



*Summer Reading Suggestions*  
*Cal Young Middle School Library*  
*June 2008 - Stay tuned for new additions!*

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*Classics*

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. 1813.  
19<sup>th</sup> century “chick lit.”

Haley, Alex. *Roots*. 1976 (for mature readers)  
The monumental saga of Alex Haley's twelve-year search for his family's origins. Through six generations of slaves and freedmen, farmers and blacksmiths, lawyers and architects, he traced his ancestry back to Africa, back to Kunta Kinte, the sixteen-year-old youth torn from his homeland and brought in torment and anguish to the slave markets of the New World.

Hunt, Irene. *Up a Road Slowly*. 1966. \*\*\* Newberry Medal 1966 \*\*\*  
After her mother's death, Julie goes to live with her Aunt Cordelia, a spinster schoolteacher, where she experiences many emotions and changes as she grows from seven to eighteen.

L'Amour, Louis. *The Daybreakers*. 1960  
Western fiction.

London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*.  
An unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Rawlings, Marjorie. *The Yearling*. 1939.  
A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

Rawl, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*. 1961.  
Billy trains his two dogs in the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country to be the finest hunting team in the valley proving loyalty and bravery in the face of danger.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. 1960  
An account of the author's experiences as a young Jewish boy in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

## *Fantasy and Science Fiction*

Colfer, Eoin. *Airman*. 2008

In the late nineteenth century, when Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and, hardest of all, trust to carry him to safety.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. 2006

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

*The Tale of Despereaux*. 2003 \*\*\* YRCA 2006 Winner \*\*\*

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Hale, Shannon. *Book of a Thousand Days*. 2007

Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Higgins, F.E. *The Black Book of Secrets*. 2007

When Ludlow Fitch runs away from his thieving parents in the City, he meets up with the mysterious Joe Zabbidou, who calls himself a secret pawnbroker, and who takes Ludlow as an apprentice to record the confessions of the townspeople of Pagus Parvus, where resentments are many and trust is scarce.

Knox, Elizabeth. *Dreamhunter: Book One..* 2006 (for mature readers)

In a world where select people can enter "The Place" and find dreams of every kind to share with others for a fee, a fifteen-year-old girl is training to be a dreamhunter when her father disappears, leaving her to carry on his mysterious mission.

*Dreamquake: Book Two..* 2007 (for mature readers)

Aided by her family and her creation, Nown, Laura investigates the powerful Regulatory Body's involvement in mysterious disappearances and activities and learns, in the process, the true nature of the Place in which dreams are found.

Mull, Brandon. *Fablehaven*. 2006

\*\*\* YRCA 2009 Nominee; 2009 Battle of the Book selection \*\*\*

When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and that a battle between good and evil is looming.

*Fablehaven, Rise of the Evening Star*. 2007

When Kendra and Seth return to Fablehaven, they discover that Grandpa Sorenson has asked three specialists to protect the property from the Society of the Evening Star, a group determined to steal an artifact of great power from the preserve.

***Fablehaven, Grip of the Shadow Plague.* 2008**

Seth attempts to halt a plague that is turning Fablehaven's beings of light into creatures of darkness, while his sister Kendra and the Knights of the Dawn attempt to retrieve an artifact before the Society of the Evening Star.

Riordan, Rick. ***The Lightning Thief.* 2005 \*\*\* YRCA 2008 Winner \*\*\***

After learning that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea, Percy Jackson is transferred from boarding school to Camp Half-Blood, a summer camp for demigods, and becomes involved in a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

***The Sea of Monsters.* 2006**

Demi-god Percy Jackson and his friends must journey into the Sea of Monsters to save their camp. But first Percy will discover a secret that makes him wonder whether being claimed as Poseidon's son is an honor or a cruel joke.

***The Titan's Curse.* 2007**

When the goddess Artemis disappears while hunting a rare, ancient monster, a group of her followers joins Percy and his friends in an attempt to find and rescue her before the winter solstice, when her influence is needed to sway the Olympian Council regarding the war with the Titans.

***The Battle of the Labyrinth.* 2008**

When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near.

*Getting along (or not) with friends, romance, and other realities*

Bray, Libba. ***A Great and Terrible Beauty.* 2003 (for mature readers)**

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

***Rebel Angels.* 2005**

Gemma and her friends from the Spence Academy return to the realms to defeat her foe, Circe, and to bind the magic that has been released.

***The Sweet Far Thing.* 2007**

At Spence Academy, sixteen-year-old Gemma Doyle continues preparing for her London debut while struggling to determine how best to use magic to resolve a power struggle in the enchanted world of the realms, and to protect her own world and loved ones.

De la Cruz, Melissa. ***Blue Bloods.* 2006**

Select teenagers from some of New York City's wealthiest and most socially prominent families learn a startling secret about their bloodlines.

De la Cruz, Melissa. *Masquerade*. 2007

Schuyler Van Alen, growing comfortable with her newfound vampire powers, seeks her grandfather in Italy, while back in New York plans are being completed for the fabulous Four Hundred Ball, to be followed by an elite, teens-only event at which masks hide a terrible secret.

Harrison, Lisi. *The Clique: a novel*. 2004 (first of an ongoing series)

Wealthy Massie is determined to exclude middle class Claire, the daughter of her father's old friend, from her seventh-grade clique at a very exclusive private school in Westchester, New York, but after Massie steals her only friend, Claire strikes back.

Meyer, Stephanie. *Twilight*. 2005

When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

*New Moon*. 2006 \*\*\* YRCA 2009 Nominee \*\*\*

When the Cullens, including her beloved Edward, leave Forks rather than risk revealing that they are vampires, it is almost too much for eighteen-year-old Bella to bear, but she finds solace in her friend Jacob until he is drawn into a "cult" and changes in terrible ways.

*Eclipse*. 2007 (for mature readers)

Bella must choose between her friendship with Jacob and her relationship with Edward, both vampires, but when Seattle is ravaged by a mysterious string of killings, the three of them need to decide whether their personal lives are more important than the well-being of an entire city.

### *An Historical Angle in the Mix...*

Cooney, Caroline B. *Enter Three Witches: A Story of Macbeth*. 2007

When her father betrays the Scottish king and is hung as a traitor, Lady Mary's future is bleak after she loses her only true protector and ends up locked away in the tower by the powerful and deadly Lord and lady Macbeth.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam*. 2007

A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.

Peck, Richard. *A Long Way from Chicago*. 1998

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. 2007 \*\*\* Newberry Honor Book 2008 \*\*\*

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Feathers*. 2007 \*\*\* Newberry Honor Book 2008 \*\*\*

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

## Laugh Out Loud

Korman, Gordon. ***Son of the Mob***. 2002. \*\*\* YRCA 2005 Winner \*\*\*

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

### ***Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle***. 2004

Eighteen-year-old Vince Luca, son of mob boss Anthony Luca, goes away to college in California hoping to escape his past, but soon his brother and a series of "uncles" appear at his dorm, and he is caught up in criminal activity once again.

Snickett, Lemony. ***A Series of Unfortunate Events*** –

13 books, starting with ***The Bad Beginning***

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

## Real Life Choices

Brashares, Ann. ***Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants***. 2002 \*\*\* YRCA 2004 Winner \*\*\*

During summer break, longtime friends Lena, Tibby, Carmen, and Bridget each embark on adventures that they share with each other through a pair of jeans that they have decided will be worn by all and so will absorb all of their stories. (Plus sequels!)

Cooney, Caroline B. ***Code Orange***. 2005 \*\*\* YRCA 2008 Nominee \*\*\*

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Cummings, Priscilla. ***Red Kayak***. 2004 \*\*\* YRCA 2007 Nominee \*\*\*

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

Koertge, Ronald. ***Strays***. 2007

Recently orphaned, sixteen-year-old Ted O'Connor is sent to a foster home, where he identifies more with animals than with people.

O'Conner, Barbara. ***How to Steal a Dog: a novel***. 2007

Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Wringer***. 1997. \*\*\* Newberry Honor Book 1998 \*\*\*

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.