

Maitland Middle School Summer Reading 2017

Rising 8th Graders



Dear Students and Families,

Summer reading helps build fluency, background knowledge, and vocabulary. Summer break often means a break from reading, which can seriously hamper achievement in the classroom. There is a solid link between the amount of independent reading children do and their success in school. Research shows that kids who never crack open a book during the summer often fall behind in reading – the notorious “summer slide” – while kids who *do* read, maintain or improve their learning skills.

The Scoop for 8th Grade:

Read **3** books at your appropriate reading level – Lexile range.

- **One** of the books **must** be a book from the current Grades 6-8 **Sunshine State Young Readers Award** book list.
- Two are **free choice**, but we have some suggestions of “lit” books to read.



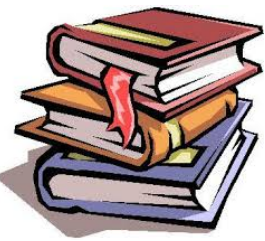
Due Date:



Friday, September 1, 2017: Due date for Summer Reading work.

The Assignment:

- **Reading Response Questions:** For each book read, students will answer two reading response questions. Each question is worth up to 5 points, for a total of **30 points**. There is a high-quality **sample response** attached to this assignment.



The Books:

- We have attached several book lists – these are all high-quality books that appeal to a wide range of interests. We firmly believe becoming a reader is just a matter of getting the right book into your hands.

Reading Response Questions (Total: 30 pts.) You must answer **two** of the following questions for each book, for a **total** of **six** responses. You may not use the same question twice!! Please include the **question number, book title and author** in your answers. Each responses will contain a topic sentence that restates the question, at least two specific, quoted details from the novel – with page numbers – that support your response, commentary and a concluding sentence. A high-quality response with text evidence will be at least 10 sentences long. Responses may be neatly handwritten or typed on a computer. Note: If a question doesn't apply to your book, don't use it. For example, don't choose No. 10 if you have no unanswered questions. ☺

QUESTIONS for FICTION BOOKS

1. If you could be related to a character, who would it be and why?
2. Compare your book to another by the same author or of the same genre. What is similar? Different?
3. Did the actions of the characters seem believable? Why? Why not? Provide text evidence to back it up.
4. If one (or more) of the characters made a choice that had moral implications, would you have made the same decision? Why? Why not?
5. Why did the author choose the title? How does it fit the book? What title would YOU have chosen?
6. If this book was to be made into a movie, choose five main scenes and explain why you chose them.
7. What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story?
8. What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think he or she is trying to get across to the reader?
9. How do characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger the changes?
10. What unanswered, unresolved questions still remain and how would you answer them in a sequel?
11. What motivates the actions of a given character? To what degree does the character's past play a role in her present actions? Are those actions justified or ethical?
12. What is the central conflict of the plot? Is the conflict internal (a psychological conflict)? Or is it external? Character vs. character? Character vs. society? Character vs. nature? How did the conflict resolve?
13. Name three figurative language devices (personification, metaphor, imagery, etc.) and cite examples from your novel. Include the page numbers.
14. Choose a color for this book and explain why it fits the story.
15. Choose a character and decide on two appropriate birthday presents for him/her and tell why.

QUESTIONS for NON-FICTION BOOKS or INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

1. What are five important facts you learned from reading this book? Explain why you consider them important.
2. What parts of this book seem most/least believable? Why?
3. What confuses you in this book? Give at least two examples and explain your confusion.
4. How do statistics and data support the author's perspective? Give at least two examples and explain.
5. What new information did you learn? How did this new information change your way of thinking?
6. What words, phrases or statements does the author use that caught your attention? Why? How did they make you feel? What did they make you think?
7. Did the author weave opinion and fact statements into the book? Find two examples of each.
8. Were there any photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, or diagrams that were important? Select three and describe what you learned from them and explain why you believe each one was important. Be sure to list the page numbers.
9. Did the reading leave you with unanswered questions? What are these? List three or more. Explain why these questions are important to you.
10. How did you connect to the subject/topic of the book? Was it personal? Was it an issue that affects your community and the world? Explain.



Sample 8th Grade Summer Reading Response Entry

(As you can see, it is much longer than the required minimum of 10 sentences. ☺)

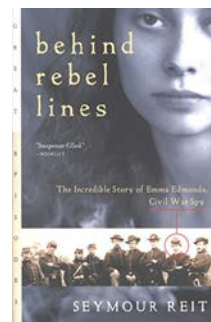
Title: *Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy*

Author: Seymour Reit

Question No. 11:

This nonfiction book reads like a made-up adventure, but the actions of Franklin Thompson are those of a real-life hero motivated by love of country and anger over the loss of so many innocent lives in war. Thompson was incredibly tough, thoroughly patriotic and very reckless. He needed all those qualities in his job: a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. He undertook many dangerous missions disguised as a variety of characters ranging from a black slave named Cuff to an old Irish peddler woman.

Thompson was reckless and a risk-taker. The most important evidence of his reckless side? Thompson was actually a 21-year-old woman named Emma Edmonds. That's right. Edmonds disguised herself as a man in order to serve her country. Edmonds calls this reckless spirit the "imp voice" (p. 42). The longer Edmonds is disguised as Private Franklin Thompson, the bolder the voice grows (p. 28). The first time the imp voice speaks is after her friend is killed, and she decides she must avenge his death by becoming a spy and stealing secrets from the Confederate Army. In her first mission she disguises herself as a black slave, coloring her skin with silver nitrate and wearing a wig of black hair. He slipped into the enemy camp, gathered up secrets about how much artillery they had and where it was positioned and then managed to sneak out again without being discovered: "Catlike and silent, he slipped through the night, knowing that any sudden noise would bring a dozen shots crashing in his direction" (p. 58).



Edmonds balanced her reckless side with a toughness and determination. Even when fear crept in, she went on mission after mission. In one scene she sits with a dying soldier in an abandoned house, determined not to leave his side even though she might be captured. She uses her nursing skills to make him as comfortable as possible and when he dies, she vows to grant his dying wish and get a letter to his family no matter what (p. 72). Edmonds' patriotic motivation is rewarded by her superior officers, who are delighted with her successes (p. 83).

Edmonds' past does play a role in her motivations. Though Edmonds herself describes herself as a lover of adventure and ambitious, she says her "patriotism was the true secret of my success" (p. 1). Born in Canada, Edmonds left home at 16 to escape her abusive father. She settled in Flint, Michigan. For Edmonds, America stands for freedom and liberty and now that America was in danger and a war starting, she needed to take action (p. 6). After she had served in the war and seen how brutal and cruel it was, she still believed in the cause: the Union had to survive. "For her, that was all that mattered" (p. 74).

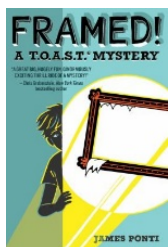
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Maitland Middle Summer Reading Book Lists

Sunshine State Young Reader Award Books 2017-2018



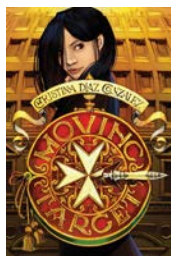
- **Courage for Beginners** by Karen Harrington (Lexile NA, 320 pages). Seventh grade is not turning out the way 12-year-old Mysti planned. With the help of a hot-air balloon, a new friend and heroes of the Texas Revolution, can she find the courage to change?



- **Framed!** by James Ponti (680L, 304 pages) Get to know the only kid on the FBI Director's speed dial and several international criminals' most wanted lists in this hilarious novel by local author James Ponti.
- **The Girl in the Well is Me**, by Karen Rivers. (780L, 224 pages) This darkly humorous novel with a heart-stopping conclusion is about a girl trapped in a dark well.
- **The Girl Who Drank the Moon**, by Kelly Barnhill. (640L, 400 pages). An epic coming-of-age fairy tale filled with magic, mystery, deadly birds and a volcano about to erupt. *New York Times* bestseller.

- **How to (Almost) Ruin Your Summer**, by Taryn Souders. (740L, 240 pages). Chloe McCorkle has an epically bad experience at Camp Minnehaha battling spiders, a rampaging goat and an evil cabin mate.

- **It Ain't So Awful, Falafel**, by Firoozeh Dumas. (730L, 384 pages) A poignant yet lighthearted novel about Zomorod (Cindy) Yousefzadeh, an Iranian-American girl trying to fit into her Newport Beach, California community during the 1970s, when anti-Iran sentiments are on the rise.



- **The Mark of the Dragonfly**, Jaleigh Johnson (820L, 400 pages). For fans of *The City of Ember*, this is a fast-paced adventure story about a mysterious girl and a fearless boy, set in an exciting and dangerous world. "A page-turner that defies easy categorization and ought to have broad appeal" Publishers Weekly, starred review.

- **Moving Target**, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez (610L, 256 pages). A fast-paced, thrill ride of a book, rich with riddles and myth about a young girl who discovers her secret ancient bloodline.

- **The Nerdy Dozen #1**, by Jeff Miller (Lexile NA, 320 pages). A motley crew of video-gaming whizzes accidentally download top-secret training software and are recruited by the military to restore a botched aircraft mission. Soon they are playing to save the world!

- **The Nest**, by Kenneth Oppel (640L, 256 pages). Fans of *Coraline* will enjoy this tale of the teen fighting to save his sick newborn baby brother. His worries also include a wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves of his house. Eventually, a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to "fix" the baby. This eerie masterpiece features illustrations by award-winning artist Jon Klassen.

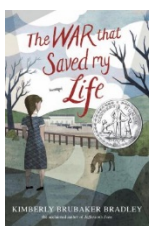


- **Omega City**, by Diana Peterfreund (700L, 336 pages). The first in an exciting new series perfect for fans of *The Goonies*. Gillian doesn't listen to people who say her father's a crackpot. His conspiracy theories may have cost him his job, but Gillian knows he is right and sets out to prove it.

- **Randoms**, by David Liss. (840L, 496 pages). A science fiction superfan finds himself on his very own space adventure when he is randomly selected to join an alien confederacy in this hilarious novel.

- **Shadows of Sherwood**, by Kekla Magoon (650L, 368 pages) The night her parents disappear, 12-year-old Robyn must learn to fend for herself. Her home has been taken over by a harsh governor and she has no choice but to join a band of strangers-misfit kids. Readers will enjoy this twist on the age-old tale of Robin Hood.

- **Terror at Bottle Creek**, by Watt Key (650L, 224 pages). In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, 13-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf coast hurricane. One catastrophe seems to lead to another, leaving Cort and two neighbor girls to face the storm as best they can.



- **The War That Saved My Life**, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (580L, 320 pages). An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War 2 in London. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother is shipped out of London to escape the Nazi bombing, Ada sneaks out to join him and thus begins a great adventure. This award-winning historical fiction is a classic in the making.

Soak up a good book this summer!

Suggested 8th Grade Dystopian Books

** If you enjoyed books from the Hunger Games, Maze Runner or Divergent series **

- ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox*** by Mary E. Pearson (570L, 288 p.). Jenna Fox wakes from a coma more than a year after having an "accident." With no memory, she slowly learns to function physically, but she can't seem to connect emotionally. Written in a beautiful symphony of revealed memories, Jenna begins to recognize that a secret is being kept from her and something complex and dangerous is going on.
- ***Ashes*** by Ilsa J. Bick (730L, 496 p.). While Alex hiked into the woods, an electromagnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions. Now desperate to find out what happened after the pulse crushes her to the ground, Alex meets up with a young soldier and a girl whose grandfather was killed by the pulse. Survival is now a question of who can be trusted and who is no longer human.
- ***The Cure*** by Stephanie Erickson (258 p.). "One life will make the difference." Macey Holsinger has heard that promise for as long as she can remember. But it hasn't saved anyone yet, not even her little brother. Little is known about the disease, except that it's a rapid and absolute killer. Why is the quest for a cure reason enough to ban things like flags and freedom of expression? In the end, how much will the cure cost?
- ***Delirium*** by Lauren Oliver (760L, 480 p.). It's the near future, a time when love has long since been identified as a disease, and 17-year-old Lena is 95 days away from the operation that everyone gets to cure themselves. Enter Alex, a rakish daredevil who, as it turns out, is one of the Invalids—a tribe of uncured outlaws. With the clock ticking down, Lena is drawn into Alex's world, one of passion and freedom.
- ***The Drowned Cities*** by Paolo Bacigalupi (690L, 464 p.). In a dark, future America, Mahlia and Mouse have managed to leave behind the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities by escaping into the jungle outskirts. But when they discover a wounded half-man who is being hunted by a vengeful band of soldiers, their fragile existence quickly collapses. One is taken prisoner and the other is faced with an impossible decision: Risk everything to save a friend, or flee to a place that holds the possibility of freedom.
- ***The House of the Scorpion*** by Nancy Farmer (660L, 400 p.). Readers will be hooked from the first page of this award-winning book in which a scientist brings to life one of 36 tiny cells, frozen more than 100 years ago. The result is Matt, a clone of El Patron, a powerful drug lord. El Patron is ruler of Opium, a country that lies between the United States and Mexico. With smooth pacing that steadily gathers momentum, Matt learns what being a clone of one of the most powerful and feared men on earth entails.
- ***Immurement*** by Norma Hinkens (261 p.). Sixteen-year-old Derry and her brother live in perpetual fear of capture. They survive underground on a scorched earth overrun by gangs, clones, and mysterious hover ships. When her brother goes missing, Derry's only hope of finding him is to strike a deal with a group of cutthroat subversives. A captivating apocalyptic tale with plot twists you won't see coming.
- ***Knife of Never Letting Go*** by Patrick Ness (860L, 496 p.). Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog. With hostile men in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Readers are in for a white-knuckle journey.
- ***Little Brother*** by Cory Doctorow (900L, 416 p.). While skipping school, 17-year-old techno-geek Markus is caught near the site of a terrorist attack on San Francisco and held by the Department of Homeland Security for six days of intensive interrogation. After his release, he vows to use his skills to fight back against an increasingly frightening system of surveillance and stage a techno-revolution.
- ***Pure*** by Julianna Baggott (480 p.). Pressia sleeps in a cabinet behind the rubble of a barbershop with her grandfather. She barely remembers the Detonations or much about life during the Before. And now, at an age when everyone is required to become a soldier or, worse, a live target, Pressia is on the run. Partridge is a Pure – one who escaped the apocalypse unmarked. Yet Partridge feels isolated and lonely. So when a slipped phrase suggests his mother might still be alive, Partridge risks his life to find her.
- ***Ready Player One*** by Ernest Cline (990L, 384 p.). In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue to solving the puzzle, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill. If Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win.
- ***Sacrificed*** by Emily Wibberly (NA, 350 p.). Born to serve the merciless Oracle, Clio wants nothing more than to break free. But when her entire family is murdered by Mannix, the king's adviser, Clio inherits the Oracle's power, a power she never wanted and doesn't understand. Hunted by Mannix, Clio is forced to flee her home. If she's found out, she will be sacrificed atop its great pyramid.
- ***The Sea Wreck Stranger*** by Anna Mackenzie (198 p.). The community of Dunnett Island has turned its back on the sea and all that comes from it. Orphaned Ness questions the harshness of their lives and finds beauty in a world her elders would drain of joy. When a dead body washed ashore in the tiny bay below their farm, certainties of their lives begin to unravel. Award-winning first book in a trilogy.
- ***Shade's Children*** by Garth Nix (980L, 368 p.). In the brutal world of *Shade's Children*, your 14th birthday is your last. Malevolent Overlords rule the earth, directing hideous, humanoid creatures to harvest the brains and muscles of teens for use in engineering foul beasts to fight senseless wars. Young Gold-Eye escapes this horrific fate, rescued by other refugees, but life is far from safe.
- ***Some Act of Vision*** by Lori Ann Stephens (296 p.). A massive Texas earthquake triggered by the fracking activity nearby tears apart Jordan's community. The Walker family survives the earthquake, but wake up the next morning utterly invisible. On the run from a military with nefarious plans, Jordan and her family are forced to flee.
- ***Starters*** by Lissa Price (550L, 384 p.). Callie lost her parents when the Spore Wars wiped out everyone between the ages of 20 and 60. She and her little brother go on the run, living as squatters and fighting off renegades.
- ***Unwind*** by Neal Shusterman (740L, 352 p.). A twisted and futuristic *New York Times* bestselling novel about a future where teens between the ages of 13 – 18 may be "unwound." Unwinding ensures that the child's life doesn't "technically" end by transplanting all the organs in the child's body to various recipients. Troublesome or unwanted teens are able to be unwound.

One World,
Many Stories
Happy Reading

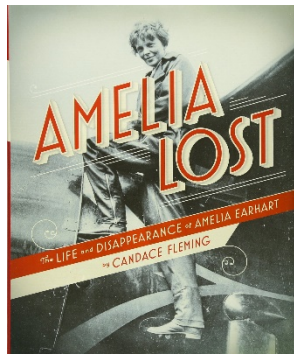
High-Interest Non-Fiction Books for Eighth Graders



100 Diagrams That Changed the World: From the Earliest Cave Paintings to the Invention of the iPod by Scott Christianson. A collection of the most important ideas, theories and concepts of all time

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah. The autobiography of a boy who became a child soldier in Sierra Leone.

A Night to Remember: The Classic Account of the Final Hours of the Titanic by Walter Lord



Amelia Lost by Candace Fleming. The thrilling story of America's most celebrated flyer.

An American Plague by Jim Murphy. It's 1793 and the nation's capital and the largest city in North America – Philadelphia -- is devastated by an apparently incurable disease.

The Blind Side by Michael Lewis. Read the book behind the movie about the homeless Memphis ghetto kid Michael Oher.

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin. A compelling history of the atomic bomb.

* **Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine and the Lawless Years of the Prohibition** by Karen Blumenthal. Filled with period art and photographs, this fascinating book looks at the rise and fall of the disastrous social experiment known as Prohibition.

Can I See Your ID? True Stories of False Identities by Paul Hoppe. Ten mini-biographies of true crime, desperation, fraud, and adventure:

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson. A riveting account of the chase for Lincoln's assassin.

* **Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food** by Charles Wilson. What teens need to know about how the fast-food industry has been feeding off children for generations.

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. An engaging memoir of a girl growing up in 1940s China.

* # **Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice** by Phillip Hoose. Before Rosa Parks, a 15-year-old refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white woman in Montgomery, Alabama.

Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916 by Michael Capuzzo.

* # **Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two** by Joseph Bruchac. A 16-year-old Navajo boy served as a communications expert using unbreakable code based on Navajo language.

Electric Dreams by Caroline Kettlewell. An underdog team of educators, students and townfolk in rural North Carolina design and build an electric car that wins a competition.

Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication by Ann Downer.

Enrique's Journey (The Young Adult Adaptation): The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother (adapted for young people) by Sonia Nazario. A teen from Honduras sets off to find his mother in America.

* **Four Perfect Pebbles: A True Story of the Holocaust** by Lila Perl. The Blumenthal family's story of horror and hardship during World War II.

* **Get Real: What Kind of World Are You Buying?** by Mara Rockliff. A teen-friendly manifesto reveals what you are really buying with that cell phone or cheap T-shirt – and how to make better choices for people and the planet.

Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case: by Chris Crowe. The tragic death of a 14-year-old black teen from Chicago visiting family in Mississippi was a rallying point for Civil Rights leaders such as Rosa Parks.

His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg by Louise Borden. Amazing World War II story about how one man saved the lives of many.

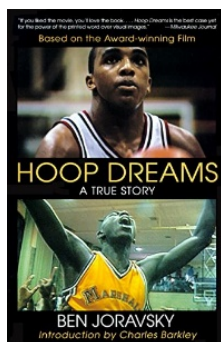
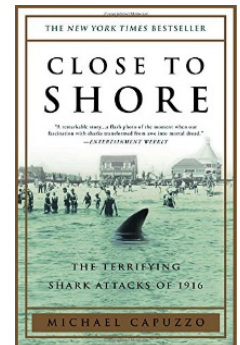
Hoop Dreams: True Story of Hardship and Triumph by Ben Jorvasky. The lives of 2 talented basketball players were chronicled for five years from playgrounds to high school to college recruitment.

How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg. This book relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost.

* **Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure** by Jim Murphy. "Who knew the biography of a germ could be so fascinating?" – Kirkus Reviews, starred review.

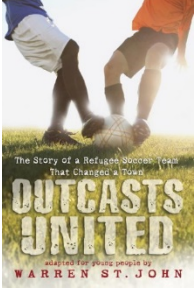
Last Bus Out by Beck McDowell. True story of how a boy from the projects stole a bus and rescued more than 300 people in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest by Pete Nelson. Beck Weathers describes not only his escape from hypothermia and the murderous storm that killed eight climbers, but the journey of his life.



* # *Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration* by Shelley Tougas. A short book about the power of a photograph to focus the world spotlight on the Civil Rights movement.

* *Moonbird* by Phillip Hoose. With inspiring prose, thorough research, and stirring images, Hoose explores the tragedy of extinction through the triumph of a single bird.



* # *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* by Leslea Newman. A novel in verse, these 68 poems are a powerful tribute to Matthew Shepard's life.

* *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. The book that launched a national conversation about what we eat and the profound consequences that even the simplest everyday food choices have on both ourselves and the natural world

* # *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town* (Adapted for Young People) by Warren St. John. A moving account of refugees finding a new life in the U.S. in Clarkston, Georgia and they inspired an entire community through soccer.

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleishman. The story of a man who survived for 10 years after a 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain.

Radioactive Boy Scout by Ken Silverstein. The frightening true story of a whiz kid and his homemade nuclear reactor.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton.

Stick Figure: A Diary of my Former Self by Lori Gottlieb. "A smart, funny, compassionate journal of the author's bout with anorexia at age 11" (*Entertainment Weekly*).

Super Graphic: A Visual Guide to the Comic Book Universe by Tim Leong. Through a collection of charts and graphics, the book offers a unique look at the intricate storylines that weave their way through comic books, and shares advice for navigating the pages of some of the most popular comics and graphic novels.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition) by William Kamkwamba. A memoir of the heroic young inventor who brought electricity to his Malawi village.

* # *The Frog Scientist* by Andy Comins and Pamela Turner. Being raised in segregated South Carolina didn't stop Tyrone Hayes from his passion for science. He ended up at Harvard and discovered a link between a common pesticide and the startling decline in frog populations all around the globe.

The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure by Martin Sandler. The dead of an Arctic winter. Whaling ships full of men, stranded in ice. Follow three rescuers in a race against time — and all odds — in this heartpounding true adventure.

The Long Run: A New York City Firefighter's Triumphant Comeback from Crash Victim to Elite Athlete by Matt Long. On the morning of December 22, 2005, Matt Long was cycling to work in the early morning when he was struck by and sucked under a 20-ton bus making an illegal turn. *The Long Run* is an emotional and incredibly honest story about Matt's determination to fight through fear, despair, loneliness, and intense physical and psychological pain to regain the life of the elite athlete he once was.

The President Has Been Shot by James Swanson

* *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer?

Truce by Jim Murphy. In 1914, the world's peace was shattered in the First World War. But who could have guessed that on December 25 the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their "enemies"?



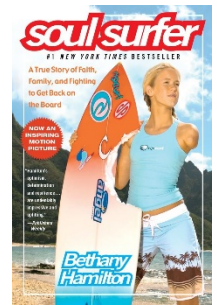
Tuesday's With Morrie by Mitch Albom. The author seizes a chance to spend time with his former professor in the last months of the older man's life. The result is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

* *Witches: the Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer. This book for young readers features unique scratchboard illustrations, chilling primary source material, and powerful narrative to tell the true tale.

Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic. Published at the height of the Bosnian conflict, this international bestseller was compared to *The Diary of Anne Frank*. It begins as the typical journal of an 11-year-old girl living in Sarajevo, but as war engulfs her city, Zlata becomes witness to the horrors of hunger, death and violence.

* - Award-winning book

- Features minority characters





From the "Guys Read" Website -- a web-based literacy program for boys founded by author Jon Scieszka -- come these next book recommendations. Mike Grosso is a middle school teacher, musician, and author of *I Am Drums*. He truly believes reading lists rock. (And these are great for girls, too!)

- ***My Near-Death Adventures (99% True!)*** by Alison DeCamp. Stan is the Man. This is one of few books that had me laughing out loud. The writing by itself makes for a fantastic story, but the defaced photographs throughout the book make this something much more special.
- ***The 8th Continent*** by Matt London. Dude, it's a book series about two kids that take the world's garbage and turn it into an eighth continent. What's not to like? A great book for scientific-minded environmentalists.
- ***Hoodoo*** by Ronald L. Smith. Take the eeriness of *The Last Apprentice* and put it in recession era rural Alabama. Ronald Smith is a master of setting and mood, and not an author to be read in the dark unless you're very brave.
- ***One Handed Catch*** by Mary Jane Auch. My students get grossed out sometimes when I book talk this one, so I assure them the first chapter is well-handled to insure minimal vomiting. Plus, it's a book that gets kids thinking about what it means to be differently-abled.
- ***My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights*** by Brooks Benjamin. A lot of boys don't want to dance. That will change after reading Brooks Benjamin's awesome book.



2017 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Young Adult Library Services Association

- ***Tell Me Three Things*** by Julie Buxbaum. A mysterious admirer helps Jessie adjust to her new life in LA. Funny and romantic, this tug-at-your-heartstrings contemporary YA debut is perfect for readers of Rainbow Rowell.
- ***The Haters*** by Jesse Andrews. Teens ditch jazz camp and take it on the road in this novel from the author of the bestselling *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*
- ***Exit, Pursued by a Bear*** by Johnston, E.K. Hermione is raped at cheer camp. In the year that follows, she deals with rumors, flashbacks, and a re-centering of her life.
- ***Plutona*** by Jeff Lemire. A group of teens find the body of the superhero, Plutona, and must decide how to handle the situation.
- ***Daughters Unto Devils*** by Amy Lukavics. After a dreadful winter, Amanda and her family find a new home on the prairie. Unfortunately, the demon spirits are already waiting for them.
- ***Nijkamp, Marieke. This Is Where It Ends.*** A violent student with a grudge and a gun holds his classmates and teachers hostage.
- ***All American Boys*** by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Accused of shoplifting and resisting arrest, Rashad is beaten by a police officer. Racial tension runs high as friends take sides and a community is divided.
- ***If I Was Your Girl*** by Meredith Russo. Amanda is facing a lot of challenges, but nothing is as big as starting over after being relentlessly bullied for her transgender identity.
- ***The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love*** by Sarvenaz Tash. Graham has realized he is in love with his best friend and partner in comic book creation, Roxy. What better place to declare his feelings than New York Comic Con?
- ***Great Falls*** by Steve Watkins. After his older brother, Jeremy, returns from Afghanistan and Iraq, as a war hero, Shane notices many changes in his behavior.
- ***Booked*** by Kwame Alexander. Soccer star Nick Hall is on top until his parents shatter his world. How will Nick put the pieces back together?