found a place to call home.

2. Bruchac, Joseph. SKELETON MAN. HarperCollins, 2001.

After Molly's parents mysteriously vanish, a creepy great-uncle arrives to take custody of her in his spooky house. Why is he like the skeleton monster that appears in her dreams?

3. Buckley-Archer, Linda. GIDEON THE CUTPURSE: BEING THE FIRST PART OF THE GIDEON TRILOGY. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 2006.

In 1763 pickpocket Gideon Seymour is hiding from Tar Man when Peter and Kate, two timetraveling children from the 21st century, fall from the sky and into his life.

4. Bunting, Eve. THE LAMBKINS. Joanna Cotler. 2005.

After being kidnapped by the lonely widow of a brilliant geneticist, Kyle finds himself shrunk to doll-size and living with three other children in a dollhouse from which there seems to be no escape.

5. Cabot, Meg. AVALON HIGH. Harper Collins Publishers. 2006.

Having moved to Annapolis, Maryland, with her medievalist parents, high school junior Ellie enrolls at Avalon High School where several students may or may not be reincarnations of King Arthur and his court.

6. Cabot, Meg. PRINCESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT. HarperCollins, 2001.

In the continuing saga of Mia, heiress to the throne of Genovia, the side effects of fame begin to take their toll...a disastrous TV interview, secret admirers, and frustrated friends. Now mom's marrying the algebra teacher – what's a princess to do?

7. Calhoun, Dia. ARIA OF THE SEA. Winslow Press, 2000.

Chosen for an exclusive dance school, Cerinthe now has a chance to fulfill her mother's dying wish for her to become a royal dancer. However, rigorous training, jealous competitors, and her secret wish to be a healer could stand in the way of her goal.

8. Caputo, Philip. 10,000 DAYS OF THUNDER: A HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2005.

Includes anecdotes from soldiers and civilians, as well as profiles and accounts of the actions of many historical luminaries, both American and Vietnamese, involved in the Vietnam war.

**For more information, visit the RISD library website at <http://libraries.risd.org>. Some books contain mature themes. Please discuss reading selections as a family.*

9. Carter, Ally. I'D TELL YOU I LOVE YOU, BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU. Hyperion. 2006.

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission.

10. Chima, Cinda Williams. WARRIOR HEIR. Hyperion Books for Children. 2006.

After learning about his magical ancestry and his own warrior powers, sixteen-year-old Jack embarks on a training program to fight enemy wizards.

11. Colfer, Eoin. ARTEMIS FOWL. Hyperion/Talk Miramax, 2001.

In this action-packed mix of fantasy and technology, Artemis Fowl, young criminal mastermind, kidnaps a fairy and holds her for ransom. The cleverly desperate Artemis and his butler then battle the elite police force assigned to solve the crime.

12. Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt. WE BEAT THE STREET: HOW A FRIENDSHIP PACT HELPED US SUCCEED. Dutton Children's Books. 2005.

Shares anecdotes from the childhoods, teen years, and young adult lives of three men from Newark, New Jersey, who made a pledge to each other in high school to stay safe from drugs, gangs, and crime, and work to become doctors--a goal they have successfully achieved.

13. Deuker, Carl. NIGHT HOOPS. Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Playing hoops on his backyard court helps Nick handle school and family pressures. When Trent, a troubled and aggressive neighbor, joins Nick for nightly one-on-one workouts, the unlikely pair creates a dominating force on their high school team.

14. Enthoven, Sam. BLACK TATTOO. Razorbill. 2006.

A sprawling fantasy epic set in modern day London, about a fourteen-year old boy, Charlie, who thinks he's been given superpowers, but in fact has been possessed by a demon. The adventure brings Charlie--as well as his friend, Jack, and Esme, the one girl raised to stop the demon—from the streets of London into Hell itself, as they prepare for a battle with ultimate stakes.

15. Haddix, Margaret Peterson. AMONG THE IMPOSTERS. Simon & Schuster, 2001.

In a future world where the law limits a family to two children, third-born Luke risks death to enter boarding school with a fake identity. An unlocked door to the forbidden outside world leads him to a secret much bigger than his own.

16. Han, Jenny. SHUG. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2006.

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

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17. Hanley, Victoria. THE SEER AND THE SWORD. Holiday House, 2000.

In this fantasy tale of royal intrigue, a beautiful princess who can see the future in a crystal and an exiled prince with a magical sword struggle to save their kingdoms from an evil threat to the throne.

18. Harkrader, Lisa. AIRBALL: MY LIFE IN BRIEFS. Roaring Brook Press. 2005.

Uncoordinated Kansas seventh-grader Kirby Nickel braves his coach's ire and becomes captain of the basketball team in order to help him prove that NBA star Brett McGrew is the father he has never known.

19. Jackson, Donna M. ER VETS: LIFE IN AN ANIMAL EMERGENCY ROOM. Houghton Mifflin. 2005.

Describes life in an animal emergency room and the courage of the ER vets, and discusses a number of actual cases.

20. Jaramillo, Ann. LA LINEA. Roaring Brook Press. 2006.

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

21. Kindl, Patrice. GOOSE CHASE. Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

Twelve magical geese rescue Alexandria from a tower prison where she refuses to choose between two equally awful royal suitors. But things are not always as they seem, which this Goose Girl quickly learns in her humorous search for a happy ending.

22. Klass, David. YOU DON'T KNOW ME. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux/Foster, 2001.

John often feels invisible, that no one knows him or wants to. Bored by high school, baffled by girls, he hides the physical abuse he endures from his mother's live-in boyfriend. Who will see that John needs help?

23. Konigsburg, E.L. SILENT TO THE BONE. Atheneum, 2000.

Why has Branwell not spoken since dialing 911 after his baby sister's mysterious injury? As suspicion grows about the incident, best friend Connor works out a code to communicate with Branwell in order to uncover the truth.

24. Korman, Gordon. BORN TO ROCK. Hyperion Books for Children. 2006.

High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

25. Koss, Amy Goldman. THE GIRLS. Dial, 2000.

What happens when the bossy ringleader of a popular middle school clique decides on a whim who's in and who's out? Guilt and anxiety surface as each girl in the group wonders why the latest has been dropped.

26. Levine, Gail Carson. TWO PRINCESSES OF BAMARRE. HarperCollins, 2001.

When her confident, adventurous sister Meryl gets the Gray Death, timid Addie embarks on a dangerous quest to find a cure. Bewitched beings and magical monsters challenge her at every turn.

27. Lisle, Janet Taylor. BLACK DUCK. Sleuth/Philomel. 2006.

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.

28. Lupica, Mike. HEAT. Philomel Books. 2006.

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.

29. Mass, Wendy. JEREMY FINK AND THE MEANING OF LIFE. Little, Brown & Company. 2006.

Everything changes when the box arrives. Jeremy's father, who died five years ago, left behind a box for Jeremy to open on his 13th birthday. According to the writing on the box, it holds the meaning of life! The problem is, the keys are missing, and the box is made so that only the keys will open it without destroying what's inside.

30. McKernan, Victoria. SHACKLETON'S STOWAWAY. Random House. 2005.

A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship Endurance was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of the toes of his left foot to frostbite, during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

31. Meehl, Brian. OUT OF PATIENCE. Delacorte. 2006.

Twelve-year-old Jake Waters cannot wait to escape the small town of Patience, Kansas, until the arrival of a cursed toilet plunger causes him to reevaluate his feelings toward his family and its history.

32. Mikaelson, Ben. TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR. HarperCollins, 2001.

Banished to a remote Alaskan island for one year after severely injuring a classmate during a fight, Cole resents the primitive wilderness life. Will his attitude change after he confronts the legendary white spirit bear?

33. Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. DAIRY QUEEN: A NOVEL. Houghton Mifflin. 2006.

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.

34. Newquist, H. P. GREAT BRAIN BOOK: AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE INSIDE OF YOUR HEAD. Scholastic. 2004.

Discusses the brain, including the anatomy, how it functions, and a look at the organ from a historical and futuristic perspective.

35. Papademetriou, Lisa. THE WIZARD, THE WITCH, AND TWO GIRLS FROM JERSEY. Razorbill. 2006.

Two mismatched teenage girls must find their way back home to New Jersey after being zapped into the pages of a fantasy novel.

36. Patneaude, David. HAUNTING AT HOME PLATE. Albert Whitman, 2000.

Nelson's baseball team has had a rough season and may not make the playoffs. When mysterious messages begin popping up in the dirt around home plate, the team's luck changes. Are they getting baseball advice from a fan or from a ghost?

37. Peters, Julie Anne. DEFINE "NORMAL." Little Brown, 2000.

Sparks fly when responsible honors student Antonia is assigned as peer counselor to smart-mouthed Jazz, a "punker" with purple hair, pierced eyebrow, and an attitude. As they struggle to find common ground, one girl becomes a lifeline for the other.

38. Philbrick, Rodman. THE LAST BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE. Scholastic/Blue Sky, 2000.

Alone in a violent, futuristic society, Spaz has heard of books but never read one and doesn't see the point. His feelings begin to change when he sets off across gangland boundaries on a dangerous mission to save his dying sister.

39. Sonnenblick, Jordan. NOTES FROM THE MIDNIGHT DRIVER. Scholastic Press. 2006

16-year-old Alex decides to get even. His parents are separated, his father is dating his former third-grade teacher, and being 16 isn't easy, especially when it comes to girls. Instead of revenge though, Alex ends up in trouble with the law and is ordered to do community service at a senior center where he is assigned to Solomon Lewis, a "difficult" senior with a lot of gusto, advice for Alex, and a puzzling (yet colorful) Yiddish vocabulary. Eventually, the pair learn to deal with their past and each other in ways that are humorous, entertaining, and life changing.

40. Sullivan, George. BUILT TO LAST: BUILDING AMERICA'S AMAZING BRIDGES, DAMS, TUNNELS, AND SKYSCRAPERS. Scholastic. 2005.

Tells the story of the design and construction of 17 architectural and engineering accomplishments. It celebrates more than 200 years of American ingenuity and determination, of thinking on a grand scale, and of solving the problems that stand in the way of progress.

41. Thimmish, Catherine. TEAM MOON: HOW 400,000 LANDED APOLLO 11 ON THE MOON. Houghton Mifflin. 2006.

Chronicles the Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.

42. Van Draanen, Wendelin. RUNAWAY. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 2006.

After running away from her fifth foster home, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country, keeping a journal of her experiences and struggle to survive.

43. Williams, Laura E. THE EXECUTIONER'S DAUGHTER. Henry Holt, 2000.

In the 1400s, Lily, daughter of the village executioner, lives an isolated life tending forest animals and collecting herbs. Destined to assist her father in his bloody and feared occupation, will she have the courage to seek a different fate?

44. Wolff, Virginia Euwer. TRUE BELIEVER. Atheneum, 2001.

In free verse writing, LaVaughn reveals her dream to attend college and escape the violence and poverty of the projects. Pressured at school, home, and at work, she clings to the belief that she can overcome the many obstacles in her way.

45. Wolfson, Jill. HOME, AND OTHER BIG, FAT LIES. Scholastic Press. 2006.

Whitney has been in so many foster homes that she can give a complete rundown on the most common varieties of foster parents—from the look-on-the-bright-side types to those unfortunate examples of pure evil. But one thing she doesn't know much about is trees. This means heading for Foster Home #12 (which is all the way at the top of the map of California, where there looks to be nothing but trees) has Whitney feeling a little nervous. She is pretty sure that the middle of nowhere is going to be just one more place where a hyper, loud-mouthed kid who is messy and small for her age won't be welcome for long.

46. Woodson, Jacqueline. MIRACLE'S BOYS. Putnam, 2000.

Three orphaned brothers try to survive on their own in a rundown New York City neighborhood. Tyree gives up college to support them all, hostile Charlie has just returned from a juvenile facility, and Lafayette blames himself for his mother's recent death.