



**Trumbull Public Schools  
Summer 2018 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.

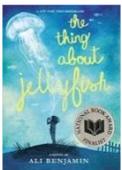
We recommend that you review this list and make your own decisions based on the suitability of the books for your individual child.

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!

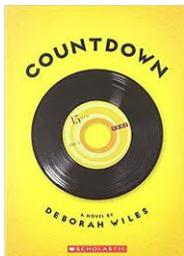
**FICTION**



**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.



**Countdown**

Deborah Wiles

As eleven-year-old Franny Chapman deals with drama at home and with her best friend in 1962, she tries to understand the larger problems in the world after President Kennedy announces that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba. Features historic quotations and photographs.



**Amina's Voice**

Hena Khan & Abigail De

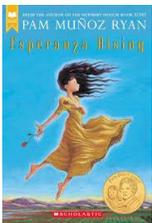
A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community. |



**Zebrafish**

Sharon Emerson, drawn by Renée Kurilla

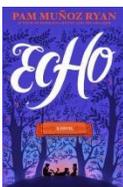
When their rock band becomes popular, five middle schoolers use their new fame to generate awareness (and donations) for an important cause



**Esperanza Rising**

Pam Muñoz Ryan Esperanza

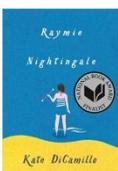
and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.



**Echo**

Pam Munoz 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

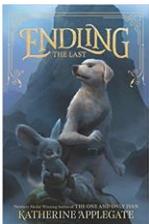
Stranded in the war torn Pacific, Patrick and his younger brother Teddy are finally homeward-bound. They've stowed away on one of the US Navy's finest ships, and now they just need to stay hidden. But Japanese torpedoes rip their dream apart.



### **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...

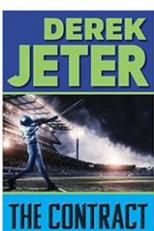


### **Ending**

Katherine Applegate

Byx is the youngest member of her dairne pack. Believed to possess remarkable abilities, her mythical dog like species has been hunted to near extinction in the war-torn kingdom of Nedarra.

After her pack is hunted down and killed, Byx fears she may be the last of her species. The Ending. So Byx sets out to find safe haven, and to see if the legends of other hidden dairnes are true.



### **The Contract**

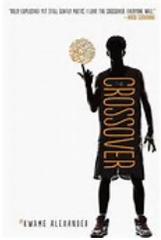
As a young boy, Derek Jeter dreams of being the shortstop for the New York Yankees. He even imagines himself in the World Series. So when Derek is chosen for the Little League Tigers, he hopes to play shortstop. But on the day of the assignments, Derek Starts at second base. Still, he tries his best while he wishes and dreams of that shortstop spot. And to help him stay focused on school, his parents make him a contract: keep up the grades or no baseball. Derek makes sure he always plays his best game—on and off the baseball field!



### **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**

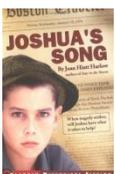
Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the basketball court. They come to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



### **Ashes**

**Laurie Halse Anderson**

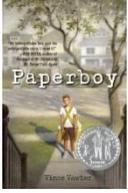
Return to the American Revolution in this blistering conclusion to the trilogy that began with the bestselling *Chains* and continued with *Forge*.



### **Joshua's Song**

**Joan Hiatt Harlow**

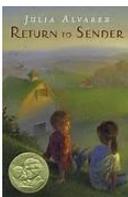
Disaster strikes the city of Boston in 1919. Joshua must do what he can to help, and in doing so he finds the place -- and the voice -- that he thought he'd lost.



### **Paperboy**

Vance Vawter

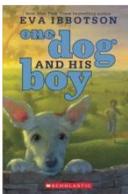
Victor Vollmer throws the meanest fastball in town. But talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering—not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he's not exactly looking forward to interacting with the customers.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

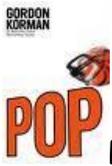
When Violet is invited to spend two weeks with her new *Bibi* (Swahili for "grandmother") and learns about her lost heritage, her confidence in herself grows and she discovers she's not a shrinking Violet after all.



## Faith, Hope, and Ivy June

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

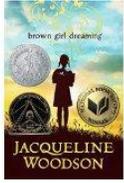
During a student exchange program, seventh graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, home and communities and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites, they have a lot in common.



## Pop

Gordon Korman

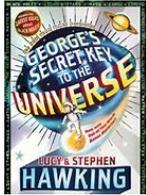
When Marcus moves to a new town, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Charlie. He can't believe his good luck when he finds out that Charlie is actually Charlie Popovich, a former NFL linebacker.



### **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

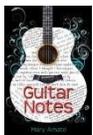
George is taken through the vastness of space by a scientist, his daughter, and a super computer named Cosmos.



### **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

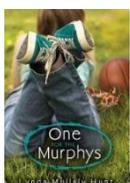
On odd days, Tripp Broody uses a school practice room. On even days, Lyla Marks uses the same practice room. What starts as a series of snippy notes quickly blossoms into the sharing of interests, secrets, dreams, and the forging of a friendship.



### **Hit the Road**

Joan Bauer

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

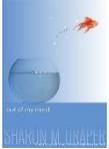
Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed.



### **Heat**

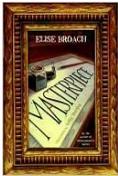
Mike Lupica

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**

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

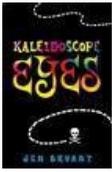
James, a boy who lives with his family in a grand apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and Marvin, a beetle whose extended family resides behind James' mother's kitchen, find themselves embroiled in a plot to steal a Dürer drawing from the Metropolitan Museum. They must find creative ways to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



### **The Hypnotists**

Gordon Korman

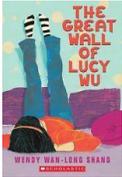
Jackson Opus has always been persuasive, but he doesn't know that he's descended from the two most powerful hypnotist bloodlines on the planet. He's excited to be accepted into a special program, where Jackson will have to find a way to use his powers to save his friends, his parents, and his government.



### **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

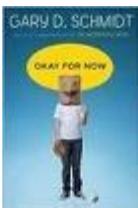
Joe, fourteen, is the first member of his Russian-Jewish family born in the United States. He wonders if he will ever get to go to Coney Island. He finds his life changes when his parents turn their apartment into a teddy-bear factory.



### **A Single Shard**

Linda Sue Park

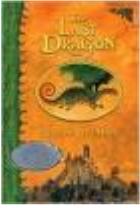
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.



### **OK for Now**

Gary D. Schmidt

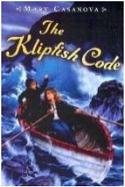
Doug is an 8th grader who, due to his father losing his job, moves to a small town with his family. Amidst multiple family issues, Doug manages to discover much about not only his neighbors, but himself as well.



### **The Last Dragon**

Sarah Weeks

Yorsh and his two human friends, Sajra and Monster, 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 Munoz 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.



### **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



**The Secret Garden**

Frances Hodgson Burnett

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.



**Old Yeller**

Fred Gipson

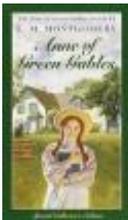
Enjoy the adventures of a boy and his dog in the wilderness.



**Black Beauty**

Anna Sewell

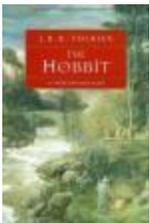
When Black Beauty is just a young colt, his mother warns him that a horse's life is often difficult. This strong, handsome horse meets with many adventures and all types of people.



**Anne of Green Gables**

L. M. Montgomery

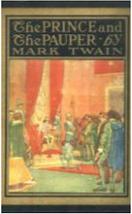
Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley wins the heart of her foster mother in the first of this well-known series.



**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

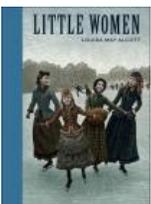
A fourteen-year-old girl rides her piebald horse in the Grand National.



### **Fantastic Voyage**

Isaac Asimov

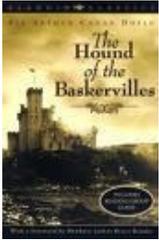
Journey with four men and a woman into the living body of a man as told in this classic science fictional tale.



### **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

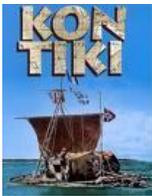
Sherlock Holmes sets out to solve the mystery that haunts the Baskerville family.



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

Jules Verne

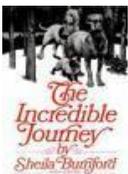
Geologist Liedenbrock can't resist setting out with his 16-year-old nephew to go where only one man has gone before --- the core of the Earth.



### **Kontiki**

Thor Heyerdahl

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

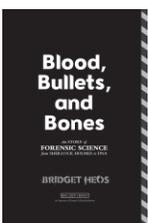


### **The Incredible Journey**

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**

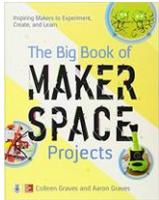


to DNA

***Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA***  
Bridget Heos

This book provides young readers with a fresh and fascinating look at the ever-evolving science of forensics.

Since the introduction of DNA testing, forensic science has been in the forefront of the public's imagination, thanks especially to popular television shows like *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. But forensic analysis has been practiced for thousands of years.



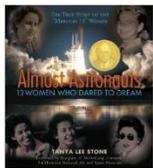
**The Big Book of Makerspace Projects: Inspiring Makers to Experiment, Create and Learn**

This easy-to-follow guide features dozens of DIY, low-cost projects that will arm you with the skills necessary to dream up and build your own creations. *The Big Book of Makerspace Projects: Inspiring Makers to Experiment, Create, and Learn* offers practical tips for beginners and open-ended challenges for advanced makers. Each project features non-technical, step-by-step instructions with photos and illustrations to ensure success and expand your imagination. You will learn recyclables hacks, smartphone tweaks, paper circuits, e-textiles, musical instruments, coding and programming, 3-D printing, and much, much more!



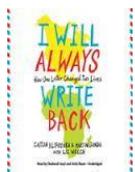
**Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral and Getting it Done** A. Gonzales and S. Houser

Perfect for aspiring coders everywhere, *Girl Code* is the story of two teenage tech phenoms who met at Girls Who Code summer camp, teamed up to create a viral video game, and ended up becoming world famous. The book also includes bonus content to help you start coding!



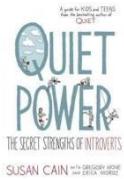
**Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream** Tanya Lee Stone

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**

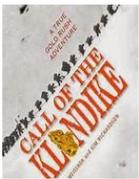
Susan Cain

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.

### **How the Beatles Changed the World**

Martin W. Sandler

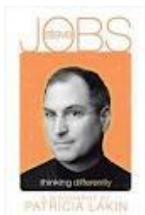
Fifty years after the British invasion began, Martin Sandler explores The Beatles' long-lasting impact on the world.



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

David Meissner and Kim Richardson

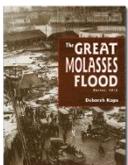
This is the riveting, true, action-packed adventure of Marshall Bond and Stanley Pearce as they travel to the Klondike goldfields. The account includes their telegrams, diaries, and letters, as well as newspaper articles and photographs.



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

Patricia Lakin

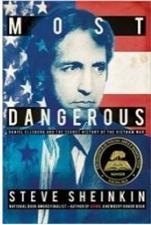
Read about the extraordinary and complex life of Steve Jobs and how he has impacted our lives today.



### **The Great Molasses Flood**

Deborah Kops

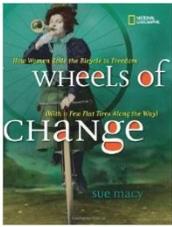
January 15, 1919, an unseasonably warm day in Boston, Massachusetts. Suddenly, a sea of molasses transforms the north end of the city. What happened? Why?



## **Most Dangerous**

Steve Sheinkin

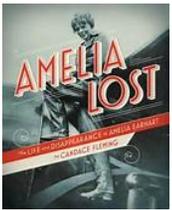
A tense, narrative nonfiction account of what the *Times* deemed "the greatest story of the century": how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from obscure government analyst into "the most dangerous man in America," and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon / Cold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



## **Wheels of Change**

Sue Macy

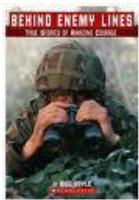
Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons, and songs, *Wheels of Change* transports readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives.



## **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

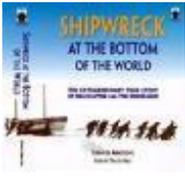
The amazing stories of courage from the American Revolution to current world conflicts.



## **Up Close: Theodore Roosevelt**

Michael L. Cooper

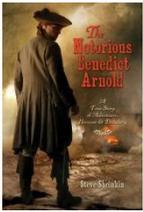
This extremely readable biography portrays the 26th president's full and varied life as a naturalist, cowboy, soldier, author, loving husband, doting father, civil servant, and unexpected (but very successful) president.



**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

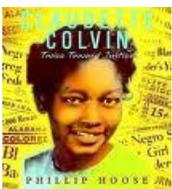
Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure of Benedict Arnold, America's first notorious traitor.



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

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

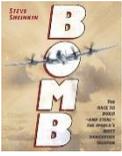
Leon Leyson's remarkable memoir is a moving account of a happy childhood shattered by the Holocaust. Leyson was fortunate enough to survive, thanks largely to Oskar Schindler. As the youngest member of Schindler's list, Leyson offers a unique perspective on the man who became his lifelong hero.



**Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**

Philip M. Hoose

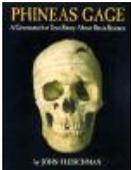
In Montgomery, AL, March 1955, 15-year-old Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Colvin played a central role in the city's civil rights drama, but her story has been largely lost in the shadow of Rosa Parks.



**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

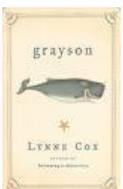
Fourteen unforgettable true stories of children hidden away during World War II.



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

Dava Sobel

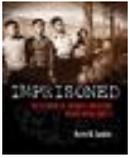
Read how John Harrison developed a clock that measured longitude.



**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

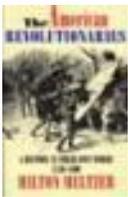
This book shows the inside life in the internment camps and gives an in-depth look at a troubling period of American history.



**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

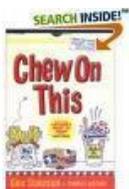
Young people at the time of the American Revolution describe historical events.



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

J. Hauser

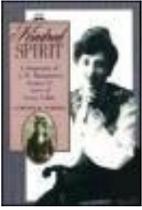
Besides providing instructions for making contraptions, this book explains how to think like an inventor.



**Chew on This**

Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson

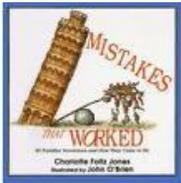
Read about the fast-food industry's growth, practices, and effects on public health. The author lays out the details behind the tasty burgers and sandwiches of fast food restaurants.



### **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

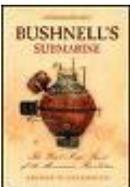
Learn about forty familiar inventions and how they came to be.



### **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**

Iaire Rudolf Murphy

Read about the notable dogs of the Gold Rush era.