Choices 2013

Summer Reading Suggestions
For Middle School Students

From the public and school librarians of South Orange and Maplewood, New Jersey
Nonfiction and Biography

Suggested books for 6-8th grade students. You can find all of the books at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
Trapped by Marc Aronson: In early August 2010, the unthinkable happened when a mine collapsed in Copiapo, Chile, and 33 miners were trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources and increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention and rejoiced in the amazing spirit and determination of the miners. What could have been a terrible tragedy became an inspiring story of survival.

Superman vs the KKK by Rick Bowers: Superman was created as a hero for every person and became a hero of every time. Superman vs. the Ku Klux Klan traces the evolution of America's most enduring superhero from his inception in the minds of two Jewish high schoolers in a Cleveland suburb in the early 1930s through his early success as a New Deal champion of the oppressed and a WWII battler against facism, to the climax of his activist career in a 1946 radio show that exposed the brutality of the Klu Klux Klan.

How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg and Kevin O'Malley: Shares the sometimes gruesome details of the deaths of nineteen famous historical figures, including King Tut, Pocahontas, George Washington, Edgar Allan Poe, and Marie Curie.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal: Chronicles the life and accomplishments of Apple mogul Steve Jobs, discussing his ideas, and describing how he has influenced life in the twenty-first century.

Stolen Voices: Young People’s War Diaries from World War I to Iraq by Zlata Filipovic, Melanie Challenger and Olara A. Otunnu:
14 authors have contributed to this heartfelt piece detailing the fear and angst associated with war. Stories are told through the honest impressions of children as they try to find some normalcy in their changing societies.

**Amelia Lost by Candace Fleming:** From the acclaimed author of The Great and Only Barnum comes the thrilling story of America’s most celebrated flyer, Amelia Earhart. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself, this unique title is fascinating from start to finish.

**Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand:** Describes how three men worked together to turn a rough-hewn, undersized horse into one of the fastest horses in racing history.

**Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy by Al Marrin:** It’s been over 100 years since the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City burst into flames. One hundred and forty-six people perished – read more on this historical event of the unquenchable pride of fearless immigrants who stood up to change poor working conditions, making it better for today.

**Witches: The Absolutely True Tales of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer:** In the little colonial town of Salem Village, Massachusetts, two girls began to twitch, mumble, and contort their bodies into strange shapes. The doctor tried every remedy, but nothing cured the young Puritans. He grimly announced the dire diagnosis: the girls were bewitched! And then the accusations began. The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people’s lives and ruined hundreds more unfolds in chilling details.

**Chasing Lincoln’s Killer by James L. Swanson:** Based on his adult book “Manhunt,” Swanson writes a fast-paced thriller about the 12-day chase for Abraham Lincoln’s killer. You’ll find out why John Wilkes Booth wanted to shoot the president, and how Lincoln’s death affected those closest to him, as well as the nation.
The Blizzard of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917 by Sally Walker: On December 6, 1917 two ships collided in Halifax Harbour. One ship was loaded top to bottom with munitions and one held relief supplies, both intended for war torn Europe. The resulting blast flattened two towns, Halifax and Dartmouth, and killed nearly 2,000 people. As if that wasn't devastating enough, a blizzard hit the next day, dumping more than a foot of snow on the area and paralyzing much-needed relief efforts.

Zombie Makers: True Stories of the nature's undead by Rebecca L. Johnson: Are zombies real? Scientists know this for sure: dead people do not come back to live and start walking around, looking for trouble. But there are things that can take over the bodies and brains of innocent creatures, turning them into senseless slaves. Meet nature's zombie makers—including a fly-enslaving fungus, a suicide worm, and a cockroach-taming wasp—and their victims.

How to survive anything by Rachel Buchholz: Let's face it. With school pressures, social pressures, parental pressures...the teenage years are tough. Your best friend is with you one day, dating your crush the next. But it could be worse! You could be face-to-face with an angry grizzly, or chest-deep in quicksand. Never fear, National Geographic has the solution! In this hilariously informative take on surviving the trials of middle school and the jungles of South America, we combine our expertise on nature and adventure with the fun-and-learning approach of our Nat Geo style...and voila, the perfect advice to conquer any obstacle, whether it threatens life or social status or both.

Girls who rocked the world: heroines from Joan of Arc to Mother Teresa by Michelle McCann: Forty-six illustrated examples of strong, independent female role models, all of whom first impacted the world as teenagers or younger. Girls Who Rocked the World spans a variety of achievements, interests, and backgrounds, from Harriet Tubman and Coco Chanel to S.E. Hinton and Maya Lin—each with her own incredible story of how she created life-changing opportunities for herself and the world.

Boys who rocked the world: heroes from King Tut to Bruce Lee by Aladdin/Beyond Words: Forty-six illustrated examples of strong, independent male role models, all of whom first impacted the world as teenagers or younger. It encompasses a variety of achievements, interests, and backgrounds, from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Steve Jobs to Crazy Horse and Stephen King—each with his own incredible story of how he created life-changing opportunities for himself and the world.
Friend me! : 600 years of social networking in America by Francesca DiPazza: Friend Me! shows that people have been engaging in group interfacing with friends, families, neighbors, church groups, and other social groups long before computers and Facebook came along to make it faster and more global. It traces some of the more common venues such as corn husking parties, coffee houses, and the telegraph machine for social networking through curricular time periods in the study of U.S. history. It also explains the reason these venues came into being, who attended, what the social value was, what needs were met, how they built and maintained a sense of community, and how they evolved into other social utilities over time.

The story of Apple by Sara Gilbert: A look at the origins, leaders, growth, and products of Apple, the consumer electronics company that was founded in 1976 and today manufactures some of the world’s most popular computer products.

Soul surfer : a true story of faith, family, and fighting to get back on the board by Bethany Hamilton: Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

Bomb : the race to build and steal the world’s most dangerous weapon by Steve Sheinkin: In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world’s most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

For boys only : the biggest, baddest book ever by Marc Aronson Hey, Boys! Want to have some fun? Maybe learn how to land an airplane in an emergency? Or fight off an alligator? Escape from being tied up? How about taking a ride on one of America’s scariest roller coasters? Learn how to make fake blood or turn a real bone into a pretzel. What if you could find out how
to identify some of the world’s most horrifying creatures? Or learn the secret of making a blockbuster movie? What about guessing the top 11 greatest moments in sports history? Find buried treasure? And once you’ve found the treasure, find out just how much it would cost you to buy one of the world’s most expensive cars. You’ll find all this - and much more.

**Can I see your I.D.? : true stories of false identities by Chris Barton:** From the impoverished young woman who enchanted 19th-century British society as a faux Asian princess to the lonely but clever Frank Abagnale of "Catch Me if You Can" fame, these 10 vignettes offer riveting insight into mind-blowing masquerades.

**How I killed Pluto and why it had it coming by Mike Brown:** The solar system most of us grew up with included nine planets, with Mercury closest to the sun and Pluto at the outer edge. Then, in 2005, astronomer Mike Brown made the discovery of a lifetime: a tenth planet, Eris, slightly bigger than Pluto. But instead of its resulting in one more planet being added to our solar system, Brown’s find ignited a firestorm of controversy that riled the usually sedate world of astronomy and launched him into the public eye. The debate culminated in the demotion of Pluto from real planet to the newly coined category of "dwarf" planet. Suddenly Brown was receiving hate mail from schoolchildren and being bombarded by TV reporters—all because of the discovery he had spent years searching for and a lifetime dreaming about.

**Hope Solo : my story by Hope Solo:** Olympic gold medalist and goalie for the US women’s national soccer team, tells the exciting insider details of her life on and off the field, in her own words.

**Children of war : voices of Iraqi refugees by Deborah Ellis:** In this book, Deborah Ellis turns her attention to the most tragic victims of the Iraq war Iraqi children. She interviews young people, mostly refugees living in Jordan, but also a few who are trying to build new lives in North America. Some families have left Iraq with money; others are penniless and ill or disabled. Most of the children have parents who are working illegally or not at all, and the fear of deportation is a constant threat.
Chapter 2

Historical Fiction

Suggested books for 6-8th grade students. You can find all of the books at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen: During the Revolutionary War, 13-year-old Samuel’s family is taken prisoner by the British. Samuel is determined to rescue them, following their trail by using all of his forest skills as he goes deeper and deeper into enemy territory. Samuel confronts the horrors of the war, but also the humanity, as he finds unexpected allies who secretly help him save his family.

Brooklyn Bridge by Karen Hesse: Fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom’s life takes a dramatic turn when, in 1903 Brooklyn, his parents turn their apartment into a factory for making teddy bears, and Joseph wonders whether he will ever see the glitter of Coney Island.

The Smile by Donna Jo Napoli: Elisabetta is coming of age in a time of political intrigue, with Renaissance Florence as the backdrop for the evolving mystery of the girl who may have been the inspiration for Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece, Mona Lisa.

Fact and fiction combine to reveal an historically accurate tale and a tender and innocent first romance.

Bread and Roses Too by Katherine Paterson: Twelve-year-old Rosa and thirteen-year-old Jake form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The Inventions of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick: Hugo spends his life in secret in the walls of the Paris train station, until he gets caught stealing and things begin to unravel. Hugo’s space adventure unfolds through both the text and the pictures in this exciting story.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick: Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, where he
meets Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben’s story is told in words; Rose’s in pictures.

**Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool**: Is a story of a feisty and likable 12-year-old girl who is sent to live with her father’s friend in Manifest, Kansas, ten years after her mother went off on her own. While she waits for her father’s return, she meets different people and unlocks the mystery of friendship through a box of intriguing keepsakes.

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**: This bestselling book for mature readers is a sensitive and beautifully written portrayal of life in Germany for anti Nazi sympathizers. Death, recounts the story of Liesel who, separated from her parents and witness to the death of her brother, is sent to live with the Hubermans during the war. There she helps hide a Jewish boy named Max, and survives by learning to read and by stealing books. The author portrays a time and characters who cannot be forgotten.

**Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix**: In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss’s daughter, was only five years old.

**Code name Verity by Elizabeth Wein**: In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

**The watch that ends the night : voices from the Titanic by Allan Wolff**: Recreates the 1912 sinking of the Titanic as observed by millionaire John Jacob Astor, a beautiful young Lebanese refugee finding first love, "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, Captain Smith, and others including the iceberg itself.

**Sarah’s key by Tatiana Rosnay**: American journalist Julia Jarmond researches the brutal 1942 Nazi roundup in Paris and stumbles upon a connection between her family and one of the victims, which compels Julia to learn more about the girl’s life.

**Between shades of gray by Ruta Sepetys**: In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian
home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family.

One crazy summer by Rita Williams-Garcia: In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
Suggested books for 6-8th grade students. You can find all of the books at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie: Fourteen-year-old Arnold lives on an Indian reservation, wants to be a cartoonist, but doesn’t have many friends, other than his often violent friend Rowdy. Arnold transfers to the rich white school in a nearby town, a decision that he soon discovers carries enormous consequences back home. Based on the author’s own experiences, this book details how one Native American boy tries to break away from the life he assumed he had to live – but how you can never totally break free of your past.

Click by David Almond, Eoin Colfer, and others: Maggie is left a box of 7 seashells and a note with an instruction from her photojournalist grandfather, George “Gee” Keane. Each of the 10 chapters is written by a different author who together unfold the puzzle of the 7 shells.

The Future of Us by Jay Asher: It’s 1996, and less than half of all American high school students have ever used the Internet. Emma just got her first computer and Josh is her best friend. They power up and log on--and discover themselves on Facebook, fifteen years in the future. Everybody wonders what their destiny will be. Josh and Emma are about to find out.

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher: Jay comes home from school one day and sees a package on the porch addressed to him. In it are cassette tapes that could change his life forever. Each cassette has Hannah’s voice recorded explaining the 13 reasons she took her life, and Jay was one of them. If he listens, he becomes a key witness to Hannah’s death as she takes him on an expedition of places she wants him to visit. Learning the truth about yourself could never be more chilling.

Close to Famous by Joan Bauer: Foster McFee dreams of having her own cooking show like her idol, celebrity chef Sonny
Kroll. Macon Dillard’s goal is to be a documentary filmmaker. Foster’s mother Rayka longs to be a headliner instead of a back-up singer. And Miss Charleena plans a triumphant return to Hollywood. Everyone has a dream, but nobody is even close to famous in the little town of Culpepper. That is, until some unexpected events shake the town and its inhabitants—and put their big ambitions to the test.

**I Will Save You by Matt de la Pena**: Running away from his group home, therapy, and past, Kidd is spending the summer working for Mr. Red, an eccentric man who owns a campsite near the beach. While working there, he meets Olivia, a local, and starts dating her. A man named Devon from Kidd’s past shows up on the scene, and starts breaking the law, and he tries to get Kidd to do so as well. A man with a death wish, Devon refuses to leave until he teaches Kidd a few things about life. When his interactions become dangerous and he threatens to kill Olivia, Kidd must find a way to defeat Devon, confront his past, and save Olivia. Will he succeed?

**Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine**: When Caitlin’s brother suddenly dies, she wants to bring some comfort to her grieving father, but as a 10-year-old with Asperger’s syndrome, she doesn’t know how. With the help of her trusty dictionary, Caitlin is able to find closure for both her father and herself.

**Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos**: In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore—one that involves the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

**The Fault in Our Stars by John Green**: John Green’s fourth novel stars Hazel Lancaster, a whip-smart 16-year-old who has Stage IV thyroid cancer. Though she tries very hard not to get close to anyone, when Augustus Waters joins her support group, she finds that she may not have a choice in how she falls in love.
A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd by Patrick Ness and illustrated by Jim Kay: 13 year-old Connor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill—an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli: The whole school is not exactly a “hotbed of nonconformity” when they meet Stargirl Caraway, the new 10th grader who strums a ukulele, laughs when there are no jokes, dances when there’s no music. Read more about this eccentric character in the sequel, Love, Stargirl!

Wonder by R.J. Palacio: Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Scrawl: a novel by Mark Shulman: When eighth-grade school bully Tod and his friends get caught committing a crime on school property, his penalty—staying after school and writing in a journal under the eye of the school guidance counselor—reveals aspects of himself that he prefers to keep hidden.

The girl who threw butterflies by Mick Cochrane: Eighth-grader Molly’s ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, it helps in other aspects of her life, as well.

No ordinary day by Deborah Ellis: Valli has always been afraid of the lepers living on the other side of the train tracks in the coal town of Jharia, India, so when a chance encounter with a doctor reveals she also has leprosy, Valli rejects help and begins an uncertain life on the streets.

Bystander by James Preller: Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to not standing by and watching as the
bully at his new school hurts people, but although school officials are aware of the problem, Eric may be the one with a solution.

**The curious incident of the dog in the night-time by Mark Haddon:** Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor’s dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

**Last shot : a final four mystery by John Feinstein:** After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.
Science Fiction/Fantasy and Series Books

Suggested books for 6-8th grade students. You can find all of the books at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
**Savvy by Ingrid Law:** Everyone is special in their own way. What if you were part of an extraordinary family whose members, at the age 13, discover a special, if rather odd, talent. Mibs has 2 brothers; one causes hurricanes, the other creates electricity. As Mibs approaches her 13th birthday she dreams of having X-ray vision or, when her father is seriously injured, the ability to heal. With her siblings, Mibs sneaks a ride on a bus to get to the hospital in hopes of saving him.

**Clone Codes by Patricia McKissack:** There is a saying that “history repeats itself.” In 2170, clones and cyborgs are treated as slaves. Leanna has been learning about slavery and Harriet Tubman through virtual reality. Suddenly her life is plunged into chaos when she learns some startling information about herself and her mother’s role in a radical group, the Liberty Bell. This is the first book of a futuristic trilogy.

**The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern:** A circus known as Le Cirque des Rêves features two illusionists, Celia and Marco, who are unknowingly competing in a game to which they have been irrevocably bound by their mercurial masters, and as the two fall deeply and passionately in love with each other, their masters intervene with dangerous consequences.

**Son by Lois Lowry:** Companion book to: The Giver, Gathering blue, and Messenger. Unlike the other Birthmothers in her utopian community, teenaged Claire forms an attachment to her baby, feeling a great loss when he is taken to the Nurturing Center to be adopted by a family unit.

**The adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson:** In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.
The Mortal Instruments by Cassandra Clare: Teenager Clary Fray, who has the ability to see demons, is almost killed by a monster, becomes involved with the Shadowhunters, learns terrifying truths about her family, and tries to find a cure for her mother’s enchantment. The series includes: City of Bones, City of Ashes, City of Glass, City of Fallen Angels, City of Lost Souls.

The Infernal Devices by Cassandra Clare: is set in the same universe as The Mortal Instruments, but in the Victorian era. The series includes: Clockwork Angel, Clockwork Prince.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: You’ve heard about this series, and here it is: In a future nation, one boy and one girl from each district must fight to the death on national television. When Katniss and her friend defy the rules, they will have to do everything in their power to stay alive. The series includes: The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, Mockingjay.

Maze Runner by James Dashner: In book 1 of this trilogy, Thomas’ memory escapes him when he wakes up in the lift. He can’t even remember his first name, but not to worry, he’s not alone. Because when the door to the lift opens up, he’s surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade. And just like Thomas, they don’t know how they got there either! Every 30 days a boy is delivered in the lift; but the next day a girl is sent up, with a message that is surprising to everyone! The series includes: The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials, The Death Cure.

Drama High by L. Divine: 16 year-old Jayd Jackson is determined to start her junior year drama free, but she soon learns that life in her new predominately white high school is not the same as her tough inner city school as she tries to stop a fight that could ruin everything she has worked for. The series
includes: The Fight, Second Chance, Jayd's Legacy, Frenemies, Lady J, Courtin’ Jayd, Hustlin’, Keep It Movin’, Holidaze, Culture Clash, Cold


Delirium by Lauren Oliver: Lena Haloway is content in her safe, government-managed society. She feels (mostly) relaxed about the future in which her husband and career will be decided, and looks forward to turning 18, when she'll be cured of deliria, a.k.a. love. But 95 days before her cure, Lena meets Alex, a confident and mysterious young man who makes her heart flutter and her skin turn red-hot. As their romance blossoms, Lena begins to doubt the intentions of those in power, and fears that her world will turn gray should she submit to the procedure. The series includes: Delirium, Pandemonium, Requiem

Divergent by Veronica Roth: In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all. The series includes: Divergent, Insurgent.

Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini: Eragon and his dragon Saphira continue their adventures in the four books by Paolini; Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr and Inheritance.

Ruby Red by Kerstin Gier: Sixteen-year-old Gwen lives with her extended, and eccentric, family in an exclusive London neighborhood, and discovers her family’s time-travel gene when she mysteriously lands in the last century. The series also includes Sapphire Blue.

Matched by Allie Condie: Cassia begins to lose her faith in the Society when she is mistakenly paired with two different men during the selection of her ideal mate, and her decision of which man to choose leads her to leave the Society in order to work
with the rebel group the Rising. Their are three books in the trilogy: **Matched, Crossed, Reached.**

**Legend by Marie Lu:** June and Day make their way to Las Vegas where they join the rebel Patriot group and become involved in an assassination plot against the Elector in hopes of saving the Republic. The series also includes **Prodigy.**

**I am number four by Pittacus Lore:** In the beginning, they were a group of nine. Nine aliens who fled from their home planet of Lorien when it fell under attack by the evil Mogadorians. They scattered on Earth and went into hiding until the day they would be ready to strike back. They look just like ordinary teenagers, but they have extraordinary abilities known amongst their people as Legacies. The series also includes: **The Power of Six, The Rise of Nine.**

**Theodore Boone by John Grisham:** Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial. The series also includes: **The Abduction, The Accused.**

**The chronicles of Vladimir Tod by Heather Brewer:** Thirteen-year-old half-vampire Vladimir Tod struggles to navigate the ups and downs of attending school while keeping his untested powers and impulses under control. Series includes: **Eighth grade bites, Ninth grade slays, Tenth grade bleeds, Eleventh grade burns, Twelfth grade kills.**

**Secrets Of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott:** Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. Series includes: **Alchemyst, Enchantress, Magician, Necromancer, Sorceress, Warlock.**

**Middle School by James Patterson:** When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct. Series includes: **Get me out of here, My brother is a big, fat liar, The worst years of my life.**
Graphic Novels

Suggested books for 6-8th grade students. You can find all of the books at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
Chapter 5

Graphic Novels

Gandhi: a manga biography by Kazuki Ebine: A manga biography of Mahatma Gandhi, who led a campaign of nonviolent aggression against British rule in India resulted in a better life for the Indian people.

Drama by Raina Telgemeier: Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of Moon over Mississippi as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier: The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

A wrinkle in time: the graphic novel / Madeleine L'Engle; adapted and illustrated by Hope Larson: A graphic novel adaptation of "A Wrinkle in Time" in which Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, when they set out to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.

Foiled series by Jane Yolen: Aliera Carstairs, having always felt like an outcast at school but special in her fencing class, falls for Avery Castle, until a fencing foil with a large ruby on the hilt that her mother found at a sale reveals to her that both Avery and the world around her are not what they seem. Series also includes Curses! foiled again.

Resistance series: written by Carla Jablonski: Though their father is in a German P.O.W. camp, Paul and Marie are barely touched by World War II in Vichy, France, in 1942. But, when their friend Henri's parents disappear, the children decide to hide their Jewish friend from the Nazis and soon find themselves involved.
in the French Resistance. Series also includes Defiance, and Victory.

**Maximum Ride: the manga series by James Patterson & NaRae Lee:** Max, Fang, and Nudge set out for Death Valley to save Angel, who has been kidnapped by a sinister scientist.

**Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography by Sid Jacobson:** Drawing on the unique historical sites, archives, expertise, and unquestioned authority of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, New York Times bestselling authors Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon have created the first authorized and exhaustive graphic biography of Anne Frank. Their account is complete, covering the lives of Anne's parents, Edith and Otto; Anne's first years in Frankfurt; the rise of Nazism; the Franks' immigration to Amsterdam; war and occupation; Anne's years in the Secret Annex; betrayal and arrest; her deportation and tragic death in Bergen-Belsen; the survival of Anne's father; and his recovery and publication of her astounding diary.

**Twilight: The Graphic Novel (volumes 1 & 2) by Stephanie Meyer:** Volumes 1 and 2 are the complete visual adaptation of the first novel of the Twilight Saga.

**Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi:** Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

**Ghostopolis by Doug TenNapel:** Garth Hale, accidentally zapped into the ghost world by ghost wrangler Frank Gallows, teams up with Cecil, his grandfather's ghost, in an effort to save him from the evil ruler of Ghostopolis and get him back home again.
Chapter 6

Classics

Suggested books for 6-8th grade students. You can find all of the books at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott: Chronicles the fortunes, both humorous and sentimental, of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies and marry in nineteenth-century New England.

Alice in Wonderland & Through the looking glass by Lewis Carroll: By falling down a rabbit hole and stepping through a mirror, Alice experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters.

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells: A scientist invents a machine that carries him into the future. While there, he discovers a race of gentle humans. He also meets some evil creatures. Even worse, his Time Machine is trapped deep inside their secret caverns.

Lord of the Rings Series and the Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien: Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery: Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith: Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father’s romantic and her mother’s practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

The view from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg: Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Roll of thunder, hear my cry by Mildred D. Taylor: The story of one African American family fighting to stay together and be
strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s.

**Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis:** Magician's nephew -- The lion, the witch and the wardrobe -- The horse and his boy -- Prince Caspian -- The voyage of the Dawn Treader -- The silver chair -- The last battle. "The Chronicles of Narnia" series, set in the magical land of Narnia where magic and reality meet.

**Ender's series by Orson Scott Card:** Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

**Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen:** In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

**Jacob have I loved by Katherine Paterson:** Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.

**A Night to Remember by Walter Lord:** Provides an account of the sinking of the "Titanic," a reputedly unsinkable ship that went down in the Atlantic on April 10, 1912 after hitting an iceberg, resulting in the deaths of over 1,500 people.
Chapter 7

Suggested Authors

Suggested authors for 6-8th grade students. You can find them at the South Orange and Maplewood Public Libraries.
This a list of some of the many great YA authors that the librarians of South Orange and Maplewood suggest. You can find books from these authors at the libraries. Click on the authors name to take you to their website.

Marc Aronson
Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Joan Bauer
Libba Bray
Marina Budhos
Meg Cabot
Matt de la Pena
Sarah Dessen
Malcom Gladwell
Tim Green
John Green
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Deborah Hopkinson
Tanya Lee Stone
David Levithan
Mike Lupica
Wendy Mass
Jim Murphy
Walter Dean Myers
Lauren Myracle
Jordan Sonnenblick
Louis Sachar
Scott Westerfeld
Rita Williams-Garcia
Jacqueline Woodson
Chapter 8

Summer Reading Assignments

These are the summer reading assignments for grades 6-8 and 9-12. Please make sure to refer to them when doing your assignment and choosing your books.
Attached is the summer reading assignment for grades 6-8.

Interactive 8.1 Summer Reading Assignment

This is the summer reading assignment for grades 6-8
Attached is the summer reading assignment for grades 9-12.

**Interactive 8.2** 9-12 Summer Reading Assignment

*This is the summer reading assignment for grades 9-12*
Special Thanks to Elissa Malespina - South Orange Middle School Librarian- for taking the list and making it into this interactive ebook.

Thanks to Jeff Bradbury-@Teachercast for helping with the technical aspects of book.