

**Wydown Middle School
Summer 2009
Reading List**

FICTION

Allison, Jennifer. Gilda Joyce: The Ladies of the Lake. (2007 Edgar Award nominee) 339p; Grades 6-8; Having earned a scholarship to a private girls' high school, self-proclaimed psychic investigator Gilda Joyce investigates the circumstances surrounding the drowning death of a student whose ghost supposedly haunts the campus. Series continues with The Ghost Sonata. (Mystery)

Collins, Suzanne. The Hunger Games. (2009 ALA Best Books for YA) 374p; Grades 7 - Adult; Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. (Fantasy) (ALA – American Library Association; YA – Young Adult)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. Elijah of Buxton. (2008 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction) 352p; Grades 4-7; Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known in his hometown as the "fragile" boy who made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass. (Historical Fiction)

Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book. (2009 Newbery Award Winner) 320p; Grades 4-9; The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. (Fantasy)

Grimes, Nikki. Road to Paris. (2007 Coretta Scott King Honor) 153p; Grades 3-6; Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family. Just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision. (Contemporary Realistic Fiction)

Holm, Jennifer. Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf. (2008 ALA Notable Books for Children) 128p; Grades 5-7; Ginny has ten items on her big to-do list for seventh grade. None of them, however, include accidentally turning her hair pink. Or getting sent to detention for throwing frogs in class. Or the thousand other things that can go wrong between September and June. (Contemporary Realistic Fiction)

Larson, Kirby. Hattie Big Sky. (2007 Newbery Honor) 289p; Grades 6-8; Sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana in 1917 and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe. (Historical Fiction)

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. Dairy Queen. (2007 ALA Best Books for YA) 275p; Grades 7-9; After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. (Contemporary Realistic Fiction)

Paulsen, Gary. The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West. (2007 ALA Notable Book for Children) 137p; Grades 5-8; The story of Bass Reeves who was born a slave and later became one of the most respected federal marshals in Oklahoma and Texas. (Historical Fiction)

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. Life as We Knew It. (2009 Mark Twain Award Winner) 352p; Grades 6-10, Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. (Science Fiction)

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Pinkwater, Daniel. The Neddiad: How Neddie Took the Train, Went to Hollywood, and Saved Civilization. (2007 VOYA Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers) 200p; Grades 5-9; In the 1940s, young Nedworth Wentworthstein is traveling across America with his family when he meets an Indian shaman, who slips him a sacred stone turtle. Ned soon enlists the help of newfound friends to help him protect his treasure. (Fantasy) (VOYA – Voice of Youth Advocates)

Ritter, John. Under the Baseball Moon. 283p; Grades 7-9; Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player. (Contemporary Realistic Fiction)

Schmidt, Gary. The Wednesday Wars. (2008 Newbery Honor Book) 272p; Grades 7-10; In the period of the Vietnam War, Holling Hoodhood starts his seventh-grade year at odds with his teacher, Mrs. Baker. Wednesday afternoons are their private time together, and the pastimes are many--from clapping erasers to dissecting various Shakespeare plays. (Historical Fiction)

Selznick, Brian. The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel. (2008 Caldecott Medal Winner) 544p; Grades 4-9; Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrecy and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. (Graphic Mystery)

Tan, Shaun. The Arrival. (2008 ALA Best Books for YA) 128p; Grades 6-10; In a heartbreaking parting, a man gives his wife and daughter a last kiss and boards a steamship to cross the ocean. He's embarking on the most painful yet important journey of his life. He's leaving home to build a better future for his family. (Graphic Novel)

Wells, Rosemary. Red Moon at Sharpsburg. (2008 ALA Notable Books for Children) 256p; Grades 7-9; Thirteen-year-old India Moody has heard of a college in Ohio that accepts women and is determined to go there, an unthinkable dream for a girl in 1862. She is tutored by her neighbor, Emory Trimble, an eccentric scientist who teaches her about biology and chemistry, and with whom she later forms a romantic relationship. (Historical Fiction)

White, Ruth. Search for Belle Prater. (Sequel to Newbery Honor) 169p; Grades 5-8; Belle Prater's Boy. In 1955, Woodrow and his cousin Gypsy befriend a new girl in their seventh grade class in rural Virginia, and the three of them set off to find Woodrow's missing mother, encountering unlikely and intriguing coincidences along the way. (Realistic Fiction)

Wolf, Joan. Someone Named Eva. (2007 VOYA Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers) 208p; Grades 5-8; On the night Nazi soldiers come to her home in Czechoslovakia, Milada's grandmother says, "Remember, Milada. Remember who you are. Always." Milada promises, but she doesn't understand her grandmother's words. (Historical Fiction)

Woodson, Jacqueline. Feathers. (2008 Newbery Honor Book) 208p; Grades 4-7; During a winter full of surprises, good and bad, Frannie starts seeing a lot of things in a new light—her brother Sean's deafness, her mother's fear, the class bully's anger, her best friend's faith and her own desire for "the thing with feathers." (Realistic Fiction)

Yang, Gene. American Born Chinese. (2007 ALA Best Books for YA) 233p; Grades 7-9; Three humorous and seemingly unrelated characters are dogged by an unwanted identity and humiliated by others' prejudice. (Graphic Novel)

NON-FICTION READING LIST

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Barakat, Ibtisam. Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood. (2008 Notable Children's Book for Older Readers) 176p; Grades 7-10; A memoir in which the author describes her childhood as a Palestinian refugee, discussing her family's experiences during and after the Six-Day War, and the freedom she felt at learning to read and write.

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. Frida: ¡Viva la vida! Long Live Life! (2008 Pura Belpré Honor Book) 64p; Grades 4-7; The poems in this book are written in impassioned first-person and follow the arc of artist Frida Kahlo's life from birth to death.

Bolden, Tonya. Cause: Reconstruction America, 1863-1877. 138p; Grades 7-11; Presents an overview of post-Civil War America, discussing the events and challenges that marked the Reconstruction which began after the Civil War in 1863 and ended in 1877.

Chaplin, Mike. The Complete Book of Drawing & Painting: Essential Skills and Techniques in Drawing, Watercolor, Oil and Pastel. 176p; Grades 6-Adult; This book takes beginners through all the basics as they progress toward finding their individual style. Full-color illustrations and photographs guide readers step-by-step and offer examples and inspiration.

Engle, Margarita. The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano. (2008 Pura Belpré Award) 183p; Grades 7-10; Heartbreaking story in verse. False hope, beatings and cruelty beyond belief made up most of Juan's life. Yet the poetry shows a man full of dreams, words and beauty.

Fleisher, Paul. Parasites: Latching On To a Free Lunch. (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 112p; Grades 5-8; Beautifully illustrated and detailed, this book discusses parasites that thrive on fungi, plants, worms, protists, insects, and vertebrates. (National Science Teachers Association)

Fleischman, Sid. Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini. (2007 ALA Best Books for YA) 210p; Grades 5-8; A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

Freedman, Russell. Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. (2007 ALA Best Books for YA) 114p; Grades 4-7; Presents the story of the Montgomery bus boycott and the key persons and events that contributed to the year-long struggle for equal rights on Montgomery's city buses.

Goldsmith, Connie. Influenza: The Next Pandemic? (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 112p; Grades 7-Adult; Viruses are much simpler than bacteria; this book details the difference between the two and describes the composition of a virus and its search for a host. The author creates a seamless blend of history and science to tell about the impact of the flu. (National Science Teachers Association)

Gordon, Sherri Mabry. Peanut Butter, Milk, and Other Deadly Threats: What You Should Know About Food Allergies. (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 112p; Grades 7-9; Starting with a firsthand account of the potentially deadly effects of food allergies, this book explains the science of allergic reactions, immune system response, and treatment. (National Science Teachers Association)

Grady, Denise. Deadly Invaders: Virus Outbreaks Around the World, From Marburg Fever to Avian Flu. (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 128p; Grades 5-9; This text starts with a fictional story of a possible flu outbreak in the United States. To gain a better understanding of these deadly viruses, the author gives in-depth coverage of several viruses, diseases etc. (National Science Teachers Association)

Halilbegovich, Nadja. My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary. 120p; Grades 4-7; Nadja's diary from 1992 to 1995 describes living in war-torn Sarajevo. This book is an honest and straight-forward account of living with the threat of death and finally escaping through a tunnel under the city.

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Johnson, Delores. Onward: A Photobiography of African American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson. (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 64p; Grades 5-8; Adventuresome story told through archival polar and personal photographs about Matthew Henson, an African American explorer who labored alongside Robert Peary to be the first humans to reach the North Pole in 1909. (National Science Teachers Association)

Mortenson, Greg & David Oliver Relin. Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World, One Child At A Time (Young Readers Version). (2007 Kiriyaama Prize Nonfiction Award) 209p; Grades 3-8; Recounts the journey that led Mortenson from a failed attempt to climb Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain, to successfully establish schools in some of the most remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Phelan, Glen. Killing Germs, Saving Lives: The Quest for the First Vaccines. (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 64p; Grades 5-8; Told from an historical perspective, this book presents the work of scientists and healthcare providers who have observed, experimented and accidentally discovered vaccines. (National Science Teachers Association)

Singer, Marilyn. What Stinks? (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 64p; Grades 5-8; From excrement to insects, plants and fungi, this book explores the offensive smells of numerous organisms. It discusses where these "stinky" organisms come from and why they have odors that are offensive to humans. (National Science Teachers Association)

Sis, Peter. The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain. (2008 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal winner). 50p; Grades 3-8; Set in mid-20th century Prague, Sis contrasts the constrictive walls of the communist state with his personal quest for artistic freedom. (Association for Library Service to Children)

Steele, Philip. Marie Curie: The Woman Who Changed the Course of Science. (2007 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books) 64p; Grades 5-8; Depicts the remarkable life of Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel prize. The author documents both Curie's struggles in her dangerous research into radioactivity and her determination to make lasting contributions to society. (NSTA - National Science Teachers Association)

Tanaka, Shelley. Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator (2009 NCTE's Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction) 48p; Grades 4-7; story of the legendary aviator, Amelia Earhart, from her childhood until her final flight in 1937. (NCTE - National Council of Teachers of English)

Thimmesh, Catherine. Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon. (2007 ALA Best Books for YA) 80p; Grades 5-8; Chronicles the Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.

Note: Only one award has been listed although many of these books have won multiple honors.