



Riverdale School Library  
Recommended Titles for Middle School  
Summer 2010



\*All titles are available at the Riverdale Public Library or the M.A.I.N library system.

\*these books are in addition to the 2 required middle school books.

\*the books marked 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> choice can be used for the choice book assignment.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse - Chains: Seeds of America \*7<sup>th</sup> choice**

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. **\*historical fiction**

**Baskin, Nora Raleigh - Anything but Typical \*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. **\*realistic fiction**

**Creech, Sharon - The Wanderer**

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England. **\*realistic fiction**

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark - Shooting the Moon \*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. **\*historical fiction**

**Draper, Sharon - Out of My Mind \*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. **\*realistic fiction**

**Funke, Cornelia - Inkspell (series)**

In this sequel to Inkheart, some readers have the power to bring characters from books into the "real world" with fascinating and sometimes terrifying results. **\*fantasy**

**Gaiman, Neil - The Graveyard Book \*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

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. **\*Newbery Winner**

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson - Double Identity \*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

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. **\*suspense**

**Hale, Shannon - Princess Academy**

14 year old Miri attends a strict academy for potential princesses and learns more than she bargains for. **\*fantasy**

**Hiassen, Carl - Scat**

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing. **\*realistic fiction**

**Hobbs, Will - Wild Man Island**

After slipping away from his kayaking group, 14 year old Andy is stranded on Admiralty Island in Alaska. **\*adventure**

**Hoose, Phillip - Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice **\*7<sup>th</sup> choice****

An account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case. **\*biography**

**Jones, Kimberly K. - Sand Dollar Summer**

12 year old Lisa and her family spend the summer in Maine as her mother recovers from a bad car accident. **\*realistic fiction**

**Kadohata, Cynthia - Weedflower **\*7<sup>th</sup> choice****

After the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Sumiko and her family are sent by the American government to live at an internment camp in the Sonoran Desert.

**\*historical fiction**

**Kelly, Jacqueline - The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate **\*7<sup>th</sup> choice****

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

**\*historical fiction**

**Korman, Gordon - The Discovery (The Dive Series)**

Kaz, Star, Adrianna and Dante are on a marine expedition for the summer, diving to explore an underwater habitat that's just been altered by a seismic event. What they find, though, is much more than fish. **\*action**

**Law, Ingrid - Savvy **\*8<sup>th</sup> choice****

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. **\*fantasy**

**Lupica, Mike - Big Field**

**\*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

As his American Legion team works its way to the 17-and-under league Florida State championship series, team captain Hutch finds himself both locking horns with an arrogant, immensely talented new teammate and fuming at his father's long-standing emotional distance.

**\*sports**

**Montgomery, Sy - Quest for the Tree Kangaroo an expedition to the cloud forest of New Guinea (series)**

Full-color, illustrated photographs provide detailed information on the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest, and describes its habits, behaviors, and characteristics.

**\*non fiction**

**Park, Linda Sue - Project Mulberry**

Julie and Patrick learn about a lot more than worms while working on a science project for an after-school club. **\*realistic fiction**

**Pfeffer, Susan Beth - Life as we knew it (series)**

**\*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

When a meteor hits the Moon, Miranda must learn to survive the unimaginable. Told in journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all--hope--in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. **\*fantasy**

**Riordan, Rick - The Lightning Thief (series)**

When Percy Jackson learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea, he becomes involved in a quest to save the world from catastrophic war between the gods.

**\*fantasy**

**Sachar, Louis - Small Steps**

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money, Armpit reluctantly goes along. (sequel to Holes)

**\* realistic fiction**

**Stead, Rebecca - When You Reach Me**

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. **\*Newbery winner**

**Tan, Shaun - Tales from Outer Suburbia**

Fifteen illustrated short stories, some humorous and some haunting, set in the Australian suburbs. **\*short stories**

**Weeks, Sarah - So B. It**

**\*8<sup>th</sup> choice**

12 year old Heidi leaves Reno, Nevada, for New York to uncover questions about her parents, her past, and her identity. **\*realistic fiction**