



Lower School Selections

Instructions:

Each grade has a required book and a list of supplemental reading. Students should find the grade they will be entering in fall 2019 and read and annotate the required book in preparation for a fall writing assessment. Students should also read at least one of the supplemental books for their grade. These books can be purchased at any local bookstore or online retailer.

Legend for reading levels:

A= Accessible to all students

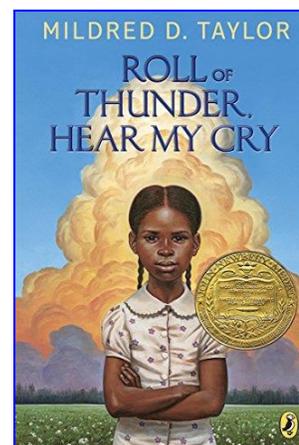
C= Challenging

V= Very challenging

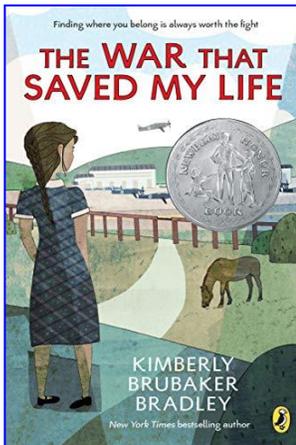
6th Grade

REQUIRED BOOK: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

Winner of the Newbery Medal, this remarkably moving novel takes place in Mississippi at the height of the Depression. This is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. We meet Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why owning land is so crucial to her family, and she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.



6th GRADE SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST:



***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley - A**

#1 New York Times Bestseller, Newbery Honor Book

An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II, from the acclaimed author of *Jefferson's Sons* and for fans of *Number the Stars*. Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment; her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. When her little brother Jamie ships out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada and Jamie. Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, proving she is capable of anything. This work of historical fiction is a new classic.

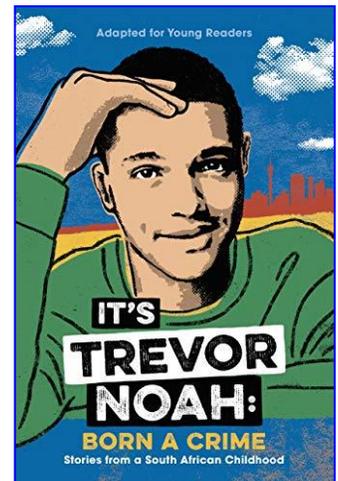
It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood

by Trevor Noah

(Adapted for Young Readers) - A

Trevor Noah (the host of *The Daily Show*) tells the story of growing up half black, half white in South Africa under apartheid in this young readers' adaptation of his bestselling adult memoir *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*.

In a country where racism bars blacks from social, educational, and economic opportunity, Trevor overcomes staggering obstacles and creates a promising future for himself, thanks to his mom's unwavering love and indomitable will. Noah not only provides a fascinating and honest perspective on South Africa's racial history, he will also astound and inspire young readers to create their own paths.



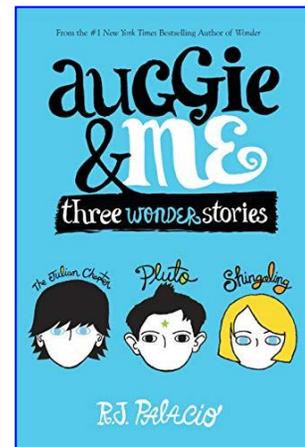
***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli - A**

A modern-day classic and New York Times bestseller that celebrates the power of individuality and personal expression from beloved Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted.

At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

***Auggie & Me* by R. J. Palacio - A**

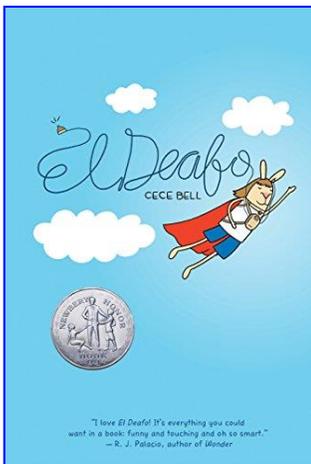
Auggie & Me gives readers a special look at Auggie's world from the popular *Wonder* story through three new points of view. These stories show Auggie before he started at Beecher Prep and during his first year there. Readers see Auggie through the eyes of Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie's oldest friend; and Charlotte, Auggie's new friend at school. Together, these three stories are a treasure for readers who do not want to leave Auggie behind when they finish *Wonder*.



***El Deafo* by Cece Bell - A**

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. Going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid.

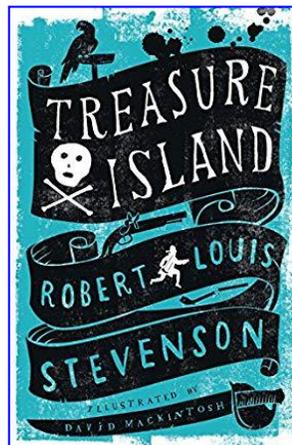
The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn't—but it also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. Cece is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become “El Deafo, Listener for All.” Most importantly, Cece declares a place for herself and finds the friend she has longed for.



7th Grade

REQUIRED BOOK: *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck

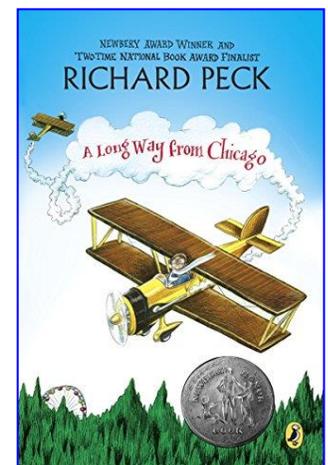
Each summer Joey and his sister, Mary Alice—two city slickers from Chicago—visit Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town. Soon enough, they find that it is far from sleepy...and Grandma is far from your typical grandmother. From seeing their first corpse (and he isn't resting easy) to helping Grandma trespass, catch the sheriff in his underwear, and feed the hungry—all in one day—Joey and Mary Alice have nine summers they'll never forget!



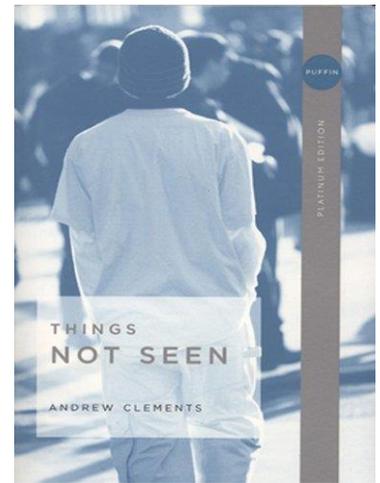
7th GRADE SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST:

***Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson - V**

One of the best-loved adventure stories ever written, *Treasure Island's* timeless tale of pirates, lost treasure maps, mutiny and derring-do has appealed to generations of readers ever since Robert Louis Stevenson penned it in 1881 with the claim: “If this don't fetch the kids, why, they have gone

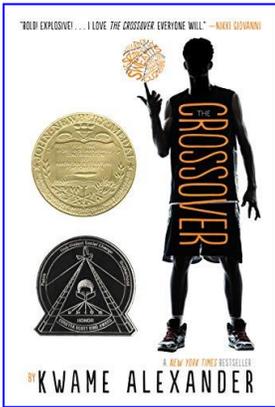


rotten since my day." More than just a children's classic, the novel introduces such famous characters as the unforgettable Long John Silver. *Treasure Island* is a coming-of-age story favorite of both adults and children.



Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements - C

Bobby Phillips is an average fifteen-year-old-boy until the morning he wakes up and can't see himself in the mirror. Not blind, not dreaming--Bobby is just plain invisible. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to Bobby's new condition; even his dad the physicist can't figure it out. For Bobby that means no school, no friends, no life. He's a missing person. People start to wonder where Bobby is, and he knows that his invisibility could have dangerous consequences for his family. Time is running out: Bobby has to figure out how to be seen again--before it's too late.

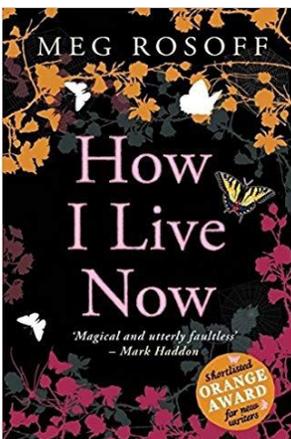
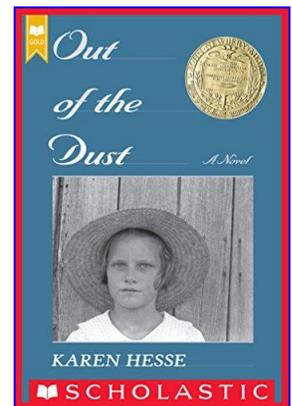


The Crossover, by Kwame Alexander - A

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court and realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse - A

A terrible accident transforms Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father cannot talk about it. The one thing that might make her feel better -- playing the piano -- is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma -- and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.



8th Grade

REQUIRED BOOK: *How I Live Now* by Meg Rosoff

Fifteen-year-old Daisy is sent from Manhattan to England to visit her aunt and cousins she's never met: three boys near her age, and their little sister. Her aunt goes away on business soon after Daisy arrives. The next day bombs go off as London is attacked and occupied by an unnamed enemy. As the power fails, the farm becomes more isolated.

Despite the war, it's a kind of Eden, with no adults in charge and no rules, a place where Daisy's uncanny bond with her cousins grows into something rare and extraordinary. A riveting and astonishing story.

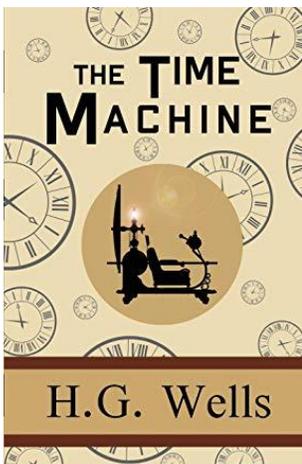
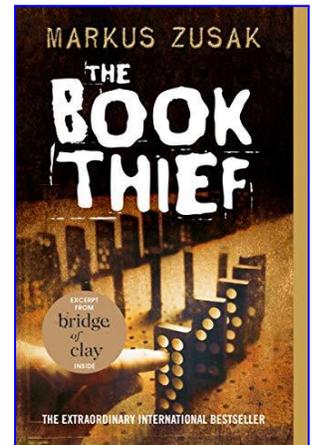
8th GRADE SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST:

***The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak - C**

When Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when one day she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. Award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.



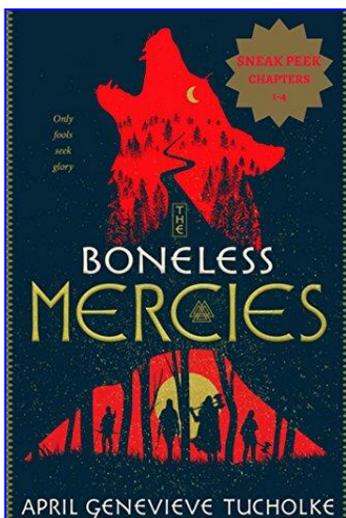
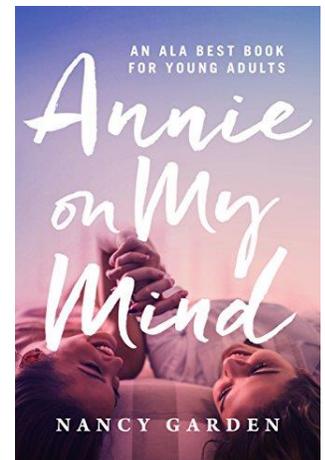
***The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells -V**

In this riveting science fiction tale years ahead of its time, a gentleman inventor living in England known simply as “the Time Traveller,” traverses first thousands of years, and then millions into the future. He returns with the terrifying knowledge of the grave degeneration of the human race and the planet. One wonders if Wells could truly see into the future, as over 100 years after its publication date, his visions seem timelier than ever.

***Annie on my Mind* by Nancy Garden - A**

First published in 1982, this groundbreaking book is the story of two teenage girls whose friendship blossoms into love. Despite pressures from family and school that threaten their relationship, they promise to be true to each other and their feelings.

From the moment Liza Winthrop meets Annie Kenyon at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she knows there is something special between them. Liza never knew falling in love could be so wonderful . . . or so confusing.



***The Boneless Mercies* by April Genevieve Tucholke - C**

Frey, Ovie, Juniper, and Runa are the Boneless Mercies—girls hired to kill quickly, quietly, and mercifully. Yet Frey is weary of the death trade and, having been raised on the heroic sagas of her people, dreams of a bigger life.

When she hears of an unstoppable monster ravaging a nearby town, Frey decides this is the Mercies' one chance out. The fame and fortune of bringing down such a beast would ensure a new future for all the Mercies. In fact, her actions may change the story arc of women everywhere.

"Frey embodies the pursuit of glory through quest to become a hero remembered in story and myth. Fans of *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* will find similar themes and elements. This is a must-have for avid fantasy readers who enjoy action-packed plots.