

Neshaminy School District

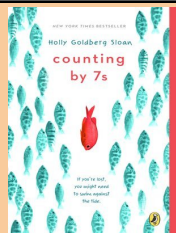

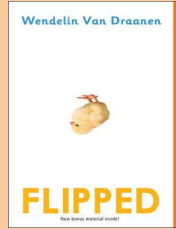
Recommended Summer Reading

Grades 7th & 8th

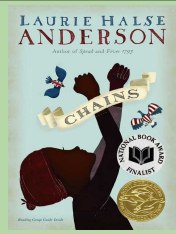
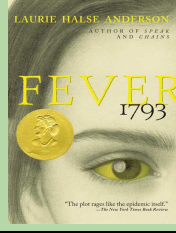
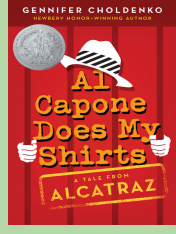


The Neshaminy School District has created a list of recommended titles to help students make selections for their summer reading. The purpose of summer reading is to foster continued reading and encourage a lifelong love of literacy. The book lists are intended to provide guidance and are not required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


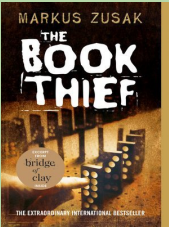
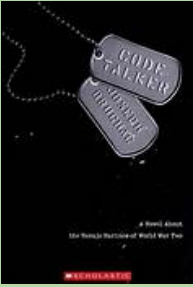
Realistic Fiction (7th & 8th)

SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Rebound</i>	Kwame Alexander	Before Josh and Jordan Bell were streaking up and down the court, their father was learning his own moves. In this prequel to Newbery Medal winner <i>The Crossover</i> , Chuck Bell takes center stage, as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and how he became the jazz music worshipping, basketball star his sons look up to. A novel in verse with all the impact and rhythm readers have come to expect from Kwame Alexander, <i>Rebound</i> will go back in time to visit the childhood of Chuck "Da Man" Bell during one pivotal summer when young Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents where he discovers basketball and learns more about his family's past (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Mockingbird</i>	Kathryn Erskine	Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure to a family tragedy by working on a project with her father. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Fish in a Tree</i>	Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Ally struggles to hide her dyslexia by continually getting in trouble, until a substitute teacher discovers what she is really hiding. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Ghost</i>	Jason Reynolds	Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Echo</i>	Pam Munoz Ryan	In an epic novel, three children find their lives changed through a magic harmonica and their own self-resilience. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)



	<i>Counting by 7s</i>	Holly Goldberg Sloan	Tragedy changes Willow's quirky but comfortable life, and as she adapts, she changes the lives of those around her. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Maniac Magee</i>	Jerry Spinelli	Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Flipped</i>	Wendelin Van Draanen	In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Historical Fiction (7th & 8th)

SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Chains (or other books in this series)</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel.
	<i>Fever 1793</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>	Gennifer Choldenko	Today I moved to Alcatraz, a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There are 23 other kids who live on the island. And then there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we have are the kind other prisons don't want. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to.
	<i>Projekt 1065: A Novel of World War II</i>	Alan Gratz	Infiltrate. Befriend. Sabotage. World War II is raging. Michael O'Shaunessey, originally from Ireland, now lives in Nazi Germany with his parents. Like the other boys in his school, Michael is a member of the Hitler Youth. But Michael has a secret. He and his parents are spies. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
			

	<i>Refugee</i>	Alan Gratz	Three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of <i>tomorrow</i> . And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II</i>	Joseph Bruchac	Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker


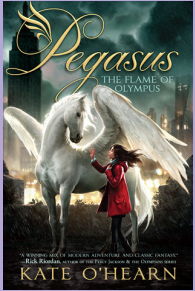


Science Fiction (7th & 8th)

SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>The Wild Robot Escapes</i>	Peter Brown	Shipwrecked on a remote, wild island, Robot Roz learned from the unwelcoming animal inhabitants and adapted to her surroundings--but can she survive the challenges of the civilized world and find her way home to Brightbill and the island?
	<i>Boy X</i>	Dan Smith	When twelve-year-old Ash McCarthy wakes up after his father's funeral, he finds that he has been kidnapped to an island off the coast of Costa Rica, caught in the middle of a secret and deadly project named Kronos in which his mother is somehow involved, and he must find a way to save them both--and the only person he is sure he can trust is a Spanish girl his own age named Isabel

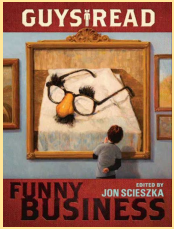
	<i>Weird Kid</i>	Greg Van Eekhout	A shapeshifting alien adopted by human parents is just trying to stay hidden when sinkholes made of goo (the very same goo he is made of) start showing up all over town. Enter a secretive government agency trying to get to the bottom of it. Can Jake and his new friend make like their favorite comic book characters and get to the bottom of the mystery — and save the day — before the town is shallowed up? And even more importantly, can Jake do all that and keep up his secret identity?
	<i>Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25</i>	Richard Paul Evans	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.
	<i>Horizon</i>	Scott Westerfield	When Aero Horizon 16 crashes in the Arctic, eight children emerge from the wreckage to find themselves alone and surrounded, not by ice, but by a mysterious and deadly jungle full of carnivorous plants and predatory birds--the other five hundred people from the plane are gone, not necessarily dead, but taken by something that lives in the jungle.

Fantasy (7th & 8th)


SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Artemis Fowl</i>	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; these fairies are armed and dangerous. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>The Last Lie</i>	Patricia Forde	<p>The battle for Ark seems to be over... but it was only the beginning. Letta has taken refuge with the rebels, and spends her days as a teacher, introducing young children words that never should have been lost. It is dangerous work, but Letta knows that being able to express yourself is what makes us human.</p> <p>But the new ruler of Ark is even crueler than her predecessor, and Letta is horrified to find that they are stealing babies so they can get rid of language once and for all: if babies never hear a single word, they will never learn to speak.</p> <p>Letta and the other rebels must find a way to defeat the evil for good before they lose the very thing that will set them free.</p>

	<i>Sal and Gabi Break the Universe</i>	Carlos Hernandez	In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes.
	<i>The Flame of Olympus</i>	Kate O'Hearn	When Pegasus crashes onto a Manhattan roof during a terrible storm, thirteen-year-old Emily's life changes forever. Suddenly allied with a winged horse she'd always thought was mythical, Emily is thrust into the center of a fierce battle between the Roman gods and a terrifying race of multiarmed stone warriors called the Nirads. Emily must team up with a thief named Paelen, the goddess Diana, and a mortal boy named Joel in order to return Pegasus to Olympus and rescue the gods from a certain death.
 	<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	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 go to the one place he'll be safe. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)

Humor/Short Stories (7th & 8th)

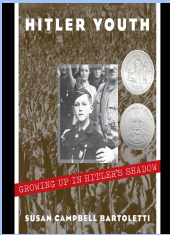
SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Funny Business</i>	Jon Scieszka	Today's top writers of children's fiction contribute a humorous short story in this compilation of short stories. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)


Mystery (7th & 8th)

SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Murder is Bad Manners</i>	Robin Stevens	At an English boarding school in the 1930s, crime-solving friends Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells struggle to find an exciting mystery to investigate until Hazel discovers the dead body of Miss Bell, the science teacher.

	<i>Finding Mighty</i>	Sheela Chari	Along the train lines north of New York City, twelve-year-old neighbors Myla and Peter search for the link between Myla's necklace and the disappearance of Peter's brother, Randall. Thrown into a world of parkour, graffiti, and diamond-smuggling, Myla and Peter encounter a band of thugs who are after the same thing as Randall. Can Myla and Peter find Randall before it's too late, and their shared family secrets threaten to destroy them all? Drawing on urban art forms and local history, Finding Mighty is a mystery that explores the nature of art and then unbreakable bonds of family.
	<i>Children of the Flying City</i>	Jason Sheehan	A massive armada has surrounded Highgate's crumbling armaments. Because behind locked doors—in opulent parlors and pneumatic forests and a master toymaker's workshop—the once-great flying city protects a powerful secret, hidden away for centuries. A secret that's about to ignite a war. One small airship, the Halcyon, has slipped through the ominous blockade on a mission to collect Milo—and the rich bounty on his head—before the fighting begins. But the members of the Halcyon's misfit crew aren't the only ones chasing Milo Quick.
	<i>The Emperor's Riddle</i>	Kat Zhang	Mia Chen is on what her mother calls a Grand Adventure. She's not sure what to make of this family trip to China, and didn't want to leave her friends for the summer, but she's excited about the prospect of exploring with her Aunt Lin, the only adult who truly understands her. Then Aunt Lin disappears, right after her old nemesis, a man named Ying, comes to visit. Mia knows that years ago, when Aunt Lin and Ying were sent to the Fuzhou countryside to work as laborers, the two searched for an ancient treasure together—one that still hasn't been found. She's suspicious that their shared history might be linked to Aunt Lin's disappearance.
	<i>Gallant</i>	V.E. Schwab	Olivia knows that Gallant is hiding secrets, and she is determined to uncover them. When she crosses a ruined wall at just the right moment, Olivia finds herself in a place that is Gallant—but not. The manor is crumbling, the ghouls are solid, and a mysterious figure rules over all. Now Olivia sees what has unraveled generations of her family, and where her father may have come from.

Non Fiction/Memoirs (7th & 8th)

SORA Link when available	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Hitler Youth</i>	Susan Bartoletti	By the time Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. It would become the largest youth group in history. Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people. Her research includes telling interviews with surviving Hitler Youth members. (Audio available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)

	<i>Choosing Courage: Inspiring True Stories of What It Means To Be A Hero</i>	Peter Collier	How does an ordinary person become a hero? It happens in a split second, a moment of focus and clarity, when a choice is made. Here are the gripping accounts of Medal of Honor recipients who demonstrated guts and selflessness on the battlefield and confronted life-threatening danger to make a difference. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini</i>	Sid Fleischman	A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.
	<i>Guts</i>	Gary Paulsen	Guess what -- Gary Paulsen was being kind to Brian. In <i>Guts</i> , Gary tells the real stories behind the Brian books, the stories of the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in <i>Hatchet</i> ; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own. He describes how he made his own bows and arrows, and takes readers on his first hunting trips, showing the wonder and solace of nature along with his hilarious mishaps and mistakes.
	<i>My Life in Dog Years</i>	Gary Paulsen	Gary Paulsen has owned dozens of unforgettable and amazing dogs. In each chapter he tells of one special dog, among them Cookie, the sled dog who saved his life; Snowball, the puppy he owned as a boy in the Philippines; Ike, his mysterious hunting companion; Dirk, the grim protector; and his true friend Josh, a brilliant border collie.
	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> 	Jacqueline Woodson	Told in verse, this book explores what it was like for Woodson growing up during the civil rights movement. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>I Am Malala How one Girl Stood up for Education and Changed the World</i> 	Malala Yousafzai	When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. (Also available on MackinVia, use Clever to Access)
	<i>Titanic: Voices from the Disaster</i>	Deborah Hopkinson	Survivors' accounts bring the Titanic disaster to life.

Graphic Novels (7th & 8th)

SORA Link	Title	Author	Description
	<i>Class Act</i>	Jerry Craft	Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying “You have to work twice as hard to be just as good.” His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn’t afforded the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted?
	<i>A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel</i>	Adapted and Illustrated by Hope Larson	A graphic novel adaptation of the classic tale in which Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government
	<i>When Stars Are Scattered</i>	Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed	Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings. It's an intimate, important, unforgettable look at the day-to-day life of a refugee, as told to New York Times Bestselling author/artist Victoria Jamieson by Omar Mohamed, the Somali man who lived the story.
	<i>White Bird</i>	R.J. Palacio	The story of Julian's grandma's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend
	<i>Snow White: A Graphic Novel</i>	Matt Phelan	Snow White’s dad is a Wall Street king, her stepmother is a Zigfield Follies star, and her seven small protectors are street kids.
	<i>They Called Us Enemy</i>	George Takei, Justin Eisinger, & Steven Scott	George’s family are sent to a cramped, smelly horse stable and then to a bare-bones, overcrowded barracks surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. George and his brother adapt well –mostly because they have amazing parents but this story also shows the reality for the adults in their new, unfair situation. It shows George’s parents’ resilience and perseverance. When World War II ended, leaving the camps wasn't an easy, happy ending for any of the detained families. As you can imagine, they have nothing– no jobs nor bank accounts and are returning to a world of prejudice.
	<i>Red Scare: A Graphic Novel</i>	Liam Francis Walsh	Peggy is scared: She's struggling to recover from polio and needs crutches to walk, and she and her neighbors are worried about the rumors of Communist spies doing bad things. On top of all that, Peggy has a hard time at school, and gets taunted by her classmates. When she finds a mysterious artifact that gives her the ability to fly, she thinks it's the solution to all her problems. But if Peggy wants to keep it, she'll have to overcome bullies, outsmart FBI agents, and escape from some very strange spies!



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
- Jerry Craft
- Alan Gratz
- Roald Dahl