

**Council Rock School District Libraries
Middle School
Summer Reading List
2009**

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Chains. Grades 6 - 10

Having been sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Wintergirls. Grades 7-12

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

Archer, Lily. The Poison Apples. Grades 6 - 9

Three girls at a posh boarding school plot revenge against their evil stepmothers.

Avi. Nothing but the Truth: A Documentary Novel. Grades 5-8.

A ninth grader is suspended for singing "The Star Spangled Banner" during homeroom and it becomes a national news story.

Bartoletti, Susan. The Boy Who Dared. Grades 6 - 9

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Growing up in coal country. Grades 4-12

The breaker boys -- Nippers, spraggers, and mule drivers -- Mules and rats -- The miner and his butty -- The patch village -- After a hard day's work -- The Black Maria -- Strike!. Describes what life was like, especially for children, in coal mines and mining towns in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Bingham, Kelly. Shark Girl. Grades 6 - 10

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, an aspiring artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it imposes on her day-to-day life and her plans for the future.

Blume, Lesley M. M. Tennyson. Grades 7-8

After their mother abandons them during the Great Depression, eleven-year-old Tennyson Fontaine and her little sister Hattie are sent to live with their eccentric Aunt Henrietta in a decaying plantation house outside of New Orleans.

Brashares, Ann. 3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows. Grades 7-10

Ama, Jo, and Polly, three close friends from Bethesda, Maryland, spend the summer before ninth grade learning about themselves, their families, and the changing nature of their friendship.

Cantor, Jillian. The September Sisters. Grades 7-10

When her younger sister is kidnapped, 13-year-old Abby and her family deal the grief a kidnapping brings. Abby's loss of friends at school leads her to befriend Tommy, a neighbor's grandson. Their mutual support eventually turns into a quiet romance.

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Cisneros, Sandra. The House on Mango Street. Grades 5-8.

A young girl lives in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago and ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her life.

Clements, Andrew. Things Not Seen. Grades 5-8.

Fifteen year old Bobby wakes up and finds out that he is invisible. Bobby, his parents and friends set out to find what caused this condition and how to reverse it.

Connor, Leslie. Waiting for Normal. Grades 6-8

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Cooney, Caroline. Diamonds in the Shadow. Grades 6 - 8

While his mother and father help a family of African refugees, Jared learns that the people he counts on for doing good deeds are not always praiseworthy and he is faced with a decision which may have implications for all.

Cummings, Priscilla. Red Kayak. Grades 5-8.

This story takes place in Maryland. Thirteen year old Brady and his best friends become entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

Dekker, Ted. Chosen. Grades 7 - 8

As the land of the Forest Dwellers is increasingly decimated by the Horde, Thomas Hunter, supreme commander of the Forest Guard, chooses four sixteen-year-old recruits for a special mission--to find the seven lost Books of History that have power over the past, present, and future.

Farmer, Nancy. The House of the Scorpion. Grades 5-8.

It is the future and humans despise clones. Matt has special status because he is a young clone of El Patron, the 142 year old leader of a corrupt drug empire.

Green, John. Looking for Alaska : a novel. Grades 9-12.

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Found. Grades 4 - 8

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time. First book in a new series.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Uprising. Grades 6 - 8

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old. Includes historical notes.

Harris, Alex & Brett. Do Hard Things. Grades 7 - 8

Nineteen-year-old twins Alex and Brett Harris challenge teenagers to reject the "low expectations" of contemporary culture and "do hard things," discussing five ways to transform oneself and work for social change.

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Hathaway, Lucinda Churchman. Takashi's voyage : the wreck of the Sindia. Grades 4-8
In 1901, a twelve-year-old Japanese boy is shanghaied and serves as cabin boy aboard the bark Sindia, dealing with homesickness and hardships on the long and exciting journey from Kobe, Japan, to Ocean City, New Jersey.

Hiaasen, Carl. Scat. Grades 7-8
Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

Malley, Gemma. The Resistance. Grades 7 and Up
In a future England where young people, or "Surpluses," are heavily regulated and everyone takes a drug called Longevity, a member of the Underground infiltrates the Pincent Pharma manufacturing plant and uncovers horrific acts being committed in an attempt to create eternal youth. Sequel to The Declaration.

Mass, Wendy, 1967-. A mango-shaped space : a novel. Grades 7-8
Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

Myers, Walter Dean. Monster. Grades 5-8.
Steve Harmon is sixteen years old and is on trial as an accomplice to a murder. He records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom.

Peacock, Shane. Eye of the Crow. Grades 5 - 9
In 1867, Sherlock Holmes, an impoverished young outcast with a Jewish father and a highborn mother, visits the scene of a woman's brutal murder, where he meets a wrongly accused young Arab and becomes a suspect himself.

Pearson, Ridley. Steel Trapp. Grades 5 - 8
On a two-day train trip to enter his invention in the National Science Competition in Washington, D.C., fourteen-year-old Steven "Steel" Trapp, possessor of a remarkable photographic memory, becomes embroiled in an international plot of kidnapping and bribery that may have links to terrorists.

Pfeffer, Susan. The Dead and the Gone. Grades 7 and Up
After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City. Sequel to Life As We Knew It.

Rinaldi, Ann. Hang a thousand trees with ribbons : the story of Phillis Wheatley.
Grades 7-12. A fictionalized biography of the eighteenth-century African woman who, as a child, was brought to New England to be a slave, and after publishing her first poem when a teenager, gained renown throughout the colonies as an important African-American poet.

Robinet, Harriette. Forty acres and maybe a mule. Grades 4-8.
Born with a withered leg and hand, Pascal, who is about twelve years old, joins other former slaves in a search for a farm and the freedom that it promises. Born with a withered leg and hand, Pascal, who is about twelve years old, joins other former slaves in a search for a farm and the freedom that it promises.

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Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday Wars. Grades 5-8.

Wednesday afternoons seventh grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read William Shakespeare.

Smith, Roland. Peak: A Novel. Grades 5-8.

The story of a fourteen year old boy who attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Taylor, G.P. The Shadowmancer Returns: The Curse of Salamander Street.

Grades 7 and Up In this sequel to Shadowmancer, Thomas, Kate, and Raphah flee from the evil sorcerer Dumurral and head to London, where they soon discover that their battle with the forces of evil has just begun.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. Runaway. Grades 5-8.

Holly runs away from her fifth foster home. She is a 12 year old orphan and keeps a journal of her experiences as she travels across the country and struggles to survive.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. Swear to howdy. Grades 7-8.

Two thirteen-year-old boys share neighborhood adventures, complaints about their older sisters, family secrets, and even guilt that bind them together in a special friendship.

Weeks, Sarah. So B. It: A Novel. Grades 5-8.

Heidi is twelve years old. She spent her life with her mentally handicapped mother. She sets out from Reno and travels to New York to find out who she really is.

Whelan, Gloria. Listening for lions. Grades 7 - 10

Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

Woodson, Jacqueline. After Tupac and D Foster. Grades 6-10

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.