

Thacher Montessori School 2007 Summer Reading List Adolescent Program

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

General

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin RL: 7-8 192pp.
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 fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

The Ruby in the Smoke by Phillip Pullman RL: 7-8 230 pp.
Sally Lockhart finds herself enmeshed in the perplexing clues surrounding her father's death, in the rousing Victorian thriller.

Z 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.

The Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse RL: 7-12 192 pp.
This is an intriguing young adult novel about a girl, Mila, who is raised by dolphins from age 4 until she is 14. Then she returns to the human world where she becomes the focus of researchers who care more about studying her than helping her.

Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen RL: 7-8 168 pp.
This fictionalized autobiography recounts one summer the author spent with the family of his cousin Harris, a daredevil inventor old wild schemes extraordinaire.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor RL: 7-8 324 pp.
Paul Fisher is a most unusual hero. He wears thick glasses, has trouble fitting in, and is virtually ignored by his family. When forced to move to Tangerine, Florida, Paul tries hard to make the best of things, and winds up not only learning a lot about how real friendship works, but also teaching others about living up to your own definition of morality.

Slam! by Walter Dean Myers RL: 7-12 272 pp.

This is a gritty, realistic coming of age story about a young, black, talented athlete making his way on the streets and basketball courts of Harlem.

Hills, Hawgs, and Ho Chi Min by Don Kardong RL: 7-12 254 pp.

One of few books on the fine, memorable moments of being a runner. Full of voice, with well-chosen language that is both poetic and suited to the athletic world. The chapter on marathon runner Johnny Kelley will set you afire.

On My Honor by Marion Bauer RL: 7-12 96 pp.

What is guilt all about? This question haunts Joel, who fears he may be responsible for the death of his good friend, Tony. This is a short, but riveting story that does not take the easy way out.

Weslandia by Paul Fleischman RL: 7-12 40 pp.

This is the captivating story of misfit Wesley who has more tormentors than friends. So he founds his own civilization, and the rest really is history, history of Wesley's making. (Illustrated book)

Beginnings: Colonial America

The Serpent Never Sleeps by Scott O'Dell RL: 6 240 pp.

A story about a young woman who immigrates to the New World and comes to live in the Jamestown settlement.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth G. Speare RL: 6 223 pp.

Puritan neighbors regard Kit Tyler, a 16-year-old girl who traveled from Barbados to Connecticut, with suspicion, fear, and anger, when she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft.

Sarah on Her Own by Karen Coombs RL: 7 212 pp.

14-year-old Sarah arrives in the new colony of Virginia alone from England. While trying to earn her fare to return to England, she finds strength, courage, and even love for her new country.

Struggle for Independence: Revolutionary America

Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania by Kristina Gregory RL: 7 173 pp.

A young girl records the despair and hope she witnesses while George Washington is getting his soldiers ready in Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778.

April Morning by Howard Fast RL: 8 184 pp.

A young man's baptism of fire during the Battle of Lexington, in April, 1775.

An Enemy Among Them by D. H. DeFord Harry Stout RL: 8
200 pp.

Margaret's German American family supports the revolution in 1776. A historically based, romantic spy adventure.

George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outsmarted the British and Won the Revolutionary War by Thomas B. Allen
RL: 7 192 pp.

Allen discusses espionage during the Revolutionary War in this small, distinctive-looking volume. The concise narrative traces Washington's use of spies and makes a convincing case for the pivotal role that espionage played in defeating the British.

A Nation Divided: War Between the States

The Middle Passage by Tom Feelings RL: 7-12 80 pp.

Tom Feelings' vivid, passionate sketches portray the amazing resilience of those who traveled the slave ships to America packed like chord wood. The lesson here is that pictures, like text, have voice. Take a look. Feel the chill.

Tamarack Tree by Patricia Clapp RL: 7 214 pp.

During the siege of Vicksburg in the spring on 1863, an 18-year-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: 7 192 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.

My Name is Not Angelica by Scott O'Dell RL: 7-12 144 pp.

Raisha, a Senegalese girl and daughter of a chief, is brought as a slave to the Danish owned Caribbean island of St. John, where she is auctioned off and enters a world she could not have imagined in her native land. An honest look at the cruelty of slavery, and the inevitable uprising of 1733, as witnessed by a daring young woman whose spirit would not be crushed.

A Nation Grows: Westward Expansion

Borderlands by Peter Carter RL: 7 4 23 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.

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson RL: 7-8 304 pp.
In this engaging historical novel set in 1918, 16-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks leaves Iowa and travels to a Montana homestead inherited from her uncle. In the beautiful but harsh setting, she has less than a year to fence and cultivate the land in order to keep it.

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.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse RL: 7-8 256 pp.
A gripping, compelling portrait of life in the Dust Bowl era, viewed through the eyes of a 13-year-old girl. Written in free verse.

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 and his struggles to survive after he is driven from home by German invasion, becomes a refugee in the 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. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of “The Wave” and realize they must stop it before it’s too late.

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, twelve-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: 7-8 224 pp.

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 Davie 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: 7 215 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: 7-8 288 pp.

Taylor's Newbery Medal-winning *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* 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: 7-8 256 pp.
Ten-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.