



**Trumbull Public Schools  
Summer 2017 Reading List  
Middle School**



Dear Parents,

Reading is an enjoyable pastime during the summer. Research shows that reading just a few minutes a day significantly increases a child's reading ability. Your support is essential. Encouraging your child to participate is important for a rewarding summer reading program.

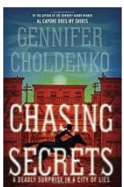
We recommend that you review this list and make your own decisions based on the suitability of the books for your individual child.

Your child is required to read **two books** this summer. While the books on the list are recommended, you may supplement the selections with books you and your child enjoy.

Your child should record the titles of each book read during the summer and bring this list of titles to his/her language arts teacher during the first week of school.

Enjoy a wonderful summer of reading!

**FICTION**



**Chasing Secrets**

Gennifer Choldenko

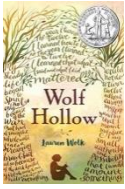
San Francisco, 1900. A fantastic time to be alive for lots of people . . . but not thirteen-year-old Lizzie Kennedy, stuck at Miss Barstow's snobby school for girls. Lizzie lives to go on house calls with her physician father, and on one of those visits discovers a hidden, dark side of the city.



**The Thing about Jellyfish**

Ali Benjamin

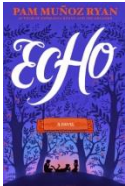
After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting, but she must deal with life's uncertainties.



### **Wolf Hollow**

Lauren Wolk

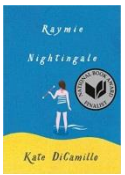
Eleven-year-old Annabelle lives in a rural Pennsylvania community in 1943. The continued fighting of World War II haunts everyone, but life is mostly peaceful—until Betty Glengarry's arrival.



### **Echo**

Pam Muniz Ryan

A harmonica becomes the tangible thread that connects the stories of three children who are linked by musical talent and the hand of fate.



### **Raymie Nightingale**

Kate DiCamillo

Raymie Clarke's father has left home without a word, but Raymie has a plan to win him back. In the process, she finds friendship and strength in herself.



### **Fish in a Tree**

Lynda Mullaly Hunt

An emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who has ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.



### **Into the Killing Seas**

Michael P. Spradlin

Stranded in the war torn Pacific, Patrick and his younger brother Teddy are finally homeward-bound. They've stowed away on one of the US Navy's finest ships, and now they just need to stay hidden. But Japanese torpedoes rip their dream apart.



### **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

Chris Grabenstein

Kyle Keeley is a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked...



### **Rain Reign**

Ann M. Martin

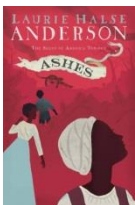
Rose Howard purposely gives her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, and Rain goes missing. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places.



### **Crossover**

Kwame Alexander

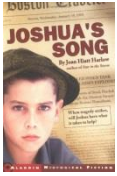
Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the basketball court. They come to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



### **Ashes**

Laurie Halse Anderson

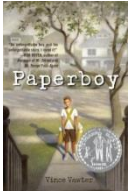
Return to the American Revolution in this blistering conclusion to the trilogy that began with the bestselling *Chains* and continued with *Forge*.



### **Joshua's Song**

Joan Hiatt Harlow

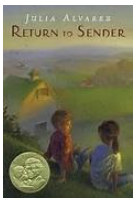
Disaster strikes the city of Boston in 1919. Joshua must do what he can to help, and in doing so he finds the place -- and the voice -- that he thought he'd lost.



### **Paperboy**

Vance Vawter

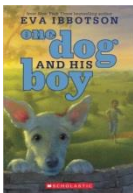
Victor Vollmer throws the meanest fastball in town. But talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering—not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he's not exactly looking forward to interacting with the customers. But it's the neighborhood junkman, a bully and thief, who stirs up real trouble in Victor's life.



### **Return to Sender**

Julia Alvarez

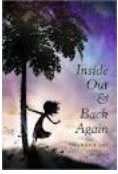
After 11-year-old Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, the family is in danger of losing their dairy farm. Desperate for help, Tyler's family employs Mari's family, who are illegal migrant Mexican workers.



### **One Dog and His Boy**

Eva Ibbotson

All Hal had ever wanted was a dog. But on the morning of his birthday, the unbelievable happens. He's allowed to choose a dog at Easy Pets, a rent-a-pet agency. But later, the boy and dog discover to stay together, they'll have to run away...



### **Inside Out and Back Again**

Thanhha Lai

HÀ has only known the beautiful Saigon. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. HÀ and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls. This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing as she journeys from one country to another, one life to the next.



### **Hero**

Mike Lupica

Zach Harriman thought he knew his dad. And then, Tom Harriman's plane crashes under mysterious circumstances, and everything Zach thought he knew about his father explodes with it.

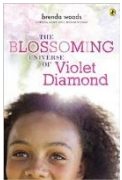


### **A Snicker of Magic**

Natalie Lloyd

Midnight Gulch used to be a magical place before a curse drove the magic away.

In Midnight Gulch, 12 year old Felicity thinks her luck's about to change. A "word collector," Felicity sees words everywhere. Felicity wants to stay in Midnight Gulch more than anything, but first, she'll need to figure out how to bring back the magic.



### **The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond**

Brenda Woods

When Violet is invited to spend two weeks with her new *Bibi* (Swahili for "grandmother") and learns about her lost heritage, her confidence in herself grows and she discovers she's not a shrinking Violet after all.



### **Faith, Hope, and Ivy June**

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

During a student exchange program, seventh graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, home and communities and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites, they have a lot in common.

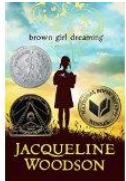
GORDON  
KORMAN



Pop

Gordon Korman

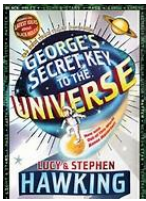
When Marcus moves to a new town, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Charlie. He can't believe his good luck when he finds out that Charlie is actually Charlie Popovich, a former NFL linebacker.



**Brown Girl Dreaming**

Jacqueline Woodson

Share with Jacqueline what it was like to grow up as an African-American in the 60s and 70s and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.



**George's Secret Key to the Universe**

Lucy and Stephen Hawking

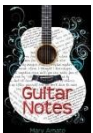
George is taken through the vastness of space by a scientist, his daughter, and a super computer named Cosmos.



**Summerlost**

Ally Condie

Intrigued, Cedar follows Leo to the renowned Summerlost theatre festival. Soon, she not only has a new friend in Leo and a job working concessions at the festival, but she finds herself surrounded by mystery.



**Guitar Notes**

Mary Amato

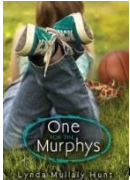
On odd days, Tripp Broody uses a school practice room. On even days, Lyla Marks uses the same practice room. What starts as a series of snippy notes quickly blossoms into the sharing of interests, secrets, dreams, and the forging of a friendship.



### **Hit the Road**

Caroline Cooney

Sixteen-year-old Brit is illegally driving her Nannie and two other elderly women to their 65<sup>th</sup> college reunion.



### **One of the Murphys**

Lynda M. Hunt

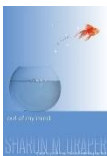
Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed.



### **Heat**

Mike Lupica

Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But that firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life.



### **Out of My Mind**

Sharon Draper

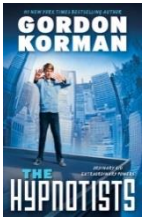
Born with cerebral palsy, Melody, 10, has never spoken a word. She is a brilliant fifth grader and deals with physical limitations and misunderstandings. This book reveals the quiet strength and fortitude it takes to overcome disabilities and the misconceptions that go with them.



### **Masterpiece**

Elise Broach

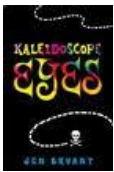
James, a boy who lives with his family in a grand apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and Marvin, a beetle whose extended family resides behind James' mother's kitchen, find themselves embroiled in a plot to steal a Dürer drawing from the Metropolitan Museum. They must find creative ways to communicate, to foil the thieves, and to protect the masterpiece.



### **The Hypnotists**

Gordon Korman

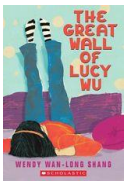
Jackson Opus has always been persuasive, but he doesn't know that he's descended from the two most powerful hypnotist bloodlines on the planet. He's excited to be accepted into a special program, where Jackson will have to find a way to use his powers to save his friends, his parents, and his government.



### **Kaleidoscope Eyes**

Jen Bryant

In 1968, while the Vietnam War rages, 13 year old Lyza inherits a project from her deceased grandfather, who was using his knowledge of maps and the geography of Lyza's New Jersey hometown to locate the lost treasure of Captain Kidd.



### **The Great Wall of Lucy Wu**

Wendy Long-Lan Shang

Lucy Wu, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is on the verge of having the best year of her life. In an instant, though, her plans are shattered when she finds out that Yi Po, her beloved grandmother's sister, is coming to visit. A funny tale about the ways life often reveals silver linings in the most unexpected clouds.



### **Brooklyn Bridge**

Karen Hesse

Joe, fourteen, is the first member of his Russian-Jewish family born in the United States. He wonders if he will ever get to go to Coney Island. He finds his life changes when his parents turn their apartment into a teddy-bear factory.

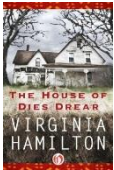




### **OK for Now**

Gary D. Schmidt

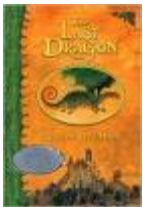
Doug is an 8th grader who, due to his father losing his job, moves to a small town with his family. Amidst multiple family issues, Doug manages to discover much about not only his neighbors, but himself as well.



### **House of Dies Drear**

Virginia Hamilton

A huge, old house with secret tunnels, a cantankerous caretaker, and buried treasure is a dream-come-true for 13-year-old Thomas. The fact that it's reputedly haunted only adds to its appeal! While on his own, he explores the hidden passageways in and under the house, piecing clues together in an increasingly dangerous quest for the truth about the past.



### **The Last Dragon**

Silvana de Mari

Yorsh and his two human friends, Sajra and Monser, experience a host of comical misunderstandings that offset the dangerous situations they encounter in the Dark Mountains.



### **The Klipfish Code**

Mary Casanova

The year is 1942, and Norway is under Nazi occupation. Twelve-year-old Marit has decided to take action, despite her grandfather's warnings.



### **Becoming Naomi Leon**

Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi travels to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.



### **Ashes of Roses**

Mary Jane Auch

The Nolan family travels to America in the early 1900s. Rose, the oldest daughter, finds inner strength as she faces her new life in America working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.



### **Little Audrey**

Ruth White

It's 1948, and Audrey lives in a Virginia coal-mining camp with her family. There is great trauma for the White family before the family is able to live a better life.



### **Ted and Me**

Dan Gutman

Stosh should have figured that the FBI would find him eventually. Now they've turned up on his doorstep—and they know all about his ability to travel through time using baseball cards. In fact, they want to send him back in time on a mission: to warn President Roosevelt about the attack on Pearl Harbor!



### **Kensuke's Kingdom**

Michael Morpurgo

A young boy is stranded on a small island with a man from a much different background who helps him survive.



### **Lizzie at Last**

Claudia Mills

Lizzie, who has always been considered a nerd by the other kids, begins the seventh grade determined to change her image so that she can blend in better with the popular crowd.



### **The Mysterious Benedict Society**

Trenton L. Stewart

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected to go on a secret mission at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.



### **Uprising**

Margaret Peterson Haddix

The author draws on extensive historical research to bring the tragedy of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire to life through her story of Yetta, Bella, and Jane.

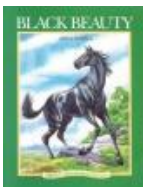
## CLASSICS



### **Old Yeller**

Fred Gipson

Enjoy the adventures of a boy and his dog in the wilderness.



### **Black Beauty**

Anna Sewell

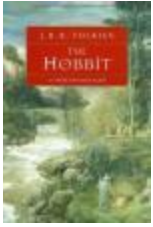
When Black Beauty is just a young colt, his mother warns him that a horse's life is often difficult. This strong, handsome horse meets with many adventures and all types of people.



### **Anne of Green Gables**

L. M. Montgomery

Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley wins the heart of her foster mother in the first of this well-known series.



### **The Hobbit**

J.R.R. Tolkien

Discover the adventures of dwarf-like creatures, the Hobbits, living in Middle Earth.



### **The Prince and the Pauper**

Mark Twain

A prince and a pauper, identical in appearance, change places as a prank.



### **Everything On It**

Shel Silverstein

More than one hundred and thirty poems and drawings by the American poet-artist, this collection will follow in the tradition and format of Shel Silverstein's acclaimed poetry classics.



### **National Velvet**

Enid Bagnold

A fourteen-year-old girl rides her piebald horse in the Grand National.



### **Fantastic Voyage**

Isaac Asimov

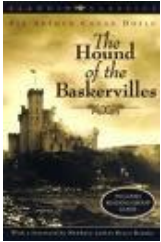
Journey with four men and a woman into the living body of a man as told in this classic science fictional tale.



### **Little Women**

Louisa May Alcott

Share the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters in 19<sup>th</sup> century New England.



### **Hound of the Baskervilles**

Arthur Conan Doyle

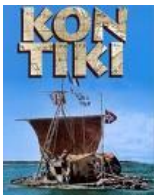
Sherlock Holmes sets out to solve the mystery that haunts the Baskerville family.



### **Journey to the Center of the Earth**

Jules Verne

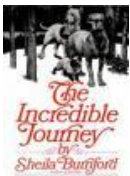
Geologist Liedenbrock can't resist setting out with his 16-year-old nephew to go where only one man has gone before --- the core of the Earth.



### **Kontiki**

Thor Heyerdahl

Six men on a small raft sail four thousand miles across the Pacific Ocean, from Peru to the Polynesian Islands.

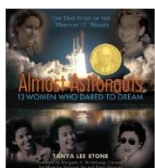


### **The Incredible Journey**

Sheila Burnford

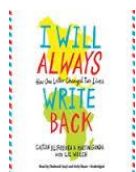
A young Labrador Retriever, an aging Bull Terrier, and a feisty Siamese cat embark on a dangerous journey home through the Canadian wilderness.

## NONFICTION



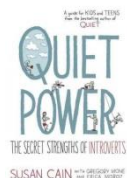
### **Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream** Tanya Lee Stone

What does it take to be an astronaut? Excellence at flying, courage, intelligence, resistance to stress, top physical shape — any checklist would include these. But when America created NASA in 1958, there was another unspoken rule: you had to be a man.



### **I Will Always Write Back** Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch

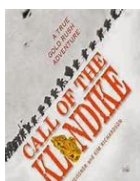
It started as a writing assignment for Caitlin and Martin. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.



### **Quiet Power**

Susan Cain

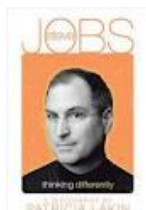
This book is all about a kid's world— school, clubs, family life, and friendship. Read about actual kids who have tackled the challenges of not being extroverted and who have made a mark in their own quiet way.



### **Call of the Klondike: A True Gold Rush Adventure**

David Meissner and Kim Richardson

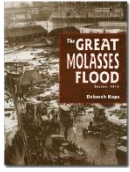
This is the riveting, true, action-packed adventure of Marshall Bond and Stanley Pearce as they travel to the Klondike goldfields. The account includes their telegrams, diaries, and letters, as well as newspaper articles and photographs.



### **Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently**

Patricia Lakin

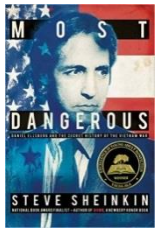
Read about the extraordinary and complex life of Steve Jobs and how he has impacted our lives today.



### **The Great Molasses Flood**

Deborah Kops

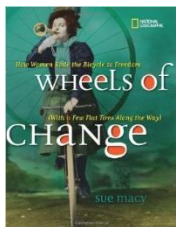
January 15, 1919, an unseasonably warm day in Boston, Massachusetts. Suddenly, a sea of molasses transforms the north end of the city. What happened? Why?



### **Most Dangerous**

Steve Sheinkin

A tense, narrative nonfiction account of what the *Times* deemed "the greatest story of the century": how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from obscure government analyst into "the most dangerous man in America," and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon / Cold War era.



### **Wheels of Change**

Sue Macy

Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons, and songs, *Wheels of Change* transports readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives.



### **Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart**

Candace Fleming

In alternating chapters, the reader moves back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane.



### **Behind Enemy Lines**

Bill Doyle

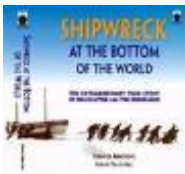
The amazing stories of courage from the American Revolution to current world conflicts.



### **Up Close: Theodore Roosevelt**

Michael L. Cooper

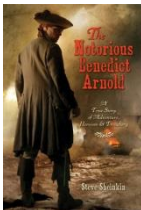
This extremely readable biography portrays the 26th president's full and varied life as a naturalist, cowboy, soldier, author, loving husband, doting father, civil servant, and unexpected (but very successful) president.



### **Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World**

J. Armstrong

This story follows Shackleton and his crew on their 1914 Antarctic Expedition.



### **The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery**

Steve Sheinkin

Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure of Benedict Arnold, America's first notorious traitor.

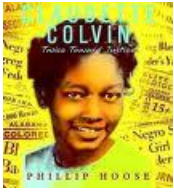


### **The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible... on Schindler's List**

Leon Leyson, Marilyn J. Harran and Elisabeth B. Leyson

Leon Leyson's remarkable memoir is a moving account of a happy childhood shattered by the Holocaust. Leyson was fortunate enough to survive, thanks largely to Oskar Schindler. As the youngest member of Schindler's list, Leyson offers a unique perspective on the man who became his lifelong hero.

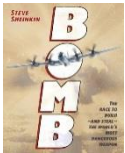




### **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**

Philip M. Hoose

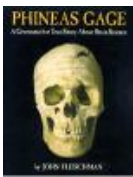
In Montgomery, AL, March 1955, 15-year-old Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Colvin played a central role in the city's civil rights drama, but her story has been largely lost in the shadow of Rosa Parks.



### **Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon**

Steve Sheinkin

This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.



### **Phineas Gage**

John Fleischman

The story of a construction foreman, who, in 1848, survived ten years after a 13 pound iron rod shot through his brain.



### **Hidden Like Anne Frank**

Marcel Prins, Peter Henk Steenhuis and Laura Watkinson

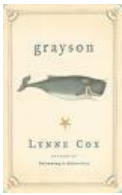
Fourteen unforgettable true stories of children hidden away during World War II.



### **Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius**

Dava Sobel

Read how John Harrison developed a clock that measured longitude.



### **Grayson**

Lynne Cox

In this memoir, Cox details a morning swim off the coast of California that took an unexpected turn. Returning to shore, she discovers that she is being followed by a baby gray whale that has been separated from its mother.



### **Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during World War II**

Martin W. Sandler

This book shows the inside life in the internment camps and gives an in-depth look at a troubling period of American history.



### **An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793**

Jim Murphy

History, science, politics, and public health come together in this account of the yellow fever epidemic.



### **American Revolutionaries**

Milton Meltzer

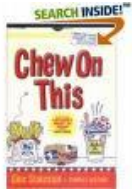
Young people at the time of the American Revolution describe historical events.



### **Gizmos and Gadgets: Creating Science Contraptions that Work and Knowing Why**

J. Hauser

Besides providing instructions for making contraptions, this book explains how to think like an inventor.



### **Chew on This**

Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson

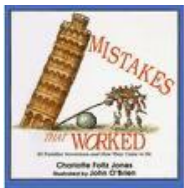
Read about the fast-food industry's growth, practices, and effects on public health. The author lays out the details behind the tasty burgers and sandwiches of fast food restaurants.



### **Kindred Spirit**

Catherine M. Andronik

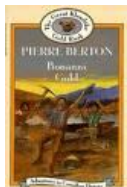
Discover the personal and literary career of the Canadian writer best known for her novels about Anne of Green Gables.



### **Mistakes That Worked**

Charlotte Foltz-Jones

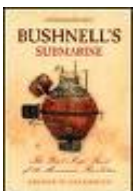
Learn about forty familiar inventions and how they came to be.



### **Bonanza Gold**

Pierre Berton

Discover the characters and stories about the beginning of Canada's great Klondike gold rush.



### **Bushnell's Submarine**

Arthur Lefkowitz

This book relates the story of America's first submarine, the *American Turtle*, used during the Revolutionary War.



## **Gold Rush Dogs**

Read about the notable dogs of the Gold Rush era.

Iaire Rudolf Murphy