



SUMMER READING 2009

CH-UH City School District / Grades 6-8

Little Men Alcott, Louisa May

Those who like *Little Women* will enjoy this sequel featuring tomboy Jo's boys from the earlier novel. The novel captures the adventure of fun-seeking boys from a boarding school in Plumfield.

Little Women Alcott, Louisa May

This classic novel chronicles the story of four sisters in nineteenth-century New England, facing life's challenges growing up while their father is away fighting in the Civil War. It remains a favorite because of rich adventures that stand the test of time.

Clay Almond, David Davie and Gourdie's new friend has a monstrous idea to protect them from the neighborhood bully.

Peter and the Starcatchers

Barry, Dave and Ridley Pearson

This prequel to the well-known original adventures tells the story of how Peter Pan came to be.

The Boy Who Dared

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell

This novel is based on the true story of a member of the Hitler Youth. He is loyal to the Nazi cause and wants to be a part of the movement. Slowly, he sees the rights and lives of his Jewish neighbors being taken from them. Is this something he can be part of? Can he find a way to stop it even if he wanted to?

Just as Long As We're Together Blume, Judy

Stephanie's relationship with her best friend, Rachel, changes during her first year in junior high as she tries to conceal a family problem and meets a new girl from California.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

Brashares, Ann

During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans with magical powers.

Lucky T Brian, Kate

When Carrie's favorite T-shirt is donated to the Help India foundation, she travels to India to find it because she believes it brings her luck. In the journey, she learns about what is truly important in life.

The Pinballs Byars, Betsy Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and each other.

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul Canfield,

Jack et al These anthologies contain stories, poems, and cartoons every teenager can relate to and learn from --without feeling criticized or judged.

The Dark Hills Divide Carmen, Patrick

In the 1st Book in the Land of Elyon trilogy, Alexa uses a secret key and new found powers to save her town from evil forces.

Al Capone Does My Shirts Choldenko, Gennifer
Moose must leave his friends and move to a new home on Alcatraz Island where he finds all kinds of adventures and meets the famous gangster, Al Capone.

Things Not Seen Clements, Andrew

The 15-year old main character becomes invisible due to a malfunctioning electric blanket and befriends a girl who has lost her sight. The story explores the many interpretations of invisibility and its implications.

With Every Drop of Blood Collier, James

While trying to transport food to Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Johnny is captured by a black Union soldier.

Ruby Holler Creech, Susan

After many foster homes, twins Dallas and Florida are sent to Ruby Holler where they find a home and many adventures.

Billie Standish was Here Crocker, Nancy

Billie does not seem to exist to her parents and does not fit in with the prissy girls at her school. She feels she will never fit in anywhere. Then, an unusual friendship with an unlikely neighbor forms and suddenly she belongs somewhere.

Sledding Hill Crutcher, Chris Eddie

Proffitt fights narrow-minded censorship of his favorite book at school relying on the friendship and advice of his best friend, Billy, even though Billy is dead.

We Beat the Street

Davis, Jenkins, Hunt and Draper

Three boys rely on their friendship to survive the pitfalls of inner city life and eventually become doctors.

Double Dutch Draper, Sharon

Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their home town of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies.

The Battle of Jericho Draper, Sharon

A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club.

Inkheart Funke, Cornelia

Meggie's dad, a bookbinder, is so marvelous at reading out loud that many years ago he "read" the villain Capricorn from a book called "Inkheart" into reality. The villain then kidnapped Meggie's mom. Meggie and her dad must find them and trick them back into the book.



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The Thief Lord Funke, Cornelia

Wacky characters bring energy to this translation of an entertaining German novel about thieving children, a disguise-obsessed detective and a magical merry-go-round.

Blood Red Horse Grant, K.M.

Two brothers fighting in the Crusades encounter a mystical horse who teaches them about honor and courage.

The Road to Paris Grimes, Nikki

A young African American foster child finds happiness and acceptance with a white family in a small town.

The Friends Guy, Rosa Problems have developed between Phyllisia and her best friend. She learns the problems are not caused by her mom's death or her dad's behavior.

Among the Hidden Haddix, Margaret Peterson

Luke is a third child during a time when families are allowed only two children. The Population Police monitor families and pursue third children. Children who are captured are never seen again. Luke discovers an underground world of third children, The Shadow Children, who are organizing a rebellion.

Turnabout Haddix, Margaret Peterson

Two old women become close friends after taking part in an experiment that allows them to grow young again.

Invisible Hautman, Pete

"Andy and I had some bad luck with fires when we were kids" is one of the clues that something tragic happened to Dougie and his best friend, Andy.

Hoot Hiaasen, Carl

Ray and his friends try everything they can to stop the building of a Waffle House that would destroy the home of rare burrowing owls. Some hilarious situations occur.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

Holt, Kimberly

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

Redwall Series Jacques, Brian

Mathias, a young mouse, learns what it means when everyone is looking to you for answers. With his friends, he overcomes Cluny, the evil rat when he attempt to overtake the Abbey.

Over A Thousand Hills I Walk With You

Jansen, Hanna

The true story of a girl who witnesses and survives the genocide in Rwanda.

The Chronicles of Narnia Lewis, C.S.

Series of 7 books by C.S. Lewis engaging students in classic fantasy that presents the ongoing conflict of good versus evil.

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks Lockhart, E.

Frankie discovers a boys only secret club at her boarding school and she is determined to bring them down. You will quickly get wrapped up in her adventures as she attempts to infiltrate the club!

Hidden Talents (and sequel) Lubar, David

When thirteen-year-old Martin arrives at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, he falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

Heat Lupica, Mike

The dream of pitching in the Little League World Series seems achievable until 12 year old Michael faces inevitable obstacles related to friendship, family, and fairness. Will his dream come true?

Dragonsong (The Harper Hall Trilogy)

McCaffrey, Anne

When Menolly is denied her wish to become a Harper because she is a girl, she runs away a begins a new life full of adventures and mystical creatures. Her mentor guides her and helps her as she tries to save the dragons.

Touching Spirit Bear Mikaelson, Ben Cole

Matthews is angry. After beating up a classmate to the point of brain damage, Cole elects to participate in Circle Justice, an alternative sentencing program based on traditional Native American practices that results in his being banished to a remote Alaskan Island where he is left to survive for a year. Everything about his life, including his ability to survive is challenged.

Charlie Bone Series Nimmo, Jenny Charlie

Bone, a young adolescent with supernatural powers, is sent off to a school for special youngsters where he makes friends and enemies in these adventures filled with mystery, villains and magic.



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Eragon Paolini, Christopher

A young man revives the lost art of dragon riding in this fantasy novel!

Harris & Me Paulsen, Gary

Hilarious stories from the summer that Gary spent on the family farm with his cousin, Harris.

The Foxman Paulsen, Gary

A town boy sent to live on a remote wilderness farm forms a friendship with an elderly, disfigured man who teaches him many things.

All of the Above Pearsall, Shelley

Based on a true story of students at Cleveland's Alexander Hamilton High School who try to break the world record for building the largest tetrahedron.

Remembering the Good Times Peck, Richard

Trav, Kate, and Buck make up a trio during their freshman year in high school, but their special friendship may not be enough to save Trav as he pressures himself relentlessly to succeed, in his own eyes as well as in the eyes of his parents and the world.

Freak the Mighty Philbrick, Rodman

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age

Pink, Daniel

Exploring the benefits of "right-brained" thinking, this groundbreaking guide reveals how to survive and thrive in a world turned upside down by rising affluence, the outsourcing of good jobs abroad, and the computerization of our lives. GRADES 8 and UP.

Hurt Go Happy Rorby, Ginny

Thirteen year-old Joey has been deaf for seven years now. Things wouldn't be so if it weren't for the fact that her mother is overprotective towards her and refuses to let Joey learn American Sign Language. Depending on reading lips only, Joey feels isolated from the world around her. That is, until she meet Sukari and Charlie.

Holes Sachar, Louis

Stanley Yelnats tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Magyk (and sequels) Sage, Angie

Follow the fantasy adventures of Septimus Heap, who battles the Darke Magyk forces of the Necromancer.

Lizzie Bright & The Buckminster Boy
Schmidt, Gary

Turner Buckminster and Lizzie Griffin's friendship teaches a hard lesson about intolerance and prejudice in a small town in Maine in 1912.

The Wednesday Wars Schmidt, Gary

A witty and compelling novel about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year.

Keeping Corner Sheth, Kashmira

Leela's future is all planned out for her and seems very bright. A sudden tragedy forces her to give up her friends, her beautiful clothes, her whole social life! It is her courage and strength that help her recover.

Peak Smith, Roland

For survival adventure fans – A thrilling story of a 14 year old who gets the opportunity to be the youngest ever to climb Mt. Everest.

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie

Sonnenblick, Jordan

Steven's busy with playing drums and his crush on the hottest girl in school and does not notice his best friend Annette's feelings for him. When his little brother becomes ill, she helps keep him together during a difficult year in his family.

Crash Spinelli, Jerry

The hilarious, poignant story of cocky seventh-grade superjock Crash Coogan.

The Red Pony Steinbeck, John

A classic book of four related stories by John Steinbeck, published in 1937, including "The Gift".

A True and Faithful Narrative

Sturtevant, Katherine

Meg discovers the power of her words when she undertakes rescuing Edward after he has been captured and sold as a slave.



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The Friendship Taylor, Mildred

Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

Flight of the Raven Tolan, Stephanie

Realistic thriller in which Elijah, a gifted young African American boy, must use his telepathic powers to work against the Free Mountain Militia who hold him captive.

Listen Tolan, Stephanie

The development of a friendship with a stray dog helps Charley heal from a horrible car accident and the loss of her mother.

Surviving the Applewhites Tolan, Stephanie

Jake Semple has to choose between juvenile detention or home schooling with the eccentric Applewhite family.

The Hobbit Tolkien, J.R.R. Bilbo Baggins, a

respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Sammy Keyes Series Van Draanen, Wendelin Who

is Sammy Keyes? Well, first off, Sammy is not a boy, but a girl, and a real spitfire to boot. Sammy is daring and brash, yet cool-headed when faced with danger. She's a self-proclaimed tomboy, mystery-solver and one tough cookie!

Pedro & Me Winick, Judd A graphic novel about 2

friends who meet as housemates on MTV's Reality Series "The Real World". This book chronicles their friendship and Pedro's death from AIDS.

Counting on Grace Winthrop, Elizabeth Forced into working in the cotton mills, 12 yr, old Grace takes a stand against child labor after her friend is badly hurt.

My Name is Sally Little Song Woods, Brenda

Seminole Indians aid a slave family who escape from a Georgia Plantation in 1801.

When the Black Girl Sings Wright, Bil

Lahni Schuler is not quite sure where she fits in. She is an African American girl, adopted by very loving white parents. Sometimes she feels like she doesn't belong anywhere. It is only when she joins a gospel choir at a multiracial church that she finally feels she belongs somewhere.