

Summer 2013 Recommended Reading List  
Rising Eighth Grade  
2013-2014

Nonfiction Books

**Bobrick, Benson *A Passion for Victory: The Story of the Olympics in Ancient and Early Modern Times***

Describes the story of the Olympic Games, the courage, prowess, and strength of the athletes, and the obstacles to be overcome.

**Bragg, Georgia *How They Croaked: the Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous***

Shares the sometimes gruesome details of the deaths of nineteen famous historical figures.

**Ceceri, Kathy *The Silk Road: Explore the World's Most Famous Trade Route***

Provides an overview of the history, geography, and people of the Silk Road region and presents twenty projects to help students learn more about the topic.

**Cowan, Mary Morton *Captain Mac: The Life of Donald Baxter MacMillan, Arctic Explorer***

A biography of American explorer Donald Baxter MacMillan, based on his journals, letters, and books, covering his research in the Arctic over a span of five decades.

**Dell, Pamela *Man on the Moon: How a Photograph Made Anything Seem Possible*** Explores and analyzes the historical context and significance of Neil Armstrong's iconic photograph of Buzz Aldrin on the moon.

**Latham, Donna *Bridges and Tunnels: Investigate Feats of Engineering***

Explores the innovation and physical science behind bridges and tunnels, featuring illustrated, step-by-step instructions for projects to help students learn about engineering.

**Lourie, Peter *The Polar Bear Scientists***

Explores the ways in which scientists research polar bears in Alaska, following biologists as they locate bears from a helicopter, tranquilize them, give them tattoo identification numbers and tags, gather data, and collect samples.

**McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino *Iceberg, Right Ahead!: The Tragedy of the Titanic*** Explores the lasting legacy of the "Titanic" tragedy, discussing how the sinking of the ship led to new regulations.

**Moore, Christopher *From Then to Now: a Short History of the World***

Explains how individual societies have overcome war, famine, drought, disease, oppression, and natural disasters.

**Murphy, Jim *The Giant and How He Humbugged America***

A description of the Cardiff Giant mystery in which a man in upstate New York buried a ten-foot-tall, petrified model of a man, which was discovered by well diggers a year later, and set into motion a money-making spectacle.

**Ross, Stewart *Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way by Land, Sea, and Air***

Describes the methods explorers throughout history have used to find their way by land, sea, and sky.

**Sandler, Martin W. *The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure***

Presents the true story of three men sent by President McKinley in 1897 to drive two herds of reindeer across parts of Alaska to feed stranded whalers whose ships were trapped in ice.

## Fiction Books

### **Abbott, Tony *Lunch-Box Dream***

A white family on a 1959 road trip between Ohio and Florida, visiting Civil War battlefields along the way, crosses paths with a black family near Atlanta, where one of their children has gone missing.

### **Burgis, Stephanie *Kat, Incurable***

In Regency England, when twelve-year-old Kat discovers she has magical powers, she tries to use them to stop her sister from marrying a man she does not love.

### **Dominy, Amy Fellner *Audition & Subtraction***

Tatum competes with new student Michael for a spot in honor band, while trying to maintain her friendships and relationships.

### **Hayles, Marsha *Breathing Room* In 1940**

Evy Hoffmeister and her newfound friends struggle to get well at Loon Lake Sanatorium, where they are being treated for tuberculosis.

### **Johnson, Peter *The Amazing Adventures of John Smith, Jr. aka Houdini***

John "Houdini" Smith tries to write a book about what is happening in his life.

### **Levine, Kristin *The Lions of Little Rock***

Twelve-year-old Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl in school, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

### **Neri, Greg *Ghetto Cowboy: A Novel***

Cole's behavior causes his mother to drive him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with a father he has never known, but who soon has Cole involved with a group of African-American "cowboys" who rescue horses and use them to steer youths away from drugs and gangs.

### **Partridge, Elizabeth *Dogtag Summer***

Before she starts junior high school in Santa Rosa, California, Tracy, who was adopted from Vietnam when she was six years old, finds an old ammo box with a dog tag and picture that bring up painful memories for both her Vietnam-veteran father and her.

### **Pearsall, Shelley *Jump into the Sky***

In 1945, Levi is sent to find the father he has not seen in three years, going from Chicago, to segregated North Carolina, and finally to Pendleton, Oregon, where he learns that his father's unit, the all-Black 555th paratrooper battalion, will never see combat but finally has a mission.

### **Perkins, Mitali *Bamboo People: A Novel***

Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.

### **Scattergood, Augusta *Glory Be***

Gloriana struggles with the changes she sees happening around her and she witnesses tempers rise in a debate over a segregated public pool.

### **Ungar, Richard *Time Snatchers***

Caleb is a "time snatcher" who travels through history stealing valuable artifacts from the past for high-paying clients of his ruthless guardian.