

7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2013



FANTASY



The Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis. Long before Harry Potter discovered Platform 9 and 3/4, four English children --- Lucy, Edmund, Peter and Susan --- traveled through an ordinary-looking clothes closet (wardrobe) and found themselves in a magical world called Narnia. Their adventures are at the heart of THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE and the other six novels that make up the Chronicles of Narnia. **BL: 5.4-5.9 PTS: 6.0-9.0** Seven book series.



Revenge of the Witch, by Joseph Delaney. Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasts." **BL: 5.6 PTS: 9.0** 1st in a series.



The Ruins of Gorlan, John Flanagan. When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. **BL:7.0 PTS: 12.0** 1st in a series.



The Search of WondLa, by Tony DiTerlizzi. Living in isolation with a robot on what appears to be an alien world populated with bizarre life forms, a twelve-year-old human girl called Eva Nine sets out on a journey to find others like her. **BL: 5.2 PTS: 11.0** A sequel is coming soon!



Eragon, by Chris Paolini. In Agaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called **Eragon** finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. **BL: 5.6 PTS: 25.0** 1st in a soon to be four book series! ✍️ 📖



The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites, by Heather Brewer. Thirteen-year-old half-vampire Vladimir Tod struggles to navigate the ups and downs of eighth grade while keeping his untested powers and impulses under control. **BL: 5.4 PTS: 7.0** SERIES



SCIENCE FICTION



Memory Boy, by Will Weaver. Sixteen-year-old Miles and his family must flee their Minneapolis home and begin a new life in the wilderness after a chain of cataclysmic volcanic explosions creates dangerous conditions in their city. **BL: 4.4 PTS: 5.0**



Airborn, by Kenneth Oppel. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. **BL: 5.1 PTS: 15.0**



Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment, by James Patterson. After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. **BL: 4.6 PTS: 11.0**
1st in a series.



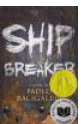
Life as We Knew It, by Susan Beth Pfeffer. Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. **BL: 4.7 PTS: 14.0** **1st of a trilogy.**



Downsiders, by Neal Shusterman. When fourteen-year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers the Downsiders world which had evolved from the subway built in New York in 1867 by Alfred Ely Beach, she and her new friend experience the clash of their two cultures. **BL: 7.2 PTS: 11.0**



Everlost, by Neal Shusterman. When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free. **BL: 5.6 PTS: 12.0**



Ship Breaker, by Paolo Bacigalupi. In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper **ship** with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the **ship** for its wealth or rescue the girl. **BL:4.4 PTS: 11.0**



Incarceron, by Catherine Fisher. To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape. **BL: 4.6 PTS: 14.0**



REALISTIC FICTION



Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson. A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect of Melinda's freshman year in high school. **BL: 4.5 PTS: 7.0**



Airhead, by Meg Cabot. Sixteen-year-old Emerson Watts, an advanced placement student with a disdain for fashion, is the recipient of a "whole body transplant" and finds herself transformed into one of the world's most famous teen supermodels. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 11.0** **1st in a series**



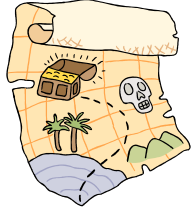
Hero, by Mike Lupica. Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the president's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him, and now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life. **BL: 4.6 PTS: 8.0**



The Cardturner: A Novel About a King, a Queen, and a Joker, by Louis Sachar. When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative. (Includes appendix by Syd Fox with information about bridge.) **BL: 5.0 PTS: 9.0**



Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller, by Sarah Miller. At age twenty-one, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. Includes historical notes and timeline. **BL: 5.8 PTS: 8.0**



ADVENTURE



The Trap, by John Smelcer. In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel **trap** in the Alaskan winter. **BL: 6.2 PTS: 5.0**



Soul Surfer, by Bethany Hamilton. Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen. **BL: 6.0 PTS: 5.0**



Stormbreaker, by Anthony Horowitz. After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. **BL: 5.1 PTS: 6.1** 1st in a series.



Postcard, by Tony Abbott. While in St. Petersburg, Florida, to help clean out his recently-deceased grandmother's house, thirteen-year-old Jason finds an old postcard which leads him on an adventure that blends figures from an old, unfinished detective story with his family's past. **BL: 4.0 PTS: 9.0**



The Yearling, by Marjorie Rawlings. A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet. **BL: 5.0 PTS: 19.0**



HISTORICAL FICTION



Chasing Lincoln's Killer, by James L. Swanson. Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him. **BL: 7.5 PTS: 6.0**



Uprising, by Margaret Peterson Haddix. In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old. Includes historical notes. **BL: 5.6 PTS: 14.0**



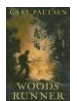
The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. **BL: 5.1 PTS: 18.0**



Countdown, by Deborah Wiles. "Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall. It's 1962, and it seems the whole country is living in fear."--Dust jacket flap **BL: 4.4 PTS: 9.0**



The Boy Who Dared, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. **BL: 4.9 PTS: 5.0**





Woods Runner, by Gary Paulsen. From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. Includes historical notes. **BL: 5.5 PTS: 5.0**





SPORTS





Payback Time, by Carl Deuker. Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field--or to discuss his past.

BL: 5.0 PTS: 9.0  





Heat, by Mike Lupica. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 9.0**  




Travel Team, Mike Lupica. After he is cut from his **travel** basketball team--the very same **team** that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own **team** of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory. **BL: 5.4 PTS: 11.0**  



Summer Ball, by Mike Lupica. Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a **summer** basketball camp. A companion book to *Travel Team*. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 10.0**  



Kick, by Walter Dean Meyers. Told in their separate voices, thirteen-year-old soccer star Kevin and police sergeant Brown, who knew his father, try to keep Kevin out of juvenile hall after he is arrested on very serious charges. **BL: 4.7 PTS: 5.0** 





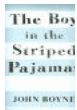
WORLD CULTURES





Bound, by Donna Jo Napoli. In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well. **BL: 5.4 PTS: 6.0**




Chinese Cinderella, by Adeline Yen Mah. In **Chinese Cinderella**, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. **BL: 5.7 PTS: 8.0**  



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by John Boyne. Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. **BL: 5.8 PTS: 7.0**  



Purple Heart, by Patricia McCormick. While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali. **BL: 5.1 PTS: 6.0** 



NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY



Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream, by Tanya Lee Stone. Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional **astronauts**. **BL: 7.1**

PTS: 4.0



Katie.com: A Girl's Life Online, by Katherine Tarbox. Katie Tarbox explains how and why she became involved, at the age of thirteen, with an Internet stalker, a middle-aged man who had told her he was a wealthy twenty-three-year-old; and shares the story of her ordeal after she realized, almost too late, that he was a online predator. **BL: 6.1 PTS: 9.0**

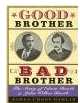


Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder, by Tony Hawk and Sean Mortimer. Internationally known American skateboarding champ Tony Hawk chronicles his life and his very eventful involvement with the sport.

BL: 7.0 PTS: 13.0



Roberto Clemente: Baseball's Humanitarian Hero, by Heron Marquez. Presents a biography of major league player Roberto Clemente and describes his impoverished childhood in Puerto Rico, love for baseball, and entrance into professional sports in the U.S. where he played for both the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Pittsburgh Pirates. **BL: 6.5 PTS: 2.0**





Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth, by James Cross Giblin. Most people know the name John Wilkes Booth, but few likely have heard of his elder brother Edwin. Find out about the brothers through first-hand accounts. Learn how alike and how different they were, and how each made a lasting impression on American history. **BL: 8.3 PTS: 13.0**




MYSTERY




The Body of Christopher Creed, by Carol Plum Ucci. Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast. **BL: 5.3 PTS: 11.0**  



Scat, by Carl Hiaassen. Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing. **BL: 5.5 PTS: 12.0** 





Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, by John Feinstein. After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. **BL: 4.8 PTS: 9.0** 



Change Up: Mystery at the World Series, by John Feinstein. While covering baseball's World Series between the Washington Nationals and the Boston Red Sox, teenage sports reporters Stevie and Susan Carol investigate a rookie pitcher whose evasive answers during an interview reveal more than a few contradictions in his life story. **BL: 5.0 PTS: 10.0**

Book descriptions courtesy Follett Destiny Catalog

 Librarian enjoyed these books!  Award