



Highland Middle School



Summer 2018 Recommended Reading List

Grades 6 - 8

ADVENTURE / SURVIVAL

Alex Rider series, Anthony Horowitz
Chaos Code, Justin Richards
The Limit, Kristen Landon ✦
Peak, Roland Smith
The Young Man and the Sea, Rodman Philbrick

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, LIFE EXISTED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN (Historical Fiction)

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Jennifer Choldenko
Black Storm Comin', Diane Lee Wilson
The Book Thief, Markus Zusak ✦
Elijah of Buxton, Christopher Paul Curtis
Fire from the Rock, Sharon Draper
Thought My Soul Would Rise & Fly, Joyce Hansen
The Shakespeare Stealer, Gary Blackwood ✦

CALLING ALL ANIMAL LOVERS

Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam, Cynthia Kadohata
Gabriel's Horses, Alison Hart
My Life in Dog Years, Gary Paulsen
Shiloh series, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Wild Life, Cynthia DeFelice ✦✦

FOLKLORE / FAIRYTALES (ONCE UPON A TIME)

Beauty, Robin McKinley
Briar Rose, Jane Yolen
Heir Apparent, Vivian Vande Velde
Just Ella, Margaret P. Haddix
The Magic Circle, Donna Jo Napoli
Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow, Jessica Day George ✦

FOR DAYDREAMERS (FANTASY / SCIENCE FICTION / MYTHOLOGY)

Double Identify, Margaret Peterson Haddix
Dragon Slippers, Jessica Day George
Dussie, Nancy Springer
Found, Margaret Peterson Haddix (*The Missing series*) ✦
Gathering Blue, Lois Lowry
The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan
Long Shadows, Erin Hunter (*Warrriors series*)
The Magic Thief, Sarah Prineas
Michael Vey: the Prisoner of Cell 25, Richard Paul Evans ✦
The Pig Scrolls, by Paul Shipton

Ranger's Apprentice series, John Flanagan
The Redwall series, Brian Jacques
Skellig, David Almond
Storm Thief, Chris Wooding
The Underland Chronicles series, Suzanne Collins +
Variant, Robison E. Wells ★+
A World without Heroes, Brandon Mull ★

FOR JOCKS OR WOULD-BE JOCKS (SPORTS)

Boy Who Saved Baseball, John Ritter
Double Dutch, Sharon Draper
Football Genius, Tim Green
Quarterback Season, Fred Bowen ★
The Stumptown Kid, Carol Gorman

FOR KIDS WHO LOVE MATH, SCIENCE & COMPUTERS

The Gadget, Paul Zindel
The Power of Un, Nancy Etchemendy
Jean Craighead George - any novel

FOR KIDS WHO LIKE READING AS MUCH AS THEY LIKE TAKING TESTS

Bud, Not Buddy, Christopher Paul Curtis
Hatchet, Gary Paulsen
Monster or Scorpions, Walter Dean Myers +
Sixth Grade Glomers, Norks and Me, Lisa Papademetriou

GET REAL (BIOGRAPHIES / NON-FICTION)

Attila the Hun, Sean Stewart Price (*A Wicked History* series)
Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy, Andrea Warren
Journey to the Bottomless Pit: The Story of Stephen Bishop and Mammoth Cave, Elizabeth Mitchell
One More River to Cross: The Stories of Twelve Black Americans, James Haskins

GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING (GRAPHIC NOVELS)

Bone series, Jeff Smith
Polly and the Pirates, Ted Naifeh +
Rapunzel's Revenge, Shannon Hale
Tokyo Mew Mew series, Mia Ikumi
Usagi Yojimbo series, Stan Sakai
Wonderstruck: a Novel in Pictures and Words, Brian Selznick ★+

HEARTS & FLOWERS (ROMANCE)

Angel of Mercy, Lurlene McDaniel
Flipped, Wendelin Van Draanen
Romiette & Julio, Sharon Draper
Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli +

HAIR RAISERS / SPINE TINGLERS

The Boxes, William Sleator
Closed for the Season, Mary Downing Hahn ✦
Seer of Shadows, Avi
Smile, Raina Telgemeier
The Thief Lord, Cornelia Funke

HISTORY

Bodies from the Ash, James M. Deem

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS (LOUISIANA / SOUTHERN INTEREST)

The Cottonmouth Club, Lance Marcum
Fiddle Fever, Sharon Arms Doucet
Ruined, Paula Morris
The Secret of Gumbo Grove, Eleanora Tate
When Zachary Beaver Came to Town, Kimberly Willis Holt

INSPIRATIONAL (SOUL FOOD) & HELP BOOKS

Life Strategies for Teens, Jay McGraw ✦
A Rose for Melinda, Lurlene McDaniel
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, Sean Covey

IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME

A Candidate for Murder or Nightmare, Joan L. Nixon
Diamonds in the Shadow, Caroline Cooney
The Ghost in the Tokaldo Inn, Dorothy & Thomas Hoobler
Sammy Keyes series, Wendelin Van Draanen

LAGNIAPPE (LOUISIANA TALK FOR A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA)

Bloomability or Chasing Redbird, Sharon Creech
Dear Mr. Henshaw or Strider, Beverly Cleary
Miracle's Boys, Jacqueline Woodson
The Schwa Was Here, Nela Shusterman

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading, Tommy Greenwald ☆
Dying to Meet You, Kate Klise
Heads or Tails, Jack Gantos
Never Mind! A Twin Novel, Rachel Vail and Avi
No More Dead Dogs, Gordon Korman
Schooled, Gordon Korman
The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy, Richard Peck

NOT FOR SISSIES / BRAIN EXERCISE (CHALLENGING GREAT READS)

The Fellowship of the Ring, J. R. R. Tolkien
The Golden Compass, Philip Pullman ✦
Inkheart or Inkspell, Cornelia Funke
The Three Musketeers, Alexander Dumas ✦
The View from Saturday, E. L. Konigsburg

PICTURE BOOKS / NOT JUST FOR LITTLE KIDS

Incredible Cross-Sections, Stephen Blesty and Richard Platt
Leonardo da Vinci, Diane Stanley
So You Want to Be President? Judith St. George
A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet, Kathryn Lasky

POETRY

Carver: A Life in Poems, Marilyn Nelson
Ego-Tripping and Other Poems for Young People, Nikki Giovanni
Poetry for Swimming Upstream, Kristine O'Connell George
Rimshots, Charles R. Smith, Jr.
Technically It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems, John Grandits

WANDERLUST / DISCOVER WORLDS OUTSIDE LOUISIANA

Baseball in April & Other Stories, Gary Soto
Becoming Naomi Leon, Pam Munoz Ryan
Children of the River, Linda Crew
Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah

WHO SAYS FICTION ISN'T REAL? (BOOKS ABOUT REAL LIFE ISSUES)

11 Birthdays, Wendy Mass
Bird, Angela Johnson
Boys are Dogs, Leslie Margolis
Brand-New Emily, Rue, Ginger
Click Here: to Find out How I Survived the Seventh Grade, Denise Vega
Crash, Jerry Spinelli
The Fourth Stall, Chris Rylander ☆
Hidden, Helen Frost ☆
How to Rock Braces and Glasses, Meg Haston ☆
Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, Jack Gantos
Jolted: Newton Starker's Rules for Survival, Slade, Anthony
Kimchi and Calamari, Rose Kent
The Running Dream, Wendellin Van Draanen +
Schooled, Gordon Korman
The Skin I'm In, Sharon Flake
Silhouetted by the Blue, Traci L. Jones ☆
So Totally Emily Ebers, Lisa Yee +
Sunrise over Fallujah, Walter Dean Myers +
Waiting for Normal, Leslie Connor
What I Saw and How I Lied, Judy Blundell +