

Downingtown Middle School and Lionville Middle School Libraries

Reading Ideas for the Summer of 2010

Newbery Winners 2001 to 2010

- 2010 *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead: In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.
- 2009 *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman: Nobody Owens "Bod" was orphaned at 18 months and grows up in cemetery, cared for by ghosts from varying backgrounds and time periods. Who caused his separation from his family and what does the future hold for him?
- 2008 *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz: Inhabitants between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor tell their stories in verse or prose. Historical information about the time period is interspersed throughout the book.
- 2007 *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron: A 10-year-old girl living with a guardian in a tiny CA town struggles to find her higher power. Lucky who is both self-reliant and insecure is only one of many strongly defined characters.
- 2006 *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins: Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.
- 2005 *Kira-kira* by Cynthia Kadohata: Japanese-American sisters in the late 1950's and early 1960's as seen through the eyes of the younger Katie. The family moves to Georgia and older sister Lynn develops a terminal illness.
- 2004 *The Tale of Despereaux: being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread* by Kate DiCamillo: Fairy tale adventure of a small mouse Despereaux Tilling, who has unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat.
- 2003 *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi: A thirteen-year-old boy is orphaned in 14th century England. He suddenly finds himself the object of harm and he has no idea why.
- 2002 *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park: A thirteen-year-old boy in 12th century Korea is fascinated with the skill of a local craftsman. Tree-Ear lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics.
- 2001 *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck: The remembrances of the year fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty grandmother. This book is a sequel to *A Long Way from Chicago*.
- 2000 *Bud, not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis: A ten-year-old living in Flint, Michigan during the Depression, escapes a bad foster home. He sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--a renowned bandleader.

Go to <http://www.ala.org> to see a list of all Newbery Medal and Honor Books from 1922 to present.

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Fiction

- **Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins: By winning the Hunger Games, Katniss and Peeta have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. (Sequel to the *Hunger Games*). Recommended Grades 7 and up.
- **Crocodile Tears #8* by Anthony Horowitz: Alex Rider does battle with a charity broker con artist who has invested millions of dollars in a form of genetically modified corn that can release an airborne strain of virus capable of knocking out an entire country in one day. (*Alex Rider Adventure Series: Stormbreaker #1, Point Blank #2, Skeleton Key #3, Eagle Strike #4, Scorpia #5, Ark Angel #6, Snakehead #7*). Recommended Grades 6-10.
- **The Desperado Who Stole Baseball* by John H. Ritter: Prequel to *The Boy Who Saved Baseball*. The wild west meets baseball in this adventure.
- **Don't Talk To Me About the War* by David A. Adler: Historical fiction work presents 13 year-old Tommy, growing up in the Bronx (NYC) as World War II storm clouds gather.
- **Gilda Joyce: the Dead Drop* by Jennifer Allison. Almost-fifteen-year-old psychic investigator Gilda Joyce interns for the summer at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., and solves a mystery involving national security.
- **The Ghost Sitter* by Peni R. Griffin: In this captivating time-travel fantasy, two girls from different centuries trade places for several weeks.
- **Go Big or Go Home* by Will Hobbs: Brady is affected by microbes from a meteorite that has struck his house in this science fiction adventure.
- **Here Today, Gone Tomorrow Book #3* by Marilyn Kaye: Emily Sanders, who has the gift of premonition and has become frustrated because her visions are not entirely accurate and her classmates have begun to doubt her ability, starts to master her powers, but it may be too late. (*Gifted Series: Out of Sight, Out of Mind #1; Better Late Than Never #2*). Note: *Finders Keepers #4* to be published. Recommended Grades 6-9.
- **Hurricane Gold #4* by James Bond: James Bond, vacationing in Mexico at the home of ex-flying ace Jack Stone, is called to duty when thieves rob Stone's safe and kidnap his children in the midst of a hurricane, forcing James into a perilous chase through the jungle in pursuit of the criminals. (*Young Bond series: Silverfin #1; Blood fever #2; Double or die #3*). Note: *By Royal Command #5* not yet published. Recommended Grades 5-8.
- **Max #5* by James Patterson. When millions of fish start dying off the coast of Hawaii and something is destroying hundreds of ships, the government enlists the Flock--a band of genetically modified children who can fly--to help get to the bottom of the disaster before it is too late. (*Maximum Ride Series: The Angel Experiment #1; School's Out - Forever #2; Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports #3; The Final Warning # 4*). Recommended Grades 7-9.
- **The Rise and Fall of Darth Vader* by Ryder Windham: The legendary story of Anakin Skywalker told through his eyes.
- **Six Innings* by James Preller: A magnificent championship game of baseball between two Little League teams.
- **The Soldiers of Halla #10* by D. J. MacHale: Each of the Travelers returns home to learn the truth about their origins before being reunited for a final, inevitable confrontation with Saint Dane, whose efforts to control Halla are destroying its very foundations.

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(Pendragon series: *The Merchant of Death #1, The Lost City of Faar #2, The Never War #3, The Reality Bug #4, Black Water #5, Rivers of Zadaa #6, The Quillan Games #7, The Pilgrims of Rayne #8, Raven Rise #9*). Recommended Grades 5-12.

**Trading Faces* by Julia DeVillers: Seventh-grade twins Payton and Emma decide to shake things up at their new middle school by switching places and taking on each other's lives, and their antics teach them that no one is exactly who the world thinks they are. Recommended Grades 5-8.

**Waggit's Tale* by Peter Howe: An abandoned puppy meets a pack of wild dogs but has a chance to go to a real home.

**The Year That Swallows Came Early* by Kathryn Fitzmaurice: A fascinating novel about an 11-year old girl, Eleanor, who learns that only through forgiveness can we become whole again.

Non-Fiction

**Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone: Did you know that twenty years before the first women were let into NASA's astronaut program, there were other who tried? This is their inspirational story.

**Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader* by Micheal Benson: Challenge your friends and family but please don't write in the book!

**Atlas of First* by Clive Gifford

**Amazing Tales for Making Men Out of Boys* By Neil Oliver: A collection of heroic, inspirational tales for boys, including "D-Day and the Beach Called Omaha."

**Ductigami : the Art of the Tape* by Joe Wilson: Presents step-by-step instructions and diagrams for creating over fifteen items with duct tape.

**Guys Write For Guys Read* edited by Jon Scieszka: A collection of short writings by male authors.

**A Guys' Guide to Stress; A Girls' Guide to Stress* by Travis Clark : A guide to stress for teens, providing information about what stress is, how it affects the body, the causes of stress, why it is dangerous, and harmful and helpful ways of coping. Includes specific advice for girls and for boys.

**Harry Houdini for Kids: His Life and Adventures* (with 21 magic tricks and illusions). A book about a famous magician. Great read, then try to visit his museum in Scranton, Pa.

**How To Be A Genius* by John Woodward: An illustrated introduction to the human brain that provides activities and exercises to improve memory, creativity, and problem solving abilities

**I'm Broke! : The Money Handbook* by Liam Croke: An introduction to personal finances that provides advice, facts, and quizzes on budgeting, saving, banking, the economy, loans, investments, credit cards, and more.

**Jeff Corwin: A Wild Life* (the authorized biography): A look at Corwin, host of "Animal Planet."

**The Mighty Book of Sports Knowledge* : A collection of trivia, facts, statistics, lists, lore, and legends from the sports world.

**Pro Football Trivia : More Than 950 of the Most Challenging NFL Questions Ever!* A collection of over 950 NFL trivia questions about some of the greatest moments of the game, famous coaches and players, nicknames, rookies, and Hall of Famers.

**Why is Snot Green?* by Glenn Murphy: *OK, it is a disgusting title but many questions we all have are answered in this book.*

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**World of the Weird* by Tracey Turner: A engaging look at the unexplained and unusual.

**Shipwrecks: Exploring Sunken Cities Beneath the Sea* by Mary M. Cerullo

Websites

<http://www.exploratorium.edu> The San Francisco museum of "science and human perception" lists some great links to explore.

<http://www.funology.com/boredombusters> Bored this summer? Look for some great activities here!

<http://www.pbskids.org/zoom/activities.index.html> More summer activities chock full of craft ideas, games and experiments.

<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/readers/series/juv/> Lists the order for series; can be searched by series title, series subject, book title or author's name.

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk> A bibliography of 25,000 authors and information on over 30,000 fantasy books.

<http://www.wordle.net> Creates word clouds.

Please Note: These websites were checked at publication but internet sites often change or are unavailable without notice.

