

Thacher Montessori 2011 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 Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan

A novel based on the childhood of Nobel Laureate poet Pablo Neruda. Poetic illustrations by Peter Sís complete this beautiful story of an artistic young man whose father does not appreciate his dreams and talent.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

The author says, “My new book, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, is a 550 page novel in words and pictures. But unlike most novels, the images in my new book don't just illustrate the story; they help tell it...Paris in the 1930's, a thief, a broken machine, a strange girl, a mean old man, and the secrets that tie them all together... Welcome to *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.” (Caldecott Medal)

The Star of Kazan by Eva Ibbotson

Abandoned as a baby, Annika is found and adopted by two maids. Growing up in early-20th-century Vienna, she is perfectly content until a beautiful aristocrat appears and claims to be her mother, sweeping her off to a new life in a crumbling castle in northern Germany. Then the adventure and mystery begin.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

A 10-year-old boy in Depression-era Michigan set out to find the man he believes to be his father. (Newbery Medal)

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada. When Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of a thief, he discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled—a life from which he'll always be free, if he can find the courage to get back home. (Newbery Honor)

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

This ingenious fantasy centers around Milo, a bored ten-year-old who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth's gates and begins a memorable journey.

Rules by Cynthia Lord

12 year old Cynthia develops a set of rules to help her autistic brother David cope with life. Set in coastal Maine, this sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

The exciting adventure of a young woman's sailing trip from England to Providence RI in 1832. (Newbery Honor)

Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry

This story has captured generations of children both with its thrilling descriptions of true incidents from the tiny island of Chincoteague, and its realistic, yet wonderfully magical atmosphere. It is the story of a wild horse brought into captivity, and it poignantly reveals the powerful opposing forces of humans and nature.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

A funny, mysterious, and touching story about a thirteen-year-old who travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. (Newbery Medal)

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

by E. L. Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

The Heart of a Chief by Joseph Bruchac

An eleven-year-old Penacook Indian boy living on a reservation faces his father's alcoholism, a controversy surrounding plans for a casino on a tribal island, and insensitivity toward Native Americans in his school and nearby town

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. (Newbery Medal)

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

In this tale of courage and devotion, a single shard from a celadon vase changes the life of a young boy and his master. This book not only gives readers insight into ancient Korea, but it is also a wonderful tale of strength of character. (Newbery Medal)

Redwall by Brian Jacques

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior, which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. A roller-coaster adventure that barely draws breath from the first page to the very last.

Holes by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a frightening correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. (Newbery Medal)

Good Masters, Sweet Ladies: Voices From A Medieval Village

by Laura Amy Schlitz

Using a series of interconnected monologues and dialogues featuring young people living in and around an English manor in 1255, Schlitz offers first-person character sketches that build upon each other to create a finer understanding of medieval life. The book was inspired by the necessity of creating a play suitable for a classroom where "no one wanted a small part." (Newbery Medal)

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís

Sís' latest, a powerful combination of graphic novel and picture book, is an account of his growing up in Czechoslovakia under Soviet rule. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen

This is a short and hilarious tale of a boy who receives a riding lawn mower from his grandmother as a birthday gift. Almost accidentally, he speeds up the ladder of financial success.

Chu Ju's House by Gloria Whelan

In Chu Ju's village in China families are only allowed two children, and tradition states one should be a boy. When Chu Ju's mother gives birth to a second girl, Chu Ju leaves home and must live on her own to spare her sister's life.

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

12-year-old Abilene is sent to Manifest, Kansas, in 1936 to stay with Pastor Shady Howard. She doesn't understand why, and spends the summer piecing together the story of her father. (2011 Newberry Medal)

Many of the authors of the books listed above have written other great books, as well.

Other Recommended Authors: Sharon Creech, Karen Cushman, Scott O'Dell, E. B. White, Lois Lowry, J. K. Rowling, Russell Freedman, Karen Hesse