



Memorial Junior High School

7th & 8th Grade Recommended Reading List

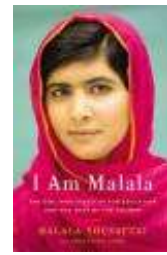
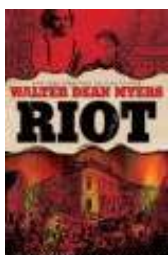
The titles on this list are recommended by the South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools Library staff. These books are not required reading, and are meant to be used as an aid by parents and students in selecting high-quality reading materials to enrich and supplement the school curriculum. The list includes both fiction and non-fiction and covers a wide range of reading levels, and a variety of genres and topics. You will find old favorites, as well as award winners and titles currently garnering attention from young adults. A few titles contain passages that may represent the trials or realities of life in a frank or explicit manner. Therefore, we recommend that parents and students explore the options together prior to making selections. The titles on the list should be available from your school library, the Cuyahoga County Public Library or your local bookseller. We encourage you to read, and share your favorites with your friends, teachers and school library staff.

Lisa Hubler

Library Media Specialist

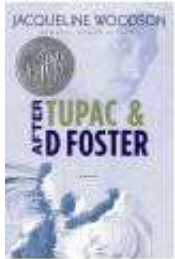
District Library Coordinator

*Please do not confuse this list with your summer or other assigned reading.



FEEL THE POWER!

Fiction:



After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live. 750L



Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Due to government restrictions on family size, Luke is born an illegal third child who must hide from sight for his own safety, yet when he secretly encounters another "shadow child" on the connecting farm, Luke is willing to take big risks to develop the friendship. 800L



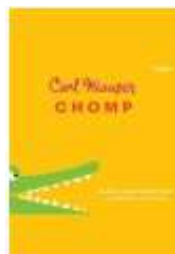
Blood and Chocolate by Annette Curtis Klause

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom. 720L



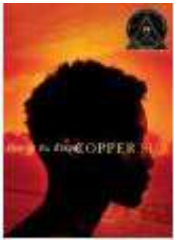
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.



Chomp Carl Hiaasen

When the difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father. 800L



Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper

Having watched her village torched, witnessed her family killed, and been kidnapped by slave traders, Amari arrives on Mr. Derby's Carolina plantation afraid and confused. Yet with time and hard work, she learns the language, befriends another slave, and struggles to attain her one true goal: to be a free person once again. 820L



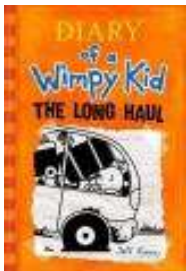
Counting by 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. 820L



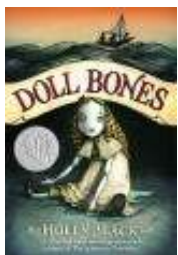
Dead Beautiful by Yvonne Wood

After her parents die under mysterious circumstances, 16-year-old Renee Winters is sent from California to a mysterious boarding school in Maine, where she meets handsome fellow student Dante Berlin, to whom she feels strangely connected, in a haunting love story about desire, danger and destiny. HL730L



Diary of a Wimpy Kid The Long Haul by Jeff Kinney

The Heffley family road trip starts off full of promise, then quickly takes several wrong turns--with everything from a fender bender to crazed seagulls--but even the worst road trip can turn into an adventure, and this is one the Heffleys will not soon forget. 1000L



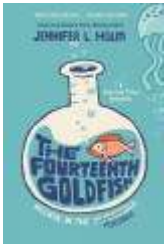
Doll Bones by Holly Black

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. 840L



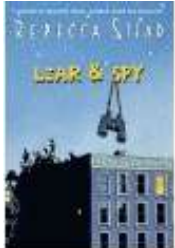
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Once again, the Earth is under attack. An alien species is poised for a final assault. The survival of humanity depends on a military genius who can defeat the aliens. But who? Ender Wiggin is a brilliant, ruthless, cunning, a tactical and strategic master, and a child. Recruited for military training by the world government, Ender's childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle School. How will Ender perform in real combat conditions? After all, Battle School is just a game. Isn't it? 780L



The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm

Hating change and missing both her best friend and her dead goldfish, 11-year-old Ellie encounters a boy who strongly resembles her immortality-obsessed grandfather, in a story that introduces the work of famous historical scientists.



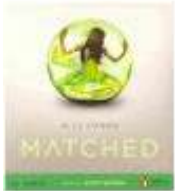
Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building. 670L



The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

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. 740L



Matched by Ally Condie

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, so when Xander appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate--until Ky Markham's face appears for an instant before the screen fades to black. HL680L



Middle School: Get Me Out of Here! by James Patterson

After sixth grade, the very worst year of his life, Rafe Khatchadorian thinks he has it made in seventh grade. He's been accepted to art school in the big city and imagines a math-and-history-free fun zone. Wrong! It's more competitive than Rafe ever expected, and to score big in class, he needs to find a way to turn his boring life into the inspiration for a work of art. His method? Operation: Get a Life! Anything he's never done before, he's going to do it, from learning to play poker to going to a modern art museum. But when his newest mission uncovers secrets about the family Rafe's never known, he has to decide if he's ready to have his world turned upside down. 680L



My Name is Not Friday by Jon Walter

Living in an orphanage during the end of the Civil War, Samuel, a well-mannered black boy, takes the blame for his mischievous younger brother's prank and is sold into slavery in the South, where he plans diligently to regain his freedom.



Pinned by Sharon G. Flake

Adonis is smart, intellectually gifted and born without legs; Autumn is strong, a great wrestler, and barely able to read in ninth grade--but Autumn is attracted to Adonis and determined to make him a part of her life whatever he or her best friend thinks. HL460L



Riot by Walter Dean Myers

In 1863, fifteen-year-old Claire, the daughter of an Irish mother and a black father, faces ugly truths and great danger when Irish immigrants, enraged by the Civil War and a federal draft, lash out against blacks and wealthy "swells" of New York City.



Salt to the Sea by Ruth Sepetys

Racing to freedom with thousands of other refugees as Russian forces close in on their homes in East Prussia, Joana, Emilia, and Florian meet aboard the doomed Wilhelm Gustloff and are forced to trust each other in order to survive.



Silent to the Bone by E. L. Konigsburg

Connor is sure his best friend, Branwell, couldn't have hurt Branwell's baby half sister, Nikki. But Nikki lies in a coma, and Branwell is in a juvenile behavioral center, suspected of a horrible crime and unable to utter the words to tell what really happened. Connor is the only one who might be able to break through Branwell's wall of silence. But how can he prove Branwell didn't commit the unspeakable act of which he's accused -- when Branwell can't speak for himself? 810L



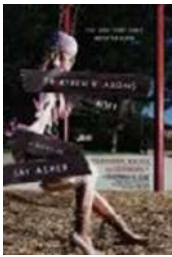
Six Months later by Natalie D. Richards

"Chloe didn't think about it much when she nodded off in study hall on that sleepy summer day. But when she wakes up, snow is on the ground and she can't remember the last six months of her life. Before, she'd been a mediocre student. Now, she's on track for valedictorian and being recruited by Ivy League schools. Before, she never had a chance with super jock Blake. Now he's her boyfriend. Before, she and Maggie were inseparable. Now her best friend won't speak to her. What happened to her? And why can't she remember?" 783L



The strange case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda. 760L



Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

When high school student Clay Jensen receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. 550L



Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage

Rising sixth grader Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. Although Mo hopes someday to find her "upstream mother," she's found a home with the Colonel--a café owner with a forgotten past of his own--and Miss Lana, the fabulous café hostess. She will protect those she loves with every bit of her strong will and tough attitude. So when a lawman comes to town asking about a murder, Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth in hopes of saving the only family Mo has ever known. 560L



The Watson's Go to Birmingham -1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

A wonderful middle-grade novel narrated by Kenny, 9, about his middle-class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up. 1000L



Who Could That Be at This Hour? by Lemony Snicket

In a fading town, far from anyone he knew or trusted, a young Lemony Snicket began his apprenticeship in an organization nobody knows about. He started by asking questions that shouldn't have been on his mind. Now he has written an account that should not be published, in four volumes that shouldn't be read. This is the first volume. 870L



Wonder by R.J. Palacio

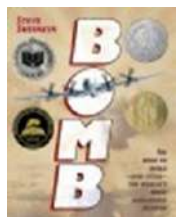
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. 790L



Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen

In 1776, young Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out from his Pennsylvania homestead to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. 870L

Non-Fiction:



Bomb by Steve Sheinkin

A dramatic introduction to the international competition to create the first atomic bomb recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos. 920L



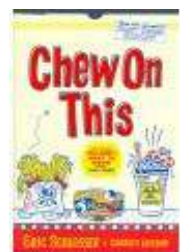
The Book of Blood : From Legends and Leeches to Vampires and Veins by H.P. Newquist

From ancient history to modern science, to dark and often gruesome legends of vampires and plague, this thrilling and lively tour of the world of blood informs readers about the most important fluid in the body. 1159L



Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose

Based on extensive interviews with Claudette Colvin and many others, Phillip Hoose presents the first in-depth account of an important yet largely unknown civil rights figure, skillfully weaving her dramatic story into the fabric of the historic Montgomery bus boycott and court case that would change the course of American history. 1000L



Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson

A captivating expose of the fast food industry by the author of Fast Food Nation presents some new and startling facts geared to the number one consumer of fast food: children. 1110L



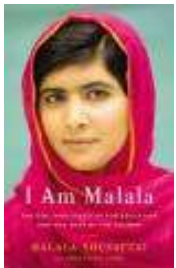
Dear bully : seventy authors tell their stories edited by Carrie Jones and Megan Kelley Hall

As more and more teen suicides dominate the news, a generation's favorite authors--as varied as Alyson Nel, Jon Scieszka, and Mo Willems--come together to share their stories about bullying in a first-rate, deeply personal collection. 850L



How They Croaked: the Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg and Kevin O'Malley

look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths. 950L



I am Malala : The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot By The Taliban by Malala Yousafzai; with Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday October 9, 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price. 1000L



Marching for Freedom : Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary by Elizabeth Partridge

An examination of the landmark march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this book focuses on the children who faced terrifying violence in order to walk alongside him in their fight for freedom and the right to vote. 960L



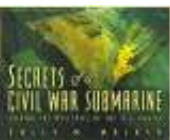
"The President Has Been Shot!" : The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James L. Swanson

In his new young-adult book on the Kennedy assassination, James Swanson will transport readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history. As he did in his bestselling Scholastic YA book, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER, Swanson will deploy his signature "you are there" style -- a riveting, ticking-clock pace, with an unprecedented eye for dramatic details and impeccable historical accuracy -- to tell the story of the JFK assassination as it has never been told before. 1080L



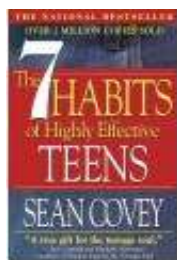
Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang

Provides the story of Ji-li Jiang a twelve-year-old girl growing up in China in 1966, the year that Chairman Mao launched the Cultural Revolution, and the changes it brought to her and her family. 780L



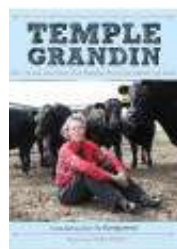
Secrets of a Civil War Submarine : Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley by Sally M. Walker

Presents the history of the Civil War submarine the H.L. Hunley, including the construction, mysterious sinking, recovery, and restoration. 1060L



The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens : The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide by Sean Covey

Explores the adolescent years and draws on extensive research to offer teens practical ways to cope with such important issues as peers, parents, relationships, school choices, and the future. 870L



Temple Grandin : How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery

An authorized portrait about Grandin's life with autism and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities describes how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother. 960L



We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March by Cynthia Levinson

We've Got a Job tells the little-known story of the 4,000 black elementary, middle and high school students who voluntarily went to jail in Birmingham, Alabama, in May 1963. Fulfilling Mahatma Gandhi's and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s precept to "fill the jails," the students succeeded in desegregating one of the most racially violent cities in America. The astonishing events surrounding the Children's March are retold here from the perspectives of four of the original participants. 1020L



You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems About Boys by Sharon G. Flake

The Coretta Scott King Honor author of *Who Am I Without Him?* shares the thoughts of urban males through their own voices, which are sometimes funny and sometimes intense, but always real. HL520L



Wheels of Change : How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few flat Tires Along the Way) by Sue Macy

Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons and songs, a lively look at women's history transports young readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives. 1280L

*All annotations are from the Cuyahoga County Public Library Catalog

2014

Junior High School

More places to find good books:

<https://sites.google.com/site/caisnlists/>

<http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2013/02/top-titles-for-tweens-2013/>

<http://www.goodreads.com/>

<http://www.nypl.org/childrens100>