

Thacher Montessori School 2010 Summer Reading List Upper Elementary

Please read 4 or more books. Keep a list of all the books you read, and bring it in when the school year begins. Below you will find a list of books that might interest you. Please feel free to read books that are not on this list as well.

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick
This Civil War era tale features a mistreated orphan, Homer Figg, who leaves his home in Maine to rescue his older brother from the military. This Newbery Honor book for 2010 is entertaining from start to finish.

Larklight: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space by Philip Reeve

Art and Myrtle Mumby's space-fantasy adventure begins at Larklight, an ancient structure that orbits Earth. One day in 1851, they are attacked by spider-like creatures. After narrowly escaping, they become marooned on the moon, which is only the start of their adventures.

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Jennifer Choldenko

In 1935 when 12-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco, the federal prison is home to notorious criminals like gangster Al Capone. This is a very enjoyable coming-of-age story that won the Newbery Honor.

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Clementine says, "Spectacularful ideas are always sproinging up in my brain." Clementine is fun-loving third-grader with a talent for trouble and a good heart. She can't understand why her teachers say she isn't paying attention when she's so aware of what is going on around her and outside the windows!

The Tree of Life: A Book Depicting the Life of Charles Darwin:
Naturalist, Geologist & Thinker by Peter Sis

Chock-full of bits and snatches of the great thinker's writings, the book captures his curiosity, sense of adventure, and appreciation for the natural world.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

Callie Vee is an eleven year old in 1899 Texas who explores the natural world with a passion. She develops a close relationship with her like-minded grandfather who shares with her the wonders of Darwin's discoveries. This 2010 Newbery Honor book brings the reader right into the center of a lively turn of the century family, and is an exciting and enjoyable read.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Set during World War II, this story revolves around two girls, one Jewish, one not, and the resistance movement that successfully worked to save so many people from the Nazis.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

In 1978 in New York City, Miranda receives a series of confusing notes. In time she begins to realize that they are from someone who knows the future. Is time travel really possible? This 2010 Newbery Award winner is a creative mystery with hints of fantasy.

The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis

"Narnia where the woods are thick and cool, where Talking Beasts are called to life...a new world where the adventure begins."

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

In 1918, 16-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks leaves Iowa to prove up on a Montana homestead claim inherited from her uncle. Hattie faces hard work and prejudice, and learns the meaning of true friendship.

Anastasia Krupnik by Lois Lowry

This first book in a very popular series describes the ups and downs of a precocious ten-year-old girl.

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements

Mark is not terribly excited about attending the traditional *Week in the Woods* program at his new school. In fact, he's not interested in much of anything after moving to a small town in New Hampshire. But the beauty of nature begins to tempt him, and his week in the woods changes him in many ways.

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech

13-year-old orphan twins Dallas and Florida have given up on ever finding a home until they spend a summer with an eccentric elderly couple, accompanying them on an adventurous canoe trip and a birding expedition.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

This tale takes place in medieval England, where Alyce rises from the dung heap (literally) of homelessness and namelessness to find a station in life--apprentice to the crotchety, snaggle-toothed midwife Jane Sharp. 1996 Newbery Medal Winner.

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

This is the classic tale of Bilbo Baggins, a courageous hobbit, who leaves his comfortable hobbit hole to join 13 dwarves in their quest to reclaim their ancestors' hoard of treasure from Smaug, the fearsome dragon.

Magyk by Angie Sage

Septimus Heap, the seventh son of a seventh son, is expected to be a most powerful wizard. However, the midwife finds that he has suddenly died, and whisks him away. When the Heap family finds an abandoned infant girl the same day, the plot thickens. This first book of the Septimus Heap series will be enjoyed by many young fantasy fans and fills the gap as they wait for...

A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray by Ann M. Martin

This is a sweet, adventure filled tale of a stray dog named Squirrel, told in her voice. A great choice for animal lovers. The companion book, Everything For a Dog, is told by Squirrel's brother Bone, as well as two boys, Henry and Charlie.

Popular chapter book series:

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

Three friends, Dink, Josh and Ruby Rose, solve one mystery for each letter of the alphabet, from The Absent Author to The Zombie Zone.

The Secrets of Droon by Tony Abbott

Eric, Julie and Neil enter the land of Droon through a secret door that appears in Eric's basement. There they meet many fantastic creatures and help save Princess Keeah.

Other recommended authors: E. B. White, J. K. Rowling, Edward Eager, Patricia Reilly Giff, Avi, Linda Sue Park, Brian Jacques, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Katherine Paterson, Eva Ibbotson, E. L. Konigsburg.