

Summer 2014 - Middle School Reading List



- 1) ***Does My Head Look Big in This?*** by Randa Abdel-Fattah (J ABD)
Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.
- 2) ***Speak*** by Laurie Halse Anderson (TEEN F AND)
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.
- 3) ***Better Nate Than Ever*** by Tim Federle (J FED)
An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."
- 4) ***The Diary of a Young Girl*** by Anne Frank (JB FRA)
Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* is among the most enduring documents of the twentieth century. Since its publication in 1947, it has been read by tens of millions of people all over the world. It remains a beloved and deeply admired testament to the indestructible nature of the human spirit. Restored in this Definitive Edition are diary entries that were omitted from the original edition. These passages, which constitute 30 percent more material, reinforce the fact that Anne was first and foremost a teenage girl, not a remote and flawless symbol. She fretted about and tried to cope with her own sexuality. Like many young girls, she often found herself in disagreements with her mother. And like any teenager, she veered between the carefree nature of a child and the full-fledged sorrow of an adult. Anne emerges more human, more vulnerable and more vital than ever. Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the horrors of Nazi occupation, hid in the back of an Amsterdam warehouse for two years. She was thirteen when she went into the Secret Annex with her family.
- 5) ***Ever After High: The Storybook of Legends*** by Shannon Hale (J HAL)
At *Ever After High*, a boarding school for the sons and daughters of famous fairy-tale characters, students Apple White and Raven Queen face the moment when they must choose whether to follow their destinies, or change them.
- 6) ***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster*** by Deborah Hopkinson (J910.91634 HOP)
Tells the tale of the sinking of the *Titanic* using the narratives of the witnesses and survivors to the disaster.
- 7) ***The Mark of the Dragonfly*** by Jaleigh Johnson (JAUDIOBOOK JOH)
Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands.
- 8) ***Dogs of War*** by Sheila Keenan (J KEE)
Three fictional stories, told in graphic novel format, about soldiers in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War who were aided by combat dogs. Based on true stories.
- 9) ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee (TEEN F LEE)
Harper Lee's classic novel of a lawyer in the Deep South defending a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. One of the best-loved stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has earned many distinctions since its original publication in 1960. It won the Pulitzer Prize, has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than thirty million copies worldwide, and been made into an enormously popular movie. Most recently, librarians across the country gave the book the highest of honors by voting it the best novel of the twentieth century.

10) ***The Lions of Little Rock*** by Kristin Levine (J LEV)

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

11) ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*** by C.S. Lewis (J LEW)

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

12) ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry (J LOW)

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

13) ***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry (J LOW)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

14) ***Legend*** by Marie Lu (J LU)

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

15) ***Anne of Green Gables*** by L.M. Montgomery (J MON)

Anne (with an 'e' of course) starts out as a mistake. The elderly Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert had planned on adopting a boy to help Matthew with the chores on their Prince Edward Island farm. What are they to do with the red-haired, high-spirited girl who arrives instead? Anne Shirley, with her boundless imagination and heart, slowly brings joy into the narrow lives of those around her, and into the lives of readers who have delighted in her adventures since Lucy Maud Montgomery began writing about her in 1905. Anne's courage, her enthusiasm, and her ability to love, have made her one of literature's most beloved characters in Canada and around the world. This beautifully illustrated volume, with a foreword by Kate Butler MacDonald, one of L. M. Montgomery's grandchildren, is a treasure for those who find in Anne a familiar friend as well as for those who are discovering this "kindred spirit" for the first time.

16) ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio (J PAL)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

17) ***Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life*** by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts (J PAT)

When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

18) ***The Wednesday Wars*** by Gary D. Schmidt (J SCH)

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

19) ***The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*** by Michael Scott (J SCO)

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

20) ***Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*** by Steve Sheinkin (J355.825 SHE)

Recounts the story of the atomic bomb, from the discovery to the scientists and the spies involved. The goal was military dominance over the entire world.

21) ***The Grimm Legacy*** by Polly Shulman (J SHU)

New York high school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository," and when she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.

22) ***Tesla's Attic*** by Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman (J SHU)

With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor, Nikola Tesla

23) ***Counting by 7s*** by Holly Goldberg Sloan (J SLO)

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

24) ***When You Reach Me*** by Rebecca Stead (J STE)

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

25) ***The Screaming Staircase*** by Jonathan Stroud (J STR)

Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.

26) ***Drama*** by Raina Telgemeier (J TEL)

Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of Moon over Mississippi as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

27) ***Bad Island*** by Doug TenNapel (J TEN)

Lyle, Karen, Janie, and Reese must find a way off an island while they dodge strange and dangerous things on the island.

28) ***The Dolphins of Shark Bay*** by Pamela S. Turner (J599.533 TUR)

A scientific journey to study the dolphins of coastal Australia considers the many potential sources of dolphin intelligence and what dolphin behavior can inform the scientific community about human intelligence, captive animals and the future of the oceans.

29) ***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams-Garcia (J WIL)

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

30) ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak (J ZUS)

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

