

McCourt Middle School

Recommended Summer Reading List 2010

The following list suggests titles that might be interesting for Middle School Students. The grade levels are merely guidelines, please feel free to choose the books that interest you the most.

6th Grade

The Batboy – Lupica, Mike

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a bat boy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team. Lupica's most powerful and kid-friendly work to date.

Breathe: a Ghost Story – McNish, Cliff

When he and his mother move into an old farmhouse in the English countryside, asthmatic, twelve-year-old Jack discovers that he can communicate with the ghost inhabiting the house and inadvertently establishes a relationship with a tormented, malevolent spirit that threatens to destroy both his mother and himself.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice – Hoose, Phillip

Claudette Colvin, on March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, AL. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders.

Crossing the Wire - Hobbs, Will

Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.

Escape!: the Story of the Great Houdini - Fleischman, Sid

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal – Kinney, Jeff

Greg record his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measure to save their friendship. Sequels: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules , Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw , Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days – All #1 bestsellers.

Searching for David's Heart – Bennett, Cherie

When Darcy's older brother David is killed in a terrible accident, Darcy's parents decide to donate his heart for transplant, and Darcy becomes obsessed with finding the person who received his heart, believing that if she can find his heart, she will find her brother.

Scat – Hiaasen, Carl.

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

7th Grade

Ask Me No Questions – Budhos, Marina

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Black Duck - Lisle, Janet Taylor

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.

Firegirl – Abbott, Tony

A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital.

The Graveyard Book – Gaiman, Neal

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

The Green Glass Sea - Klages, Ellen

In 1943, ten-year-old Dewey's dad is working at Los Alamos, officially a town that doesn't exist. Famous scientists and mathematician, including Dewey's father, work around the clock on a secret project everyone there calls only "the gadget." The story is warmhearted and gently and wisely shows the pain of being an outsider and the joys of making a friend. An historical novel with plenty of World War II facts that will keep you reading and leave you thinking. Sequel: White Sands, Red Menace

I Am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to be Your Class President – Lieb, Josh

In Omaha, Nebraska, twelve-year-old Oliver Watson has everyone convinced that he's extremely stupid and lazy, but he's actually a very wealthy, evil genius, and when he decides to run for seventh-grade class president, nothing will stand in his way.

Letters from Wolfie - Sherlock, Patti

Certain that he is doing the right thing by donating his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program in Vietnam, thirteen-year-old Mark begins to have second thoughts when the Army refuses to say when and if Wolfie will ever return.

Things Not Seen – Clements, Andrew

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it. Sequels: Things Hoped For and Things That Are.

8th Grade

All the Broken Pieces – Burg, Ann E.

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Code Orange - Cooney, Caroline B.

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.

Devilish – Johnson, Maureen

Cynical high school senior Jane initially admires Lanalee, the ultra-cool new sophomore at her all-girls, Rhode Island Catholic high school. But the unsettling makeover of Jane's hapless best friend after Lanalee takes her under her wing gives Jane reason to suspect something is amiss. Has Allison really sold her soul to the devil? This shrewd, playful Faustian drama delivers genuine chills and suspense.

The Hunger Games – Collins, Suzanne

In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed, weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Sequels: Catching Fire and The Mockingjay (released August 24, 2010)

Let me play: the story of Title IX, the law that changed the future of girls in America - Blumenthal, Karen
Examines Title IX, the 1972 legislation which mandated that schools receiving federal funds could not discriminate on the basis of gender and focuses on its effects in schools, politics, sports and the culture as a whole.

Maximum Ride The Angel Experiment - Patterson, James

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the “birdkids,” who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. Sequels: School's out—forever, Saving the world and other extreme sports, The Final Warning, Max, and Fang.

The Schwa was Here - Shusterman, Neal

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. Sequel: Antsy does time.

The Truth About Truman School – Butler, Dori Hillestad

Tired of being told what to write by the school newspaper's advisor, Zibby and her friend Amr start an underground newspaper online where everyone is free to post anything, but things spiral out of control when a cyber bully starts using the site to harass one popular girl.