

Bulkeley Middle School
Summer Reading
2011



8th Grade Annotated List

Annotations from the Library of Congress

Abadzis, Nick. *Laika*.

From the dog's point of view, follows the adventures of the dog sent into space by the Soviet Union. (Graphic novel)

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*.

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Catalyst*.

Eighteen-year-old Kate finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Blundell, Judy. *What I Saw and How I Lied*.

In 1947, teenage Evie, smitten by a handsome ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on her stepfather, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome changes her life and that of her family forever.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II*.

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Capuzzo, Michael. *Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916*.

Details the first documented cases in American history of sharks attacking swimmers, which occurred along the Atlantic coast of New Jersey in 1916.

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*.

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Condie, Ally. *Matched*.

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, so when Xander appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate--until Ky Markham's face appears for an instant before the screen fades to black.

Cooney, Caroline. *Code Orange*.

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Crowe, Chris. *Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case*.

Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*.

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Dashner, James. *Maze Runner*.

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Deuker, Carl. *Runner*.

Living with his alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat on Puget Sound has been hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but when his love of running leads to a high-paying job, he quickly learns that the money is not worth the risk.

Draper, Sharon. *Copper Sun*.

Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*.

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Farmer, Nancy. *The Sea of Trolls.*

After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Giles, Gail. *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters.*

Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died out of town in a fire months earlier.

Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass.*

When Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, turns the school nerd into Prince Charming, his actions lead to unexpected violence.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Double Identity.*

When Bethany's parents suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

Hesse, Karen. *Witness.*

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

LaRochelle, David. *Absolutely, Positively Not.*

Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup-displaying heterosexual.

Leavitt, Martine. *Keturah and Lord Death.*

When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.

Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears.*

When gambling debts and greed enter into the Butler household, Pierce Butler decides to host the biggest slave auction in American history and breaks a promise by selling Emma, his most-valued slave and caretaker of his children--a decision that brings about unthinkable consequences.

Murphy, Jim. *Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting.*

Depicts the first-hand experience by officers and soldiers on both sides during World War I when a cease-fire was declared on Christmas Day in No Man's Land on the Western front. Describes the comradery, the shared songs, gifts, and celebrations and the realization by both the Germans and the Allies that it was an extraordinary event. Includes amateur photos

of the soldiers in the field, a time line, and an index.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Bound*.

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Breath*.

Elaborates on the tale of "The Pied Piper," told by a boy who is too ill to keep up when a piper spirits away the healthy children of a plague-ridden town after being cheated out of full payment for ridding Hameln of rats.

Pattou, Edith. *East*.

A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment.

Paulsen, Gary. *My Life in Dog Years*.

The author describes some of the dogs that have had special places in his life, including his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.

Paulsen, Gary. *Woodson*.

The author describes his love for the natural world, his involvement in dogsledding, and his experiences taking part in the Iditarod, the 1,180-mile dogsled race across Alaska.

Phelan, Matt. *The Storm in the Barn*.

When faced with everyone's tensions in the Kansas Dust Bowl, Jack encounters the strange Storm King who withholds the badly needed rain and tells Jack that he won't release the rain until everyone worships him. Jack knows that he must defeat him in order to release the rain the the Storm King holds.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. *The Body of Christopher Creed*.

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. *What Happened to Lani Garver?*

Sixteen-year-old Claire is unable to face her fears about a recurrence of her leukemia, her eating disorder, her need to fit in with the popular crowd on Hackett Island, and her mother's alcoholism until the enigmatic Lani Garver helps her get control of her life at the risk of his own.

Rees, Celia. *Witch Child*.

In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.

Roach, Mary. *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*.

A look inside the world of forensics examines the use of human cadavers in a wide range of endeavors, including research into new surgical procedures, space exploration, and a Tennessee human decay research facility.

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*.

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

Schmidt, Gary. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*.

Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor island community founded by slaves that the town fathers want to change into a tourist spot.

Sedgwick, Marcus. *Revolver*.

Teenaged Sig Andersson, who lives in an isolated cabin in the Arctic Circle, confronts a stranger who has come to take revenge on Sig's dead father for his actions when the two men knew each other during the Alaska Gold Rush.

Sonnenlick, Jordan. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*.

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.

Stratton, Allan. *Chanda's Secrets*.

Chandra struggles with the deaths of those around her and the shame of being molested as she continues her education and cares for her siblings and friend Esther, amidst the poverty and AIDs epidemic that plague her African homeland.

Sturtevant, Katherine. *A True and Faithful Narrative*.

In London in the 1680s, Meg--now sixteen years old--tries to decide whether to marry either of the two men who court her, taking into account both love and her writing ambitions.

Warren, Andrea. *Surviving Hitler : A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*.

Provides the story of the Holocaust survivor who at fifteen was placed in a Nazi concentration camp and was forced to overcome intolerable conditions in order to not become a victim of Hitler's Final Solution.

Werlin, Nancy. *Double Helix*.

Eighteen-year-old Eli discovers a shocking secret about his life and his family while working for a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose specialty is genetic engineering.