

2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading List

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. Does my head look big in this? 1st ed. New York : Orchard Books, 2007, c2005.

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.

Alexander, Caroline. The Endurance : Shackleton's legendary Antarctic expedition. 1st ed. New York : Knopf in association with the American Museum of Natural History :, 1998.

Provides an account of the Shackleton expedition of 1914, during which explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven set out to cross the Antarctic continent on foot, only to have their ship, Endurance, break up eighty-five miles short of their destination, leaving them stranded for close to two years. Includes a photographic record of the adventure.

Alexie, Sherman. The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian. 1st ed. New York : Little, Brown, 2007.

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.

Anaya, Rudolfo A. Bless me, Ultima. Warner Books ed. New York : Warner Books, [1994], c1972.

Six-year-old Antonio embarks upon a spiritual journey under the watchful guidance of Ultima, a healing woman, that leads him to question his faith and beliefs in family, religion, and other aspects of his Chicano culture.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. The boy who dared. 1st ed. New York : Scholastic Press, 2008.

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.

Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451. New York : Simon and Schuster, 1967.

Set in the future when "firemen" are those who start fires by burning books forbidden by the totalitarian "brave new world" regime, the hero is a book burner who finally discovers the great value of books.

Buzbee, Lewis. Steinbeck's ghost. 1st ed. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2008.

Unhappy after his parents move to a weird subdivision and become workaholics, thirteen-year-old Travis returns to his old Salinas neighborhood and becomes actively involved in saving the John Steinbeck Library and, at the same time, begins seeing characters from Steinbeck's books who seem to have a message for him.

2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading List

Card, Orson Scott. Ender's game. Rev. trade pbk. ed., Author's definitive ed. New York : Tor, 1992.

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

Carey, Mike. Re-gifters. New York : DC Comics, c2007.

Korean-American Jen Dik Seong, known as Dixie to her friends, puts most of her money and energy into the martial art of hapkido, but she nearly loses her competitive edge when she falls for fellow hapkido enthusiast Adam--a boy who soon makes it obvious he is not worthy of her affection.

Colfer, Eoin. Airman. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, c2008.

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.

Compestine, Ying Chang. Revolution is not a dinner party : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Holt, 2007.

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

Dumas, Alexandre. The three musketeers. New York : Morrow, 1988.

In seventeenth-century France, young D'Artagnan initially quarrels with, then befriends, three musketeers and joins them in trying to outwit the enemies of the king and queen.

Farmer, Nancy. The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm : a novel. New York : Orchard Books, c1994.

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

Gaiman, Neil. The graveyard book. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2008.

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.

Grant, K. M. Blood red horse. 1st pbk. ed. New York : Walker ;, 2006, c2004.

A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusades.

2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading List

Grant, K. M. Blaze of silver. Pbk. ed. New York : Walker, 2008, c2007.

Using principles of their shared Muslim faith to persuade him, an agent of the Old Man of the Mountain convinces Kamil to lead Will and Ellie into a trap, but Kamil repents and seeks a way to save his friends and redeem himself.

Grant, K. M. Blue flame. New York : Walker, 2008.

In 1242 in the restive Languedoc region of France, Parsifal, having been charged as a child to guard an important religious relic, has lived in hiding for much of his life until he befriends a young couple on opposite sides of the escalating conflict between the Catholics and the Cathars.

Grant, K. M. (Katie M.). Green jasper. New York : Walker ;, 2007, c2006.

Having returned to a politically unstable England after the Crusades, brothers Will and Gavin--with the help of the red horse Hosanna--attempt to rescue their friend Ellie who is being held prisoner by an enemy of King Richard I.

Kelly, Jacqueline. The evolution of Calpurnia Tate. 1st ed. New York : Henry Holt and Co., 2009.

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.

Law, Ingrid. Savvy. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers ;, c2008.

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.

Levithan, David. Boy meets boy. 1st ed. New York : Knopf ;, c2003.

Paul's simple high-school life is confused by his desire for another boy who seems unattainable, until Paul's friends help him find the courage to pursue him.

Little, Melanie. The apprentice's masterpiece : a story of medieval Spain. Toronto : Annick Press, c2008.

In fifteenth-century Spain, apprentice scribe Ramon witnesses his family become torn by the Inquisitions.

Mass, Wendy. A mango-shaped space : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Little, Brown, c2003.

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

Michaelis, Antonia. Tiger moon. New York : Amulet Books, 2008.

Sold to be the eighth wife of a rich and cruel merchant, Safia, also called Raka, tries

2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading List

to escape her fate by telling stories of Farhad the thief, his companion Nitish the white tiger, and their travels across India to retrieve a famous jewel that will save a kidnapped princess from becoming the bride of a demon king.

Miller, Arthur. The crucible : a play in four acts. New York : Penguin Books, 1976, c1952. Against the backdrop of the seventeenth-century Salem witch trials, a woman extracts revenge against her married paramour by charging that he and his wife are sorcerers.

Murphy, Pat. The wild girls. New York : Viking, 2007. Twelve-year-old Joan, worried that she will not have any friends when her family moves from Connecticut to California, bonds right away with Sarah, a girl who prefers to be called Fox, and the two spend a joyous summer playing outside, making up stories, and attending a writing class.

Myers, Walter Dean. Harlem summer. 1st ed. New York : Scholastic Press, 2007. In 1920s Harlem, sixteen-year-old saxophonist Mark Purvis struggles to advance his jazz career while working as a gopher for the new Africa-American magazine, "The Crisis," and becoming involved with mobster Dutch Schultz.

Nix, Garth. Sabriel. New York : HarperCollins, 1996. Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

Preller, James. Six innings : a game in the life. New York : Feiwel and Friends, c2008. Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game.

Qamar, Amjed. Beneath my mother's feet. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2008. When her father is injured, fourteen-year-old Nazia is pulled away from school, her friends, and her preparations for an arranged marriage, to help her mother clean houses in a wealthy part of Karachi, Pakistan, where she finally rebels against the destiny that is planned for her.

Rees, Celia. Sovay. 1st U.S. ed. New York : Bloomsbury, 2008. An historical novel set in 1794 England, about a wealthy girl who disguises herself as a highwayman, acquires papers that could lead to her father's arrest, and must hide both her and her father's identity during the political unrest of the French Revolution.

2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading List

Resau, Laura. Red glass. 1st ed. New York : Delacorte Press, c2007.

Sixteen-year-old Sophie has been frail and delicate since her premature birth, but discovers her true strength during a journey through Mexico, where the six-year-old orphan her family hopes to adopt was born, and to Guatemala, where her would-be boyfriend hopes to find his mother and plans to remain.

Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday wars. New York : Clarion Books, c2007.

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.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. The house of djinn. 1st ed. New York : Frances Foster Books/ Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

An unexpected death brings Shabanu's daughter, Mumtaz, and nephew, Jameel, both aged fifteen, to the forefront of an attempt to modernize Pakistan, but the teens must both sacrifice their own dreams if they are to meet family and tribal expectations.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. Under the persimmon tree. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman, Nusrat in Peshawar, Pakistan, after Najmah flees her native Afghanistan during the 2001 war; and together they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones after the war ends.

Stone, Phoebe. Deep down popular : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008.

In a small, Virginia town, sixth-grader Jessie Lou Ferguson has a crush on the hugely popular Conrad Parker Smith, and when he suddenly develops a medical problem and the teacher asks Jessie Lou to help him, they become friends, to her surprise.

Thompson, Kate. The last of the high kings. 1st ed. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2008, c2007.

When eleven-year-old Jenny Liddy, in turmoil over learning that she is a changeling, makes a deal with a devil creature, she endangers the human race but her own cleverness, her human and fairy fathers, and the last of Ireland's High Kings help to make things right.

Thompson, Kate. The new policeman. 1st American ed. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2007, c2005.

Fifteen-year-old musician J.J. Liddy leaves his small, Irish town and travels to the land of the fairies to search for time so he can give it to his busy mother, but when

2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade Reading List

he gets there, he discovers that the inhabitants are in trouble and learns about his family's secret history.

Warner, Sally. Twilight child. New York : Viking, 2006.

Taken from eighteenth-century Finland by her father, teenager Eleni eventually finds a home in Scotland, receiving help along the way from brounies and fairies.

Wedekind, Annie. A Horse of Her Own. 1st ed. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2008.

At summer camp Jane feels like an outsider among the cliquish rich girls who board their horses at Sunny Acres farm, and when the horse she has been riding is sold to another camper, she feels even worse until her teacher asks her to help train a beautiful but skittish new horse, and the experience brings out the best in her.

Wein, Elizabeth. The lion hunter. New York : Viking, 2007.

After losing his arm in a lion attack, Telemakos--the half-Ethiopian grandson of King Arthur--takes care of his infant sister and lives with Abreha, a family enemy turned friend who Telemakos was warned to watch carefully.

Wilhelm, Doug. The revealers. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

Tired of being bullied and picked on, three seventh-grade outcasts join forces and, using scientific methods and the power of the Internet, begin to create a new atmosphere at Parkland Middle School.

Woodson, Jacqueline. After Tupac & D Foster. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2008.

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 th

Woodson, Jacqueline. Feathers. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2007.

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

Zusak, Markus. The book thief. 1st American ed. New York : Knopf :, c2006.

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.