

# Middle School Recommended Reading List

## Fantasy/Science Fiction

*The Lost Years of Merlin*, T. A. Brown  
*Gregor the Overlander*, Suzanne Collins  
*Silverwing*, Kenneth Oppel  
*The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*, Nancy Farmer  
*The Wish List*, Eoin Colfer  
*Downsiders*, Neil Shusterman  
*The Golden Compass*, Philip Pullman

## Mystery/Adventure

*The Name of the Game Was Murder*, Joan Lowery Nixon  
*The Rag and Bone Shop*, Robert Cromier  
*The Egypt Game*, Zilpha Keatley Snyder  
*Scared Stiff*, Willo Davis Roberts  
*The Silent Boy*, Lois Lowry  
*Stormbreaker*, Anthony Horowitz  
*Eagle Strike*, Anthony Horowitz  
*Blackwater*, Eve Bunting  
*Far North*, Will Hobbs  
*Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*, James Patterson  
*The Wreckers*, Iain Lawrence  
*Jason's Gold*, Will Hobbs  
*Black Star, Bright Dawn*, Scott O'Dell  
*Blizzard's Wake*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

## Popular Fiction

*Olive's Ocean*, Kevin Henkes  
*Flying Solo*, Ralph Fletcher  
*The School Story*, Andrew Clements  
*Say Goodnight, Gracie*, Julie Reece Deaver  
*Ruby Holler*, Sharon Creech  
*Halfway to the Sky*, Kimberley Brubaker Bradley  
*So B. It*, Sarah Weeks  
*Last Book in the Universe*, Rodman Philbrick  
*A Single Shard*, Linda Sue Park  
*Tears of a Tiger*, Sharon Mills Draper  
*My Louisiana Sky*, Kimberley Holt  
*Stuck in Neutral*, Terry Trueman

## Biography/Autobiography

*Boy: Tales of a Childhood*, Roald Dahl  
*The Hiding Place*, Corrie Ten Boom  
*Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*, Ji-Li Jang  
*I Have Lived a Thousand Years*, Livia Bitton Jackson  
*Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*, Adeline Yen Mah  
*Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt*, Jean Roosevelt-Fritz  
*Guts*, Gary Paulsen  
*Bad Boy: A Memoir*, Walter Dean Meyers  
*Coach Carter*, Jasmine Jones  
*Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard*, Mawi Asgedom

## Historical Fiction

*A Boy at War: Novel of Pearl Harbor*, Harry Mazer  
*Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers*, Gary Paulsen  
*The Slave Dancer*, Paula Fox  
*Devil's Arithmetic*, Jane Yolen  
*Where the Broken Heart Still Beats*, Carolyn Meyers  
*Don't You Know There's a War On?*, Avi  
*Girl in a Cage*, Jane Yolen

## Classics

*Kidnapped*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott  
*Death Be Not Proud*, John Gunther  
*The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Baroness Emmuska Orczy  
*White Fang*, Jack London  
*The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings  
*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, Mark Twain  
*The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkien

## Non-fiction

*Shipwrecked at the Bottom of the World; the Extraordinary True Story of the Shackleton and Endurance*, Jennifer Armstrong  
*Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom*, Walter Dean Myers  
*The Great Fire*, Jim Murphy  
*Woodsong*, Gary Paulsen  
*We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success*, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt  
*A Time for Freedom: What Happened When in America*, Lynne Cheney  
*Warriors Don't Cry*, Melba Pattillo Beals

Recognizing the diversity of our student body, we have designed this list to represent a wide range of selections. The titles have been carefully selected to account for the varying interests of our students. Topics range from magical worlds, to friendship, to war, to sports, to the trials and tribulations of growing up. We hope all students will find something that sparks the desire to read this summer.



Pre-AP English will have a required summer reading assignment which may or may not include selections on this list. Students enrolling in other levels of English can earn extra credit for completing an assignment based on the reading of any selection on this list. Extra credit may be earned for reading and doing the assignment for no more than two books. Specific information about these assignments can be obtained from your son or daughter's school. The assignments and this list will also be posted on each school's website.

**Parents and guardians are asked to work closely with the student to select readings that are appropriate to the reader's interest, maturity, and reading skills.**

# Roanoke County Public Schools Recommended Summer Readings

## 2011 Middle School List

Roanoke County teachers believe that students should develop a love of reading and a responsibility to read in order to become life-long learners. We, therefore, encourage our students to continue to read during the summer.

All students are encouraged to read **at least two books**. The list contained in this pamphlet is composed of a wide variety of recommended readings. We ask that you review it with your son or daughter to identify titles that are appropriate to his or her reading ability and maturity level.

Since reading is the single most important factor attributed to school success, we hope that students will use the list as a starting point and choose other selections to read during the summer.

