

Thacher Montessori 2010 Summer Reading List Adolescent Program

Please read at least three unabridged books from the list below. Keep a list of all the books you read.

A Nation Divided: War Between the States

Tamarack Tree by Patricia Clapp, RL: 7 214 pp.

During the siege of Vicksburg in the spring of 1863, an 18-yr-old English girl finds her loyalties divided as she experiences hardships.

Last Silk Dress by Ann Rinaldi, RL: 7 350 pp.

During the Civil War, Susan helps the Confederate Army and uncovers a series of mysterious family secrets.

Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen, RL: 7 102 pp.

In the Minnesota Volunteers, fifteen-year-old Charlie learns how to be a soldier and a man.

Becca's Story by James Forman, RL: 8 192 pp.

This is a novel, based on documentary, about Becky's two boyfriends marching off to the Civil War.

A Nation Grows: Westward Expansion

Borderlands by Peter Carter, RL: 7 423 pp.

A 13-year-old orphan learns how to survive on his own in the Old West.

Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep, RL: 7 273 pp.

A young immigrant boy from China joins his father and uncle in their efforts to build the transcontinental railroad.

Beyond the Divide by Kathryn Lasky, RL: 8 297 pp.

14-year-old Meribah defies convention by leaving her secure home in Pennsylvania to travel to the American West with her father.

Hard Times in America: The Great Depression

A Girl From Yamhill by Beverly Cleary, RL: 8 320 pp.

This is the author's memoir about her childhood spent on the family farm in Oregon during the Depression.

End of a Dark Road by Crystal Thrasher, RL: 7 228 pp.

This book shares the life of the Robinsons, a rural farm family, as they experience both joy and sorrow during the Depression years.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, RL: 9 304 pp.

A young African American girl faces the hardships of growing up in Depression-era America.

The World at War: World War II and the Holocaust

Along the Tracks by Tamar Bergman, RL: 7 256 pp.

The story of a young Jewish boy as he struggles to survive after he is driven home by the German invasion, becomes a refugee in Soviet Union and gets separated from his family.

Man From the Other Side by Uri Orlev, RL: 7 186 pp.

14-year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising, while living on the outskirts of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Alicia: My Story by Alicia Jurman Appleman, RL: 8 356 pp.

After losing her entire family to the Nazis, Alicia rescued thousands of Jews.

Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, RL: 8 340 pp.

The diary of a young girl who lived in hiding with her family and friends during wartime Holland.

The Wave by Todd Strasser, RL: 7-8 140 pp.

The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a “new” system to his students. And before long “The Wave,” with its rules of “strength through discipline, community, and action,” sweeps from the classroom through the entire school.

The Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene, RL: 7-8 208 pp.

When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, 12-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust by Livia Bitten-Jackson, RL: 7-8 224pp.

An intense autobiographical account of a 13-year-old’s sudden introduction to war. When Nazis invaded her Hungarian home, Elli found herself shipped to a concentration camp, where she was selected for work. As one of the few teenage camp inmates, Elli recounts a chilling story of survival.

Fighting for Liberty: American Civil Rights Movement

Ludie’s Song by Dirlie Herlihy, RL: 7 212 pp.

When Mary develops a friendship with a black woman in a small, southern town in the 1950’s, she leads the people of the town to reexamine their beliefs and ideals.

Just Like Martin by Ossie David, RL: 7 215 pp.

14-year-old Stone believes in Martin Luther King's nonviolent tactics and wants to participate in the March in Washington, but his father has different opinions and does not let him participate.

Now Is Your Time: The African American Struggle for Freedom by Walter Dean Myers, RL: 8 320 pp.

This book tells about the African American experience from slavery to modern times, highlighting the Civil Rights Movement.

Not Separate, Not Equal by Brenda Wilkinson RL: 8 152 pp.

Malene is one of the six black students to integrate a Georgia public high school during the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-1960's. She experiences hatred and racism.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor, RL: 7-8 228pp.

Taylor's Newbery Medal-winning novel tells the story of one African American family, fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930's.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis, RL: 7-8 256pp.

10-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers, RL: 7-8 224 pp.

Myers paints a fascinating picture of his childhood growing up in Harlem in the 1940's, with an adult's benefit of hindsight. What emerges is a clear sense of how one young man's gifts separate him from his peers, causing him to stir up trouble in order to belong.

I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This by Jacqueline Woodson, RL: 7 128 pp.

Two girls: one white, one black; one abused, one protected; both missing their mothers. An unlikely friendship ignites between the two, and, in sharing their differences, both of their lives are transformed. Jacqueline Woodson won a Coretta Scott King Honor for this moving, tightly written tale of friendship, racism, and loss.

General

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin, RL: 7-8 192 pp.

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier, RL: 7-8 272 pp.

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fundraising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

Night Hoops by Carl Deuker, RL: 7-8 256 pp.

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman, RL: 7-8 230 pp.

Sally Lockhart finds herself enmeshed in the perplexing clues surrounding her father's death, in this rousing Victorian thriller.

Z is for Zachariah by Robert O'Brien, RL: 7-8 256 pp.

Seemingly the only person left alive after a nuclear war, a sixteen-year-old girl is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape.

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz, RL: 6-8 208 pp.

They told him his uncle died in a car accident. But fourteen-year-old Alex knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in his uncle's windshield confirm his suspicions. But nothing could prepare him for the news that the uncle he always thought he knew was really a spy for MI6-Britain's top-secret intelligence agency. Recruited to find his uncle's killers and complete his final mission, Alex suddenly finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan, RL: 6 288 pp.

With a hint of magical realism, this robust novel set in 1930 captures a Mexican girl's fall from riches and her immigration to California.

Acceleration by Graham McNamee, RL: 8 224 pp.

This is a fast-paced novel dealing with a pair of teenagers searching for a potential serial killer after one of the boys finds the deranged man's journal in the Lost and Found office of the Toronto subway system, where he works.

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleischman RL: 7-8 86 pp.

Science writer John Fleischman uses a clipped, engaging expository style to tell the incredible story of the railroad worker who, in 1848, survived the piercing blast of a 13-pound iron rod as it entered below his cheekbone and exited the front of his skull.

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman, RL: 6-8 192

A fast paced novel about how a school is affected by an eighth-grade boy who won't tell a lie.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares RL: 7-8 336 pp.

This is a delightful story about friendship, summer jobs, romances, sibling rivalry, family tragedy, and a unique pair of blue jeans.

What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones, RL: 7-8 272

Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

Zazoo by Richard Mosher, RL: 7-8 224 pp.

Amid old secrets revealed and rifts healed, a thirteen-year-old Vietnamese orphan raised in rural France by her aging "Grand-Pierre" learns about life, death, and love.

Mississippi Trial, 1955 by Chris Crowe, RL: 8 240 pp.

Readers will be mesmerized by the horrific murder of Emmett Till and the blatant racism that was exhibited during the ensuing trial.

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis by Pete Nelson, RL: 8 201 pp.

This is both a tale of survival in shark-infested waters and a true story of how an 11-year-old boy's research changed the opinions of politicians and military bureaucrats about the truth surrounding the sinking of the USS Indianapolis near the end of World War II.

The Last Book in the Universe by Rodman Philbrick, RL: 7-8 224 pp.

In this adventure-filled story set in a future time without hope, a teenage boy called Spaz attempts to rescue his little sister with the help of an older man named Ryter and a genetically perfected girl from a place called Eden.

The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman, RL: 7-8 240 pp.

The humorous adventures of three friends who try to capitalize on Calvin Schwa's knack for being "functionally invisible."

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen, RL: 6-8 304 pp.

Hiaasen plunges readers right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies--three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt RL: 7-8 272 pp.

On Wednesday afternoons, Holling Hoodhood is alone in the classroom with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, whom Holling is convinced hates his guts. He feels more certain after Mrs. Baker assigns Shakespeare's plays for Holling to discuss during their shared afternoons. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island during the late '60s.