



# Delicious Summer Reading



William Annin Middle School  
Library Media Center  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."  
Francis Bacon

## ADVENTURE, SURVIVAL, and just plain UNFORTUNATE EVENTS!

Hobbs, Will. **River Thunder.**

Jessie, Troy, and the rest of the crew from *Downriver* have returned to the Grand Canyon for adventure on the Colorado River. Do they have what it takes to row down the mighty Colorado?

Lawrence, Iain. **The Wreckers.**

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the Cornish coastal town where they are stranded. Read *The Smugglers*, also!

Mikaelsen, Ben. **Touching Spirit Bear.**

After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island.

Paulsen, Gary. **The Island.**

Every morning 15-year-old Wil Neuton gets up, brushes his teeth, leaves the house, and rows away from shore. He's discovered the island, a place where he can go to be alone and learn to know nature -- and himself.

Snicket, Lemony. **The Austere Academy.** (A Series of Unfortunate Events.)

As their outrageous misfortunes continue, the Baudelaire orphans are shipped off to a miserable boarding school, where they befriend the two Quagmire triplets and find that the dreaded Count Olaf has followed them. See others by this unique author.

## AWARD WINNERS

Creech, Sharon. **Absolutely Normal Chaos.**

A prequel to the Newbery Medal-winning *Walk Two Moons*, this book chronicles the daily life of 13-year-old Mary Lou Finney during her most chaotic and romantic summer ever. Mary Lou's summer journal -- which she begins grudgingly as a dreaded assignment for school -- becomes a hilarious chronicle of the circle of people and events that make her summer.

Creech, Sharon **Walk Two Moons.**

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca's mother has disappeared. While tracing her steps on a road trip with her eccentric grandparents, Sal tells about her friend Phoebe Winterbottom, whose mother vanished and who received secret messages after her disappearance.

Park, Linda Sue. **A Single Shard.**

The 2002 Newbery Medal winner takes readers to 12th century Korea to tell a timeless story of dedication to one's dreams and art. Tree-ear, an orphan who lives under a bridge with his wise friend Crane-man, becomes fascinated with a nearby community of potters.

## HISTORICAL

Blackwood, Gary. **The Shakespeare Stealer.**

Widge, an orphan boy with the ability to write unique shorthand, is ordered by his master to steal the script of *Hamlet* from Shakespeare's acting troupe.

Coleman, Penny. **Rosie the Riveter.**

World War II brought about many job opportunities for women. This book provides a solid overview of the role women played in the wartime workplace.

Freedman, Russell. **Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery.**

The courage and dedication of Eleanor Roosevelt, the first president's wife to have an independent role as spokesperson for the powerless and downtrodden, are described in this biography.

Holm, Jennifer. **Boston Jane.**

Schooled in the lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory.

Jiang, Ji-Li. **Red Scarf Girl: a Memoir of the Cultural Revolution.**

Ji-Li tells the story of her hardships and survival during the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Esperanza Rising.**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Wilson, Diane Lee. **I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade.**

Crippled Oyuna teaches herself to ride on the cold steppes of ancient Mongolia. Although Oyuna, her steed, and her faithful cat display extraordinary valor, her quest to find a milk-white horse and win the festival race is charged with danger.

Zindel, Paul. **The Gadget.**

It is 1945 and Stephen has moved to the top-secret military base in Los Alamos, New Mexico. His father, a famous physicist, is working on a project he his forbidden to discuss. Stephen is determined to find out the true nature of the "gadget."

## FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION

Alexander, Lloyd. **The Book of Three.**

In the magical realm of Prydain, Taran, a young and restless pigkeeper, would like to have an adventure. He gets more than he bargained for in this fantasy based on Welsh legends. This is the first of five chronicles. Try the others, too!

Brittain, Bill. **The Wish Giver.**

Thaddeus Blinn was just a funny little man who drifted into town with a strange tale about being able to give people whatever they wished -- for only 50 cents. There was nothing scary about him. At least, not until the wishing began....

Cooper, Susan. **The Dark is Rising.**

The seventh son of a seventh son, 11-year-old Will is irretrievably drawn into the eternal struggle between good and evil in this powerful fantasy set during the 12 days of Christmas. Continue this story with other books by Cooper.

L'Engle, Madeleine. **A Ring of Endless Light.**

During the summer her grandfather is dying of leukemia and death seems all around, 15-year-old Vicky finds comfort as the center of attention for three very different boys and with a pod of dolphins she is researching.

Lewis, C.S. **The Complete Chronicles of Narnia.**

Enter the magical land of Narnia, where enchanted creatures live and battles are fought between good and evil! Books include: **The Lion, Witch, and Wardrobe; Horse and His Boy, Last Battle, Silver Chair, Prince Caspian, and Voyage of the Dawn Treader.**

O'Brien, Robert C. **Z for Zachariah.**

Ann Burden is 16 and, as far as she knows, the only person left in the world. The nuclear radiation that destroyed the rest of the world has not touched the valley where she lives, and so she has remained, surviving as best she knows how, for the past year.

Pierce, Tamora. **Alanna: the First Adventure.**

Becoming a legend is not easy, as young Alanna discovers when she disguises herself as a boy and begins training to be a knight. Filled with swords and sorcery, adventure and intrigue, good and evil, this book is a rousing read for fantasy lovers.

## MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

Avi. **The Man Who Was Poe.**

In Providence, Rhode Island, in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of 11-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. **The Hound of the Baskervilles.**

Eerie howling on the moor and strange deaths at Baskerville lead Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to remarkable conclusions.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. **The Egypt Game.**

Melanie, and the new kid, April share a common interest in ancient Egypt. Complications arose when other people joined the original Egyptians, when a murderer ranged the neighborhood, and when an oracle predicted strange things.

## REALISTIC FICTION

Brashares, Ann. **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.**

Carmen decides to discard an old pair of jeans, but Tibby, Lena, and Bridget think they are great and decide that whoever the pants fit best will get them. When the jeans fit everyone perfectly, a sisterhood and a memorable summer begin.

Cleaver, Bill and Vera. **Where the Lilies Bloom.**

Mary Call has true Appalachian grit. When her dying father makes her promise to keep her brother and sisters together forever on the mountain and take no help from strangers, she is determined to keep her word.

Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key.**

Joey has ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) and is trying to get a grip on his behavior. His life is a roller coaster ride with mishaps at home and school, including a swallowed key!

Holt, Kimberly Willis. **Dancing in Cadillac Light.**

In 1968, eleven-year-old Jaynell's life in the town of Moon, Texas, is enlivened when her eccentric Grandpap comes to live with her family.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. **When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.**

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

Lowry, Lois. **A Summer to Die.**

Meg envies her older sister's popularity and prettiness and finds it difficult to cope with Molly's illness and eventual death.

Philbrick, W. R. **Freak the Mighty.**

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Stargirl.**

Sixteen year old Leo tells the story of Stargirl Caraway, who is shunned by her refusal to conform at Mica High School.

White, Ruth. **Belle Prater's Boy.**

When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin, and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.

## CLASSICS - A mix of Adventure, Fantasy, Historical, Realistic, and Science Fiction

Adams, Richard. **Watership Down.**

Seeing a vision of the destruction of their homes, a band of wild rabbits sets out on a quest for a new home.

Alcott, Louisa May. **Little Women.**

An endearing story of four sisters, the March family endures trials and tribulations while their father is involved in the Civil War.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. **The Secret Garden.**

Colin lives the life of a spoiled and incurable invalid until Mary, his orphaned cousin, arrives. The robin shows her the way to a locked, hidden garden, which Colin and Mary secretly restore. Find out what else is changed as the garden works its magic.

London, Jack. **The Call of the Wild.**

This is the story of the dog Buck, who strives to adapt himself to a hostile Klondike environment, struggling against cruel elements and even crueler men. When his master, John Thornton, is murdered, Buck escapes and becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Verne, Jules. **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea.**

In search of an unknown sea monster in 1867, three men go overboard and find refuge on what turns out to be a futuristic submarine. The refuge turns into a prison when Captain Nemo declares his intention of keeping them forever on the Nautilus.

## HUMOR

Lubar, David. **Hidden Talents.**

When thirteen-year-old Martin arrives at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, he falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

Spinelli, Jerry. **There's Girl in My Hammerlock.**

Eric's smile is so dazzling. Maisie is willing to do anything to be near him--even join the school wrestling team. But she is astonished at the avalanche of hostile opinion she provokes. Is it worth it?

Spinelli, Jerry. **Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?**

The sibling rivalry between twelve-year-old Megin and her older brother Greg intensifies after she ruins his science project and he retaliates by throwing her favorite hockey stick into the pond.

## **SPORTS**

Crutcher, Chris. **Stotan!**

A stotan is a cross between a stoic and a spartan and Coach Song wants to make Walker Dupree and three friends on the swim team stotans. The coach plans a stotan week for the four boys so they will be physically and mentally ready for anything.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Hoops.**

Lonnie Jackson is a talented basketball player. He hopes that the citywide tournament of champions will be his ticket out of Harlem. Gamblers put pressure on Cal, Lonnie's coach, to lose the championship game.

Myers, Walter Dean. **The Journal of Biddy Owens: The Negro Leagues.**

Teenager Biddy Owens' 1948 journal about working for the Birmingham Black Barons includes the games and the players, racism the team faces from New Orleans to Chicago, and his family's resistance to his becoming a professional baseball player.

## **TRUE LIFE ADVENTURE**

Armstrong, Jennifer. **Shipwreck at the bottom of the world.**

Describes the events of the 1914 **Shackleton** Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, *Endurance*, was finally crushed, forcing **Shackleton** and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Beattie, Owen and John Geiger. **Buried in Ice.**

A scientific research team probes the tragic and mysterious fate of Sir John Franklin's failed expedition to find the Northwest Passage in 1845.

Heyerdahl, Thor. **Kon Tiki: Across the Pacific by Raft.**

Kon-Tiki is the record of an astonishing adventure -- a journey of 4,300 miles across the Pacific Ocean by raft. Intrigued by Polynesian folklore, biologist Thor Heyerdahl suspected that the South Sea Islands had been settled by an ancient race from thousands of miles to the east, led by a mythical hero, Kon-Tiki. He decided to prove his theory by duplicating the legendary voyage.

Lovell, Jim and Jeffrey Kluger. **Apollo 13.**

Out of the seven Apollo expeditions to land on the moon, six of the efforts succeeded outstandingly and one failed. *Lost Moon* is the story of the failure and the incredible heroism of the three astronauts who brought their crippled vehicle back to earth. Previously titled *Lost Moon*.

## **FOR EVERYONE**

Canfield, Jack. **Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul, 101 Stories of Life, Love and Learning.**

This collection of stories guides teenagers through one of the most difficult periods in life, offering invaluable advice on the nature of friendship and love, the importance of belief in the future, the value of respect for oneself and others, and more -- all delivered with compassion and humor.

Copies of the summer reading list, as well as additional reading suggestions, can be found online at:

<http://www.bernardsboe.com/wams/cybrary/ReadingList/ReadingHomePage.htm>

For more information on other good books to read, and suggestions for grades 4-8, log on to:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/teachers/authorsandbooks/bestbooks/index.jhtml>

Thanks to the Annin Middle School Media Specialist, Kathy Hedden, and the Bernards Township Public Librarians, Antonette D'Orazio and Peggy Mellett, for their assistance in compiling this list.