

Ardley Middle School Recommended Reading List

Students are required to read two books over the summer; these are just suggestions.

More challenging books most appropriate for our older readers are indicated with an asterix *

Out of this World Sci-Fi and Fantasy Books



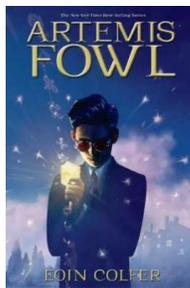
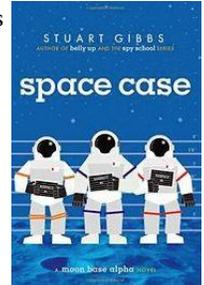
[Dragon Pearl](#), by Yoon Ha Lee

A sci-fi adventure novel about Min, a teenage fox spirit, who runs away to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother while assuming the identity of a Space Force soldier. **From Kirkus:** “A high-octane, science-fiction thriller painted with a Korean brush and a brilliant example of how different cultures can have unique but accessible cosmology and universal appeal. (pronunciation guide) (*Science fantasy. 8-12*)”

[Space Case](#), by Stuart Gibbs

When Dr. Holtz’s body is discovered just outside the lunar colony, everyone assumes he made a mistake putting on his spacesuit—but 12-year-old Dashiell “Dash” Gibson has reason to believe this was no accident. (*Mystery. 9-12*)

For more about the book, including a short excerpt, and for other Stuart Gibbs suggestions, [click here!](#)



[Artemis Fowl](#), by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius—and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories—they're dangerous! Full of unexpected twists and turns, *Artemis Fowl* is a riveting, magical adventure. (*Fantasy. 10-14*)

[A Wrinkle in Time](#), by Madeleine L'Engle

From Goodreads: “**It was a dark and stormy night.**

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure - one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

Winner of the 1963 Newbery Medal, *A Wrinkle in Time* is the first book in Madeleine L'Engle's classic Time Quintet.”



[Children of Blood and Bone](#), by Tomi Adeyemi*

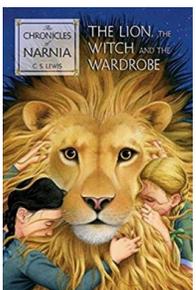
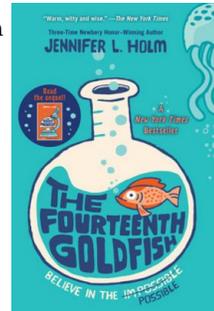
From Kirkus: “Seventeen-year-old Zélie and companions journey to a mythic island seeking a chance to bring back magic to the land of Orísha, in a fantasy world infused with the textures of West Africa. (*Fantasy. 12+*)”

[The Fourteenth Goldfish](#), by Jennifer L. Holm

From Goodreads: “Galileo. Newton. Salk. Oppenheimer.

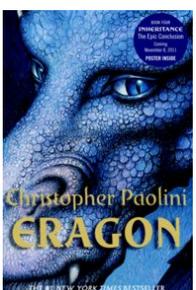
Science can change the world . . . but can it go too far?

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?” (*Science fiction. 10-14*)



[The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#), by C.S. Lewis

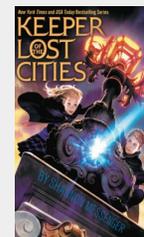
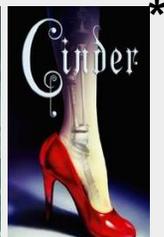
From Amazon: “Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.”



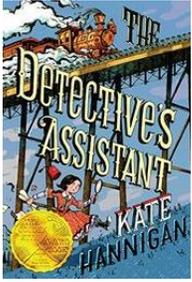
[Eragon](#), by Christopher Paolini

From the author's website: “Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy—until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire.” (*Fantasy. 10+*)

Need more? Click on these covers to learn about some other science fiction and fantasy titles!

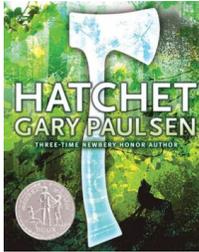


Action, Adventures, and Feats of Survival



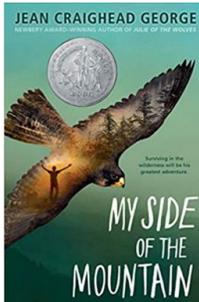
[The Detective's Assistant](#), by Kate Hannigan

From Amazon: "When orphaned eleven-year-old Nell Warne arrives in Chicago, she is shocked to find that her long-lost aunt is a *detective* working for the famous Pinkerton's National Detective agency! With nation-changing events simmering in the background as Abraham Lincoln heads for the White House, Aunt Kate is working on the biggest case of her life, and Nell quickly makes herself indispensable by cracking codes, wearing disguises, and spying on nefarious criminals. But can she also solve the case of what really happened on the night her best friend disappeared?" (*Historical fiction. 9-12*)



[Hatchet](#), by Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure.

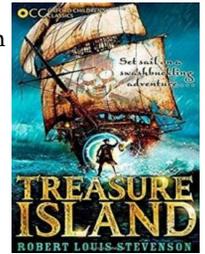


[My Side of the Mountain](#), by Jean Craighead George

From Goodreads: "Every kid thinks about running away at one point or another; few get farther than the end of the block. Young Sam Gibley gets to the end of the block and keeps going--all the way to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions and his wits as his tool for survival. In a spellbinding, touching, funny account, Sam learns to live off the land, and grows up a little in the process." (*Fiction. 9-12*)

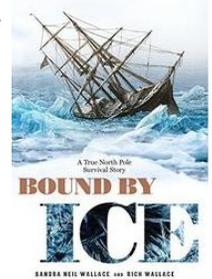
[Treasure Island](#), by Robert Louis Stevenson

On the ultimate treasure hunt, young Jim Hawkins finds himself battling the infamous pirate Long John Silver.



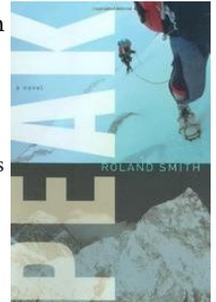
[Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story](#), by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace

From Barnes and Noble: "Some of the most exciting adventures in print are **true stories**. Here's one that will make your home feel warmer this winter by comparison, about the crew of the USS Jeannette, who left San Francisco in the summer of 1879 to find a route through the Arctic oceans to the North Pole. It didn't go well. Their ship became locked in the ice, and drifted, stuck in it, for two years before breaking up. The surviving crew members were forced to set out on foot across the Arctic, with woefully inadequate supplies." (*Nonfiction. 11-15*)



[Peak](#), by Roland Smith

When fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello's long-lost father presents the opportunity for them to summit Everest together, Peak doesn't even consider saying no--even though he suspects there are a few strings attached. (*Fiction. 12-15*)



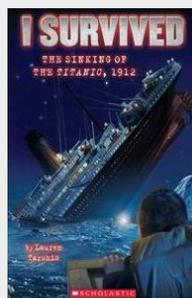
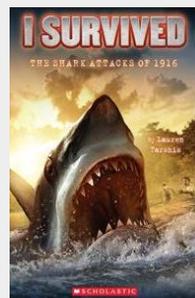
[No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits](#), by Jordan Romero

The true story of a 10-year-old who climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and subsequently summited the tallest mountains on the other six continents by the age of 15. (*Nonfiction. 12-16*)

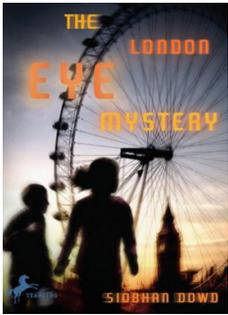


The [I Survived](#) Series, by Lauren Tarshis

For more titles, click on the above link; for more information about these titles, click on the covers! (*Fiction/Nonfiction. 7-12*)

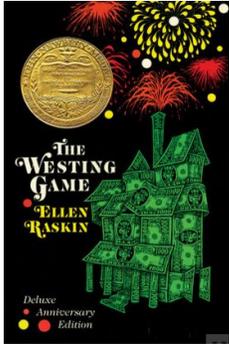


Games, Puzzles, and Mysteries to Keep You Guessing



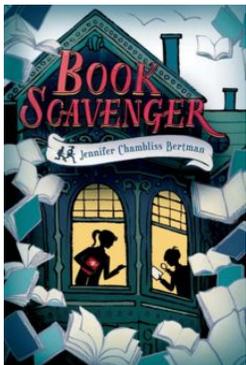
[The London Eye Mystery](#), by Siobhan Dowd

When Ted's cousin Salim visits London, he insists on riding "The London Eye," an immense observation wheel. A stranger gives Salim a free ticket; Salim enters a passenger capsule; 30 minutes later, when the capsule returns from its rotation, Salim has vanished. (Fiction. 9-14)



[The Westing Game](#), by Ellen Raskin

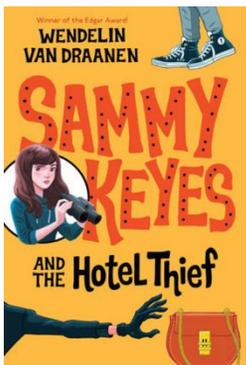
From Goodreads: "A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger - and a possible murderer - to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead... but that won't stop him from playing one last game!" (Fiction. 8-12)



[Book Scavenger](#), by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Twelve-year-old Emily is moving to San Francisco, home of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger, a game where books are hidden all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles. But Emily and her new friend James soon discover Garrison's latest game is his most important yet. (Fiction. 8-12)

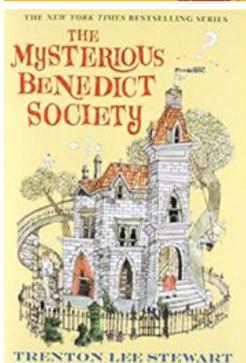
Once you have read the book you, too, can be a [book scavenger!](#)



[Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief](#), by Wendelin Van Draanen

From Goodreads: "Grams always told her those binoculars would get her into trouble. Now Sammy's witnessed a crime at the Heavenly Hotel-a light fingered thief stealing \$4,000 from Madame Nashira, the astrologer with the fire-hazard hair-do. Thing is, while she was watching him, he was watching her, too..."

Fast-paced and funny, packed with menacing suspects and clever clues, the Sammy Keyes mysteries keep you guessing to the last riveting page." (Fiction. 10-13)

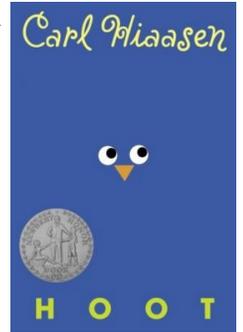


[The Mysterious Benedict Society](#), by Trenton Lee Stewart

From Goodreads: "'Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?' begins an ad that attracts dozens of kids for mind-bending tests readers may try. Only two boys and two girls succeed for a secret mission, undercover and underground into hidden tunnels. At the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, the only rule is - there are no rules." (Fiction. 11-13)

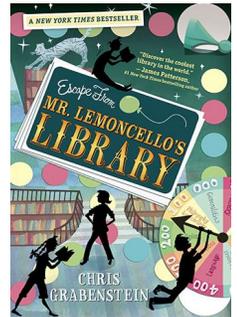
[Hoot](#), by Carl Hiaasen

Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and-here's the odd part-wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail. The chase introduces him to potty-trained alligators, a fake-fart champion, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes with unnaturally sparkling tails. (Fiction. 10-14)



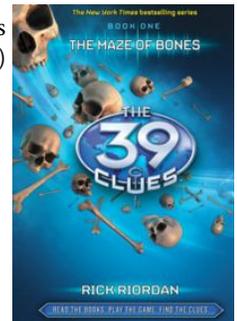
[Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#), by Christopher Grabenstein

From Brightly: "Twelve kids are invited to spend a night in the town's new library created by legendary gamemaker, Luigi Lemoncello. Adventure and fun are nonstop as the kids work to solve the clues and escape from the library. Perfect for kids who liked *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *Night at the Museum*." (Mystery. 9-13)



[The 39 Clues Series](#), by various authors (including Rick Riordan!)

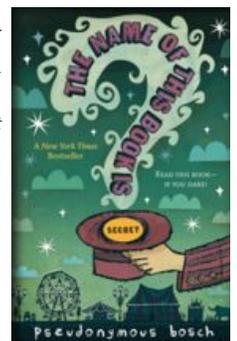
From Brightly: "This series by Rick Riordan and various authors takes you on a journey around the world with Amy and Dan Cahill. They compete with other family members to unravel the clues to a mystery set up by their beloved grandmother, the matriarch of the world's most powerful family. Kitty, 9, says, "I was blown away by these books. You'll sit on the very edge of your seat with awe." (Novelty/Fiction. 9-14)



[The Name of this Book is Secret](#), by Pseudonymous Bosch

From Goodreads: "Warning: this description has not been authorized by Pseudonymous Bosch."

As much as he'd love to sing the praises of his book (he is very vain), he wouldn't want you to hear about his brave 11-year old heroes, Cass and Max-Ernest. Or about how a mysterious box of vials, the Symphony of Smells, sends them on the trail of a magician who has vanished under strange (and stinky) circumstances. And he certainly wouldn't want you to know about the hair-raising adventures that follow and the nefarious villains they face. You see, not only is the name of this book secret, the story inside is, too. For it concerns a secret. A Big Secret." (Fiction. 9-12)



Realistic Fiction: Windows and Mirrors to the World

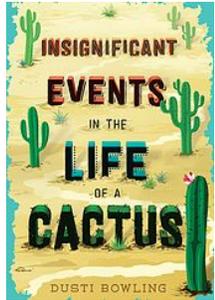
[The Benefits of Being an Octopus](#), by Ann Braden

7th grader Zoey thinks it would be handy to be an octopus: two hands for her toddler siblings. Another to hold the baby when her mom waitresses. "One to adjust my shirt because it doesn't really fit and . . . One so I could do my homework at least some of the time if I wanted." And that doesn't even count an octopus's ability to blend in or protect itself. (Ages 9-12)



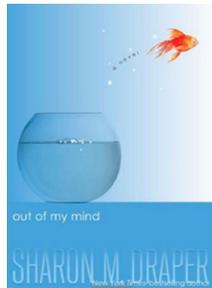
[Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus](#), by Dusti Bowling

Thirteen-year-old Aven Green, the heroine of Bowling's sensitive and funny novel, was born without arms due to a rare genetic condition. When her adoptive parents take jobs at an Arizona theme park, Aven leaves behind her comfortable social life, starting over with new peers and teachers to stare at her. (Ages 9-12)



[Out of My Mind](#), by Sharon Draper

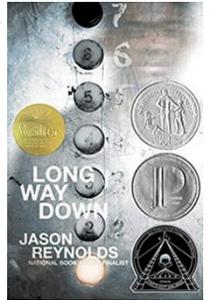
From Amazon: "Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow." (Fiction. 9-12)



[Long Way Down](#), by Jason Reynolds*

After 15-year-old Will sees his older brother, Shawn, shot in their street, he sets out to do the expected: the rules dictate no crying, no snitching, and revenge.

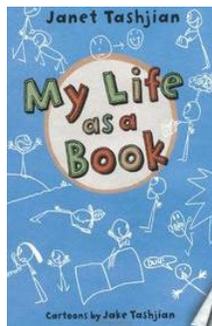
Though the African-American teen has never held one, Will leaves his apartment with his brother's gun tucked in his waistband. As he travels down on the elevator, the door opens on certain floors, and Will is confronted with a different figure from his past, each a victim of gun violence, each important in his life. They also force Will to face the questions he has about his plan. (Novel in verse. 12+)



[My Life as a Book](#), by Janet Tashjian, illustrations by Jake Tashjian

From Goodreads: "Summer's finally here, and Derek Fallon is looking forward to pelting the UPS truck with water balloons, climbing onto the garage roof, and conducting investigations. But when his parents decide to send him to Learning Camp, Derek's dreams of fun come to an end. Ever since he's been labeled a "reluctant reader," his mom has pushed him to read "real" books-something other than his beloved Calvin & Hobbes.

As Derek forges unexpected friendships and uncovers a family secret involving himself (in diapers! no less), he realizes that adventures and surprises are around the corner, complete with curve balls." (Fiction. 9-14)



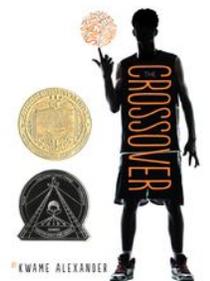
[Front Desk](#), by Kelly Yang

From Kirkus: "A small room behind the office of the Calivista Motel is home for 10-year-old Mia and her parents. Hired by the rich, coal-hearted Mr. Yao, the family works bone-numbing hours cleaning rooms, fixing problems, and managing the front desk. Troubles check in from every direction: at home, where her mom belittles her love of writing; at school, where bullies and lies surround her; and especially at the motel, where the family battles financial ruin. Yet along the seemingly endless roller coaster of poverty, hope appears in small places." (Historical fiction. 8-12)



[The Crossover](#), by Kwame Alexander

From Goodreads: "'With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering,' announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood." (Novel in verse. 10-14)

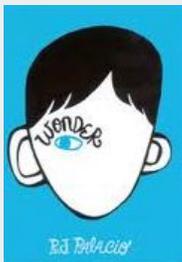
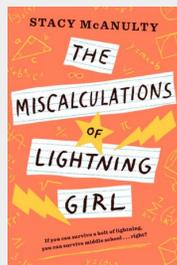
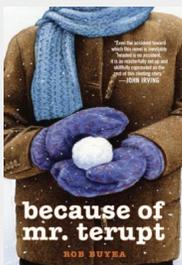


[Merci Suárez Changes Gears](#), by Meg Medina

Merci navigates the challenges of being a scholarship kid at a posh South Florida private school and the expectations of and responsibilities to her intergenerational family. **Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award.** (Fiction 9-13)



other realistic fiction titles you may enjoy



Favorite Authors

..but don't take our word for it!

Click on the author's names for their websites, or on any book for more information about the title.

Don't forget the asterisk denotes content more appropriate for our older readers

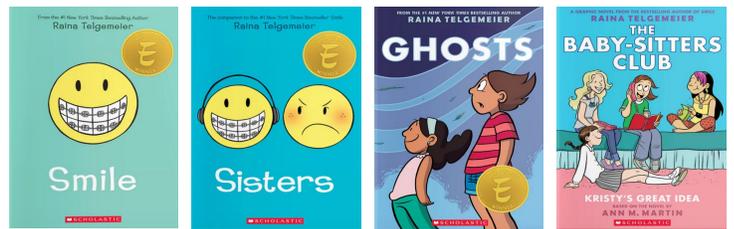
Kate DiCamillo



Marie Lu*



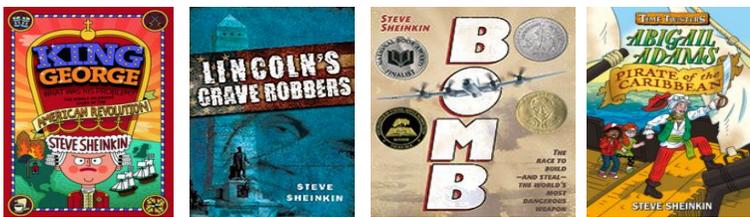
Raina Telgemeier



Jason Reynolds



Steve Sheinkin



Mike Lupica



Gordon Korman

