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Junior High Suggested Reading Summer 2009 Sixth Grade List

FICTION

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *The Truth about My Bat Mitzvah*. New York: Simon & Schuster Children's, 2008. When Caroline's maternal grandmother dies and leaves her a Star of David necklace, Caroline begins to wonder about her religious identity. And, if she chooses to become religious, what will her mother, a non-religious, science-loving doctor, think?

Bauer, Joan. *Peeled*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. Hildy Biddle, a reporter for her high school paper, and her friends investigate the haunting of a local mansion. While the local paper is publishing the story with shocking headlines and ghostly sightings, Hildy is determined to uncover the truth no matter how dangerous it may be.

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2005. On their summer vacation, four sisters share adventures with a neighbor boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Clark, Clara G. *Hill Hawk Hattie*. Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 2003. Eleven-year old Hattie is lonely and angry after her mother dies. She feels that her father no longer loves her. He no longer calls her "girl" and wants her to dress like a boy. Hattie finds herself working with her father and two other Hill Hawks on a river-rafting trip.

Craig, Joe. *Jimmy Coates: Assassin?* New York: HarperCollins, 2005. While escaping from the strange men that are after him in London, Jimmy discovers he possesses many unusual talents for an eleven-year-old boy. Of course, finding out that he's only 35% human may have something to do with his new super strength and agility.

DiCamillo, Kate and Bagram Ibatoulline. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. New York: Candlewick Press, 2006. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud china rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country. 5/1/2009

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Shooting the Moon*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. Jamie is a 12 year-old army brat working at the PX during her summer break. Her beloved brother has just left for Vietnam to serve as a medic. Jamie's brother writes letters to their parents, but will only send Jamie rolls of black and white film she must develop and print in order to learn what her brother is really seeing while serving as a medic. She grows up a lot during this summer as her opinion about the war begins to change.

Green, Tim. *Football Genius*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2007. Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Henkes, Kevin. *Bird Lake Moon*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2008. Twelve-year-old Mitch spends the summer at his grandparent's house. While dealing with his parents' impending divorce, he meets Spencer, whose family is dealing with the loss of their oldest son. The two boys become friends and find they have much in common, including a shared sense of loss.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. When Nick's biology teacher mysteriously vanishes during a field trip to the Florida Everglades, Nick suspects that something sinister is going on especially since some adults want to hush it up. Local businessmen may be involved in both the disappearance and in some activities that are harming the ecology of the Everglades.

Kehret, Peg. *Earthquake Terror*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1996. When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family had been camping, twelve-

year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister, and their dog alive until help arrives.

Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: A Novel in Cartoons*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007. "Let me just say for the record that I think middle school is the dumbest idea ever invented. You got kids like me who haven't hit their growth spurt yet mixed in with these gorillas who need to shave twice a day. And then they wonder why bullying is such a big problem in middle school." In words and cartoons, middle-schooler Greg Heffley holds forth on girls, friendship, and the horrors of the "Cheese Touch." 5/1/2009

LaFevers, R L. *Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007. Because her parents are frequently forgetful that they have a daughter, Theodosia stays busy secretly removing the evil curses from ancient artifacts. Her mother, an archaeologist, keeps busy digging up Egyptian artifacts to send to her father, the curator of London's Museum of Legends and Antiquities. What both parents don't realize is that these objects come complete with some terrible curses which only Theodosia has the ability to sense and remove.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006. Twelve-year-old Catherine has mixed feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. She loves him but is also embarrassed by him. To cope with his sometimes bizarre behavior she develops rules for him to follow. For example, it's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store. When a new girl moves in next door, Catherine is determined to become her friend, but she is worried about her reaction to David.

Lowry, Lois. *The Willoughbys*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008. This unusual tale begins with four children whose parents are tired of being parents and wish to abandon the children. The parents decide to go on holiday and hire a not-so-nice nanny to take care of the children. While away on holiday, their parents put the house up for sale and the children realize that their parents aren't coming back. The children must come up with a plan to save themselves from total desertion. This dark comedy is sure to be a hit with all ages.

Smith, Roland. *Peak*. New York: Harcourt Children's Books, 2007. After being arrested for climbing a skyscraper in New York City, Peak is sent to live with his father. Peak soon learns that his famous mountaineer father has plans for him to be the youngest person to ever climb Mt. Everest.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2005. When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

Whelan, Gloria. *Chu Ju's House*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004. In order to save her baby sister, fourteen-year-old Chu Ju leaves her rural home in modern China and lives on her own while wondering if she will ever see her family again.

White, Ruth. *Way Down Deep*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Girous, 2007. In the West Virginia town of Way Down Deep, in the 1950's, a child is abandoned and then taken in by Miss Arbutus, the owner of the local boarding house. Ruby is very happy with her life at the boarding house and her friends in town. Many years later a family of outsiders arrives in town and the mystery of her past begins to unravel.

NONFICTION

Domaine, Helena. *Robotics*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2005. This book follows the development of robots from early times to the present. The information is presented in an easy to read format in white boxes on colored pages

Fridell, Ron. *Sports Technology*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2006. (Part of the Cool Science series) This book explains the innovations in technology which have helped athletes perform better. Everything from clothes, sensors, equipment, and prosthetics is discussed.

George, Kristine O'Connell. *Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems*. New York: Clarion Books, 2002. This collection of poems captures the mishaps, challenges, and triumphs of a girl in her first year of middle school.

Grogan, John. *Marley: A Dog Like No Other*. New York: Collins, 2007. This is the heartwarming story of Marley, who according to the author may possibly be the world's worst dog. Marley is a loveable, yet energetic golden Labrador retriever who is always causing mischief and damage.

Halls, Kelly Milner. *Mysteries of the Mummy Kids*. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Publishing, 2007. For thousands of years, different cultures from around the world have been mummifying bodies. Some of these bodies have been those of children carefully preserved by their loved ones. Through very readable text and colorful photos and illustrations, the author presents some of the important finds made by investigators and looks at the cultural connections and scientific facts surrounding mummies.

Kraske, Robert. *Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe*. New York: Clarion Books, 2005. Marooned on a South Pacific island, Alexander Selkirk survived in complete solitude for more than four years. After his rescue in 1709 he became the real-life model for Daniel Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe*. 5/1/2009

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1992. A poetry anthology in which 129 poets from 68 different countries celebrate the natural world and its human and animal inhabitants.

Scieszka, Jon. *Knucklehead : Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing up Scieszka*. New York: Viking Juvenile, 2008. With six boys growing up in the Scieszka house in Flint, Michigan, life was never boring. Jon Scieszka, the second oldest, says, "I think it was my dad, finding that his toast tasted like melted green plastic army man, who first asked the question, 'What Knucklehead put an army man in the toaster?'" (The answer wasn't Jon—that time, anyway!) The more Jon Scieszka thought about it, the more he realized, "I get a lot of my ideas from all the strange things that happened to me growing up with five brothers."

Scott, Elaine. *All About Sleep from A to Zzzz*. New York: Viking Juvenile, 2008. Learn all about sleep from A to Zzzz: what it is, how it works, and why you should care about it.

Warren, Andrea. *Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy*. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2004. In 1975 an Amerasian child, Long, emigrated from Vietnam to the United States and was adopted. Long's story provides information about the Vietnam conflict, life in Saigon, the plight of children during war, and the problems involved in airlifting thousands of youngsters to safety during the American evacuation.