



Riverdale School Library  
Recommended Titles for Middle School  
Summer 2011



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

**\*\*6<sup>th</sup> Graders** - These books are in addition to the required book, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli.\*\*

**\*\*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders** - These can be used as your choice book selections.\*\*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse - Chains: Seeds of America**

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**

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 - Bloomability**

When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers her world expanding. **\*realistic fiction**

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark - Shooting the Moon**

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**

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**

**Ellis, Deborah - The Breadwinner (series)**

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. **\*realistic fiction/historical fiction**

**Erskine, Kathryn - Mockingbird : (Mok'ing-burd)**

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 by working on a project with her father. **\*realistic fiction**

**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 a community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. **\*Newbery Winner**

**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. **\*suspense**

**Hamilton, Bethany - Soul Surfer**

The teenage surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack in 2003 describes how she has coped with this life-altering event with the help of her faith, the changes in her life, and her return to the sport she loves. **\*biography**

**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, fourteen-year-old Andy is stranded on Admiralty Island in Alaska. **\*adventure**

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

Twelve-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**

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**

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 Contest (The Everest Series)**

Four climbers, winners of an American Junior Alpine Association contest, vie to become the youngest person ever to reach the peak of Mount Everest. **\*action**

**Law, Ingrid - Savvy**

This novel 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**

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**

**Napoli, Donna Jo - Bound**

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. **\*historical 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)**

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 Red Pyramid (series)**

Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian God Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs. **\*fantasy**

**Ryan, Pamela 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. **\*multicultural**

**Sheth, Kashmira - Boys Without Names**

Eleven-year-old Gopal and his family leave their rural Indian village to live with his uncle in Mumbai, but when they arrive, his father goes missing and Gopal ends up locked in a sweatshop from which there is no escape. **\*multicultural**

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

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's 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**

**Swanson, James - Chasing Lincoln's Killer**

This nonfiction page-turner recounts the escape of John Wilkes Booth, Abraham Lincoln's assassin, and follows the intensive twelve-day search for him and his accomplices.

**\*non fiction**

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

This collection of fifteen illustrated short stories, some humorous and some haunting, is set in the Australian suburbs. **\*short stories**

**Thomson, Sarah - Three Cups of Tea (Young Adult Edition)**

Greg Mortenson's book details his experiences trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children. Adapted for young readers.

**\*non fiction**

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

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

**\*\*Remember to check out the book recommendations from our public librarian, Ms. Rosie.\*\***

