



Neshaminy School District

Middle School Level

Suggested Summer Reading

Incoming 7th and 8th Grade



Realistic Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>Crossover</i>	Kwame Alexander	Twelve-Year-Old Josh Bell 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. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price.
<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.
<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.
<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.
<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.
<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.
<i>Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie</i>	Jordan Sonnenblick	Steven Alper is a typical eighth grader-smarter than some, a better drummer than most, but with the usual girl problems and family trials. Then, on October 7, his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey, falls, has a nosebleed that doesn't stop, and is diagnosed with leukemia.

<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.
<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.
<i>So B. It</i>	Sarah Weeks	After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada to New York to find out who she is.

Historical Fiction

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.
<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.
<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.
<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.

Science Fiction

Title	Author	Description
<i>Matched</i>	Allie 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 instance before the screen fades to black.
<i>Maze Runner (or other books in this series)</i>	James Dashner	Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.
<i>The House of the Scorpion</i>	Nancy Farmer	In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clones of El Patron, the 142 year old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
<i>Uglies</i>	Scott Westerfield	Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

Fantasy

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.
<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>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
<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.

Mystery

Title	Author	Description
<i>The Face on the Milk Carton</i>	Caroline Cooney	No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar—a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey—she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl—it was she. How could it possibly be true?
<i>The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die</i>	April Henry	"Take her out back and finish her off." She doesn't know who she is. She doesn't know where she is, or why. All she knows when she comes to in a ransacked cabin is that there are two men arguing over whether or not to kill her. And that she must run.

Non Fiction/Memoirs

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.
<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.
<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.
<i>I Am Malala</i>	Malala Yousafzai	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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