

Woodside School Reading List 2011-12

Required Summer Reading Grades 6-8th

All incoming middle school students are required to read at least three books over the summer. This fall the award-winning author, Gennifer Choldenko, is coming to Woodside School to address our upper grade students In preparation of her visit, students are required to read one of her four books listed below. In addition, students may choose two more books to read from the suggested reading list that follows.

Students should be prepared to complete a 300 to 500-word essay during the first week of school. The essay will be based on one required book and the students may base their essays on one of the following: (1) a character, (2) the theme, or (3) the setting as it pertains to the conflict in the story. Language arts teachers will provide more detailed information about the assignment on the first day of school.

All incoming 6-8th graders are required to read one of the books listed below by, Gennifer Choldenko:

Al Capone Does My Shirts

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 his father becomes a prison guard. There has to contend with his extraordinary new environment where Al Capone does his laundry, in addition to life with his autistic sister
Awards: Newbery Honor Book 2005; *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus*, and *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year; Short-listed for the Carnegie in the United Kingdom; *New York Times* bestseller list; *Booksense* bestseller list, California Young Reader Medal 2007

Al Capone Shines My Shoes

In this sequel, Moose Flanagan still lives on Alcatraz Island. He becomes frightened when he discovers that noted gangster, Al Capone, a prisoner on the island wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose.

Awards: Amazon Top Ten Middle Grade Novels for 2009, Chicago Public Library Best of the Best 2009, *Kirkus Reviews* Best Children's Books of 2009, Minnesota Public Radio's Books to Read in 2010, Barnes and Noble Best Children's Books of the Year 2009

If A Tree Falls at Lunch Period

Entering seventh grade at her upscale private school, nothing's going right for Kirsten, but on the first day she meets new kid Walk, one of the very few African-Americans at her school, and they soon strike up a friendship and help each other navigate the social scene.

Awards: American Library Association (ALA) Notable.

No Passengers Beyond This Point

With their house in foreclosure, sisters India and Mouse and brother Finn are sent to stay with an uncle in Colorado until their mother can join them. But when the plane lands the children are welcomed by cheering crowds to a strange place where each of them has a perfect house and a clock that is ticking down the time.

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Suggested Summer Reading Grades 6-8th

Note: Students are required to read at least two books from this suggested list. Many of the books listed below are written by prolific writers, so feel free to read other titles by these same authors, or other books in the series. This list can be used throughout the school year so keep it handy!

Realistic Fiction

***True (...Sort of)* by, Katherine Hannigan:** True: Delly Pattison likes surprises (presents that are a surprise). True: Brud Kinney wants to play basketball like nothing anybody's ever seen. When the Boyds arrive, though, Brud meets someone who plays like nothing he's ever seen. True: Ferris Boyd isn't like anyone Delly or Brud have ever met. Ferris is a real mystery (an extremely curious mystery). True: This story is a compelling look at the ways friendships and truths are discovered. It's all true (... sort of).

***Penderwicks at Point Mouette* by, Jeanne Birdsall:** It's off to the beach for Rosalind and off to Maine with Aunt Claire for the rest of the Penderwick girls, as well as their old friend, Jeffrey. That leaves Skye as OAP (oldest available Penderwick.) Can Skye hold it together? This is book three in this popular series.

***Mother Daughter Book Club* by, Heather Vogel Frederick:** When the mothers of four sixth-grade girls with very different personalities pressure them into forming a book club, they find, as they read and discuss "Little Women," that they have much more in common than they could have imagined.

***Under the Baseball Moon* by, John Ritter:** Andy Ramos, a free-style skateboarding trumpeter, has dreams as big as a baseball moon. Born into a family of musicians, Andy wants to take his unique fusion of Latin jazz, rock, and hip-hop straight to the top. But when he crosses paths with Glory Martinez, a softball pitcher who has Olympian dreams of her own, the mysterious fusion of their athletic and musical skills changes everything. Or is it all because of the elegant, but eerie man in black?

***Penny Dreadful* by, Laurel Snyder:** When her father suddenly quits his job, the almost-ten-year-old, friendless Penny and her neglectful parents leave their privileged life in the city for a ramshackle property in the eccentric town of Thrush Junction, Tennessee. Can Penny cope in this new life?

***Barracuda Treasure* by, J.D. Cage:** After stumbling across a clue to the existence of a long-lost Spanish treasure in the Caribbean, Jack and Davy make a fateful decision. But before they can claim the prize they must outsmart professional explorers, outlast a hurricane, out-swim hungry barracudas, and worst of all – answer to their parents.

***Do the Math: Writing on the Wall* by, Wendy Lichtman:** Math-loving eighth-grader Tess learns that sometimes life, like algebra, has no solutions and that she must take risks and find her own answers. Ms. White says this book is > the textbook!

***The Wild Girls* by, Pat Murphy:** Joan is sure that she is going to be miserable when her family moves. Then she meets a most unusual girl. Sarah prefers to be called “Fox,” and lives with her author dad in a rundown house in the middle of the woods. The girls start writing their own stories together and find themselves recruited for a summer writing class at UC Berkeley, and learn that becoming an adult means finding your own answers.

***Nothing But the Truth* by, Avi:** Philip Malloy was suspended from school for singing along to The Star-Spangled Banner in his homeroom, causing what his teacher called "a disturbance." But was he standing up for his patriotic ideals, only to be squelched by the school system? Was Ms. Narwin simply trying to be a good teacher? Or could it all be just a misunderstanding gone badly? What is the truth here? Can it ever be known?

***The Schwa Was Here* by, Neal Shusterman:** When Anthony "Antsy" Bonano and his friends meet Calvin Schwa, they are impressed and puzzled by his ability to appear and disappear before their very eyes. Antsy concocts a moneymaking scheme based on the Schwa's invisibility that seems promising until he and his friends overreach and are caught by the town's legendary mean millionaire, Mr. Crawley.

***Lucky Breaks* by, Susan Patron:** Having reached the mature age of eleven in the tiny California town of Hard Pan (population 43), Lucky discovers that there is still much to learn about friendship, parental trust, and the Milky Way galaxy. This book is the sequel to *The Higher Power of Lucky*, Newbery Medal winner 2007.

***Bystander* by, James Preller:** Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to not standing by and watching as the bully at his new school hurts people. Although school officials are aware of the problem, Eric may be the one with a solution.

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by, Jordan Sonneblick:** When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

***Bull Rider* by, Suzanne Morgan Williams:** When his older brother, a bull-riding champion, returns from the Iraq War partially paralyzed, fourteen-year-old Cam takes a break from skateboarding to enter a bull-riding contest, in hopes of winning the \$15,000 prize and motivating his depressed brother to continue with his rehabilitation.

***Schooled* by, Gordon Korman:** Home schooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.

***11 Birthdays*, by, Wendy Mass:** It's Amanda's 11th birthday and she is super excited but from the start everything goes wrong. The worst part of it all is that she and her best friend, Leo are not getting along and this will be the first birthday they haven't shared together. When it's over Amanda is glad, and wakes up happy for a new day. Or is it? Her birthday seems to be repeating itself. What is going on?! And how can she fix it? Only time, friendship, and a little luck will tell.

***The Wednesday Wars* by, Gary Schmidt:** Holling is really in for it. He's just started seventh grade with Mrs. Baker, a teacher he knows is out to get him. Why else would she make him read Shakespeare - outside of class? It is 1967, and everyone has bigger things than homework to worry about. There's Vietnam for one thing, and then there's the family business. Can Holling stay out of trouble when he has Mrs. Baker to contend with?

***Who Will Tell My Brother* by, Marlene Carvell:** During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world.

***Define Normal* by, Julie Anne Peters:** When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

Mystery

***Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* by, John Grisham:** A perfect murder. A faceless witness. A lone courtroom champion knows the whole truth and he's only thirteen years old. Meet Theodore Boone. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo can stop this from happening. Will he risk it?

***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by, Wendy Mass:** Jeremy's summer takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious wooden box arrives in the mail. According to the writing on the box, it holds the meaning of life! Jeremy is supposed to open it on his thirteenth birthday. The problem is, the keys are missing! So Jeremy and Lizzy set off to find the keys - and unlock the meaning of life.

***The Friendship Doll* by, Kirby Larson:** I am Miss Kanagawa. In 1927, my 57 doll-sisters and I were sent from Japan to America as Ambassadors of Friendship. I have put this tale to paper because from those 58 Friendship Dolls only 45 remain. I know that someone who chooses this book is capable of solving the mystery of the missing sisters. Perhaps that someone is you?

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by, Alan Bradley:** Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, must exonerate her father of murder. Armed with more than enough knowledge to tie two distant deaths together and examine new suspects, she begins a search that will lead her all the way to the King of England himself.

***Belly Up* by, Stuart Gibbs:** Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt Fitzroy has got a murder on his hands and trouble on his tail. Henry, the hippopotamus at the brand-new nationally known FunJungle, has gone belly up. Even though it's claimed he died of natural causes, Teddy smells something fishy. Dealing with the zoo proves to be nothing but a waste of time. So Teddy sets out to find the truth himself.

***Swindle* by, Gordon Korman:** After an unscrupulous collector cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into his heavily guarded store and steal the card back. Griffen plans to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker.

***The Gollywhopper Games* by, Jody Feldman:** Gil's future depends on winning the Golly Toy & Game Company's ultimate competition. If Gil wins, his dad has promised that the family can move away from all the gossip, false friends, and bad press that have plagued them ever since "The Incident." Gil will have to solve puzzles and complete physical stunts. Gil's every step, and every mistake, will be broadcast on national TV!

***The Maze Runner* by, James Dashner:** Thomas wakes up in an elevator, remembering nothing but his own name. He emerges into a world of about 60 teen boys who have learned to survive in a completely enclosed environment. A new boy arrives every 30 days. The original group has been in "the glade" for two years, trying to find a way to escape through a maze that surrounds their living space. They have begun to give up hope. Then a comatose girl arrives with a strange note, and their world begins to change.

***The Red Blazer Girls* by, Michael Beil:** Narrator Sophie and her pals Margaret and Rebecca go St. Veronica's, on the Upper East Side, where she has seen a ghostly face in the church window across the courtyard. The woman is real and needs help. Will the girls follow through? This the first book in a new mystery series.

***The Case of the Missing Marquess:* by, Nancy Springer:** This first book of an exciting new series features the intriguing, much younger sister of Sherlock Holmes. Enola, whose mother is a 64-year-old widow, disappears on Enola's 14th birthday. The teen reluctantly enlists the services of her adult brothers, who quickly determine that their sister belongs at a boarding school. Can she escape this fate?

***Chasing Vermeer* by, Blue Balliett:** When a book of unexplainable occurrence brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect: an eccentric old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI? This book is *The DaVinci Code* for kids!

***Wolf Rider* by, Avi:** On an ordinary evening, just as he's about to leave for a party, 15-year-old Andy Zadinski receives a phone call from a stranger that changes his life. The caller, Zeke, confesses to the murder of a young woman named Nina Klemmer. Andy immediately calls the police, who shrug it off as a gag or a crank call. But then Andy meets Nina, who is just as Zeke described her, and the story takes a twist.

***Found* by, Margaret Peterson Haddix:** Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere... full of babies with no adults on board. They come to realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

***Scat* by, Carl Hiaasen:** When their unpopular biology teacher goes missing in a suspicious fire during a field trip, Nick and Marta don't buy the headmaster's excuse for her absence. They decide to do some investigating. Eco-avengers; an endangered, hunted panther; illegal pipelines in the Everglades; and an underachieving student with the nickname "Smoke" all play a part in this gripping novel.

***Dovey Coe* by, Frances O'Roark Dowell:** When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother.

***Masterpiece* by, Elise Broach:** Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house. Then the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

***Things Hoped For* by, Andrew Clements:** Seventeen-year-old Gwen has been living with her grandfather in Manhattan while she attends music school. She joins up with another music student to solve the mystery when her grandfather suddenly goes missing. It is part of a trilogy so be sure to look for the others: *Things Not Seen* and *Things That Are*.

***Black Duck* by, Janet Lisle:** A teen's determination to be published in the local paper leads him to Ruben Hart's front door and an unlikely friendship. The elderly man has a mysterious past, and David soon becomes wrapped up in his tale of how he played a part in the adventures surrounding the legendary rum-running ship called the *Black Duck*.

***The Thief* by, Megan Whelan Turner:** A king orders Gen, a thief, to carry out a near-impossible heist. But Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure, which takes him to a temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Other-Worldly

***Uglies* by, Scott Westerfield:** Everybody gets to be supermodel gorgeous. What could be wrong with that? Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license - for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty...

***Picture the Dead* by, Adele Griffin and Lisa Brown:** Jennie Lovell's fiancé, Will, is killed during the Civil War. She soon forms an alliance with a spirit photographer and uses her ability to talk to the dead to investigate the secrets Will was hiding, And to discover the truth about how he really died.

***The Angel Experiment* by, James Patterson:** Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock" are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. When Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on, the flock must try to save her.

***The Girl Who Could Fly* by, Victoria Forester:** Piper McCloud isn't your normal girl. Ever since Piper was a baby she's been able to hover a few feet off the ground. Piper is sent away to I.N.S.A.N.E., the top-secret school for children with extraordinary abilities and powers like telekinesis, and X-ray vision. But Piper soon, realizes things are not as they seem – and the school she was sent to for her own protection might be the most dangerous place she's ever been.

***Fablehaven* by, Brandon Mull:** Kendra and her brother, Seth, have no idea that their grandfather is the current caretaker of Fablehaven. Inside the gated woods, ancient laws keep relative order among greedy trolls, mischievous satyrs, plotting witches, spiteful imps, and jealous fairies. Seth is a bit too curious and causes powerful forces of evil to become unleashed...

***The Lost Hero* by, Rick Riordan:** Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood. There they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself.

***Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator* by, Jennifer Allison:** Ever since her father died, quirky Gilda Joyce has been working hard to sharpen her psychic skills. She's determined to communicate with spirits from the Other Side and become an investigator of spooky, twisted mysteries. After wrangling an invitation to visit relatives in San Francisco, Gilda discovers that her dreary, tight-lipped uncle and his strange, delicate daughter need her help to uncover the terrible family secret: a tortured ghost stalking their home.

***Beautiful Creatures* by, Margaret Stohl and Kami Garcia:** In a small South Carolina town, where it seems little has changed since the Civil War, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection. However, he learns that Lena's family hides a dark secret that may be revealed on her sixteenth birthday... is their romance cursed?

***A Great and Terrible Beauty* by, Libba Bray:** After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

***The Dark Side of Nowhere* by, Neal Shusterman:** Fourteen-year-old Jason faces an identity crisis after discovering that he is the son of aliens who stayed on earth following a botched invasion mission. Which world does he belong in? Where do his loyalties lie?

***Sea of Trolls* by, Nancy 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.

***Artemis Fowl* by, Eoin Colfer:** Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl hatches a cunning plot to divest the fairyfolk of their pot of gold. Of course, he isn't foolish enough to believe in all that "gold at the end of the rainbow" nonsense. Rather, he knows that the only way to separate the little people from their stash is to kidnap one of them and wait for the ransom to arrive. But when the time comes to put his plan into action, he doesn't count on the appearance of the extra small, pointy-eared Captain Holly Short and the LEPrecon (Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance) Unit to interfere.

***Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City* by, Kirsten Miller:** Life becomes more interesting for Ananka Fishbein when, at the age of twelve, she discovers an underground room in the park across from her New York City apartment and meets a mysterious girl called Kiki Strike who claims that she, too, wants to explore the subterranean world.

***The White Mountains* by, John Christopher:** Young Will Parker is about to be “capped.” But he and his friends are determined to find out what that really means. They make a perilous journey to save not only their lives, but their freedom. But from what?

***Ender's Game* by, Orson Scott Card:** Ender is a master of simulated war games. When he is tricked into believing he is simply playing one of those games, he discovers in truth he is commanding the last fleet of Earth against an alien seeking the complete destruction of Earth. Though this is no game, Ender must do whatever it takes to win.

***The Golden Compass* by, Phillip Pullman:** Lyra Belacqua is an orphan growing up at Oxford University. But it quickly becomes clear that Lyra's Oxford is not precisely like our own--nor is her world. For one thing, people there each have a personal *daemon*, the manifestation of their souls in animal form. For another, hers is a universe in which science, religion, and magic are closely related. Can the Golden Compass she receives help her save the children who are disappearing at the hands of the mysterious Gobblers?

***Graveyard Book* by, Neil Gaiman:** Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man who has already killed Bod's family. (Newbery Winner 2008)

***Princess Ben* by, Catherine Gilbert Murdock:** Benevolence is not your typical princess and Princess Ben is certainly not your typical fairy tale. With her parents lost to unknown assassins, Princess Ben ends up under the thumb of the conniving Queen Sophia, who is intent on marrying her off to the first available “specimen of imbecilic manhood.” Can Princess Ben save her kingdom from annihilation and herself from permanent enslavement?

***Pendragon: Merchant of Death* by, DJ MacHale:** Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy who just met the girl of his dreams. Along comes his bizarre uncle and before he can object, he is swept off to an alternate dimension known as Denduron - a territory inhabited by strange beings, ruled by a magical tyrant, and plagued by dangerous revolution. Can Bobby get back to his normal life?

***Gone* by, Michael Grant:** In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.

Historical Fiction

***Moon Over Manifest* by, Clare Vanderpool:** It's 1936 and Abilene feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend while he works a railroad job. Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. She soon discovers a hidden cigar box containing some old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends on a honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to "Leave Well Enough Alone." (Newbery Winner 2011)

***Fatty Legs* by, Christy Jordan Felton and Margaret Pokiak Felton - and illustrated by our own Liz Amini-Holmes:** Eight-year-old Margaret Pokiak has set her sights on learning to read, even though it means leaving her village in the high Arctic to attend a residential school. At school Margaret soon encounters the Raven, a black-cloaked nun with a hooked nose and bony fingers that resemble claws. In the end it is the brave young Margaret who gives the Raven a lesson in the power of human dignity.

***Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro* by, Margi Preus:** In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

***Lyddie* by, Katherine Paterson:** Lyddie is an impoverished farm girl whose father has been gone for three long years, and whose mother has left her to fend for herself. Lyddie is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by, Jacqueline Kelly:** The summer of 1899 is hot in Calpurnia's sleepy Texas town, and there aren't a lot of good ways to stay cool. Her mother has a new wind machine, but instead, Callie's contemplating cutting off her hair, one sneaky inch at a time. She's also spending a lot of time at the river with her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist. But just when Callie and her grandfather are about to make an amazing discovery, the reality of Callie's situation catches up with her. She's a girl at the turn of the century, expected to cook and clean and sew. What a waste of time! Will Callie ever find a way to take control of her own destiny?

***Hitler's Canary* by, Sandi Toksvig:** Germany invaded Denmark in 1940 and, for over a year, the Danes put up no serious resistance. The British referred to them as Hitler's Canary; "They say he has us in a cage and we just sit and sing any tune he wants." That is until a high-ranking Nazi occupier tips off the Danish Government that on Rosh Hashana the Jews will be deported. But the Danish people are not about to sit back and watch their countrymen be deported. What will they do?

***The Devil's Paintbox* by, McKernan, Victoria:** Fifteen-year-old Aidan and his sister Maddy are penniless orphans. The year is 1866 and Kansas is in a drought. They escape on a wagon train hoping for a better life in Seattle, but find there are still many hardships to be faced. Will they survive and how?

The Red Necklace: a Story of the French Revolution by, Sally Gardner: Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a wealthy marquis, befriends Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show. Together they face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

A Bone From a Dry Sea by, Peter Dickinson: In two parallel stories, an intelligent female member of a prehistoric tribe and the daughter of a paleontologist “meet”. The prehistoric girl becomes instrumental in advancing the lot of her people, while the daughter of a paleontologist studies important fossil remains that are discovered. How are these two girls, living at two different times, connected to one another?

Hattie Big Sky by, Kirby Larson: For years, sixteen-year-old Hattie's been shuttled between relatives. Tired of being Hattie Here-and-There, she courageously leaves Iowa to claim her late uncle's home in Montana. Despite many hardships Hattie forges ahead. All the while sharing her adventures, especially Charlie who is fighting in World War II on the front in France, through letters and articles for her hometown paper.

Beyond the Western Sea: The Escape From Home by, Avi: Driven from their impoverished Irish village, fifteen-year-old Maura and her younger brother have no choice but to leave for America. When they meet up with their landlord's runaway son in Liverpool, they join forces to survive their unknown future... an epic story with a sequel.

A Northern Light by, Jennifer Donnelly: In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer - against the wishes of her father and fiancé, Upon taking a job at a summer inn she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. What will she do with this information and how will it affect her future? Based on a true story.

Hear the Wind Blow by, Mary Downing Hahn: Haswell Magruder makes a decision that will have a profound effect on his own life as well as the lives of all those he loves. A wounded Confederate soldier appears at the family's Virginia farm, and Haswell convinces his mother and sister to take the man in, despite the certain consequences they will face if the enemy Yankees were to catch them in such a "traitorous" act.

King of Shadows by, Susan Cooper: Nat Field has been picked by a dazzling international director to perform at Shakespeare's Globe, As the boys begin to rehearse strange, eerie echoes of the past begin creeping in. Nat goes to bed mysteriously sick and wakes up healthy. But he's no longer in the present, he's in 1599, acting at the original Globe. And his costar is Shakespeare himself!

Voices of Silence by, Bel Mooney: A 13-year-old girl living in Communist Romania, whose family plans to defect, befriends a boy whose father ranks high in the secret police. Will her family secret be discovered? Is their friendship worth the risk?

The Boy Who Dared by, Susan Campbell Bartoletti: In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener is imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets. While in prison he recalls how he came to dedicate himself to exposing the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

***The Porcupine Year* by, Louise Erdrich:** In 1852, forced by the United States government to leave their beloved Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker, fourteen-year-old Omokayas and her Native American family travel in search of a new home. This is another great story by the author of *The Birchbark House*.

Sports

***Football Genius* by, Tim Green:** Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players. Be sure to read more Tim Green books!

***Pretty Tough* by, Liz Tigelaar:** Bubbly, blond Krista brown is pretty and popular. Her sister, Charlie, is more interested in braving the Malibu waves than the halls of the school that Krista rules. But when Krista and Charlie are both recruited to the school's soccer team, they are forced to face their differences. Can these two sisters become teammates, and friends, in time to make it to the championships?

Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* by, Ron Koertge:** When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mono, he is forced to keep a journal for school credit. He ends up experimenting with poetry – which not only helps pass the time, it also helps him deal with life, love and loss. Be sure to read the sequel, ***Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs.

***Soccer Chick Rules* by, Dawn Fitzgerald:** Tess's love in life is soccer. When she finds out that sports at her school will be cut unless the community votes for a tax levy, Tess will do anything to rally votes. She's even joining forces with a cheerleader to help spread the word. But if the levy doesn't pass, will it all have been for nothing?

***The Moves Make the Man* by, Bruc Brooks:** Jerome Foxworthy likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball. Then Jerome meets Bix Rivers, mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves....

***Heat* by, Mike Lupica:** Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hear of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

***Crash* by, Jerry Spinelli:** Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

***The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by, John Ritter:** Tom Gallagher is in a tight spot. The fate of the Dillontown team rests on the outcome of one baseball game, if Tom's team loses, they lose their field too. But how can they possibly win? Just when everything seems hopeless, a mysterious boy named Cruz de la Cruz rides into town and claims to know the secret of hitting. Is he Tom's only hope for saving his hometown?

***Samurai Shortstop* by, Alan Gratz:** While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training, which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.

***Tangerine* by, Edward Bloor:** Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

***The Batboy* by, Mike Lupica:** Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a batboy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

***Peak* by, Roland Smith:** After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand - and he wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit - a challenge that could cost him his life.

Classics

***Anne of Green Gables* by, Lucy Maude Lovelace:** Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island and proceeds to make an impression (and a few enemies) on everyone around her.

***Treasure Island* by, Robert Louis Stevenson:** While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, Jim Hawkins and his innkeeper mother find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.

***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by, Jules Vern:** Professor Arronax and his two companions, trapped aboard a fantastic submarine as prisoners of the deranged Captain Nemo, come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.

***The Secret Garden* by, Frances Hodgson Burnett:** When orphaned Mary Lennox, lonely and sad, comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire moors, she finds it full of secrets. At night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. Outside, she meets Dickon, a magical boy who can charm and talk to animals. Then, one day, with the help of a friendly robin, Mary discovers the most mysterious wonder of all.

***Little Women* by, Louisa May Alcott:** Set in New England during the Civil War, it chronicles the lives and loves of Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth, four sisters who must rely on each other for strength in the face of tragedies both large and small, after their father leaves for battle.

***The Pearl* by, John Steinbeck:** Kino, a young Mexican-Indian pearl diver, and wife Juana live a peaceful life. But their tranquility is threatened when a scorpion bites Coyotito and they need money to pay for a doctor. Can Juana and his pearl save the baby?

***Journey to the Center of the Earth* by, Jules Verne:** A graphic novel adaptation of Jules Verne's classic story about of the adventures of Professor Lindenbrock and his companions as they explore a volcanic crater in Iceland that leads them to the center of the Earth.

***Black Beauty* by, Anna Sewell:** The life of a sweet-tempered colt takes unexpected turns when he leaves the English countryside to become a working horse. A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.

***Oliver Twist* by, Charles Dickens:** After living in poor conditions, Oliver runs away to the streets of London. There he meets a gang of pickpockets and soon Oliver's life is changed forever.

***The Sword in the Tree* by, Robert Clyde Bulla:** In the days of King Arthur there stood a mighty oak tree within the walls of a castle. Peace reigned in the castle until the fearsome night when Lionel, long lost brother of Lord Weldon, returned to cause trouble and unhappiness.

***Five Children and It* by, E. Nesbit:** When four brothers and sisters discover a Psammead, or sand-fairy, in the gravel pit near the country house where they are staying, they have no way of knowing all the adventures its wish-granting will bring them.

Advanced Readers

****Warning: These books contain mature themes and should be approved by a parent before reading.****

***Okay for Now* by, Gary Schmidt:** As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him. As Doug struggles to be more than the “skinny thug” that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spice. In Lil, Doug finds the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a whole town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam.

***The Taker* by, J.M. Steele:** Carly Biel’s future is right on track: she’s a great student her boyfriend is captain of the lacrosse team; and she’s a shoe-in for Princeton (her dad’s an alum – love that legacy status!). When she tanks the SATs, and then gets a mysterious note from “The Taker,” she is faced with a moral dilemma. Can she resist? What if she gets caught? And what if she doesn’t?

***Graceling* by, Kristin Cashore:** Meet Katsa, a warrior-girl in her with one blue eye and one green eye. This gives her haunting beauty, but also marks her as a Graceling - a beings with special talent. Katsa's “Grace” is considered most useful: her ability to fight and kill is unequalled in the seven kingdoms. Forced to act as a henchman for the king, Katsa channels her guilt by forming a secret council of like-minded citizens who carry out secret missions to promote justice over cruelty and abuses of power.

***Chains: Seeds of America* by, Laurie Halse Anderson:** After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. Look for all three books in this amazing trilogy.

***Persepolis* by, Marjane Satrapi:** Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime.

***Nation* by, Terry Pratchett:** After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

***Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by, John Boyne:** From his bedroom window, Bruno can see hundreds (maybe thousands) of people wearing striped pajamas and caps and is eager to discover the secret of the people on the other side of a fence.

Hunger Games* by, Collins, Suzanne:** In a future where the rulers maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the 12 districts against one another, Katniss's skills are put to the test when she takes her younger sister's place. Read sequel, ***Catching Fire and ***Mockingjay***, out this August!!

***Sunrise Over Fallujah* by, Walter Dean Myers:** Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

***Life As We Knew It* by, Susan Pfeffer:** 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. First book in a trilogy.

***Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by, James Swanson** (non-fiction) A fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

***The Book Thief* by, Markus Zusak:** Death is the narrator of this lengthy, powerful story of a town in Nazi Germany. Death focuses on a young orphan, Liesl; her loving foster parents; the Jewish fugitive they are hiding; and a wild but gentle teen neighbor, Rudy, who defies the Hitler Youth and convinces Liesl to steal for fun.

List created by Woodside School Librarian, Sharon LaCrosse 2011