

2013



Reading for 7th and 8th Grades

This year the Middle School English Department is taking a different approach to summer reading. The required readings are listed below:

Rising 7th Grade Girls read *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* by Russell Freedman, plus three free choices.

Rising 7th Grade Boys read *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck, plus three free choices, two fiction and one non-fiction.

Rising 8th Grade Students read *Little Princes* by Conor Grennan, plus three free choices.

As we have in the past, we have asked our Middle School teachers to suggest titles for your free choice books. In this format, you can see what some of your favorite teachers are recommending. These are books that have inspired us to read, and hopefully these choices will do the same for you.

We have also added a section of books written by authors who have visited Collegiate in the last few years, as well as recommended books broken up by setting: the past, the present, and the future.

In addition, a student may choose books that are not on the list if they are recommended by their parent. We will include a form for parent approval in the report card at the end of the year.

Enjoy!

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Deborah Andersen (English, Reading)

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings

Brady Parks knows all too well that life on the water comes with its perils, and he has come to accept those risks for himself. He just never thought his or his friends' actions might be the cause of a tragedy for his small waterfront town. This mystery novel leaves you wondering just how bad a situation can get before the healing of a community can start. As you read, test your own ability to navigate the tricky waters of friendships tested by moral and ethical dilemmas.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Could we really be drawn in to watch children potentially fight to the death in order for their community to secure favor with a government rationing food and privileges? Be prepared for things to get worse before they get better in this book that weaves weaponry, alliances, and survival skills into a thrill-a-minute adventure. Also read the next two books in the series: ***Catching Fire*** and ***Mockingjay***.

Weldon Bradshaw (English)

The Perfect Mile by Neal Bascomb

A moving, well-told, non-fiction narrative about the quest of three rivals—Roger Bannister of England, Wes Santee of the United States, and John Landy of Australia—to be the first to crack the four-minute barrier in the mile.

Adrift by Steven Callahan

This non-fiction book is Callahan's first-person account of perseverance, courage, and, at times, luck during the seventy-six days he was lost at sea after his sailboat capsized in the night.

John Coates (English)

Run, Boy, Run by Uri Orlev

If you've ever wondered what life could be like for a Jewish boy on the run from the Germans during World War II, look no further. This is your book. Uri Orlev, who actually met the story's hero, masterfully reveals a boy whose life was so challenging that we feel as if he could have been the model for the term *true grit*. We never know what will happen from minute to minute, except that it will by turns thrill us, horrify us, and move us—again and again.

The Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett

Old hands at reading fantasy will know of Terry Pratchett, even if they've yet to read any of his books. This one is, like many of his others, *a real doozie!* What else can you say about a story whose protagonist is a teenaged witch in a part of the world that has never produced much in the way of witches because the land isn't right for it? And who makes an alliance with the wee free men to save the world? Need I say more? Get 'em while you can!

Kate Cunningham (English, Reading)

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

What else could happen to the 12-year-old slave Isabel? Orphaned and then sold with her younger sister upon the death of her owner whom had promised freedom, Isabel will not rest until she sees herself and her younger sister Ruth to freedom. Betrayed by her former owner's greedy nephew, Isabel and Ruth are sold to a cruel couple in New York City at the height of the Revolutionary War. Solicited by the Revolutionaries to spy on her Loyalist owners, Isabel sacrifices greatly to remove the literal and metaphorical chains. Try ***Fever 1793*** by the same author as well.

Seabiscuit by Laura Hildebrand

You do not have to be a horse enthusiast to love this book. Read the ultimate underdog story about a horse and a jockey named Redd Pollard. Seabiscuit was a national hero, and Laura Hildebrand brings his story to life once more in her best selling book. Hildebrand's research skills and craft of writing are as thorough as her topic. Readers will be swept away by the race scenes in this book.

Rives Fleming (English, Reading, Math)

Interstellar Pig by William Sleator

The story of a teenager named Barney, whose usually boring summer vacation at the beach turns more interesting as three attractive and unusual neighbors rent the cottage next door. This is a great voyage into science fiction, whether you are a fan or not. William Sleator is a great writer with a very fertile imagination; a must read if you have missed it thus far in the Middle School.

Nathan Goodwyn (English, History)

Adventures of the Greek Heroes by Mollie McLean and Anne Wiseman

From my favorite myth, the story of Hercules and Prometheus, to the sad tale of Orpheus, this highly accessible collection of Greek mythology will delight any curious reader. In fact, McLean and Wiseman wrote this book specifically for middle-schoolers. This book provides an easy way for rising 7th graders to prepare for Latin by becoming familiar with some of the most famous Greek myths.

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

The story of Chris McCandless, who in 1992 cut off almost all human contact and pursued a life in "the wild"-- the Stampede Trail in the Alaskan wilderness. In doing so, he puzzled his family and friends and suffered a great deal. However, his story has fascinated a generation. The question persists: why would anyone leave relative comfort for a life filled with untold danger and personal risk? McCandless has his answers, and although we may not agree with him, we feel compelled to hear him out. Those who liked *The Call of the Wild* might enjoy this book. It is recommended only for rising 8th graders.

Carolyn LaMontagne (Librarian)

As Easy as Falling off the Face of the Earth by Lynne Rae Perkins

Sixteen-year-old Ry is stranded in the middle of nowhere, with a dying cell phone and nobody answering at home, when he meets Del, a laid back Mr. Fixit. The two of them begin a road trip filled with misfortune and off-the-wall adventures. A funny, quirky, and ultimately moving novel.

Blue Fingers: A Ninja's Tale by Cheryl Aylward Whitesel

Koji, a boy in feudal Japan, lives in the shadow of his identical twin brother, Taro. After disgracing the family by failing at an apprenticeship that rightfully belonged to Taro, Koji is kidnapped by a secret clan of ninjas and taken to their camp in the mountains. He will be killed if he attempts to return home, so his only choice is to train to become a ninja himself. A great choice for anyone who likes historical fiction with a touch of mystery and a lot of adventure.

Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin

Non-fiction that reads like an international spy thriller, *Bomb* recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos.

Prodigy by Marie Lu

The sequel to *Legend* picks up where the original left off; the people's hero Day and his former enemy June are on the run together. They become involved with the Patriots and a plan to assassinate the new Elector Primo. But, of course, things are not always as simple as one would think.

Debbie Miller (English, Reading)

The Hobbit: or There and Back Again by J. R. R. Tolkien

This is the story of Bilbo, a small, roundish hobbit, who lives in his hole at Bag End. After meeting the old wizard Gandolf, Bilbo is persuaded to embark on a series of adventures with a group of dwarves. This journey takes Bilbo far from his comfortable home, and offers danger and fear as well as encounters with a dragon, an elf lord, trolls, goblins and other creatures.

Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Historical fiction at its best. This book brings together facts from history revolving around immigration, women's suffrage, and the labor movement, then combines them with the story of the terrible Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. The three main characters are three young ladies from very different worlds: a newly arrived Italian immigrant, a forward thinking Russian Jew, and the daughter of a very successful businessman. These three become friends in a time where it would seem to be impossible. Learning to stand up for themselves and demanding their rights becomes the focus of this gripping story.

Mindy Romanosky (English, Reading)

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman

Wallace Wallace can not tell a lie. So on his most recent book report, he doesn't. He tells the truth. He hates the book, Old Shep. Why do all of the dogs have to die at the end of books? His English teacher is furious and requires Wallace to serve detention during school play practice (they are performing the very story he hated!). While this seems like a terrible form of torture for the town football hero, Wallace begins to make the best of the situation by sharing his (honest) suggestions about the play. Before he knows it, he has taken over the play. But someone is sabotaging the play and trying to frame him. Is telling the truth always the right thing to do?

Mick Harte Was Here by Barbara Hart

This is a story about a seventh grade boy named Mick Harte who had a bicycle accident and died. His sister Phoebe tells the story about the accident and Mick's life. How will their family handle the shocking news and sudden death of Mick? Phoebe realizes that her memories of Mick can help her get through the toughest time in her life. Sad, but a great story.

Cheryl Smith (English)

The Last Silk Dress by Ann Rinaldi

For those who are fascinated by Richmond and its role in Civil War history, this is a delightful novel. Containing many references to familiar local landmarks and institutions, this book is very well researched. The novel is a proven favorite among young women who enjoy a dose of history with their fiction. The plot revolves around the courageous adventures of the fourteen-year-old main character, Susan Chilmark, of Richmond, Virginia.

New Boy by Julian Houston

This book is written with a remarkable lack of bitterness and judgment, given its subject matter. The story is set in the 1950's. The main character, Rob Garrett, is a fifteen-year-old boy from central Virginia whose parents enroll him in a Connecticut boarding school. As anxious as he is to escape the segregated South, he is concerned about the consequences of being the first black student in the boarding school's history. While adjusting to his new life in the privileged school, Rob learns that things are changing in unsettling ways in his hometown. This novel is an unforgettable read, a book filled with wisdom and pathos.

Top Ten Uses for an Unworn Prom Dress by Tina Ferraro

If you're looking for a summer fun book that is both poignant and entertaining, this may be the one for you. Main character Nicolette is the only child of bitterly divorced parents. This mini novel chronicles one year of Nic's life with both humor and insight. Her unusual attachment to an unworn formal dress and her evolving relationships with family and friends form the framework of this fast-paced story. It offers a light, uplifting read for an afternoon at the pool or beach.

Christine Waldron (English, Reading)

Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Imagine that it is just another ordinary day in your life. You deal with all the hassles and headaches and then a single event changes everything; life will never be the same again for you and every other person living on the planet. Such is the case in the life of the main character, Miranda. Her story (presented as a diary) tells about an asteroid colliding with the moon. Life becomes a day-to-day survival, as the moon is now too close to the world and all kinds of repercussions are felt as a result. Life is never the same as a result of this occurrence, and your life will never be the same after you read this novel.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Imagine falling out of favor with your best friend and receiving mysterious notes that correctly predict future events. Such is life for sixth grader Miranda, who lives in New York City. This novel, set in the late 1970s, features Miranda's mother, who is training to go on a game show, and the ups and downs of middle school life. And why it is important for the future for her to keep writing letters to a mystery person? This novel has passages in it that will make you say "whoa!" and want to keep reading late into the night. This novel was given the 2010 Newbery Award.

Mary Kendall White (Librarian)

Dodger by Terry Pratchett

This historical fantasy follows the adventures of a 17-year-old boy who makes his living on the treasure/trash he finds in the sewers of Victorian London. While exhibiting a great deal of heroic, selfless action to save his lady, Dodger meets some of the famous names of the day, including Sweeney Todd and Benjamin Disraeli. The threat from foreign powers (the lady is a young bride of a rather unpleasant foreign dignitary) and Dodger's practical and only slightly illegal ways of dealing with it make this a funny and heartwarming read.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

Dragonswood by Janet Lee Carey

In AD 1192 on Wilde Island, Tess, the daughter of a cruel blacksmith, is accused of witchcraft and must flee, but when she is offered shelter by a warden of Dragonswood, she does not realize that he too harbors a secret that may finally bring about peace among the races of dragon, human, and fairy.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically engineered beasts. The first in a trilogy, this is a great introduction to steampunk fiction.

George Wickham (English, History)

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

In a future world where aliens threaten Earth, Ender Wiggin is plucked from millions of kids for training in battle tactics and leadership. He is to be the general who will protect the planet from another attack. Overcoming rivals and a dangerous training program, Ender climbs up the ranks at battle school to face challenges that exceed his wildest expectations.

Deathwatch by Robb White

A thriller with twist upon twist. Ben, a college student working as a hunting guide in the Southwest, takes a customer into the remote desert in search of bighorn sheep. The trip quickly goes bad, and Ben finds himself in the fight of his life with a man more ruthless and cunning than he could have ever imagined.

Charlie Williams (English, History)

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

This book details the early years in the life of Peekay, a young English boy growing up in South Africa during Apartheid and the rise of Nazi fervor as hostilities in Europe escalate. On his journey, Peekay faces abandonment, humiliation, and discrimination, but perseveres by finding the power of one within himself to overcome a series of obstacles and pursue his dream of becoming the welterweight boxing champion. *The Power of One* tells the inspiring and heartwarming tale of the strength of the individual spirit and its role in Peekay's coming of age and development of an indomitable heart.

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Using the events of the Battle of Gettysburg, Michael Shaara details the three days of the battle by tracking several key officers from the Union and Confederate armies. This fictionalized account goes beyond any historical account of the battle by examining the individuals and the decisions that influenced the course of the battle. Shaara illustrates not only the rationale and thought processes of difficult tactical decisions, but also expertly describes the emotions of each protagonist ranging from General Pickett's despair following the decimation of his division to the flood of emotions of a college professor turned soldier as he fixes his bayonet before rushing into hand-to-hand combat.

AUTHORS WE HAVE HOSTED

A Tale of Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

It starts out as Hansel and Gretel, but this devilish story takes its own path as the pair venture into 8 other Grimm-inspired fairy tales and create their own ending. A fresh, irreverent look at some classic stories, albeit a little gruesome at times.

Cryptid Hunters by Roland Smith

Marty and Grace O'Hara find out their parents are missing, and they are sent to live with their mysterious Uncle Wolfe, a "cryptid hunter". Their adventures take them from his island to the Congo. They are looking for a dinosaur, and they get plenty of mystery and adventure along the way. And try the sequel: *Tentacles*.

Elephant Run by Roland Smith

Nick Freestone has left London at the start of WWII; he goes to live with his Dad in Burma. The war finds him there, however, as the Japanese invade, taking over his family's plantation and making him a servant. He and his friend Mya try to escape these dangerous times on the back of an elephant.

Eyes of the Emperor by Graham Salisbury

This story is set in Honolulu on the dawn of World War II. Eddy Okana is a Japanese American who finds himself in a strange position when his native country invades. He and his fellow soldiers are chosen for an unusual mission as they look to gain the trust of their fellow Americans.

In a Glass Grimmly by Adam Gidwitz

Adam Gidwitz's follow-up to *The Tale Dark and Grimm* is another must read for those who enjoyed the gory, scary, and entertaining first book. This story weaves tales about Jack and Jill (along with their one legged frog) and their adventures along the way.

I.Q. Book Three: Kitty Hawk by Roland Smith

The third book in this popular series (be sure to read *Independence Hall* and *The White House*) again follows Quest and Angela on their realistic and exciting adventures. This time, the President's daughter has been kidnapped, and they head to North Carolina and into all kinds of trouble.

Leaving Protection by Will Hobbs

Will Hobbs again lends his legendary first-hand experience and knowledge to this sea tale to give readers a fantastic and mysterious adventure.

Peak by Roland Smith

It starts with an exciting climb up a skyscraper in New York City and never slows down. This is the story of 14-year-old Peak Marcello, who is trying to become the youngest person to ever climb Mount Everest.

Pop by Gordon Korman

Marcus moves to town and works to get ready for the upcoming football tryouts. He makes a friend in Charlie, a former NFL linebacker, and a foil in Troy, the quarterback on the football team he is hoping to join.

They Called Themselves the KKK by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

When Bartoletti visited Collegiate a few years ago, she spoke about the writing of this nonfiction history of the Ku Klux Klan, a racist group that formed after the Civil War and grew to a powerful organization that still exists today.

Under the Blood Red Sun by Graham Salisbury

The story of a Japanese American boy whose life is turned upside down when the Japanese invade Pearl Harbor and his father and grandfather are arrested.

NON-FICTION

Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust by Doreen Rappaport

This non-fiction book tells twenty-one stories of fearless Jews who organized different types of resistance against the horror of the Nazis and the Holocaust during World War II. These stories of courage are sure to encourage and inspire.

Chew on This by Eric Schlosser

"Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food" is a part of the title, and it is an appropriate heading for what this book is about. This book is designed to take the lid off the fast food industry, and it is geared towards readers of this age. A must read if you eat fast food on a regular basis.

How they Croaked by Georgia Bragg

A look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths. Historical figures, including world leaders, writers, and scientists, were felled by things as mundane as pneumonia and as unpredictable as angry mobs. Each entry provides the circumstances of the person's death and gives context to those circumstances.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

Krakauer gives a very accurate look at what went wrong on this fateful trip as he retells the story of his 1996 climb of Mount Everest and why eight people died by the end of summit day. See what happened to this group when they attempted to climb the earth's highest mountain.

Moonbird by Phillip Hoose

This intriguing non-fiction book tells the story of the Moonbird, also known as B95 (after being tagged and labeled). Changes in the world have caused the extinction of 80% of this bird's population, but somehow B95 keeps flying! *Moonbird* is one The Washington Post's Best Kids Books of 2012.

Titanic: Voices from the Disaster by Deborah Hopkinson

This non-fiction account of the infamous sinking of the Titanic pulls readers in with personal stories and archival photographs from primary sources. A new version of a story which never gets old.

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Sports writer Mitch Albom offers this fine story about spending time with his ill-stricken mentor. Readers will find this best-seller impossible to put down and equally difficult to hold back their own emotions. This is a must read.

Uncommon Champions by Marty Kaminsky

These are the stories of fifteen athletes who have all overcome incredible adversity to achieve greatness in their sports and other pursuits. A great, non-fiction read for the sports enthusiast as well as anyone looking for a role model.

Candy Bombers by Michael Tunnell

Curious about the city into which he ferried goods during the Berlin Airlift in 1948, pilot Gail Halvorsen stayed over to visit, met some children, and offered to drop candy and gum when he next flew over. This simple idea grew into a massive project with reverberations today.

There are many more non-fiction choices in the other sections of this list.

THE PAST

The Alchemist by Michael Scott

Twins Sophie and Josh Newman wake up on just another day, but they soon find their “normal” world invaded by legendary magic. And according to an ancient prophecy, they are the only ones who can save the world in which we live. Read the rest of the series as well.

Apothecary by Maile Meloy

Fourteen-year-old Janie moves to London and meets a boy Benjamin and his father, a mysterious apothecary. When Benjamin’s father is kidnapped, they try to solve this mystery and foil Russian spies with evil plans. This is an exciting story made better by “breathhtaking” illustrations.

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith

Ida Mae Jones is a Louisiana girl who longs to be a pilot on the eve of America’s entrance into World War II. She is driven and smart, but she has two huge strikes against her: she is black, and she is a woman. This book is excellent historical fiction that combines a thrilling story with solid facts about what it must have been like to be African American in the South during this period.

Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow

Fourteen-year-old Karl Stern thinks of himself as a German, but his Jewish heritage causes him problems as the Nazi’s power increases. He is excited to take up boxing to prove himself, but soon he must protect himself and his family from the increasing Nazi hostility.

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac

Code Talker tells the story of brave Ned Begay, a Navajo who, with dozens of others, was involved in top secret communication for the Marines. Although fiction, the novel accurately depicts the experiences of the real Navajo code talkers who developed a secret code that was never broken.

Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos

The winner of the 2012 Newbery Medal for the year’s best contribution to children’s literature and the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction, this book tells the “entirely true and wildly fictional” story of a kid named Jack Gantos, as he works for his neighbor in a job which unveils story after story.

The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

A historical fiction book set in the Holocaust, the story follows a modern day Jewish girl, Hannah, who is transported back in time into the body of a Jewish girl named Chaya. Thus, she knows what is to come, as her town goes through the Nazi process of being relocated to a concentration camp. This is a powerful story which evokes your emotions and gives you a glimpse of these camps.

Distant Waves: A Novel of the Titanic by Suzanne Weyn

An “historical, supernatural romance”, this book is the story of sisters who all end up on the Titanic. Their different experiences and stories all come together; can one sister save them all?

The False Prince by Jennifer Neilsen

No one knows that the king, queen, and heir to the throne of Carthya are dead. Conner, a king’s regent, chooses three orphans to vie for the role of Prince Jaron, the remaining heir, presumed dead, but whose body has never been found. The boys are thrown into a brutal rivalry, knowing that if they are not chosen, death will soon follow. On the day of the announcement, a truth is revealed that changes everything for Conner, the orphans, and especially a boy named Sage.

Fire From The Rock by Sharon M. Draper

It’s 1957, and integration has come to Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. African American student Sylvia Patterson’s name is on the list of black students qualified to enter the all-white school in the fall. Why does she want to leave Dunbar High where all the students and teachers are black just like her? . Will Sylvia go to Central High knowing that she will be excluded from clubs, sports, and dances, and may even face violence?

Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo

This book is based on the life of Iqbal, a young boy who fights for the rights of children in his Pakistani village. He works not only to gain his own freedom, but also the freedom of all bonded children. His inspiring story teaches the reader that anyone can impact his world positively if he is willing to try.

Jefferson’s Sons by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

This story tells the tale of slaves who are the children of Sally Hemings, a slave who worked for Thomas Jefferson. Told from three different perspectives, this book shows what life would have been like in the search for “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”.

The Outcasts by John Flanagan

In book one of a companion series to *The Rangers Apprentice*, Skandian outcasts Hal, Stig, and others do battle at sea in the ultimate race across icy waters where not everyone thinks of the competition as play. Hal, 16, is appointed “skirl,” or leader of his brotherband, eight seafaring Skandian boys left unchosen by their athletic and popular peers. Action scenes are plentiful as Hal enlists the hidden strengths of each team member to outsmart opponents in tactical competitions.

The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon

Thirteen-year-old Sam is the son of a famous civil rights activist, and he has spent his life believing in the peaceful methods his father has preached to fight racism. But, as he gets older, he is exposed to another way, and he finds himself having to make choices about what he thinks is right.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

This coming of age novel is told from the perspective of Cassie Logan, a nine-year-old African-American girl living in the deep South during the Great Depression. . Cassie’s parents try, sometimes unsuccessfully, to protect her and her three brothers from becoming victims of the blatant racism that was so much a part of that period. The characters in this novel are well developed, and the situations encountered by them are riveting.

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Allan Brady

Flavia de Luce is an eleven-year-girl living in a quiet village in England in 1950. This young heroine of both books is funny, resourceful, and nosy. Flavia is a talented budding chemist with a passion for poisons. Favia becomes a sleuth, determined to solve the mystery whenever something peculiar happens in her sleepy town, especially murder!

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick

The second book by the author of *Hugo Cabret*, this story follows Ben and Rose, two characters some fifty years apart from each other who both follow journeys to solve mysteries. The beauty comes in the way these stories reflect each other, and in the way they intertwine in the book.

THE PRESENT

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

Thirteen-year-old Conor wakes up after midnight to find a monster outside, but it is a different monster than the one of which he has been dreaming. “An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor.”

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu

A story of fantasy and magic, this book tells the story of Hazel and Jack, two friends whose relationship changes when Jack disappears into the forest with a woman made of ice. It is up to Hazel to save him.

Camo Girl by Kekla Magoon

Ella and Z have been best friends forever, happily existing outside the popular group. But now, as they get older, Ella finds herself wanting to expand her circle of friends, and her chance comes when a new boy comes to town. Can she leave her friend Z behind? Should she?

Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins

Debbie is a teenage girl wishing something would happen in her life. Told in her distinctive “voice”, illustrated, and full of photos, this book tells her adventures with her friends and on her own as her wish comes true.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

This story is about one person (Eddie, the head maintenance person at Ruby Point Amusement Park), but is told from the voices of three different people. There are some parts that might remind you of *A Christmas Carol* and many parts that will make you cry.

Keeper by Mal Peet

Told as a newspaper interview, soccer goalkeeper El Gato tells how he rose from humble beginnings to become a World-Cup-winning goalie. This is a story of “tension, hunger, and magic,” as we follow his development, including his involvement with a mythical mentor.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

The title interest you? This Newbery Award winner tells the story of Bod Owens, a boy raised by the ghosts in a graveyard. With the help of his unusual but loving family, he must survive dangers, both in and out of the graveyard. Guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat.

Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel

On Ben’s thirteenth birthday, he gains an unusual sibling: a chimpanzee named Zan. Ben’s father, a psychologist, is running an experiment in which Zan is included in family life. What will happen when the experiment is over?

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

Caitlin is a child with Asperger's Syndrome. Her family has been through a great deal, including the death of her brother in a school shooting. But although she lacks social skills, she has a great mind, and her attempts to find "closure" make for an unusual and interesting story.

Mother Daughter Book Club Series by Heather Vogel Frederick

Four friends are not too excited about being forced into a book club by their moms, but it turns out to be just what they needed as they experience the ups and downs of Middle School.

The View From the Cherry Tree by Willo Davis Roberts

Rob, the main character, witnesses the murder of the mean old lady next door at exactly the same time as his sister's wedding is about to happen. The house is full of relatives, but nobody wants to talk to Rob about what he saw. He makes a major mistake by letting the wrong person know that the crime was witnessed.

THE FUTURE

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

A great adventure story which moves at a breakneck pace. It is the story of Matt Cruse, a cabin boy on an airship named Aurora. The story starts fast with a daring, mid-air rescue of a balloonist, an encounter which leads Matt on many adventure. Continue Matt's exciting story in ***Skybreaker*** and ***Starclimber***.

Cold Cereal by Adam Rex

A boy who may be part changeling, twins involved in a bizarre secret experiment, and a clurichaun in a red tracksuit try to save the world from an evil cereal company whose ultimate goal is world domination. Scott and his friends try to save their world and others in this clever and exciting book.

Crossed by Ally Condie

In the sequel to *Matched*, Cassia continues to survive in this "dictatorial society". In the second book in the trilogy, she finds a way to go to the outer provinces and search for her beloved Ky.

The Dead and the Gone by Susan Beth Pfeffer

This is the companion book for Pfeffer's *Life As We Knew It*. Here, the story focuses on a boy named Alex Morales, who lives in New York City. He must try to survive as the moon's changes affect the world he has grown up in.

The Emerald Atlas by John Stephens

Kate, Michael, and Emma have spent their lives in different orphanages. But, much like Harry Potter, they are being protected from an awful evil. This book follows them on a dangerous journey to try to make things right. They may change the history of the world in which they live.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

This novel takes place in a future world where a drug state has been carved out of northern Mexico, where the rich keep clones to produce replacement parts, and where menial work is done by men whose will to be independent has been extracted. Out of this dystopia, Matt, a young man raised as a clone but allowed to keep his will, learns the secrets of drug lords, escapes, and struggles to correct the injustice all around him.

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore

The first book in the Lorien Series, this is a must read book. Who is Number Four? He is one of nine embedded aliens who have escaped to Earth. They are hiding, preparing for the day they can return to save their planet. But their enemies are here, looking for them. And they have just killed Number Three ...

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton

The book that started the movies, this is Michael Crichton's thriller about what happens when people try to control nature. Scientists have cloned the DNA of dinosaurs, and they are hoping to open a theme park for everyone's enjoyment. But nature is hard to control

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

In the "New World," Todd is the only boy in town of all men, a town where everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts. There is a secret in the town, and Todd flees with his dog a month before he is to "become a man." As he is pursued by the men, Todd comes across something unusual - a girl. This is a thrilling, dystopian adventure where Todd tries to find the truth.

Legend by Marie Lu

In a setting reminiscent of the *Hunger Games*, this is the story of fifteen-year-old June as she seeks revenge on Day, one of the country's most wanted criminals for the murder of her brother. But the story takes some twists along the way, and they both realize the secrets of the country in which they live.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Thomas has lost his memory, and he finds himself in the Glade, a large open area surrounded by a large stone maze. Why is he here? How did he and the others get here? What do they do now? This book cleverly follows Thomas and answers the questions as the plot unfolds.

The Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan

The "next Percy Jackson series" started by Rick Riordan, this picks up with a confused Percy, a new set of allies, and a different camp for half bloods. Percy and his new friends Hazel and Frank still have their share of monsters as they head on yet another quest for the good of all mankind.

Splendors and Glooms by Laura Amy Schlitz

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London. Soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

Swipe by Evan Angler

Swipe is set in North America where everyone is struggling to recover from famine and global war. Logan Langly is about to turn 13, and he is not really looking forward to receiving the Mark. Logan feels like he is being watched and followed. He becomes friends with Erin, the new girl in town, and they work together to find out the truth behind the Mark.

Throne of Fire by Rick Riordan

The second book in the series picks up where the other left off, following the Kane children as they continue the work their parents started. Set in the world of the Egyptian gods, they must battle to survive and find the Book of Ra.

Trash by Andy Mulligan

Three "dumpsite boys" live in poverty, scrounging for survival in dumps in this not-so-distant time. But when they find something unusual, they must work together to solve the mystery that unfolds, all the while staying ahead of others who want what they have.

True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex

When twelve-year-old Gratuity ("Tip" for short) has to write an essay on the "True Meaning of Smekday", she has many thoughts about the aliens who have invaded the earth. This interesting story uses pictures, comics, and drawings to tell her story as she tries to stave off yet another alien invasion.

Wildwood by Colin Meloy

Prue McKeel's baby brother has been abducted, and she and her friend Curtis must venture into the "Impassable Wilderness" to find him. Among their other adventures, they find themselves involved in the larger struggle for the freedom of "Wildwood".

The Witch's Boy by Michael Gruber

Lump is an ugly, misshapen child who is abandoned and raised by a witch in the woods. But as he grows and ventures in the "normal" world, he is not prepared for the meanness that ensues. This is the story of how he reacts and how he handles all these worlds in which he lives.