

**Manchester Township Middle School  
Summer Reading List  
June, 2009**

**Almond, David.** *The Fire-Eaters.* Despite observing his father's illness and the suffering of the fire-eating Mr. McNulty, as well as enduring abuse at school and the stress of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Bobby Burns and his family and friends, living in England in 1962, still find reasons to rejoice in their lives and to have hope for the future.

**Anderson, M.T.** *The Game of Sunken Places.* When two boys stay with an eccentric relative at his mansion in rural Vermont, they discover an old-fashioned board game that draws them into a mysterious adventure.

**Armstrong, Jennifer.** *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: the Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endura.* Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.

**Auch, Mary Jane.** *Ashes of Roses.* Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911 in the hopes of starting a new life, but after most of her family is sent back to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country and fend for herself and her younger sister.

**Averett, Edward.** *The Rhyming Season.* Senior basketball-player shoulders the hopes of a dying mill town and her bereaved family when she and an eccentric English-teacher/coach try to lead their team to state basketball history.

**Avi . Crispin: the Cross of Lead.** Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees village and meets a larger-than-life his juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

**Avi.** *Nothing But the Truth.* Philip is suspended for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom and his plight becomes a national news story.

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell.** *The Boy Who Dared.* In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, 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.

**Bauer, Joan.** *Hope Was Here.* When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

**Bloor, Edward.** *Tangerine.* Paul who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

**Boyne, John.** *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: a Fable.* 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.

**Bruchac, Joseph.** *Code Talker: a Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two.* After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

**Calabro, Marian.** *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party.* Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

**Choldenko, Gennifer.** *Al Capone Does My Shirts.* A twelve-year-old boy names Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister..

**Christopher, Matt.** *Baseball Flyhawk.* Chico, a native of Puerto Rico and an excellent swimmer, joins the Royals baseball team but has trouble making friends with String, the most popular member of the team.

**Christopher, Matt.** *Catcher With a Glass Arm.* Jody can't throw the baseball hard, so it usually falls short of its mark. Then one day he gets beamed with a ball and must overcome fear and humiliation.

**Christopher, Matt.** *Challenge at Second Base.* Story of how a young boy faces competition on his baseball team.

**Christopher, Matt.** *The Comeback Challenge.* Mark, center for his middle school's soccer team the Scorpions, must cope with his parents' divorce and a teammate who holds a grudge against him.

**Christopher, Matt.** *The Counterfeit Tackle.* Identical twins learn to accept the fact that they have different interests and abilities.

**Christopher, Matt. *Goalkeeper in Charge.*** Shy Tina Esparza is upset when her soccer coach decides that she should be the goalkeeper, a position in which she will be too noticeable.

**Christopher, Matt. *Johnny Long Legs.*** Even though he is the tallest member of the basketball team, a young boy finds he is far from being the best player.

**Christopher, Matt. *Long-Arm Quarterback.*** Twelve-year-old Cap Wadell wants to play on a "real" football team, but his middle school in a small Texas town does not have enough players until his grandfather revives interest in the game of six-man football--but just when things are looking up, Cap's grandfather and a teammate's grandfather revive an old football feud.

**Christopher, Matt. *Long Shot For Paul.*** Glenn Marlette wants his developmentally disabled brother, Paul, to be accepted by the members of the basketball team.

**Christopher, Matt. *Soccer Scoop.*** Cougars goalie Mac Williams sets out to uncover the anonymous artist ridiculing him in a school newspaper cartoon for his on-field chatter, hoping that a friend has not betrayed him.

**Christopher, Matt. *Tough to Tackle.*** Disappointed at first by not being large enough to make quarterback, Boots discovers that there is as much challenge in playing tackle.

**Clements, Andrew. *The Report Card.*** Fifth-grader Nora Rowley has always hidden the fact that she is a genius from everyone because all she wants is to be normal, but when she comes up with a plan to prove that grades are not important, things begin to get out of control.

**Colfer, Eoin. *Airman.*** In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

**Cooper, Susan. *The Dark Is Rising.*** On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

**Creech, Sharon. *Walk two moons.*** After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton.*** Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

**Cushman, Karen. *Catherine Called Birdy.*** The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. Newbery Honor Book.

**Dana, Barbara. *Necessary Parties.*** Stunned when his parents' intentions to get a divorce begins to tear his family apart, fifteen-year old Chris enlists the help of an idealistic lawyer to stop them in court.

**Dixon, Franklin D. *The Hardy Boys.*** Various titles and series.

**Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery.*** When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together—Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat—to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Dovey Coe.*** Accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother, as she attempts to clear her name.

**DuPrau, Jeanne, *The City of Ember.*** In the city of Ember, 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.

**Ferris, Jean. *Love Among the Walnuts.*** Take a wealthy, healthy young man, add two conniving uncles with a murderous plot, a convalescent home full of eccentric characters, and four comatose patients whom the young man must protect from further attempts on their lives after his uncles manage to poison the four of them with a birthday cake.

**Fleischman, Sid. *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk.*** A struggling American ventriloquist in post-World War II Europe is possessed by the mischievous spirit of a young Jewish boy killed in the Holocaust. Includes author's note which details the murder of over one million children by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s.

**Fleischman, Sid. *The Trouble Begins at 8: a Life of Mark Twain.*** This biography covers enough of Samuel Clemens's youth for readers to appreciate how autobiographical Twain's later novels were, but the seven years that the writer spent meandering the Wild West are at the heart of the book. Fleischman chronicles Clemens's various bouts of gold fever and get-rich-quick schemes in the Nevada Territory and the San Francisco area, but shows that it was always his newspaper writing that provided stability.

**Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book.*** The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to

the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

**George, Jessica Day.** *Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow.* After agreeing to spend a year in the castle of a great white bear in exchange for riches for her family, a woodcutter's daughter finds herself on a journey east of the sun and west of the moon to free the man she loves from a magic spell.

**Gibson, William.** *The Miracle Worker.* William Gibson's play about teacher Annie Sullivan's determined quest to give twelve-year-old Helen Keller, blind, deaf, and mute, the gift of language.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** *Double Identity.* Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** *Running Out of Time.* When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

**Halam, Ann.** *Dr. Franklin's Island.* When their plane crashes over the Pacific Ocean, three science students are left stranded on a tropical island and then imprisoned by a doctor who is performing horrifying experiments on humans involving the transfer of animal genes.

**Harrison, Lisi.** *The clique: a Novel.* Wealthy Massie is determined to exclude middle class Claire, the daughter of her father's old friend, from her seventh-grade clique at a very exclusive private school in Westchester, New York, but after Massie steals her only friend, Claire strikes back.

**Hesse, Karen.** *Brooklyn Bridge: a Novel.* Fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom's life takes a dramatic turn when, in 1903 Brooklyn, his parents turn their apartment into a factory for making teddy bears; and Joseph wonders whether he will ever see the glitter of Coney Island.

**Hiaasen, Carl.** *Hoot.* Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

**Hirschfeld, Robert.** *Slam Dunk.* When a new school year starts, and thirteen-year-old basketball star Julian feels a lot of pressure as he realizes he is the only remaining player from last year's winning team, a friend's health crisis helps him regain perspective.

**Horowitz, Anthony.** *Point Blank.* Alex, a fourteen-year-old spy, has been assigned by the British MI6 to investigate a

series of mysterious deaths. He ends up in a boarding school in the Swiss Alps, and finds many strange things are happening to the students.

**Howe, James.** *The Misfits.* Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

**Ibbotson, Eva.** *The Dragonfly Pool.* Tally and her friends at Dalderton Boarding School form a dance troupe and travel to Bergania, where she befriends Karil, the crown prince, and helps him flee the Nazis after his father is assassinated.

**Kadohata, Cynthia.** *Kira-Kira.* Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

**Kadohata, Cynthia.** *Weedflower.* After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

**Kinney, Jeff.** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal.* Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

**Kinney, Jeff.** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.* Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother, Rodrick, from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

**Kinney, Jeff.** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the Last Straw.* Middle-schooler Greg Heffley nimbly sidesteps his father's attempts to change Greg's wimpy ways until his father threatens to send him to military school.

**Koja, Kathe.** *Buddha Boy.* Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual and artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call Buddha Boy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school.

**Konigsbur, E.L.** *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place.* Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

**Lalicki, Tom.** *Spellbinder: the Life of Harry Houdini.* An illustrated biography of late nineteenth-, early twentieth-century American magician Harry Houdini.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*.** In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

**Lewis, C.S. *Chronicles of Narnia*.** A series of stories with an underlying theme of good overcoming evil. Titles include: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. *Prince Caspian*. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. *The Silver Chair*. *The Horse and His Boy*. *The Magician's Nephew*. *The Last Battle*.

**Lockhart, E. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks: a Novel*.** Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

**Lowry, Lois. *Taking Care of Terrific*.** Taking her overprotected young charge to the public park to broaden his horizons, fourteen-year-old babysitter Enid enjoys unexpected friendships with a black saxophonist and a bag lady until she is charged with kidnapping.

**Lunn, Janet. *The Root Cellar*.** A girl travels back in time to the turmoil of the Civil War.

**Lupica, Mike. *The Big Field*.** When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

**McKay, Hilary. *Indigo's Star*.** Spurred on by his youngest sister, Rose, twelve-year-old Indigo sticks up for himself and an American boy who has replaced him as the primary target of the school bullies.

**McMullan, Margaret. *When I Crossed No-Bob*.** Ten years after the Civil War's end, twelve-year-old Addy, abandoned by her parents, is taken from the horrid town of No-Bob by schoolteacher Frank Russell and his bride, but when her father returns to claim her she must find another way to leave her O'Donnell past behind.

**Murphy, Jim. *The Great Fire*.** Photographs and text, along with personal accounts of actual survivors tell the story of the great fire of 1871 in Chicago.

**Nelson, Scott Reynolds. *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*.** Historian Scott Nelson introduces children to the life of the real John Henry, drawing on songs, poems, and stories to describe the man behind the legendary African-American hero.

**Osa, Nancy. *Cuba 15: a Novel*.** Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming

"quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of a Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.

**O'Dell, Scott. *The Black Pearl*.** In claiming as his own, the magnificent pearl he finds, a sixteen-year-old youth engages the sea devil that legend says is its owner. Newbery Honor Book.

**Padian, Maria. *Brett McCarthy: Work in Progress*.** Eighth grader Brett McCarthy finds herself redefining her life after a practical joke gets her suspended, ruins her friendships, and forces her to discover what is really important in her life.

**Paulsen, Gary. *The Voyage of the Frog*.** When David goes out on his sailboat to scatter his recently deceased uncle's ashes to the wind, he is caught in a fierce storm and must survive many days on his own as he works out his feelings about life and his uncle.

**Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Winter*.** Brian is forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet. Sequel: *Hatchet and the River*.

**Peck, Richard. *A Long Way From Chicago*.** A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. Sequel: *A Year Down Under*. Newbery Medal.

**Peck, Richard. *Here Lies the Librarian*.** Fourteen-year-old Eleanor "Peewee" McGrath, a tomboy and automobile enthusiast, discovers new possibilities for her future after the 1914 arrival in her small Indiana town of four young librarians.

**Peck, Richard. *The Teacher's Funeral: a Comedy in Three Parts*.** In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

**Pratchett, Terry. *Nation*.** A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives.

**Raskin, Ellen. *Westing Game*.** The mysterious death of a millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. Newbery Medal.

**Rinaldi, Ann. *An Acquaintance With Darkness*.** When her mother dies and her best friend's family is implicated in the assassination of President Lincoln, fourteen-year-old Emily Pigbush must go live with an uncle she suspects of being involved in stealing bodies for medical research.

**Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*.** Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the

truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

**Robinson, Sharon.** *Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America.* A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter.

**Rowling, J. K.** *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.* Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. Sequels: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.*

**Ryan, Pam Munoz.** *Becoming Naomi Leon.* When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz.** *Esperanza Rising.* 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.

**Schmidt, Gary D.** *Trouble.* Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but fate adds another companion—the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin—and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

**Schumacher, Julie.** *Black Box: a Novel.* When her sixteen-year-old sister is hospitalized for depression and her parents want to keep it a secret, fourteen-year-old Elena tries to cope with her own anxiety and feelings of guilt that she is determined to conceal from outsiders.

**Shusterman, Neal.** *Antsy Does Time.* Fourteen-year-old Anthony "Antsy" Bonano learns about life, death, and a lot more when he tries to help a friend with a terminal illness feel hopeful about the future.

**Shusterman, Neal.** *Full Tilt: a Novel.* When sixteen-year-old Blake goes to a mysterious, by-invitation-only carnival he somehow knows that it could save his comatose brother, but soon learns that much more is at stake if he fails to meet the challenge presented there by the beautiful Cassandra.

**Smith, Roland.** *Elephant Run.* Nick's father and others are taken prisoner when his plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, leaving Nick and his friend Mya to risk their lives in order to free them from the POW camp.

**Snyder, Zelpha Keatley.** *Egypt Game.* A group of children entranced with the study of Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies. Newbery Honor Book.

**Spinelli, Jerry.** *Loser.* Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

**Staples, Suzanne Fisher.** *Shiva's Fire.* A young Hindu girl from India, Parvati, who is known for the extraordinary events that occur when she dances, leaves her family to train in classical Indian dance with a great master, but her commitment to a program of dance, study, and devotion falters when she meets a gentle-eyed boy.

**Sutcliff, Rosemary.** *The Sword and the Circle.* Retells the adventures of King Arthur, Queen Guenevere, Sir Lancelot, and the other Knights of the Round Table.

**Taylor, Mildred.** *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry.* A black family living in the South during the 1930's is faced with prejudice and discrimination, which their children don't understand. Newbery Medal.

**Taylor, Theodore.** *Timothy of the Cay.* Sequel to: *The Cay.* Having survived being blinded and shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean Island with the old black man Timothy, twelve-year-old Phillip is rescued and hopes to regain his sight with an operation. Alternate chapters follow the life of Timothy from his days as a young cabin boy.

**Tolan, Stephanie S.** *Surviving the Applewhites.* Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

**Van Draanen, Wendelin.** *Flipped.* In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years..

**Venkatraman, Padma.** *Climbing the Stairs.* In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

**Voight, Cynthia.** *Dacey's Song.* Sequel to: *Homecoming.* Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage. Newbery Medal.

**Woodson, Jacqueline.** *After Tupac & D Foster.* In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

**Woodson, Jacqueline.** *Hush*. Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

**Yolen, Jane.** *The Devils's Arithmetic*. Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

**Zindel, Paul, Loch.** Loch and his younger sister join their father on a scientific expedition searching for enormous prehistoric creatures sighted in a Vermont lake and uncover the sinister plans of the expedition's leaders.