# Middle School Library’s Summer Reading List
**Summer, 2012**

## GRADE 8 Classic Fiction

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>(Classic Fiction)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alcott, Louisa May</td>
<td>Little Women</td>
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The four March girls live with their mother, “Marmee”, while their father is away in the Civil War. Despite having little money, the girls keep their spirits up with writing, gardening, and putting on their plays. The girls deal with Meg's first romance, Beth's life-threatening illness, and fears for their father's safety.

Don't think it's just a book for teenage girls, either -- adults and boys can appreciate it as well. There's something for everyone: drama, romance, humor, sad and happy endings alike.

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<td>Pride and Prejudice</td>
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In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

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<td>Jane Eyre</td>
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A young governess who suffered a violently abusive childhood finds love unexpectedly with her new employer, but secrets from his past--involving madness and old passions--may prove to destroy her happiness.

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<td>Robinson Crusoe</td>
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Drawn on the real-life adventures of Alexander Selkirk, it is based on fact, and as a result, is a valuable manual on survival. As the sole survivor of a shipwreck, an Englishman lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

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<td>A Tale of Two Cities</td>
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A member of the French aristocracy, Charles Darnay, and an English lawyer, Sydney Carton, fall in love with the same woman, Lucy Manette, who marries Darnay. Carton sacrifices himself when Lucy's happiness is threatened by the inevitable execution of Darnay during the French Revolution.
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Dumas, Alexandre (Classic Fiction)
The Count of Monte Cristo

After escaping from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, young sailor Edmund Dantes sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.

Hugo, Victor (Classic Fiction)
The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

In fifteenth-century Paris, a disfigured man named Quasimodo, who was abandoned as an infant in the cathedral of Notre-Dame and now lives in its bell tower, must come to the aid of a beautiful gypsy girl named Esmeralda after she repels the advances of the cruel archdeacon Don Claude Frollo.

Stevenson, Robert Louis (Classic Fiction)
Kidnapped

David Balfour has never had an adventure. He has never fought in a battle. In fact David Balfour has never even left home. All he knows is a quiet country life. All this changes after the death of his parents. He suddenly learns that he, David Balfour, is a man of wealth and standing. All he needs to do to assume this new station in life is to travel to the town of Cramond, Scotland, to collect his inheritance from his father's younger brother, an uncle he had not even known existed. But David soon discovers that this is not as simple as it sounds, as he struggles to survive and outwit his treacherous uncle in this classic adventure story.

Twain, Mark (Classic Fiction)
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Huck Finn, the son of the town drunk, and Jim, an escaped slave, make a break for freedom down the vast Mississippi River on a raft.

Twain, Mark (Classic Fiction)
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain's classic novel about the adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town during the mid-nineteenth century.

Verne, Jules (Classic Fiction)
20,000 Leagues Under The Sea

Jules Verne's classic nineteenth-century science-fiction tale about a French professor and his companions who are trapped aboard a futuristic submarine with a mad sea captain and come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.
Alexie, Sherman  
*The Absolutely True Diary Of A Part-Time Indian*

Exploring Indian identity, both self and tribal, this chronicle is about Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw. He says, "I think the world is a series of broken dams and floods, and my cartoons are tiny little lifeboats." He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one's community, identity, and tribe.

Bray, Libba  
*Going Bovine*

In this ambitious novel, Cameron, a 16-year-old slacker whose somewhat dysfunctional family has just about given up on him, as perhaps he himself has, when his diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jacob, "mad cow" disease, reunites them, if too late. The heart of the story, though, is a hallucinatory-or is it?-quest with many parallels to the hopeless but inspirational efforts of Don Quixote, about whom Cameron had been reading before his illness. Just like the crazy-or was he?-Spaniard, Cam is motivated to go on a journey by a sort of Dulcinea.

Cashore, Kristin  
*Graceling*

In Katsa's world, the "Graced," those gifted in a particular way, are marked by eyes that are different colors. Katsa's Grace is that she is a gifted fighter, and, as such, she is virtually invincible. She is in the service of her tyrannical uncle, king of one of the seven kingdoms, and she is forced to torture people for infractions against him. She has secretly formed the Council, which acts in the service of justice and fairness for those who have been accused and abused. She meets up with Po, another graceling, and romantic sparks fly. Together they battle an almost invincible evil to the death.

Gaiman, Neil  
*The Graveyard Book*

While a highly motivated killer murders his family, a baby, ignorant of the horrific goings-on but bent on independence, pulls himself out of his crib and toddles out of the house and into the night. . . . 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.
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Gier, Kerstin  
*Ruby Red*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

An English teen discovers she possesses a gene enabling her to travel into the past. Her cousin Charlotte's the expected carrier of the family time-travel gene, so Gwen's totally unprepared when sudden vertigo morphs into uncontrolled time travel. It seems her mother falsified Gwen's birth date to protect her from the Guardians, the old, powerful and dangerous secret society obsessively watching over the time travelers. To the Guardians, Gwen is the Ruby, the crucial last link in their Circle of Twelve, while 19-year-old Gideon, her handsome fellow time traveler in the male line, is the Diamond. Together Gwen and Gideon are expected to complete the Circle and solve an undefined mystery involving Count Saint-Germain, a malevolent time traveler from the 18th century.

Kade, Stacey  
*The Ghost and the Goth*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

Alona Dare was the most popular girl in her high school class, or at least she was until she was run over by a school bus. Weird outcast Will Killian can see and hear her. Will and Alona have to work together & their new relationship is full of surprises as they each experience a side of the other that neither expected. This novel will appeal to fans of romances and ghost stories alike.

Lu, Marie  
*Legend*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

Full of nonstop action, suspense, and romance, this novel is sure to move readers as much as it thrills. In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-old Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

Miller, Kirsten  
*Kiki Strike: Inside The Shadow City*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

Ananka Fishbein, a seventh grader at an expensive New York City school, likens her life to "flavorless mush." But when she wakes up one Saturday morning and finds that the small park across the street has become a sinkhole, her decision to explore it transforms her existence. She meets the mysterious Kiki Strike, and subsequently the group of girls (each with a particular talent) who call themselves the Irregulars, and they embark on an adventure that involves exploring the Shadow City, a series of tunnels under Manhattan.

Myers, Walter Dean  
*Monster*  
*(Contemporary Fiction)*

Steve Harmon is sixteen years old and on trial for murder. Did he serve as a lookout in a drugstore robbery in which the owner was killed? Or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?
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Oppel, Kenneth  (Contemporary Fiction)

Airborn
An original and imaginative Victorian-era fantasy. Matt, 15, only feels alive when he's aloft working as a cabin boy aboard the Aurora, a luxury airship that is part dirigible, part passenger cruise ship. When wealthy Kate and her chaperone come aboard, Matt soon discovers that she is determined to prove her grandfather's claims that he saw strange creatures flying in the sky in that area the year before.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth  (Contemporary Fiction)

Life As We Knew It
When an asteroid collides with the moon, causing natural disasters: tidal waves, volcanoes, earthquakes and climate changes on Earth, life as 16-year-old Miranda knows it will never be the same. Suddenly, things she has taken for granted: electricity, news from the outside world and three square meals a day are a thing of the past. The story unfolds through Miranda's journal entries, from May, when the asteroid strikes, to the following March. Though the entries paint a grim picture . . . "I write stuff down in here and I don't read it. Things are bad enough without having to remind myself of just how bad things are," she explains, her words also evoke a strain of hope which proves to be her most essential survival tool.

Stroud, Jonathan  (Contemporary Fiction)

The Amulet of Samarkand: volume one of The Bartimaeus Trilogy
Nathaniel, a young magician’s apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand. Stroud has created a compelling fantasy story in a well-realized world, but it is the complementary characters of Bartimaeus and Nathaniel that will keep readers coming back for the rest of the trilogy.

Woodson, Jacqueline  (Contemporary Fiction)

After Tupac & D Foster
Neeka and the narrator have lived on the same block forever and are like sisters, but foster child D shows up during the summer of 1994, while she is out "roaming." D immediately finds a place in the heart of the other girls, and the "Three the Hard Way" bond over their love of Tupac's music. It seems especially relevant to D, who sees truth in his lyrics, having experienced the hard life herself in group homes and with multiple foster families. In this urban setting, there are, refreshingly, caring adults and children playing on the street instead of drug dealers on every corner. Readers are right on the block with bossy mothers, rope-jumping girls, and chess-playing elders.

Yang, Gene Luen  (Contemporary Fiction)

American Born Chinese  (Graphic Novel- uses artwork panels to tell a full-length story.)
In a series of three linked tales, the central characters are introduced: Jin Wang, a teen who meets with ridicule and social isolation when his family moves from San Francisco's Chinatown to an exclusively white suburb; Danny, a popular blond, blue-eyed high school jock whose social status is jeopardized when his goofy, embarrassing Chinese cousin, Chin-Kee, enrolls at his high school; and the Monkey King who, unsatisfied with his current sovereign, desperately longs to be elevated to the status of a god. Their stories converge into a satisfying coming-of-age novel that aptly blends traditional Chinese fables and legends with bathroom humor, action figures, and playground politics.
Beals, Melba Patillo
*Warriors Don’t Cry* (Non-Fiction)

In 1954, the landmark Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education desegregated schools. Three years later, Melba Patillo turned 16 and was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock’s Central High School. This is her fascinating story.

Blackwood, Gary L
*The Great Race: The Amazing Round-the-World Auto Race of 1908* (Non-Fiction)

The automobile had only been around for two decades and was seen as no more than "an ingenious toy" when, in 1908, the French paper Le Matin and the New York Times co-sponsored a New York-to-Paris auto race, which spanned the entire globe. The cars had several gas tanks, got seven or eight miles per gallon, had up to 60 horsepower and achieved reckless speeds of 40 to 50 miles per hour. Readers will share drivers' frustrations with snow, mud, robbers and constant mechanical problems.

Carson, Ben
*Gifted Hands* (Non-Fiction)

This book tells the true story of Ben Carson, one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. Dr. Carson describes his journey from a youth growing up in inner-city Detroit to becoming the director of pediatric neurosurgery, at age 33, at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Fleischman, John
*Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science* (Non-Fiction)

The fascinating story of the construction foreman who survived for 10 years after a 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain. His three-foot-long, spear like tamping iron, accidentally igniting the blasting powder, shot thirty feet into the air after first passing through his head. Miraculously, Gage was able to walk around, talk lucidly about the accident, and even joke with his horrified doctor. Later, it became clear that his personality and ability to make sound judgments had been drastically changed. Gage became the central figure in a medical debate between two factions of scientists that lasted long after his death eleven years later. [The author] shows how Gage's misfortune actually played an intriguing and important role in the development of our knowledge of the brain.
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Gourley, Catherine  
(Non- Fiction)  
*War, Women, and the News: How Female Journalists Won the Battle to Cover World War II*

World War II opened doors for women that were previously closed. Before World War II, female journalists were restricted to non-violent and "happy" events. Publishers and editors believed that a woman's spirit, emotions, and skills were too fragile and too sympathetic for violent and grim events, and therefore better suited to cover soft news. Perseverance and "straight" reporting opened the door of American newsrooms for a few and Eleanor Roosevelt, with her women-only Monday-Morning Briefings, propped it open for more. Gourley vividly tells personal stories of some of these female legends that rose from the society pages to the battlefields and strategic war-rooms.

Hayden, Torey  
(Non- Fiction)  
*One Child*

Everyone thought six-year old Sheila was beyond salvation when she committed an act of horrific violence against another child and was placed in a class for severely retarded children. Abandoned by her mother on a highway when she was four, and the victim of horrible abuse, Sheila never spoke, never cried. Only her teacher, Torey Hayden, saw the spark of genius, hidden in her silence, and fought long and hard to release her from her solitary nightmare.

Marrin, Albert  
(Non-Fiction)  
*Years of Dust : The Story of the Dust Bowl*

Beginning with the cover photograph of a town dwarfed by the thousand-foot-high clouds of a “black blizzard,” this exceptional overview brings close the terrifying, bleak realities of the Dust Bowl . . . The author writes with his usual clarity and flair and uses excerpts from primary-source accounts and literature to give voice to the people who explored and settled the plains as well as those who suffered through this environmental disaster.

Silvey, Anita  
(Non-Fiction)  
*I'll Pass For Your Comrade : Women Soldiers In The Civil War*

[ The ] stories of women, some of whom joined the military, both Union and Confederate, to follow their husbands or sweethearts, and others who were passionate about the cause and wanted to defend their homeland. Still others wanted adventure or wished to escape from poverty. Jennie Hodgers served for three years as a member of an Illinois infantry unit and continued to live as a man for the next 40 years. Her true identity was not discovered until her death in 1911; nonetheless she was buried with full military honors. These intriguing stories [are]told in this well-researched book. Another highlight of the book is the use of archival photographs and reproductions.