CCMS Suggested Summer Reading List

Having trouble finding something to read? Check out the list of recommended summer reads listed by genre and reading level.

Titles are noted for general reading level by stars: *easy**average***challenging.

**Action and Adventure**

**Just Added**

**Chomp** by Carl Hiaasen (2012)...The difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival," disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father.

**Doll Bones** by Holly Black (2013)...Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

**Hero** by Mike Lupica (2010)...Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the president's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him, and now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.

**I Pledge Allegiance** by Chris Lynch (2011)...Four best friends serving in the Vietnam War make a pledge to one another that they will do all they can to return home safely together.

**One Came Home** by Amy Timberlake (2013)...In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

**Wonder Show** by Hannah Rodgers Barnaby (2012)...Portia Remini, having escaped from McGreavy's Home for Wayward Girls, joins Mosco's Traveling Wonder Show and searches for answers about the disappearance of her father, while hoping Mister does not find her before she can learn the truth.

**Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz... After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. *series*

**The Recruit** by Robert Muchamore... James is recruited into CHERUB, a secret division of MI5 which consists of teenage spies. He successfully completes his training and goes on his first mission.*series*

**Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan** by John Flanagan... 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. *series*

**Jimmy Coates: Assassin?** by Joe Craig... While escaping from the strange men that are after him in London, Jimmy discovers he possesses many unusual talents for an eleven-year-old boy. *series*

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

**Soldier Boys** by Dean Hughes... Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge. Pay attention to the wartime propaganda on both sides!

**Boy At War** by Harry Mazer... 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. *series*
**Code Orange** by Caroline B. Cooney... While conducting research for a biology class paper on infectious diseases, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City, and attracted the attention of terrorists who want to use the disease as a weapon.

**Flash Flood** by Chris Ryan... Ben's on a trip to London to meet his mum. But an accident at the Thames Barrier, combined with a tidal surge and a dramatic thunderstorm - and suddenly his trip turns into something totally different as the Barrier is breached and London is flooded. With streets underwater, communications down, rats pouring up out of the sewers and thousands of people in a state of panic, survival becomes a key issue. But as Ben tries to get across London to meet his mother, little does he know that two terrorists have a similar rendezvous. *series*

**Silverfin** by Charlie Higson... Young James Bondattends school at the prestigious Eton boarding school, and teams up with Red to investigate the mystery of the disappearance of a boy, Alfie Kelly, Red's cousin, allegedly linked to a madman with a plot for global domination. *series*

### Chick Lit

**Faith, Hope, and Ivy June** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (2009)...During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes, and communities, and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites they have a lot in common.

**Guitar Notes** by Mary Amato (2012)...Tripp, who plays guitar only for himself, and Lyla, a cellist whose talent has already made her famous but not happy, form an unlikely friendship when they are forced to share a practice room at their high school.

**If I have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's my Prince?** by Melissa Kantor (2005)...High school sophomore Lucy Norton's life is turned upside down when her father remarries and moves Lucy to Long Island, where she finds herself trapped in a Cinderella story with a wicked stepmother, two evil stepsisters, and a dashing prince who could make all Lucy's dreams come true.

**The Princess Diaries** by Meg Cabot (2000)...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.

**Same Sun Here** by Silas House (2011)...A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.

**Sean Griswold's Head** by Lindsey Leavitt (2011)...After discovering that her father has multiple sclerosis, fifteen-year-old Payton begins counseling sessions at school, which lead her to become interested in a boy in her biology class, have a falling out with her best friend, develop an interest in bike riding, and eventually allow her to come to terms with life's uncertainties.

* Confessions of a Closet Catholic by Sarah Littman... Justine Silver, a teenaged middle child, questions her Jewish faith when her Catholic best friend, Mary Catherine McAllister gives up chocolate for Lent, but when her grandmother suffers a stroke, Jussy has to face her relationship with religion.

* You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah by Fiona Rosenbloom... As her bat mitzvah approaches, Stacy Adelaide Friedman of White Plains, New York, has a lot on her mind--her parents have separated, her mother dresses her like an American Girl doll, her younger brother is embarrassing, and she is totally in love with Andy Goldfarb.

**The Girl Who Invented Romance** by Caroline B. Cooney... While waiting for her first big romance and observing the sometimes rocky love affairs of her parents and brother, sixteen-year-old Kelly develops a board game called Romance.

**A Girl Like Moi: The Fashion-Forward Adventures of Imogene** by Lisa Barham... Fashion-obsessed Imogene's dreams of a summer in Paris are put aside when she is forced to get a job and support herself, but when she lands a dream job as an intern at a New York fashion forecasting agency, she realizes she has gotten the chance of a lifetime and does her best to make the most of it. Lots of Greenwich humor and fashion name-dropping!
**If You Come Softly** by Jacqueline Woodson... After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with peoples’ reactions.

**Flavor of the Week** by Tucker Shaw... Cyril, an overweight boy who is good friends with Rose but wishes he could be more, helps his best friend Nick woo her with culinary masterpieces which Cyril himself secretly creates. Includes recipes from the story. A modern teenage take on the famous French story, Cyrano de Bergerac.

**I’d Tell You That I Love You But Then I’d Have to Kill You** by Ally Carter... 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.

*Bloomability* by Sharon Creech... Thirteen-year-old Dinnie finds her world expanding after her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school. Very funny and perfect for going into 6th grade.

**Twilight** by Stephenie Meyer... When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human. *series*

***Great and Terrible Beauty*** by Libba Bray... After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world. *series* This one gets amazing student reviews.

*Classics*

***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien... Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

***Lord of The Rings Trilogy: Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers and Return of the King*** by J.R.R. Tolkien... The penultimate epic fantasy that tells the tale of Bilbo Baggins’ nephew, Frodo, and his friends, whose quest to destroy the Ring of Power takes them all through Middle Earth.

***And Then There Were None*** by Agatha Christie... Originally published as *Ten Little Indians*. Ten strangers—each with a sordid past—are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival.

***The Time Machine*** by H.G. Wells... Relates the adventures of a scientist who invents a machine that transports him into the future.

***War of the Worlds*** by H.G. Wells... An intellectually-superior race from Mars invades the Earth with plans to enslave human beings. When this was broadcast as a radio play for the first time in the 1930’s, it caused panic as people were not sure if this was real or not!

***Dracula*** by Bram Stoker... Wealthy Transylvanian nobleman, Count Dracula, is revealed as a vampire.

***The Hessian*** by Howard Fast... When his entire brigade is wiped out by the colonists, a sixteen-year-old German drummer boy survives with the aid of a Quaker family and the local doctor.

***Fantastic Voyage*** by Isaac Asimov... Five people are miniaturized and sent on a rescue mission through a man’s body where they have sixty minutes to reach and break up a blood clot in his brain.

*Fantasy*

**Just Added**

***The Alchemyst*** by Michael Scott (2007)...Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

*The False Prince* by Jennifer A. Nielsen (2012)...In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king’s long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.
*Incarceron* by Catherine Fisher (2007)...To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape.

**The Scorpio Races** by Maggie Stiefvater (2011)...Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races, both trying to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line.

***The Looking Glass Wars* by Frank Beddor... When she is cast out of Wonderland by her evil aunt Redd, young Alyss Heart finds herself living in Victorian Oxford as Alice Liddell and struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne. *series* The current sequel is *Seeing Redd*.

**Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan... 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. He is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. *series*

**Everlost** by Neal Shusterman... When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing—even skinjacking—to break free.

***Here There Be Dragons** by James A Owen... Three young men are entrusted with the Imaginarium Geographica, an atlas of fantastical places to which they travel in hopes of defeating the Winter King whose bid for power is related to the First World War raging in the Real World. *series* Sequel is *The Search for the Red Dragon*.

*Dealing With Dragons* by Patricia Wrede... Bored with traditional palace life where she is supposed to be doing needlepoint and dancing instead of cooking and swordfighting, Princess Cimorene goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards. *series*

**Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer... Twelve-year-old millionaire, genius, and criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl finds himself in over his head after he kidnaps a dangerous fairy. *series*

*Magyk* by Angie Sage...Jenna learns that she is a princess found as a baby by the man she believed was her father and now she and Septimus, who was taken at birth by the midwife, are being threatened by the evil wizard, DomDaniel who intends to finish off the entire royal line. *series*

***The Amulet of Samarkand*** by Jonathan Stroud... Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland. Bartimaeus is 5,000 years old and incredibly sarcastic and snarky! *series*

*Children of the Lamp: The Akhenaten Adventure* by P.B. Kerr... When twelve-year-old twins John and Philippa Gaunt develop extraordinary magical gifts, they travel to London to meet their wildly eccentric djinn-uncle, Nimrod, who teaches them to harness their new powers and sends them on a mission. *series*

***Eragon*** by Christopher Paolini... In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage named Eragon finds a mysterious stone that is actually a dragon's egg. When the dragon, Saphira, hatches, Eragon becomes the last of the Dragon Riders, and the only hope of all of the residents of Alagaesia for overthrowing the evil King Galbatorix. *series* Sequel is *Eldest*, third in the series.

**Historical Fiction**

*Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro* by Margi Preus (2010)...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.

*Leaving Gee’s Bend* by Irene Latham (2010)... Ludelphia Bennett, a determined, ten-year-old African American girl in 1932 Gee's Bend, Alabama, leaves home in an effort to find medical help for her sick mother, and she recounts her ensuing adventures in a quilt she is making.
*The Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine (2012)...Twelve-year-old Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl in school, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

*Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen (2010)...From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Native Americans who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. Includes historical notes.

**Elijah of Buxton** by Christopher Paul Curtis... Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

**Red Moon at Sharpsburg** by Rosemary Wells... Even though the odds are against her and the Civil War has ruined her home and given her a view of the darker side of humanity, thirteen-year-old India Moody continues to aspire to become a scientist and attend Oberlin College.

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

**Leonardo's Shadow** by Christopher Grey... Fifteen-year-old Giacomo--servant to Leonardo da Vinci--helps his procrastinating master finish painting "The Last Supper" while also trying to find clues to his parentage and pursue his own career as an artist in late fifteenth-century Milan.

**When My Name Was Keoko** by Linda Sue Park... With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

**Incantation** by Alice Hoffman... During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.

*Legend of Bass Reeves* by Gary Paulsen... The story of Bass Reeves, who was born a slave and later became one of the most respected and long-lived federal marshals in Oklahoma and Texas.

**Airman** by Eoin Colfer... In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

**A Northern Light** by Jennifer Donnelly... Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.

**Or Give Me Death** by Ann Rinaldi... With their father away most of the time advocating independence for the American colonies, the children of Patrick Henry try to raise themselves, manage the family plantation, and care for their mentally ill mother.

### Horror

*Just Added*

**Bad Girls Don’t Die** by Katie Alender (2009)...When fifteen-year-old Lexi's younger sister Kasey begins behaving strangely and their old Victorian house seems to take on a life of its own, Lexi investigates and discovers some frightening facts about previous occupants of the house, leading her to believe that many lives are in danger.

**Bonechiller** by Graham McNamee (2008)...Four high school students face off against a soul-stealing beast that has been making young people disappear in their small Ontario, Canada, town for centuries.
**The Ghost of Graylock** by Dan Poblocki (2012)...Staying with their aunts over the summer, Neil Cady, his sister Bree, and their new friends Wesley and Eric, set out to explore Greylock Hall, an abandoned psychiatric hospital which is supposed to be haunted by the ghost of Nurse Janet.

**Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children** by Ransom Riggs (2011)...Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive. *Hollow City* is the sequel to this peculiar tale.

**Rot & Ruin** by Jonathan Maberry (2010)...In a post-apocalyptic world where fences and border patrols guard the few people left from the zombies that have overtaken civilization, fifteen-year-old Benny Imura is finally convinced that he must follow in his older brother's footsteps and become a bounty hunter. *Dust & Decay* is the second book in this *series*.

* Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare by Darren Shan... Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices. *series*

**Full Tilt** by Neal Shusterman... When sixteen-year-old Blake goes to a mysterious, by-invitation-only carnival he somehow knows that it could save his comatose brother, but soon learns that much more is at stake if he fails to meet the challenge presented there by the beautiful Cassandra.

*** Edgar Allen Poe’s Tales of Mystery and Madness, illustrated by Gris Grimly... Published in 2004, this is a collection of four classic Poe short horror stories. The illustrations are nothing short of hilarious genius, and they truly make this book a success.

** The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon** by Stephen King... Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland, lost in the woods after she wanders off to escape the bickering between her mom and her brother, boosts her courage by imagining that her hero, Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Tom Gordon, is with her, helping her survive an unknown enemy.

** The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites** by Heather Brewer... Thirteen-year-old half-vampire Vladimir Tod struggles to navigate the ups and downs of eighth grade while keeping his untested powers and impulses under control. *series*

** Coraline** by Neil Gaiman... Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

* House of Stairs* by William Sleator... Five sixteen-year-old orphans of widely varying personality characteristics are involuntarily placed in a house of endless stairs as subjects for a psychological experiment on conditioned human response.

**Midnighters: The Secret Hour** by Scott Westerfeld... Upon moving to Bixby, Oklahoma, fifteen-year-old Jessica Day learns that she is one of a group of people who have special abilities that help them fight ancient creatures living in an hour hidden at midnight; creatures that seem determined to destroy Jess. *series*

### Humor

**Flawed Dogs: the Novel: the Shocking Attack on Westminster** by Berke Breathed (2009)...After being framed by a jealous poodle, a dachshund is left for dead, but comes back with a group of mutts from the National Last Ditch Dog Depository to disrupt the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show and exact revenge on Cassius the poodle.

*The Fourth Stall* by Chris Rylander (2011)...Sixth-graders Mac and Vince operate a business charging schoolmates for protection from bullies and for help to negotiate conflicts peacefully, with amazing challenges and results.

**Liar, Liar: the Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Deception** by Gary Paulsen (2011) Fourteen-year-old Kevin is very good at lying and doing so makes life easier, but when he finds himself in big trouble with his friends, family, and teachers, he must find a way to end his lies forever.

Presents a memoir of what it was like to grow up in the 1950s and other almost true stories by American children's author Jon Scieszka.

Standard Hero Behavior by John David Anderson (2007)...

When fifteen-year-old Mason Quayle finds out that their town of Darlington is about to be attacked by orcs, goblins, ogres, and trolls, he goes in search of some heroes to save the day.

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes (2013)...

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney...

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship. Lots of cartoon illustrations! Sequel is The Roderick Rules.

A Long Way From Chicago by Richard Peck...

Joey tells the stories of his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister, Mary Alice, during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. Grandma Dowdell is one tough cookie, and she is pretty funny, too! In the sequel, Mary Alice goes to live with Grandma Dowdell for a year, and it's a laugh riot!

Something to Blog About by Shana Norris...

Libby Fawcett figures her life can't get much worse after she lights her hair on fire in front of her entire chemistry class, including Seth, the boy she's had a secret crush on for years, until her mother announces she is dating the father of Libby's arch-enemy, who plays a nasty trick on Libby that makes her the laughing stock of the whole school.

Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman...

"the Sopranos go to high school." Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful New Jersey Mafia boss, and he's dating the daughter of the FBI agent who's out to get his dad. Lots of mob humor (all of his various "uncles" and their nicknames). Vince is the family civilian who is expected to avoid the family business and go to college and med school or law school, so he's got one foot in each world! Sequel is Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle.

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts by Richard Peck...

The first line: "If your teacher has to die, August isn't a bad time of year for it." Russell's elderly teacher (gasp! she was at least 40!) dies just before the beginning of the book, and his older sister Tansy is hired by the school board in their small town to run the one-room schoolhouse. Russell and his friends decide to do whatever they have to do to get her to quit, and the results are hysterically funny!

Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen...

An 11-year-old boy spends a summer with distant relatives on their Minnesota farm, and discovers what an extraordinary prankster his wild cousin Harris is.

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman...

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos...

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 wired. *series*

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams...

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

The Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett...

Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue toughs, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland. *series*

Mystery

Just Added

The Christopher Killer: a Forensic Mystery by Alane Ferguson (2006)...

On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.
Two teenagers learn that every player on a professional football team—which is supposed to play in the Super Bowl—has failed their drug test and the owner has covered up the results, and now they must find a way to prove it.

In 1868, with his army officer father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously "unwell," fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolical villain.

Moving to inner-city Boston after his parents' divorce, eleven-year-old Nicky struggles to cope with the changes in his life, including acquiring a former guide dog that leads to a mystery for Nicky to solve.

Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them and, after Michael's mother is kidnapped, he will need to rely on his powers and his friends to rescue his mom, protect himself, and save the others.

After Mickey witnesses his father's death and his mother's admission into rehab, he is sent to live with his estranged uncle and change high schools, but when Mickey's new girlfriend, Ashley, suddenly disappears Mickey refuses to let another person walk out of his life and follows clues that reveal truths about both Ashley and Mickey's father.

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself. *series*

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown of Echo Falls. Sequel is *Behind the Curtain*.

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. The sequels include *Cover Up*, where Stevie and Susan Carol go to the Super Bowl, and *Vanishing Act*, where they report from the US Open tennis championships.

Twelve-year-old Kevin, who is traveling with his grandmother on a sightseeing trip to different national parks and monuments, suspects that a man in his tour group might be carrying a bomb.

When his father is arrested as a debtor in 1849 London, fourteen-year-old John Huffman must take on unexpected responsibilities, from asking a distant relative for help to determining why people are spying on him and his family.

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

Too curious for her own good, Roni, crime reporter for her high school newspaper, teams up with Brian, freshman science geek, to investigate the beating and kidnapping of a classmate.

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. Sequel is *The Wright 3*.

Although filled with anger over her parents' disappearance, eleven-year-old Sabrina Grimm—along with her grandmother, sister, and several fairy-tale characters—tries to discover who has killed her teacher.
Nonfiction

**Just Added**
*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah (2007)...Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.

*Bomb: the Race to Build and Steal the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin (2012)...Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

*How They Croaked: the Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous* by Georgia Bragg (2011)...Shares the sometimes gruesome details of the deaths of nineteen famous historical figures, including King Tut, Pocahontas, George Washington, Edgar Allan Poe, and Marie Curie.

*Lincoln’s Last Days: the Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever* by Bill O’Reilly (2012)...Provides an account of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, discussing how actor John Wilkes Booth and his fellow Confederate sympathizers hatched their murderous plot, and following the ensuing manhunt, trials, and executions of the conspirators.


*** Left for Dead by Peter Nelson... This is the story of the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship’s captain, and how teenager Hunter Scott helped the survivors set the official record straight fifty-five years later.

*** Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley... James Bradley examines the lives of the six young men who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima in February 1945 and were immortalized by a famous photograph—one of whom was Bradley's father. We recommend the edition for young people.

** Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon** by Catherine Thimmesh... 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.

** Promises To Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America** by Sharon Robinson... A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter.

* Guts: the True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books by Gary Paulsen... The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

*** Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium by Carla Killough McClafferty... Chronicles the life of Marie Curie, discussing her childhood in Poland, schooling in France, discovery of the element radium, efforts to create mobile X-ray units during World War I, and eventual death from radium poisoning.

*** The Power of One : Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine by Judith Bloom Fradin & Dennis Brindell Fradin... Daisy Bates was a civil rights activist, journalist, and organizer who acted as a mentor to the nine African-American students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957.

*** 5,000 miles to Freedom : Ellen and William Craft’s Flight from Slavery by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin... A detailed account of Ellen and William Craft's daring escape from slavery in 1848, and describes the institution of slavery in the South along with the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad.
**A Girl's Life Online** by Katherine Tarbox... The author recalls her experiences as a thirteen-year-old who began an online chatroom relationship with someone who posed as a teenage boy but turned out to be an internet predator. She offers advice and insight on online safety and common sense, and internet predators.

**Poetry**

**Just Added**

**All the Broken Pieces** by Ann E. Burg (2009)... Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.


**Nineteen Varieties of Gazelles: Poems of the Middle East** by Naomi Shihab Nye (2005)... A collection of sixty poems in which the Arab-American author examines life in the Middle East.

**Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba’s Struggle for Freedom** by Margarita Engle (2008)... Newbery Honor Book 2009

A collection of poems in which Rosa, a healer, describes her experiences trying to help Cuban peasants who have been forced to leave their farms and villages in 1896 and given eight days to find their way to "reconcentration camps" or be killed.

**Under the Mesquite** by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (2011)... Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry. Includes glossary of Spanish terms.

**Shakespeare Bats Cleanup** by Ron Koertge... When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

**Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems** by Mel Glenn... The story of a high school basketball team's season through a series of poems from the perspective of the players, their friends, families, teachers, and coaches.

**Girl Coming in For a Landing: A Novel in Poems** by April Halprin Wayland... A collection of poems recounting the ups and downs of one adolescent girl's school year.

**Troy Thompson’s Excellent Poetry Book** by Gary Crew and Craig Smith... (yes, the title really is spelled that way) Sixth grader Troy Thompson and his teacher, Ms. Kranke, face a challenging year of learning about poetry with humor and feeling.

**If the Shoe Fits: Voices From Cinderella** by Laura Whipple... An illustrated collection of thirty-three poems in which people, animals, and things that play a role in "Cinderella" present their perspectives on the events of the story.

**The Blood-Hungry Spleen and Other Poems About Our Parts** by Allan Wolf; illustrated by Greg Clarke... More than three dozen poems describe individual parts of the body and what they do for us and for some parts, such as the face, the verses describe how we communicate nonverbally with other people.

**Science Verse** by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith... A story about a teacher who tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything and a student is struck with a curse where he hears nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems.

**Jazmin's Notebook** by Nikki Grimes... Jazmin, an African-American teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life.

**Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff** by Jennifer Holm... Ginny makes a to do list for her seventh grade year, which includes landing a role in the school play, trying to make friends, ignoring her horoscope, and going to see her grandpa Joe in Florida; but she always seems to come up short in accomplishing any of it. This has
some poems in it, but the story is told through all of the "stuff" that Ginny collects through the year! It's an interesting alternative format to tell a story.

**Science Fiction**

*Just Added*

**Cinder** by Marissa Meyer (2012)...Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

*Legend* by Marie Lu (2011)...In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

**Leviathan** by Scott Westerfeld (2009)...In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

**Little Brother** by Cory Doctorow (2008)...Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

*Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi (2010)...In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

*** Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton... An account of the attempt, through a hair-raising twenty-four hours on a remote jungle island where a billionaire has financed the creation of a genetics lab which recreates dinosaur species from millions of years ago, for a theme park which gets out of control. This is much bloodier than the movie -- don't read this one right after lunch! Sequels: Lost World and Jurassic Park III.

*** Epic by Conor Kostick... Gamers will LOVE this one! On New Earth, a world in which your status is based on your performance in a global video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**Ender's Game** by Orson Scott Card... Ender, who is the result of government-sponsored genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy. This is the story of Ender's training at the Battle School space station from age six on. *series*

**House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer... In a future where human clones are regarded as property and not people with any rights, Matt enjoys special status as the youngest and last clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old drug lord whose corrupt drug empire is nestled between Mexico and the United States. But Matt's special status will only last until his parts are needed, and if he wants to live, he must escape.

*Hidden Talents* by David Lubar... Thirteen-year-old Martin, a new student at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself. Sequel is True Talents.

*Maximum Ride* by James Patterson... After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. *series*

**Diary of Pelly D** by L.J. Adlington... Toni V, a construction worker on a futuristic colony, finds the diary of a teenage girl whose life has been turned upside-down by holocaust-like events, and he begins to question his own beliefs.

**Life As We Knew It** by Susan Beth Pfeffer... Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
*This Place Has No Atmosphere* by Paula Danziger... Aurora loves her life on Earth in the twenty-first century, until she learns that her family is moving to the colony on the moon.

*Atherton: House of Power* by Patrick Carman... Edgar, an eleven-year-old orphan, finds a book that reveals significant secrets about Atherton, the strictly divided world on which he lives, even as geological changes threaten to shift the power structure that allows an elite few to live off the labor of others.

***Uglies*** by Scott Westerfeld... Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn’t like. *series*

**Sports**

Just Added

*Change-up: Mystery at the World Series* by John Feinstein (2009)... While covering baseball's World Series between the Washington Nationals and the Boston Red Sox, teenage sports reporters Stevie and Susan Carol investigate a rookie pitcher whose evasive answers during an interview reveal more than a few contradictions in his life story.

**The Final Four** by Paul Volponi (2012)... Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

**Million-dollar Throw** by Mike Lupica (2009)... Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

**Unstoppable** by Tim Green (2012)... Foster child Harrison, who dreams of playing in the NFL, is happy when he is put into a home with loving parents and a foster father who is a football coach, but, after becoming the star running back and suffering an injury, a cancer diagnosis threatens to ruin his future.

**Heat** by Mike Lupica... 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. Mrs. Ball says this is the best baseball book she's read in a long time.

**Throwing Like a Girl** by Weezie Kerr Mackie... After moving from Chicago to Dallas in the spring of her sophomore year, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that joining the softball team at her private school not only helps her make friends, it also provides unexpected opportunities to learn and grow.

**Travel Team** by Mike Lupica... 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.

**Dairy Queen** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock... 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. Sequel is *The Off Season*.

**Whale Talk** by Chris Crutcher... Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

**Crackback** by John Coy... Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.

**Keeper** by Mal Peet... South American journalist Paul Faustino begins his interview with World Cup Soccer star El Gato and learns a fantastic story of a young, lonely boy growing up in the middle of a rain forest who wandered upon a mysterious soccer field and an apparition that appeared to him daily.

**Pinned** by Alfred C. Martino ... Dealing with family problems, girls, and their own competitive natures, high school seniors Ivan Korske and Bobby Zane face each other in the final match of the New Jersey State Wrestling Championship.
* Football Genius by Tim Green... Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

* The Million Dollar Putt by Dan Gutman... Assisted by his neighbor, Birdie, blind thirteen-year-old Ed "Bogie" Bogard will win one million dollars if he can sink a ten-foot putt in Hawaii’s fifth annual Angus Killick Memorial Tournament.

** Young Adult/Realistic **

Just Added

** The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson (2014)..."Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a 'normal' life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy their lives"--Provided by publisher.

* One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (2013)...Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family.

* Scrawl: a Novel by Mark Shulman (2010)...When eighth-grade school bully Tod and his friends get caught committing a crime on school property, his penalty--staying after school and writing in a journal under the eye of the school guidance counselor--reveals aspects of himself that he prefers to keep hidden.

* True (--Sort Of) by Katherine Hannigan (2011)...For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why, until her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good--and happy--again.

* Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor (2008)...Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

* The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney... A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. *series*

* Small Steps by Louis Sachar... Sequel to Holes. Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

** Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli... Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.

** The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis... In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.

*** Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac by Gabielle Zevin... After a nasty fall down the front steps of her high school, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years. This includes her parents' divorce and remarriage, and why the people in her life are her friends, when some of them aren't really decent friends at all! Naomi re-evaluates a lot of her life.

*** Notes From the Midnight Driver by Jordan Sonnenblick... After a drunk driving incident in which no one is hurt except his neighbor's garden gnome statue, Alex is assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, where he befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

** Red Midnight by Ben Mikaelsen... After soldiers kill his family, twelve-year-old Santiago and his four-year-old sister flee Guatemala in a kayak and try to reach the United States.

** Homecoming by Cynthia Voight... Abandoned first by their father, and then also by their mother in a shopping mall parking lot, four children begin an epic journey on foot following Route 1 from Bridgeport down into Maryland in search of a home.

** Schooled by Gordon Korman... 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.
*** Monster by Walter Dean Myers... While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

*** The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashjian... Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention. Sequel is Vote For Larry: Not yet eighteen years old, Josh, a.k.a. Larry, comes out of hiding and returns to public life, this time to run for President as an advocate for issues of concern to youth and to encourage voter turnout.

** All of the Above by Shelly Pearsall... Five urban middle school students, their teacher, and other community members relate how a school project to build the world's largest tetrahedron affects the lives of everyone involved.