

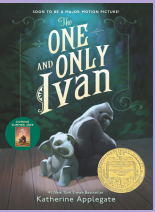



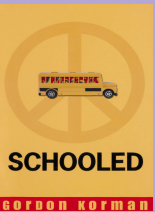
Neshaminy School District

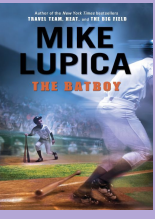



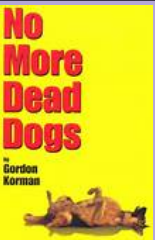
Recommended Summer Reading

5th & 6th Grade

The Neshaminy School District has created a list of recommended titles to help students make selections for their summer reading. The purpose of summer reading is to foster continued reading and encourage a lifelong love of literacy. The books are intended to provide guidance and are not required texts.

Fiction/Realistic Fiction (5th & 6th)

SORA Link if available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>The One and Only Ivan</i> 	Katherine Applegate	Inspired by a true story. Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.
	<i>The Benefits of Being an Octopus</i>	Ann Braden	Twelve-year old Zoey has bigger problems than seventh grade. She lives with her mom and three younger siblings in her mom's boyfriend Lenny's trailer. Lenny's trailer is nice and clean, but it comes at a price. What Zoey really needs is to be an octopus, someone with eight arms to wrestle her siblings and who can squirt black ink to get away quickly.
	<i>Starfish</i>	Lisa Fipps	Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like "no making waves," "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life--by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.
	<i>Schooled</i>	Gordon Korman	Capricorn Cap Anderson has been homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Rain. When Rain is injured in a fall, Cap is forced to attend the local middle school. Although he knows a lot about Zen Buddhism, nothing has prepared him for the politics of public school.

	The Batboy 	Mike Lupica	Brian is living every baseball kid's dream: he is a batboy for his hometown Major League team. Brian believes that it's the perfect thing to bring him and his big-leaguer dad closer together. And if that weren't enough, this is the season that Hank Bishop, Brian's baseball hero, returns to the Tigers for the comeback of a lifetime. The summer couldn't get much better! Until Hank Bishop starts to show his true colors, and Brian learns that sometimes life throws you a curveball.
	Wonderstruck 	Brian Selznick	Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.
	Front Desk	Kelly Yang	Mia Tang has a lot of secrets: Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?
	Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (or other books in this series)	Jack Gantos	Joey Pigza's got heart, he's got a mom who loves him, and he's got "dud meds," which is what he calls the Ritalin pills that are supposed to even out his wild mood swings. Sometimes Joey makes bad choices. He learns the hard way that he shouldn't stick his finger in the pencil sharpener, or swallow his house key, or run with scissors. Joey ends up bouncing around a lot - and eventually he bounces himself all the way downtown, into the district special-ed program, which could be the end of the line.
	Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life (or other books in this series)	James Patterson	This is the book that first started the Middle School series kids love.
	Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing up Scieszka	Jon Scieszka	How did Jon Scieszka get so funny, anyway? Growing up as one of six brothers was a good start, but that was just the beginning. Throw in Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, jokes told at family dinner, and the result is Knucklehead. Part memoir, part scrapbook, this hilarious trip down memory lane provides a unique glimpse into the formation of a creative mind and a free spirit.
	No More Dead Dogs	Gordon Korman	Nobody understands Wallace Wallace. This reluctant school football hero has been suspended from the team for writing an unfavorable book report of Old Shep, My Pal. But Wallace won't tell a lie -- he hated every minute of the book! Why does the dog in every classic novel have to croak at the end? After refusing to do a rewrite, his English teacher, who happens to be directing the school play Old Shep, My Pal, forces him to go to the rehearsals as punishment. Although Wallace doesn't change his mind, he does end up changing the play into a rock-and-roll rendition, complete with Rollerblades and a moped!

Historical Fiction (5th & 6th)




SORA Link	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Escape from Chernobyl</i>	Andy Marino	Two young siblings flee the Chernobyl disaster with their parents, but the Communist party is on their heels. Meanwhile, the friends and family they were forced to leave behind must contend with a disinformation campaign that's determined to pretend nothing is wrong-even as deadly radiation spills into the air.
	<i>Prairie Lotus</i>	Linda Sue Park	In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.
	<i>The War That Saved my Life</i>	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	Ada and her brother escape their mother's abuse when the London children are evacuated during WWII and go to live with a grieving woman in a small country town. It's difficult for both the woman and children to trust but slowly the trust grows and all three regain something lost – hope and love.
	<i>Weedflower</i>	Cynthia Kadohata	Twelve-year-old Sumiko feels her life has been made up of two parts: before Pearl Harbor and after it. The good part and the bad part. Raised on a flower farm in California, Sumiko is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. Even when the other kids tease her, she always has had her flowers and family to go home to. That all changes after the horrific events of Pearl Harbor. Other Americans start to suspect that all Japanese people are spies for the emperor, even if, like Sumiko, they were born in the United States! As suspicions grow, Sumiko and her family find themselves being shipped to an internment camp in one of the hottest deserts in the United States.
	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Pam Munoz Ryan	Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.
	<i>Journey to Topaz</i>	Yoshiko Uchida	Based on Yoshiko Uchida's personal experiences, this is the moving story of one girl's struggle to remain brave during the Japanese internment of World War II. In a bleak and dusty prison camp, eleven-year-old Yuki and her family experience both true friendship and heart-wrenching tragedy.
	<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i>	Jane Yolen	Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that's what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past . . . and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)

Science Fiction (5th & 6th)

SORA Link	Tie	Author	Description
	<i>Among the Hidden (or other books in this series)</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix.
	<i>The City of Ember (or other books in this series)</i>	Jeanne Duprau	In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>The Unexplainable</i>	Sheela Chari	Mars Patel's friend Aurora has disappeared! His teachers are clueless. His mom is stressed out about her jobs. But Mars refuses to give up—after all, his own dad disappeared when Mars was a toddler, before he and Ma moved to Puget Sound from India. Luckily, Mars has a group of loyal friends eager to help—smart Toothpick, strong and stylish JP, and maybe-telepathic Caddie.
	<i>Disappearance of Mars Patel</i>	Gen Z Media	The clues seem to point toward eccentric tech genius (and Mars's hero) Oliver Pruitt, whose popular podcast now seems to be commenting on their quest! But when the friends investigate Pruitt's mysterious, elite school, nothing is as it seems—and anyone could be deceiving them. Slick science, corporate conspiracies, and an endearingly nerdy protagonist make this first book in the series a fresh, exciting sci-fi adventure.
	<i>Space Case</i>	Stuart Gibbs	Set in 2040 and their second-in-command had died. He had walked out the airlock (to the moon's surface) with his space suit on wrong— he died in seconds. Everyone thought he had gone crazy, but Dashiell suspected differently. Murder.
	<i>The Hypnotists</i>	Gordon Korman	Twelve-year-old Jackson Opus is descended from two powerful hypnotist bloodlines, but he has just begun to realize that he can control other peoples' actions with sometimes frightening results—especially when the head of the Sentia Institute plans to use Jackson for his own benefit.
	<i>Masterminds</i>	Gordon Korman	Eli and his friends are riding bikes when they accidentally discover that some of them are physically prevented from leaving their utopia-type town. But there's more. Then Eli discovers that his "father" is the leader of a group of scientists who are using the town and some of the kids, in a secret and unapproved science experiment. And you won't believe what that experiment is!! The kids escape and will they be more than their DNA?

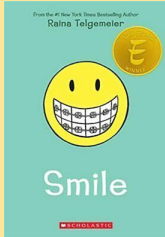
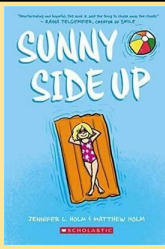
Fantasy (5th & 6th)

SORA Link if available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Neil Gaiman	Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family.
	<i>Warriors: Into the Wild (or other books in this series)</i>	Erin Hunter	For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But the warrior code has been threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying—and some deaths are more mysterious than others.
	<i>Gregor the Overlander</i>	Suzanne Collins	When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where spiders, rats, cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. This world is on the brink of war, and Gregor's arrival is no accident.
	<i>Inkheart</i> 	Cornelia Funke	One cruel night, Meggie's father reads aloud from a book called INKHEART--and an evil ruler escapes the boundaries of fiction and lands in their living room. Suddenly, Meggie is smack in the middle of the kind of adventure she has only read about in books. Meggie must learn to harness the magic that has conjured this nightmare. For only she can change the course of the story that has changed her life forever. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Pinnocchio: In His Own Word</i>	Michael Morpurgo	In his own words, Pinnocchio tells about his great adventures, including joining the Greatest Puppet show in the world, and falling under the spell of the blue-haired Good fairy.
	<i>The Endling: The Last</i>	Katherine Applegate	The conquering human ruler, Murdano, hunts and kills all the large, dog-like Dairne. All except Byx. In hopes to find a safe place and maybe the Dairne's mythical homeland, Byx sets off on what becomes a dangerous, exciting adventure filled with new friends like Tobble who is a wobbyk.




	The Lightning Thief 	Rick Riordan	Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse-Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he will go to the one place he'll be safe. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	Drizzle	Kathleen Van Cleve	When a drought threatens her family's magical rhubarb farm, eleven-year-old Polly tries to find a way to make it rain again.

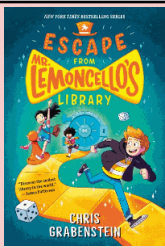

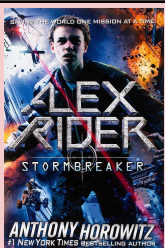
Graphic Novels (5th & 6th)

SORA Link	Title	Author	Description
	The Last Kids on Earth	Max Brallier	The kids and their monster buddies are hanging out in the tree house, when Jack launches into an epic, totally-heroic, super rad story of one of his many post-apocalyptic adventures. Of course, after he's finished, everyone's eager to one-up his tale with a story of their own. Soon, Quint, Dirk, June and Skaelka, and even Globet regale the group with sometimes outrageous, often hilarious details of their action-packed escapades during the monster-zombie apocalypse.
	New Kid	Jerry Craft	Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.
	All's Faire in Middle School	Victoria Jamieson	Eleven-year-old Imogene (Impy) has grown up with two parents working at the Renaissance Faire, and she's eager to begin her own training as a squire. First, though, she'll need to prove her bravery. Luckily Impy has just the quest in mind—she'll go to public school after a life of being homeschooled! But it's not easy to act like a noble knight-in-training in middle school. Impy falls in with a group of girls who seem really nice (until they don't) and starts to be embarrassed by her thrift shop apparel, her family's unusual lifestyle, and their small, messy apartment. Impy has always thought of herself as a heroic knight, but when she does something really mean in order to fit in, she begins to wonder whether she might be more of a dragon after all.
	Wings of Fire: The Graphic Novel	Tui T. Sutherland	Clay and the other four MudWing dragonets were stolen from their homes while they were still in their eggs and hidden for years in order to fulfill a prophecy claiming that the dragonets would end the war between the dragon tribes, but not all of the dragonets want their destiny.

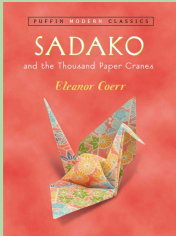
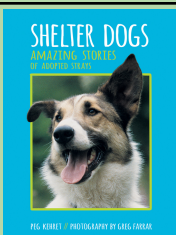
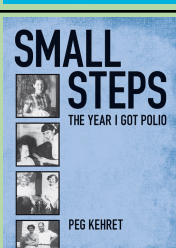

	Smile	Raina Telgemeier	Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly
	Sunny Side Up	Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm	When is a summer vacation not really a summer vacation? Sunny Lewin has been packed off to Florida to live with her grandfather for the summer. At first she thought Florida might be fun — it is the home of Disney World, after all. But the place where Gramps lives is no amusement park. It's full of . . . old people. Really old people. Luckily, Sunny isn't the only kid around. She meets Buzz, a boy who is completely obsessed with comic books, and soon they're having adventures of their own: facing off against golfball-eating alligators, runaway cats, and mysteriously disappearing neighbors. But the question remains — why is Sunny down in Florida in the first place? The answer lies in a family secret that won't be secret to Sunny much longer.

Mystery (5th & 6th)

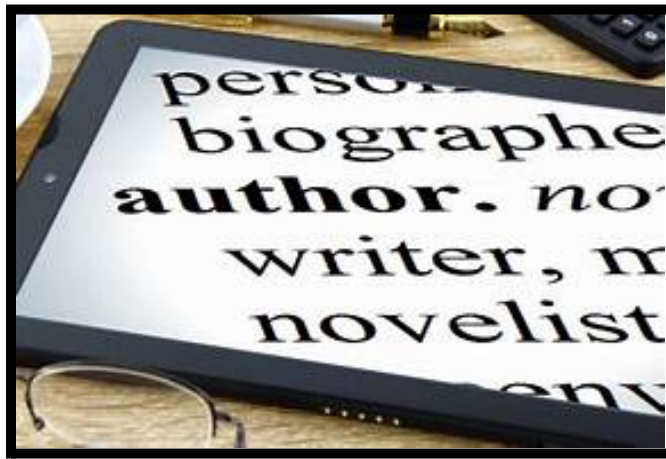
SORA Link	Title	Author	Description
	Loot	Jude Watson	<p>On a foggy night in Amsterdam, a man falls from a rooftop to the wet pavement below. It's Alfie McQuinn, the notorious cat burglar, and he's dying. As sirens wail in the distance, Alfie manages to get out two last words to his young son, March: "Find jewels."</p> <p>But March learns that his father is not talking about a stash of loot. He's talking about Jules, the twin sister March never knew he had. No sooner than the two find each other, they're picked up by the police and sent to the world's worst orphanage. It's not prison, but it feels like it.</p> <p>(Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)</p>
	Swindle	Gordon Korman	A dream team of kids performs blockbuster-movie-style operations — from stealing back a million-dollar baseball card, to breaking mistreated animals out of a cheesy zoo, to hiding a lovable but unstable and occasionally vicious Doberman from his unscrupulous former owner.
	Connect the Dots	Keith Calabrese	Twelve-year old Oliver Beane and Frankie Figge are starting middle school in their suburban town of lake grove Glen, but from the beginning things seem a little weird, starting with a mysterious girl Matilda Sandoval who seems to know a lot about boys, and continuing with a series of apparently random events that may not be random at all; somehow it all leads back to Preston Oglethorpe, a former student genius at their school who won The Nobel prize in Physics for his work in applied chaos theory at twenty-eight, and then mysteriously disappeared —and if the boys (and Matilda) can just connect the dots, maybe they can figure out who or what is manipulating their lives and why.

	Escape from Lemoncello's Library	Chris Grabenstein	Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.
	Hide and Geek	T.P. Jagger	Eleven-year-old Gina Sparks, aspiring journalist, and her fellow GEEKs, Edgar, Elena, and Kevin, live in Elmwood, New Hampshire, a small town in serious danger of vanishing completely--unless the four friends can find the Van Houten fortune, which was supposedly promised to the town by Maxine Van Houten, a famous toymaker who loved complicated puzzles.
	Stormbreaker (Alex Rider Series)	Anthony Horowitz	They said his uncle Ian died in a car accident. But Alex Rider knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in the windshield prove it. Yet he never suspected the truth: his uncle was really a spy for Britain's top secret intelligence agency. Now Alex has been recruited to find his uncle's killers

Non-Fiction (5th & 6th)

SORA Link	Title	Author	Description
	Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	Eleanor Coerr	The star of her school's running team, Sadako is lively and athletic...until the dizzy spells start. Then she must face the hardest race of her life—the race against time. Based on a true story, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes celebrates the courage that makes one young woman a heroine in Japan.
	Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays	Peg Kehret	A collection of true stories about the amazing lives of eight shelter dogs. Many of these dogs were unwanted because of their size, behavior, or medical condition. All of the dogs found owners who loved and cared for them.
	Small Steps: The Year I got Polio	Peg Kehret	In a riveting story of courage and hope, Peg Kehret writes about months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again.
	Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs	Michaela Muntean	Meet Luciano Anastasini, a man who calls the circus home. Meet ten dogs that have no home. When fate brings man and dogs together, a remarkable story of belief and second chances unfolds.

	<p><i>What Breathes Through its Butt? Mind-Blowing Science Questions Answered</i></p>	<p>Dr. Emily Grossman</p>	<p>Why is your elbow called your funny bone? How could you escape the grip of a crocodile's jaw? Which animal can breathe through its butt? This book uncovers the amazing scientific explanations behind all sorts of questions that can pop into our heads. Can an egg bounce? How can a giraffe's ridiculously long neck contain the same number of bones as a human's? How much does the Internet weigh? With delightful interactive features that invite readers to guess answers to questions and make links between different scientific concepts, this is a great book for reluctant readers and STEAM lovers alike</p>
	<p><i>Plastic Sucks!: How YOU Can Reduce Single-Use Plastic and Save Our Planet</i></p>	<p>Dougie Poynter</p>	<p>From the history of plastic to the effects of plastic on our planet to the innovations in plastic clean up and alternative materials, this book breaks down the plastic problem into easy digestible chapters (including "What's Going On", "Innovations in Cleanup," and "How to Create Change") that are packed with illustrations. And this isn't just a history of what's gone wrong with our environment; it's a handbook on how to change the world for the better, empowering you to make everyday choices that help solve the plastic problem once and for all.</p>
	<p><i>This Book Will (Help) Cool the Climate: 50 Ways to Cut Pollution, Speak Up and Protect Our Planet!</i></p>	<p>Isabel Thomas</p>	<p>Our planet is in peril and it needs your help! But the good news is that there are loads of easy ways that you can make a difference. From lift-sharing to switching body sprays, there are so many things you can do to help fight climate change. Complete with myth-busting boxes and counter arguments to put climate-deniers in their place, this is a one-stop guide to transform eco-worried kids into eco-activists. Funny, engaging, practical and timely, it's the ideal book to help readers navigate the world in the greenest possible way, and to really make a difference.</p>
	<p><i>Whoppers: History's Most Outrageous Lies and Liars</i></p>	<p>Christine Siefert</p>	<p>Not just little-white-telling liars, but big-honkin', whopper-telling liars—people who can convince us that even the most improbable, outrageous, nonsensical stories are true. And the worst part is that we'll believe it. Whoppers tells the story of history's greatest liars and the lies they told, providing a mix of narrative profiles of super-famous liars, lies, and/or hoaxes, as well as more obscure episodes. Famous liars include people you might have learned about in school, like P. T. Barnum, who basically made a living lying to people for money; liars you might never have heard of before, like Victor Lustig, who managed to "sell" the Eiffel Tower twice in the 1920s; and hoaxes like the Loch Ness Monster Photo Hoax.</p>



Popular Middle Grade Authors

- Laurie Halse Anderson
- Kwame Alexander
- Sharon Creech
- Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Carl Hiaasen
- Gordon Korman
- Lois Lowry
- James Patterson
- Gary Paulsen
- J.K. Rowling
- Jerry Spinelli
- Rick Riordan
- Louis Sachar
- Roald Dahl
- Jeff Kinney
- Shel Silverstein

