

Subtlety and Reality!
Poetry and Nonfiction

- **Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine – Dendy:** Recounts the true stories of ten scientists and medical researchers that have endured extreme (that is fascinating and gruesome) hardship and discomfort in order to test new discoveries and inventions in the fields of medicine and science.
- **One Hundred Young Americans – Franzini:** Features photographs and brief profiles of one hundred teenagers across America, providing insights into the youth culture in the U.S. and the reality of the lives of young people.
- **Made You Look: How Advertising Works and Why You Should Know – Graydon:** Explores how the advertising industry attempts to win the purchasing power of kids and influence their buying choices and those of their parents.
- **Out of the Dust – Hesse:** In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
- **Life on an African Slave Ship – Kleinman:** Describes the history of the slave trade, focusing on the journey to America aboard slave ships.
- **Killer Rocks from Outer Space: Asteroids, Comets, and Meteorites – Koppes:** Describes the role that collisions with meteors, comets, and asteroids have played in the history of Earth and other planets in the solar system and examines what is being done to protect Earth from future collisions.

- **The Blue Jean Book: The Story Behind the Seams – Kyi:** Traces the history of blue jeans from the invention of riveted pants by Levi Strauss in California in the 1870s, to the appearance of the garment on the fashion runways of the twenty-first century.
- **Terror of the Spanish Main: Sir Henry Morgan and His Buccaneers – Marrin:** Including exploding Spanish galleons and bloody hand-to-hand combat, this work profiles the infamous Morgan's career as England's cutlass-for-hire.
- **Sold – McCormick:** Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape
- **Does Anything Eat Wasps?: and 101 Other Unsettling, Witty Answers to Questions You Never Thought you Wanted to Ask – New Scientists.**
- **A Poem of Her Own: Voices of American Women Yesterday and Today:** Presents a collection of more than twenty poems by American women published between 1678 and 2001, with a short biography of each poet at the end of the book.
- **The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy:** Discussions about writing from Lloyd Alexander; Brian Jacques; Ursula K. Le Guin; Madelenie L'Engle; Garth Nix; Tamora Pierce; Terry Pratchett; Philip Pullman; and more!

ON THE WEB

<http://lii.org/>

- A reliable subject directory of useful sites reviewed and evaluated by librarians.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html>

- For a look at current and past Newberry-Medal-awarded authors, visit the site of the Association for Library Service to Children.

<http://www.alltheweb.com/?cat=news>

- A strong news site, including international events; keep abreast over the summer.

<http://www.teenreads.com/index.asp>

- Teenreads.com bring teens info and features about their favorite authors, books, series and characters. It is a part of The Book Report Network, a group of websites founded in 1996 that share thoughtful book reviews, compelling features, in-depth author profiles and interviews, excerpts of new releases, literary games and contests, and more with readers every week.



Winchester Thurston School

**SUMMER READING
Requirements
and
Recommendations**



**For students entering
GRADE 8**

2009 - 2010

www.winchesterthurston.org

Required Reading for Eighth Graders

These books must be read before school starts on August 27, 2009.

For Middle School Summer Reading Guiding Questions, visit the “Required Summer Reading posting on the WT Web site: www.winchesterthurston.org.

****Advisory Program note, in addition to the titles listed for each class:**

Before leaving for Summer Break, students entering grade 8 will receive, ON LOAN, a book to read for Advisory. Books are to be returned to language arts teachers on August 27, 2009, or the school will charge for unreturned copies. An Advisory Program letter outlining the guidelines for reading the books will be sent home.

Language Arts

Choose 1:

The Diary of a Young Girl – Frank

A Long Way Gone – Beah

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an

Unwanted Daughter – Mah

Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boy-

hood – Kim

A Different Life: Growing Up Learning

Disabled and Other Adventures –

Bradlee

Social Studies

Code Talker – Bruchac

Other Suggested Reading for Eighth Graders

Imaginations—Fiction

- **Chains** – **Anderson:** After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.
- **Ashes of Roses** – **Auch:** Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911 in the hopes of starting a new life, but after most of her family is sent back to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country and fend for herself and her younger sister.
- **Warrior Girl: A Novel of Joan of Arc** – **Chambers:** Although surrounded by treachery, Mariane, battles alongside her cousin, Joan of Arc, for the liberation of France from England.
- **Waiting for Normal** – **Connor:** Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.
- **The Sea of Trolls** – **Farmer:** After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.
- **Coraline** – **Gaiman:** Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her par-

ents, and the souls of three others—better than the movie!!

- **The Goose Girl** – **Hale:** Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.
- **The Warrior series** – **Hunter:** So, in 5th and 6th grades, you missed reading these fantastic adventure tales about (get this) clans of warring cats; now is the time to get on board. In the first, *Into the Wild*, Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by the ThunderClan and must struggle to fit in when the group of feral cats is threatened by the enemy ShadowClan.
- **The Green Glass Sea** – **Klages:** (*Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction 2007*) While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.
- **Schooled** – **Korman:** Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.
- **Airborn** – **Oppel:** Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.
- **Skybreaker** – **Oppel:** Continuing where Airborn left off, Skybreaker finds Matt, a student at the Airship Academy, and

Kate, a young heiress, team up with a gypsy and a daring captain, to find a long-lost airship, rumored to carry a treasure beyond imagination.

- **Starclimber** – **Oppel:** In this third installment, as members of the first crew of astronauts, Matt Cruse and Kate De Vries journey into outer space on the "Starclimber" and face a series of catastrophes that threaten the survival of all on board.
- **Black Storm Comin'** – **Wilson:** Twelve-year-old Colton, son of an African-American mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.
- **Trickster's Choice** and **Trickster's Queen** – **Pierce:** Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. (Alianne is daughter of the heroine of Pierce's "Song of the Lioness" quartet; readers need not have read the previous collection to enjoy these excellent tales.)
- **The Wednesday Wars** – **Schmidt:** During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.
- **The Thief** – **Turner:** Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief, and relishes the adventure that takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.