

Junior High Summer Reading 2008 (Annotated)*

1. Avi. CRISPIN: CROSS OF LEAD. Hyperion, 2002.

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14th-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

2. Baskin, Nora Raleigh. WHAT EVERY GIRL (EXCEPT ME) KNOWS. Little, Brown, 2001; paperback, Random, 2002.

Twelve-year-old Gabby feels that she needs a mother to help her grow into a woman, so when things between her father and his latest girlfriend do not work out, Gabby sets off for the last place she remembers seeing her own mother.

3. Blumenthal, Karen. LET ME PLAY, THE HISTORY OF TITLE IX: THE LAW THAT CHANGED THE FUTURE OF GIRLS IN AMERICA. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Of course they can...today. But just a few decades ago, opportunities for girls were far more limited, not because they weren't capable of playing or didn't want to become doctors or lawyers, but because they weren't allowed to. Then quietly, in 1972, something momentous happened: Congress passed a law called "Title IX," forever changing the lives of American girls.

4. Bryant, Jen. PIECES OF GEORGIA: A NOVEL. Knopf, 2006.

In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.

5. Burns, Loree Griffin. TRACKING TRASH: FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND THE SCIENCE OF OCEAN MOTION. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

Describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents.

6. Cabot, Meg. ALL-AMERICAN GIRL. HarperCollins, 2002.

Sophomore Samantha Madison stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed teen ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.

7. Clements, Andrew. THINGS NOT SEEN. Philomel, 2002.

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.

8. Cooney, Caroline. GODDESS OF YESTERDAY. Delacorte, 2002.

Anaxandra, daughter of the king of a small Greek island, becomes caught up in the events of the siege of Troy when, after spending most of her life as a hostage, she is taken into the palace of King Menalaus and ends up traveling to Troy as protector of Helen's infant son.

**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. Couloumbis, Audrey. SAY YES. Putnam, 2002.

In her efforts to hang on following the disappearance of her stepmother, Casey resorts to anything including robbery.

10. Dodd, Quentin. BEATNIK RUTABAGAS FROM BEYOND THE STARS. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001.

Whisked away on space ships to serve as generals of opposing armies, best friends and sci-fi movie fans Walter Nutria and Yselle Meridian soon convince the aliens they must work together against the real menaces, Space Mice from Galaxy Four and their leader, The Boss.

11. Eberhardt, Thom. RAT BOYS: A DATING EXPERIMENT. Hyperion, 2001.

Fourteen-year-olds Marci and Summer use a magic ring to turn two rats into cute boys so that they can have dates for the Spring Fling.

12. Flinn, Alex. BEASTLY. HarperTeen, 2007.

Kyle Kingsbury has everything going for him - money, good looks, and charm - until the day he mocks the wrong girl (a witch in disguise) who transforms him into a terrifying beast. Kyle has two years to find true love before he becomes a monster forever in this very modern retelling of the classic Beauty and the Beast story.

13. Greene, Bette. SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER. Penguin, 1973.

Sheltering an escaped German prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old Jewish girl in Arkansas.

14. Hale, Marian. DARK WATER RISING. Holt, 2006.

Almost 8000 people died when a hurricane struck the Galveston coast in 1900. Sixteen-year old Seth survived the storm, found his way home and discovered his talents and strengths while helping to rebuild the island.

15. Halls, Kelly Milner. TALES OF THE CRYPTIDS: MYSTERIOUS CREATURES THAT MAY OR MAY NOT EXIST. Darby Creek, 2006.

Get the scientific facts about Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster, Chupacabra, the Mongolian Death Worm, and 50 other legendary creatures, and find out what is true, what is myth, and what just isn't known (yet).

16. Harper, Suzanne. THE SECRET LIFE OF SPARROW DELANEY. Greenwillow, 2007.

Sparrow is the 7th and most powerful daughter in a family of psychics, but she wants nothing to do with her powers until a persistent ghost convinces her to help him out.

17. Haydon, Elizabeth. THE FLOATING ISLAND: THE LOST JOURNALS OF VEN POLYPHEME. Starscape, 2006.

Attacked by pirates and saved by a mermaid, Ven's amazing adventures include a talking cat, ghosts, and a quest for the magical waters of the mysterious floating island.

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18. Holm, Jennifer L. MIDDLE SCHOOL IS WORSE THAN MEATLOAF: A YEAR TOLD THROUGH STUFF. Atheneum, 2007.

Ginny is ready for seventh grade. If she can just complete the ten items on her to-do list, everything will be perfect. But life gets in the way as she deals with family issues, problems with friends, and mishaps at school. What was supposed to be her greatest year is turning into the worst year ever!

19. Horowitz, Anthony. POINT BLANK. Philomel, 2002.

Fourteen-year-old Alex continues his work as a spy for the British MI6, investigating an exclusive school for boys in the French Alps.

20. Jordan, Sherryl. THE HUNTING OF THE LAST DRAGON. HarperCollins, 2002.

In England in 1356, as a monk records his every word, a young peasant tells of his journey with a young Chinese noblewoman to St. Alfric's Cove and the lair of a dragon.

21. Korman, Gordon. SCHOOLED. Hyperion, 2007.

Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie, but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

22. Kostick, Conor. EPIC. Viking, 2007.

On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to challenge the system in order to save his father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

23. London, Jack. WHITE FANG. Macmillan, 1935.

The adventures in the northern wilderness of a dog who is part wolf and who eventually makes his peace with man.

24. Lubar, David. DUNK. Clarion, 2002.

While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore the summer before his junior year in high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away.

25. Lurie, April. BROTHERS, BOYFRIENDS, & OTHER CRIMINAL MINDS. Delacorte, 2007.

April Lundquist's life has suddenly become very exciting. She lives on a street full of mafia bosses and accidentally becomes employed by Salvatore "Soft Sal" Luciano while her older brother Matt is secretly seeing another mobster's daughter. April and her friend Brandi do all they can to save the sometimes annoying, yet over-protective Matt from his impending doom amidst their own hilarious boyfriend problems.

26. Marrin, Albert. OH, RATS! THE STORY OF RATS AND PEOPLE. Dutton, 2006.

Get ready to look at rats in a whole new way. These intelligent, compassionate creatures are greatly misunderstood.

27. Masoff, Joy. OH, YIKES! HISTORY'S GROSSEST, WACKIEST MOMENTS. Workman, 2006.

Provides facts about some of the grossest, messiest, and strangest moments in history, relating information about the disgusting habits of Attila and the Huns, the Aztecs, cavemen, circus performers, cowboys, gladiators, the Vikings, and many others.

28. McNish, Cliff. BREATHE: A GHOST STORY. Carolrhoda, 2006.

Jack is no stranger to death – he's been close before when his asthma threatened to overpower him. When he and his mother move into an old farmhouse, Jack actually begins to see the spirits of the Ghost Mother and the four ghost children she is terrorizing. As the Ghost Mother decides she wants a real child to love, Jack is drawn into a struggle with the Other World to save not only his life and his mother's, but also to reunite the ghost children's souls with their loved ones.

29. McPherson, James M. FIELDS OF FURY: THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. Atheneum, 2002.

Examines the events and effects of the American Civil War.

30. Nickerson, Sara. HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY AND NEVER BE FOUND. HarperCollins, 2002.

With a swimming medal, the key to a mansion, and a comic book about a half-man/half-rat as her only clues, a twelve-year-old girl seeks the true story of her father's mysterious death four years earlier near an island in the Pacific Northwest.

31. Rallison, Janette. PLAYING THE FIELD. Walker & Co., 2002.

Thirteen-year-old McKay tries to keep up his algebra grade to stay on the baseball team, while dealing with his attraction to a girl named Serena.

32. Resau, Laura. WHAT THE MOON SAW: A NOVEL. Delacorte, 2006.

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.

33. Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ESPERANZA RISING. Scholastic, 2002.

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.

34. Salisbury, Graham. NIGHT OF THE HOWLING DOGS. Wendy Lamb, 2007.

Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii in 1975 find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes followed by a tsunami.

35. Schmidt, Gary D. THE WEDNESDAY WARS. Clarion, 2007.

In a year filled with cream puff disasters, being forced to study Shakespeare, wearing yellow tights and the Vietnam War, Holling also meets the New York Yankees, makes the cross country track team and learns to stand up to his father.

36. Schmidt, Gary D. STRAW INTO GOLD. Clarion, 2001.

Pursued by greedy villains, two boys on a quest to save innocent lives meet the banished queen whose son was stolen by Rumpelstiltskin eleven years earlier, and she provides much more than the answer they seek.

37. Scott, Michael. ALCHEMYST: THE SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL NICHOLAS FLAMEL. Delacorte, 2007.

Nicholas Flamel, the greatest Alchemist of his day, supposedly died in 1418. In reality, he and his wife are still alive and well today. When the book that holds the secret to eternal life is stolen from Flamel, twins Sophie and Josh find themselves the subject of a prophecy giving them the power to save the world.

38. Shaw, Susan. BLACK-EYED SUZIE. Boyds Mills, 2002.

After losing touch with reality, twelve-year-old Suzie enters a mental hospital where she finds the courage to talk about her abusive mother and break out of psychological prison she calls "the box."

39. Smith, Betty. A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN. Harper, 1943.

Story of life in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn slums, as seen from the eyes of a bright young girl who is charmed by her drunken father.

40. Smith, Roland. PEAK. Harcourt, 2007.

Peak was born to be a climber. After getting caught and then arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, 14 year-old Peak is "rescued" by his previously absentee father. Peak's father has an even grander plan for Peak; he wants Peak to be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest, no matter what it takes to make it happen.

41. Sonnenblick, Jordan. ZEN AND THE ART OF FAKING IT. Scholastic, 2007.

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

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42. Stead, Rebecca. *FIRST LIGHT*. Wendy Lamb, 2007.

When twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father's research, he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life and begins an adventure he never imagined possible.

43. Stevenson, Robert Louis. *KIDNAPPED*. Simon & Schuster, 1913.

A Scottish lad is tricked out of his inheritance by an uncle and is kidnapped aboard a ship to endure the dangers of the high seas

44. Stewart, Trenton Lee. *THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY*. Little, Brown, 2007.

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.

45. Tingle, Rebecca. *THE EDGE ON THE SWORD*. Putnam, 2001.

In ninth-century Britain, fifteen-year-old Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony, finds she must assume new responsibilities much sooner than expected when she is betrothed to Ethelred of Mercia in order to strengthen a strategic alliance against the Danes.