

Middle School Summer Reading Suggestions

ADAMS, DOUGLAS

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway.

BAUER, JOAN

Hope Was Here

Sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move to a small town where they become involved in a campaign to force out the corrupt mayor. The story combines suspense, humor, and a bit of romance.

BAUER, MARION DANE (editor)

Am I Blue? Coming Out From The Silence

These sixteen short stories by noted young adult authors are about growing up gay or lesbian or having gay or lesbian friends or parents. The title story asks the unusual question --what if everyone who was gay was identifiable, for example, by the color blue? These stories look at teen homosexuality from every angle and destroy gay stereotypes. This is a groundbreaking book, one of the first books published to address homosexual fiction for teens in a mainstream way. An added bonus: Because so many great writers contributed to this book, you get a chance to check out the writing style of some of the best authors for teens in one shot!

BLACKWOOD, GARY

The Shakespeare Stealer

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of *Hamlet*.

BLOOR, EDWARD

Tangerine

Twelve-year-old Paul's family revolves around his football-hero brother, failing to notice as Paul fights for the right to play soccer when disqualified by his bad eyesight.

CORMIER, ROBERT

The Chocolate War

First published 1974, a high school freshman is shunned and abused by faculty and peers when he refuses to join the school's annual fund raising drive.

DEUKER, CARL

Night Hoops

While trying to prove that he should play on the varsity basketball team, freshman Nick Abbott must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

DRAPER, SHARON

The Battle of Jericho

Jericho is flattered when he is invited to pledge a prestigious club until he experiences its frightening secret ceremonies.

DUMAS, ALEXANDRE

The Count Of Monte Cristo

Young sailor Edmond Dantes, unjustly accused of aiding the exiled Napoleon, is sentenced to life imprisonment. After 14 years, Dantes makes a daring escape and uncovers a vast treasure on the island of Monte-Cristo. Adopting the persona of the Count of Monte Cristo, Dantes comes back home to seek revenge. Full of excitement and suspense, this is one to read on summer nights.

FARMER, NANCY

House of the Scorpion

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

HERBERT, FRANK

Dune

This Hugo and Nebula Award winner tells the sweeping tale of a desert planet called Arrakis, the focus of an intricate power struggle in a Byzantine interstellar empire.

HOLT, KIMBERLY WILLIS

When Zachary Beaver Came To Town

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.

KONIGSBURG, E.L.

Silent to the Bone

This is an intriguing mystery story by one of the world's greatest authors. Although it was written before *The Outcasts of 19 Schulyer Place*, the events actually take place after that novel's action. It also takes place in Epiphany, New York, and Margaret Rose is not the heroine, but she plays a very different kind of role.

KRAKAUER, JON

Into Thin Air

A personal account of the disastrous 1996 Mt. Everest expedition, the author provides his own insights about what leads to the tragedy in this suspenseful and highly engaging work of non-fiction.

LE GUIN, URSULA

A Wizard of Earthsea

This is the first in a quartet about a boy named Sparrowhawk who becomes a wizard's apprentice in a fantastical imaginary world called Earthsea. If you like J.R.R. Tolkien, you might really like LeGuin.

MEYER, CAROLYN

White Lilacs

In 1921 Dillon, Texas, twelve-year-old Rose Lee sees trouble threatening her black community when the whites decide to take their land for a city park.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN

Monster

"Monster" is what the prosecutor calls 16-year-old Steve Hannon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this innovative novel, the reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life.

OATES, JOYCE CAROL

Big Mouth And Ugly Girl

When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

POTOK, CHAIM

The Chosen (and others)

This odyssey of two, young, Jewish men journeying from adolescence to manhood is set in Brooklyn during the 1940's.

PULLMAN, PHILIP

The Amber Spyglass

In this powerful ending of a thrilling trilogy, as war rages and Dust drains from the sky, the fate of the living and dead comes to depend on Lyra and Will, two ordinary children with extraordinary powers. The first two titles in the trilogy are *The Golden Compass* and *The Subtle Knife*.

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza is forced to leave her life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California.

SOTO, GARY

Baseball In April (and others)

This group of eleven stories is about growing up Mexican-American in central California.

STEINBECK, JOHN

The Grapes of Wrath

Steinbeck tells the story of a family's fight for survival despite the injustices present in the lives of migrant farm workers.

TSUKIYAMA, GAIL

Women of the Silk

If you liked *The Samurai's Garden*, you may wish to read another of her novels. This tells the story of a group of Chinese women toiling from dawn to dusk in a vast silk factory who forge a sisterhood and lead the first strike against their employers.

WELLS, ROSEMARY

Red Moon at Sharpsburg

This powerful Civil War novel depicts the sacrifices made by a smart and independent Southern girl whose father disappears

WHITE, T. H.

The Once And Future King

The magnificent legend of King Arthur is retold as a novel for modern readers. Arthur's anguish over war, the love story of Guinevere and Lancelot, and the evil Mordred comprise the story of Camelot. Also: *The Book of Merlyn*.

WOODSON, JACQUELINE

Hush

In her own words, Toswiah describes her lonely and deteriorating newly invented life. Her family is in the witness protection program because her father has agreed to testify in a murder case involving two policemen.