



Neshaminy School District

Middle School Level

Suggested Summer Reading

Incoming 5th and 6th Grade



Fiction/Realistic Fiction

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>Hope Was Here</i>	Joan Bauer	When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope's not sure what to expect. But what they find is that the owner, G.T., isn't quite ready to give up yet--in fact, he's decided to run for mayor against a corrupt candidate. And as Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds herself caught up in G.T.'s campaign--particularly his visions for the future. After all, as G.T. points out, everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times . . . even Hope herself.
<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.
<i>The Batboy</i>	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.
<i>Wonderstruck</i>	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.

Historical Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>Souder</i>	William Armstrong	During the difficult years of the nineteenth century South, an African American boy and his poor family rarely have enough to eat. Each night, the boy's father takes their dog, Souder, out to look for food and the man grows more desperate by the day. When food suddenly appears on the table one morning, it seems like a blessing. But the sheriff and his deputies are not far behind. The ever-loyal Souder remains determined to help the family he loves as hard times bear down on them.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	It's 1936, in Flint Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him: 1. He has his own suitcase full of special things. 2. He's the author of <i>Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself</i> . 3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers advertising Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression! Bud's got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road to find this mystery man, nothing can stop him—not hunger, not fear, not vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself.
<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.

Science Fiction

Title	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.

Fantasy

Title	Author	Description
<i>Tuck Everlasting</i>	Natalie Babbitt	<i>What if you could live forever?</i> Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older. But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.
<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.
<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.
<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>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.
<i>Eragon</i>	Christopher Paolini	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.

Humor/Short Stories

Title	Author	Description
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<i>Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (or other books in this series)</i>	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.
<i>No More Dead Dogs</i>	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 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!
<i>Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life (or other books in this series)</i>	James Patterson	Rafe's plan to break every rule in the school handbook is soon out of his control. *First book in the series.

Mystery

Title	Author	Description
<i>Loot</i>	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>

Non-Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i>	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, <i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i> celebrates the courage that makes one young woman a heroine in Japan.

<i>Titanic: Voices From the Disaster</i>	Deborah Hopkinson	Survivors' accounts bring the Titanic disaster to life.
<i>Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays</i>	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.
<i>Small Steps: The Year I got Polio</i>	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.
<i>Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs</i>	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.

Popular Middle Grades 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