

Tuscaloosa Academy Summer Reading List



Middle School

****All summer reading novels MUST come from the list below, unless a student receives special permission from Heatherly Whiteside, Cita Smith, or Marsha McDonald. They must be “new reads,” or books that have not been previously read by the student.**

PARENTS: If you are concerned about monitoring the material your student reads, please refer to research sites such as www.amazon.com to learn more about their content.

BE SURE TO CHECK THE READING LISTS ON THE NEXT PAGE TO SEE THE TITLES FOR EACH GRADE NEXT YEAR. PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOVELS DURING THE SUMMER, AS WE WILL READ THEM AS A CLASS!!!

The following books will be read in class during the 2009-2010 school year, so we ask that students entering these grades NOT read the titles for their upcoming grade listed below.

DO NOT READ THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

5th grade novels

1. *The Green Coat*, Rosemary McDunn
2. *Bud, not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis
3. *Summer of the Monkeys*, Wilson Rawls
4. *Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry

6th grade novels

1. *Song of the Sparrow*, Lisa Ann Sandel
2. *Code Orange*, Caroline B. Cooney
3. *Airborn*, Kenneth Oppel
4. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare

7th grade novels

1. *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
2. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, Avi
3. *Esperanza Rising*, Pam Muñoz Ryan
4. *Black Duck*, Janet Taylor Lisle

8th grade novels

1. *The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton
2. BOYS will read *Alabama Moon*, Watt Key, while
GIRLS will read *If I Were You*, by Ginger Rue
3. *Twelfth Night*, William Shakespeare
4. *Peeled*, Joan Bauer

I know what you read this summer – great
mysteries



- ***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* (John Feinstein):** Sports writer John Feinstein weaves a tale of mystery as a middle school student discovers a plan to throw the NCAA Final Four games.
- ***Crispin: The Cross of Lead* (Avi).** Set in 14th century England, a boy known as “Asta’s son” is fingered for the village priest’s murder and is wanted dead or alive. A real page-turner.
- ***The A.B.C. Murders* (Agatha Christie).** Agatha Christie puzzles readers as they try to discover the identity of a murderer who chooses his victims alphabetically.
- ***And Then There Were None* (Agatha Christie).** Ten strangers stranded on an island begin disappearing one by one.
- ***The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* (Agatha Christie).** One of the best of Christie’s murder writer’s mysteries, this tale keeps readers guessing the identity of the murderer all through the book. The ending is absolutely stunning!
- ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick).** A young boy alone in Paris struggles to keep his identity secret and interpret the drawings of his late father. A big book with LOTS of pictures.
- ***Nothing But the Truth* (Avi).** A documentary novel, this book tells the story of ninth grader Philip Malloy’s trouble that starts out small and grows national. It all started when he hummed “The Star Spangled Banner” in class one day.
- ***Bud, Not Buddy* (Christopher Paul Curtis).** Bud (not Buddy) takes to the road (and tracks) to discover the identity of his long lost father. (Only for 6th-8th grade students who have not previously read this novel.)
- ***Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* (edited by Alvin Sxhwartz).** This collection of scary stories gets rave reviews from pre-teens. Coupled with the gruesome illustrations, these concise but tense stories make an impact. Some say they ended up in their parents’ bed for a few weeks after reading them.
- ***Swindle* (Gordon Kormon).** Griffin Bing’s family needs money, and he discovers the solution to all of their problems – a 1920 Babe Ruth baseball card found in an abandoned home. Unfortunately, the local pawn shop swindles him out of the card, and he and his friends set out to right the wrong.
- ***Dead Girls Don’t Write Letters* (Gail Giles)** Fourteen-year-old Sunny is surprised when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire five months earlier.
- ***Killing Britney* (Sean Olin)** Britney, a high school student in Wisconsin, goes from ugly duckling to beautiful blonde, but problems arise when it appears that a jealous classmate is killing off everyone Britney loves.
- ***Fake ID*, (Walter Sorrells).** Not knowing her real name, her father’s name, or where she is from, a girl and her mother are always ready to move on a moment’s notice. Who is she, anyway? For mature readers.
- ***Make Lemonade*, (Virginia Wolff).** Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, trying to earn money for college, takes a job of babysitting two children for single-mom, 17 year old Jolly. For mature readers.

Chillaxin'

Great Beach & Pool Reads



- ***Death by Eggplant*** (Susan Heyboer O’Keefe). Bertie is a middle school student with a secret that he must protect at all costs. His life’s ambition is to be a chef, something his classmates, hippie mother, and accountant father would never understand. To make things even worse, Bertie is failing his classes and must be the “parent” to a flour sack baby in order to pass the semester!
- ***Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys*** (Jon Scieszka) This collection of short stories, drawings, poems & memoirs includes pieces by several writers of “guy” fiction such as Stephen King, Will Hobbs, Gary Paulsen, and others.
- ***Surviving the Applewhites*** (Stephanie S. Tolan). The Applewhites, an eccentric family of artists, offer to let Jake Semple live with them after he is kicked out of yet another school. Humorous.
- ***Ruby Holler*** (Sharon Creech). An eccentric middle-aged couple takes in a pair of foster twins. Adventure ensues!
- ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*** (Willis Holt). Life in a small town in Texas is boring for Toby, until the “world’s fattest boy” shows up.
- ***Bridge to Terabithia*** (Katherine Paterson). Two lonely fifth graders create a magical forest kingdom, a place where they can laugh, dream, and plot against the schoolmates who tease them. But one day tragedy strikes and changes things forever. Better than the movie!
- ***Tuck Everlasting*** (Natalie Babbitt). Imagine living forever at the age you are now! An adventure where the protagonist is kidnapped, helps a murderer out of jail, and is offered a gift she is not sure she wants. So much better than the movie!
- ***So B. It*** (Sarah Weeks). Twelve-year-old Heidi seeks to find some of the missing pieces of her life in this heart-warming tale of discovery. Using words from her mother’s limited vocabulary as clues, Heidi strikes off to learn the truth.
- ***Flipped*** (Wendelin Van Draanen). A fun story of friendship that flips back and forth between a male and female perspective.
- ***The View from Saturday*** (E.L. Konigsburg). An unlikely group of 6th graders forms an academic team and overcomes their differences.
- ***Born to Rock*** (Gordon Korman). A conservative, Republican, Harvard-bound senior discovers his real dad is King Maggot, the leader of a famous punk rock band. He spends the summer on the road with the band.
- ***Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf*** (Jennifer L. Holm). Told through the notes, lists, report cards, and other creations of new 7th grade student Ginny, this book follows her middle school experiences.
- ***Regarding the Sink*** (Kate and Sarah Klise). The students at Geyser Creek Middle School collaborate with Florence Waters to create the most unusual and exciting sink the school has ever seen. Told through the letters, newspaper stories, and other creations of the story’s characters.

- *Regarding the Trees* (Kate and Sarah Klise). More adventures of Flo & the citizens of Geysers Creek.
- *Regarding the Fountain* (Kate and Sarah Klise). More adventures of Flo & the citizens of Geysers Creek.
- *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Kate DiCamillo). In search of its rightful owner, a stuffed rabbit takes an extraordinary journey around the world.
- *Leaping Beauty* (Gregory Maguire). The author of *Wicked* is at it again, recasting our best loved fairy tales in this collection of short stories.
- *Clique* series (Lisi Harrison). Read about the five girls of “The Pretty Committee” and “A-Lister” clique in this popular series of books.
- *Secrets of My Hollywood Life* (Jen Calonita). Teenage soap opera star Kaitlin Burke has it all—the glamorous Hollywood life described in magazines. But she longs to be “normal” and disguises herself to attend a friend’s school. Fast-moving read with great characters.
- *All-American Girl*, (Meg Cabot). When high school sophomore Samantha foils a plot to assassinate the President, she finds herself named teen ambassador to the U.N. Suddenly, she’s popular with the in-crowd at school, and then she meets the President’s son.
- *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*, (Sharon Creech). Through the cooking of soup, a wise Italian granny helps her difficult, and sometimes defiant, 12-year-old granddaughter.
- *Hoot*, (Carl Hiaasen). A junior high student struggles to find his place in a new school and survive the school’s biggest bully. On the way, he discovers a mysterious running boy who is fighting to save the town’s environment.
- *Holes* (Louis Sachar). This new classic is the story of Stanley Yelnats and his adventures at Camp Green Lake, as he struggles to break an ancient family curse.
- *Small Steps* (Louis Sachar). The characters from *Holes* appear again, in a less humorous and more poignant novel dealing with physical and mental handicaps.
- *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* (Louis Sachar). More humor from this popular author.
- *Stargirl* and *Love, Stargirl*, (Jerry Spinelli). Acclaimed author Spinelli takes readers on a journey with Stargirl, a unique character who is more concerned with doing good deeds than being popular. Warning: These books may contain inappropriate material and are for mature students.
- *The Janitor’s Boy* (Andrew Clements). A 5th grade boy combats the “embarrassment” of his father’s career.
- *The Landry News*, (Andrew Clements). A secret class newspaper has unintentional results.
- *No Talking by Room One* (Andrew Clements). 5th graders challenge each other to stay quiet for 48 hours. Will they succeed?
- *Eggs* (Jerry Spinelli). Two unlikely friends embark on a series of unusual adventures in this touching story of friendship and loss.
- *Criss-Cross*, (Lynn Rae Perkins). Three fourteen-year-olds come to terms with change as they experience small town life in the 1960’s. The book has drawings, photos, and alternating viewpoints of girls and boys.
- *Hope was Here*, (Joan Bauer). Hope and her Aunt Addie have moved around the US working in diners so food is in Hope’s blood. In Wisconsin, she finally feels at home when she gets caught up in the town’s politics.
- *Rules of the Road*, (Joan Bauer). When elderly Mrs. Madeline Gladstone, the crusty president of a shoe company, chooses Jenna as her driver on a business trip to visit other Gladstone’s stores, Jenna goes reluctantly, but what follows is a really funny road trip.
- *Schooled*, (Gordon Korman). Capricorn Anderson is home-schooled by his hippie grandmother Rain. All is well, until Rain falls and breaks her hip, rendering her unable to care for Capricorn. The boy is placed with a temporary foster family, and enters the world of public school, shopping malls, and television. Read to find out what happens!

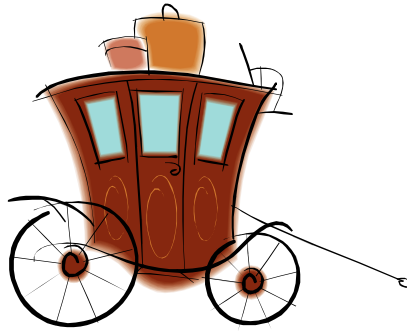
- ***The Homecoming***(Cynthia Voigt). Their mother abandons them, so Dicey had no choice but to lead her two younger brothers and little sister on a long a difficult journey to find the grandmother they'd never met.
- ***Dicey's Song*** (Cynthia Voigt). Sequel to *The Homecoming*.
- ***That Girl Lucy Moon***, (Amy Timberlake). A Middle School girl who promotes animal rights launches a campaign to fight against corruption in her hometown.
- ***Princess Academy***, (Shannon Hale).
- ***Make Lemonade***, (Virginia Wolff). Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, trying to earn money for college, takes a job of babysitting two children for single-mom, 17 year old Jolly. For mature readers.
- ***Hurt Go Happy***, (Ginny Rorby). Joey Willis, a 13-year-old deaf girl, has never been allowed to learn sign language, but everything changes when she begins working with baby chimpanzees. Inspired by a true story of Lucy Temerlin, a chimpanzee raised as a human child.
- ***Wednesday Wars***, (Schmidt). Only for rising 8th graders.
- ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid***, (Jeff Kinney) This novel in cartoon/journal form is sure to make you laugh! Follow the adventures and misadventures of sixth-grader Greg Heffley as he encounters bullies and much more.
- ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*** (Jeff Kinney) The sequel to the first diary, this books continues with the escapades of Greg, who doesn't want anyone at school to know what he did on his summer vacation. His older brother Rodrick is a force to be reckoned with.
- ***My Almost Epic Summer***, (Adele Griffin) Feeling trapped in her boring New Jersey life, teenager Irene Morse longs for an exciting summer. Just when she's about to give up, she becomes reacquainted with a boy she's known in school. Complications come along, however, and Irene learns that she doesn't have to be in L.A. to find excitement.
- ***Click Here To Find Out How I Survived Seventh Grade*** (Denise Vega) New to middle school, Erin Swift keeps a diary on her own private web page. She never intends for anyone else to read it, but accidents happen and the consequences are disastrous. An easy-to-read book with humor, warmth, and lessons about friendship.
- ***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*** (Wendy Mass). Join Jeremy and his best friend as they go on an exciting journey through the streets of New York, looking for the keys to a mysterious box left behind by Jeremy's late father.



- *The Girl Who Owned a City*, (O.T. Nelson). A killing virus has swept the earth, and only children through the age of twelve are still living. Gangs and armies are forming for survival, but on Grand Avenue, the children have food and toys in abundance because of their leader.
- Alex Rider series, (Anthony Horowitz). The adventures of Alex Rider, boy hero and teen spy.
- *Peak*, Roland Smith. Peak, the son of two mountain climbers, loves to climb. The problem is, he lives in New York City and skyscrapers are the only things nearby for him to scale. As you can imagine, this gets him in trouble. Luckily, he is saved by his father, who takes him on an adventure he'll never forget. (NOT for upcoming 5th graders)
- *First Boy*, (Gary Schmidt). Cooper Jewett tries to honor his grandfather's memory by keeping the family dairy farm afloat. The work proves to be too much for the teenage boy, especially when the CIA and FBI get involved!
- *Black Duck*, (Janet Taylor Lisle). An exciting story of two boys who accidentally enter the dangerous world of rum runners and gangsters.
- The Chronicles of Narnia, (C.S. Lewis). Discover the wondrous world that exists behind the wardrobe in this series of seven books.
- *A Wrinkle in Time* (Madeleine L'Engle). Meg, her brother, Charles, and their friend Calvin search for Meg's father, who disappeared while working on a secret government time travel project. Their adventures continue in *A Wind in the Door* and *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*.
- *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* (Avi). Set in 14th century England, a boy known as "Asta's son" is fingered for the village priest's murder and is wanted dead or alive. A real page-turner.
- *Captain Hook: The Adventures of a Notorious Youth*, (J.V. Hart). The story of Captain Hook's childhood and defining events. A unique look at one of fantasy's most notorious villains. Warning: This book may contain inappropriate material and are for mature students.
- *Flush*, Carl Hiaasen. Environmental author Hiaasen is at it again, this time creating a tale of teenagers who battle illegal dumping by gambling ships.
- *Replay*, (Sharon Creech).
- *The Tale of Despereaux*, (Kate DiCamillo). Embark on a journey with Despereaux, a big-eared mouse who falls in love with a princess. His adventures lead to a horrible dungeon, a beautiful castle, and interaction with Roscuro the rat and other great characters.
- *Skybreaker*, (Kenneth Oppel). The sequel to *Airborn* follows Matt Cruse on his exciting airship adventures.
- Harry Potter series (J. K. Rowling) Jump aboard the Hogwarts Express and enjoy the exploits of Harry and his friends. Even Muggles can enjoy these sagas!
- Artemis Fowl series (Eoin Colfer) Join Artemis, the teenage criminal mastermind, as he sets out to get money through a variety of schemes. There are lots of great characters in this highly popular fantasy series.

- **The Spiderwick chronicles (Tony DiTerlizzi)** This set of illustrated fantasy books revolves around three children who move into the Spiderwick estate and make startling discoveries. A best-selling series and now a movie on Nickelodeon.
- **The Edge Chronicles (Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell)** This popular fantasy series deals with three central characters and takes readers to the Edge, the Deepwoods, the Twilight Woods and beyond.
- **The Gatekeeper's Series (Anthony Horowitz)** From the author of the popular Alex Rider books comes this series of chilling tales. You'll find world-changing secrets, terrifying truths, and a powerful fight between good and evil.
- **Twilight Series (Stephanie Meyer).** This popular trilogy tracks the adventures of modern-day vampires in a fun and addictive way. **Warning:** These books may contain inappropriate material and are for mature students.
- ***The Secret of Nimh*, (Robert C. O'Brien).** Full of action and suspense, this book is a mix of fantasy and science fiction. Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse in need of help, must turn to the strange rats that live under a bush.
- ***The Phantom Tollbooth*, (Norton Juster).** Milo is bored with everything, until a mysterious tollbooth arrives in the mail and takes him to worlds unknown.
- ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick).** A young boy alone in Paris struggles to keep his identity secret and interpret the drawings of his late father. A big book with LOTS of pictures.
- ***Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*, (Michelle Paver and Geoff Taylor)** Travel back to the Stone Age in ancient Europe for this fantasy series. Come to know Torak, a boy who befriends a wolf and struggles against the forces of evil.
- ***The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy, (J.R.R. Tolkien)** One of the best known fantasy series for young adults, this set of books has pleased many readers. Taking place in the Third Age of Middle Earth, the story centers on the ring of power made by a dark lord in an earlier age. Join the world of hobbits, elves, dwarves, and orcs in this epic series.
- **The Redwall Series, (Brian Jacques)** This highly acclaimed set of stories takes readers to the fantasy world of Redwall, populated by talking animals. All nineteen books are said to be roller-coaster adventures of good battling evil.
- ***Eragon*, (Christopher Paolini)** A fifteen year-old boy called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into a tapestry of destiny, magic, and power. Encounter dragons, elves, and monsters in this first of a trilogy.
- ***Bearstone* (Will Hobbs)** Travel to Colorado where fourteen-year-old Cloyd Atcitty discovers a turquoise bearstone in an ancient burial of his native Ute people. Feel the excitement as Cloyd comes face-to-face with a huge grizzly bear.
- ***Beardance* (Will Hobbs)** In this sequel to *Bearstone*, Cloyd sets out with his rancher friend Walter to find a lost gold mine. But the quest for gold soon becomes a quest to save grizzly bear cubs. Can Cloyd survive in the mountains and save the cubs?
- **The Redwall Series, (Brian Jacques).**
- ***Gossamer*, Lois Lowry.** Enter the world of dream-givers, who fight the sinistees (or nightmare bringers) to save a troubled young boy and his lonely caretaker.
- ***Island of the Blue Dolphins* (Scott O'Dell) –** This 1961 Newbery Award winner features Karana, a young girl who jumped ship to save her brother and ends up alone on an evacuated island. Her story of survival is well told and has made this title a children's classic.
- ***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.* (E.L. Konigsburg)**

Travel Back in Time Historical Fiction Picks



- ***Black Duck*, (Janet Taylor Lisle).** An exciting story of two boys who accidentally enter the dangerous world of rum runners and gangsters.
- ***Crispin: The Cross of Lead* (Avi).** Set in 14th century England, a boy known as “Asta’s son” is fingered for the village priest’s murder and is wanted dead or alive. A real page-turner.
- ***A Year Down Yonder*, (Richard Peck).** This follow-up to *A Long Way from Chicago* documents the year Mary Alice spends with crazy Grandma Dowdel.
- ***The Devil’s Arithmetic*, (Jane Yolen).** Hannah is tired of hearing her grandfather’s stories of the Holocaust. During a Passover Seder, when she answers the door to welcome the prophet Elijah, she is transported back in time to a Polish village in the 1940s, where she is rounded up and taken to a concentration camp.
- ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, (Mildred D. Taylor).** This is the story of an African-American family fighting racism, attacks, and injustice in the 1930s.
- ***Burning Up*, Caroline B. Cooney.** Macey Clare discovers the slab of a burned house near her grandparent’s home, and sets out to find the reason the house was burned. She uncovers a tale of racism, history, and acceptance.
- ***On the Wings of Heroes*, (Richard Peck).** Davey Bowman’s brother is fighting in World War II, and Davey learns all about sacrifices at home, and away.
- ***Bud, Not Buddy* (Christopher Paul Curtis).** Bud (not Buddy) takes to the road (and tracks) to discover the identity of his long lost father. (Only for rising 6th-8th graders who have not previously read the novel.)
- ***Little Women*, (Louisa May Alcott).** Experience the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, & Amy-- in Civil War era New England. This story of nineteenth century family life is one of the best loved books of all time.
- ***Al Capone Does My Shirts* (Gennifer Choldenko).** Moose, a 12-year-old boy, lives on Alcatraz Island, where his father is a guard and Al Capone is a prisoner.
- ***The Teacher’s Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts*, (Richard Peck).** It’s the early 1900’s, and things are going swell for 15-year-old Russell. The town’s only schoolteacher has died, and a fancy-free fall is in store – until a new teacher arrives.
- ***The Rifle* (Gary Paulsen).** Follow a rifle from it’s beginnings in the Revolutionary War to 1994.
- ***Treasure Island*, (Robert Louis Stevenson).** A classic tale of shipwrecks, pirates, and buried treasure.
- ***Summer of the Monkeys*, (Wilson Rawls).** Jay Berry Lee wants nothing more than a pony and a .22 rifle. When a circus train wrecks near his home, and a reward is offered for the missing monkeys, Jay is on his way to his dream. If he can just catch those monkeys...
- ***Johnny Tremain* (Esther Hoskins Forbes).** The story of a fourteen-year-old silversmith’s apprentice, and his involvement in the American Revolution.

- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick). A young boy alone in Paris struggles to keep his identity secret and interpret the drawings of his late father. A big book with LOTS of pictures.
- *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, (Gary Schmidt) The preacher's son stands up to racism when he comes to town. He meets Lizzie Bright, a smart slave and things start to happen.
- *Copper Sun*, (Sharon Draper) Two fifteen-year-old girls—one a slave and one an indentured servant escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.
- *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* (Susan Campbell Bartoletti). A marvelous history of 12 individuals showing Hitler's plans for the future of Germany by using propaganda to influence the youngest members of German society.
- *Freedom Songs*, (Yvette Moore). The beginning of the Civil Rights movement in 1963; Sheryl travels from NY to North Carolina to visit her mother's family and experiences first hand the Jim Crow laws of the segregated South.
- *Fallen Angels*, (Walter Dean Myers). Vietnam War, 1970s—Richie Perry can't afford college, so it's off to 'NAM—he learns about Nam Rot, the Cong, napalm, and body bags. For mature readers—a good boy read.
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, (Christopher Paul Curtis). An ordinary family witnesses an important moment in history. A touching novel about the Civil Rights movement and its impact on one family in 1963.
- *The Wright Sister: Katharine Wright and her famous brothers*, (Richard Maurer). Katharine ran the house for her brothers and their father, was one of the first women to graduate from college, and gave up her career to help her brothers get their career launched. Includes many photos and quotes from diaries and letters which bring this book to life.
- *Through My Eyes, Ruby Bridges*, (Ruby Bridges). Six-year-old Ruby is one of the first black students to integrate a New Orleans elementary school in 1960—her remembrances accompany a lot of wonderful photographs and newspaper accounts.
- *Sounder*, (William Armstrong). A classic tale of a poor sharecropper family living in the Deep South during the Depression, this Newbery winner is loved by its readers. A tale of poverty, hope, prejudice, but also a tale of survival. A story about a boy and his dog that you will remember forever!
- *Incantation*, (Alice Hoffman) Sixteen-year-old Estrella is raised Catholic during the Spanish Inquisition. But complications arise when she discovers her family's true Jewish identity.
- *Fever, 1793* (Laurie Halse Anderson) Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.
- *The River Between Us*, (Richard Peck) Take a peek into life during the Civil War in a small Illinois town. Experience one family's struggle to survive while their father is off fighting, and see what happens when an exotic visitor from New Orleans comes to town.
- *Samurai Shortstop*, (Alan Gratz) In the Japan of the 1890's, baseball was a radical game. Follow the adventures of sixteen-year-old Toyo as he plays shortstop, attends a prestigious boarding school, and struggles to accept his father's samurai teachings.
- *Leonardo's Shadow: Or, My Astonishing Life as Leonardo da Vinci's Servant* (Christopher Grey) It's 1497 in Milan, Italy, and young Giacomo can't figure out why his master won't finish his most famous painting, The Last Supper. But more importantly, he wants to know his own background. His master is oddly silent about that as well as the medallion, ring, and cross that Giacomo was carrying when Leonardo saved his life. As it combines art, history, and mystery, this diary-like thriller is sure to please!
- *The Journey that Saved Curious George*, (Louise Borden). Margret and H.A. Rey, the illustrators of Curious George, flee Paris (and possibly concentration camps as they're Jewish) at the beginning of World War II.

- ***Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt!* (Jean Fritz).** A biography about a colorful man who fought a war in Cuba, wrote books, studied birds, shot lions, roped steer, loved the outdoors, became governor of NY and president of the US.
- ***Charles A. Lindbergh, a Human Hero*, (James Cross Giblin).** The story of the man who was the first pilot to make a nonstop transatlantic flight in 1927, then fell to disgrace by championing Germany's causes during WWII. For mature readers.
- ***Stonewall*, (Jean Fritz).** The biography of an odd man who ended up becoming a Civil War hero. For mature readers who like Civil War history.

Hit the Field

Awesome Sports Reads



- ***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* (John Feinstein):** Sports writer John Feinstein weaves a tale of mystery as a middle school student discovers a plan to throw the NCAA Final Four games.
- ***Brian's Song*, (William Blinn)** The story of Gayle Sayres and his friendship with Brain Piccolo.
- ***The Baseball Card Adventure Series*, (Dan Gutman)** Travel back in time with Stosh to meet baseball greats like Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Honus Wagner, and more. A popular set of books!
- ***On the Court with Michael Jordan*, (Matt Christopher)** A profile of the basketball superstar. It covers his childhood, college career, rookie years, and rise to the top of the NBA.
- ***At the Plate with Sammy Sosa*, (Matt Christopher)**
- ***On the Field with Alex Rodriguez*, (Matt Christopher)** Learn about the life of this dazzling baseball player and superstar.
- ***On the Field with Emmitt Smith*, (Matt Christopher)**
- ***On the Court with Venus and Serena Williams* (Matt Christopher)** Not only are they two of the best tennis stars in the country, but they are sisters who remain true to one another on and off the court. Read about their skills, determination, and strength.
- ***Ted Williams*, (Rick Wolff)** A biography of the outstanding Boston Red Sox slugger.
- ***The Moves Make the Man*, (Bruce Brooks)** Dealing with the friendship between a black boy and a troubled white boy in North Carolina, this is a thought-provoking tale with basketball at its core. Warning: There is some racist language and some profanity.
- ***Bat 6*, (Virginia Euwer Wolff)** Bat 6 is the softball game played every year by the sixth-grade-girls of two schools. It's 1949, with the effects of World War II still active. Find out what happens at the big game through the eyes of the 21 players at the game.
- ***Under the Baseball Moon*, (John H. Ritter)** Meet Andy Ramos, a skateboarding musician who forms a band, and Glory Martinez, a promising softball pitcher. They become good friends in the ethnically rich area of Ocean Beach, California.
- ***The Boy Who Saved Baseball*, (John H. Ritter)** Big developers want to take over a small town baseball field in California. Young Tom and other residents are against this idea. With plenty of play-by-play action and lots of humor, this is more than just a baseball story.

- *Downriver*, (Will Hobbs) Fifteen-year-old Jessie and her six friends decide to “borrow” rafting gear from the outdoor adventure company they work for. As they take off down the Colorado River, they find themselves in huge rapids. Can they survive this reckless adventure?
- *Football Genius*, (Tim Green) Twelve-year-old Troy White has lots of frustration—his father left the family years ago, his beloved Atlanta Falcons are losing again, and his talents as a quarterback are ignored while he warms the bench. But things change in this fast-moving read that football fans will love.
- *Crackback*, (John Coy) Miles, a high school football star, feels pressure from everyone—his best friends, his demanding father, and his pushy new coach. Miles must decide where he stands in this tale of “nail-biting drama” from the football field.
- *Going for the Record*, (Julie Swanson) Leah expects the perfect senior year when she makes the regional Olympic soccer team. But when she learns that her father has cancer, soccer takes a back seat to family matters. A sad but ultimately affirming novel.
- *Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl* (John Feinstein) Teen reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are at it again. This time, they uncover a scandal at the Super Bowl. Part mystery, part sports, this book entertains.
- *The Big Field*, (Mike Lupica) Fourteen-year-old Hutch doesn’t mind not being the star of his baseball team. He plays for the love of the game, just as his father did before him. When his team gets their chance to play on the big field where ML teams play for spring training, problems arise. A great book for baseball fans, with lots of father/son action as well.
- *Heat*, (Mike Lupica). A feel good baseball story about a too-good-to-be-true athlete from Cuba with no birth certificate to prove his age so that he can play baseball here in the US.
- *Travel Team*, (Mike Lupica). A second chance for the smallest guy on the basketball court.
- *On the Court with Lisa Leslie*, (Matt Christopher). WNBA starter for the Los Angeles Sparks—part time fashion model, full of grace and natural ability.