

Portland Middle School / Portland Library

2010 Suggested Summer Reading List for Grades 7 & 8

***Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems* by John Grandits**

A fifteen-year-old girl named Jessie expresses her sarcastic and hilarious take on high school life using concrete poetry

***Demon King* by Cinda Williams Chima**

The first in a high fantasy series that tells of the intertwining fates of former street gang leader Han Alister and headstrong Princess Raisa, as Han takes possession of an amulet that once belonged to an evil wizard and Raisa uncovers a conspiracy in the Grey Wolf Court.

***Epic* by Conor Kostick**

Epic is a fantasy role-playing game that is more than just a game; it's New Earth's government and economy. Everyone has always played Epic the same way, by slowly accumulating wealth, but no one can rival the Committee, the world's tyrannical ruling group.

***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**

Toddler Bod, short for Nobody, stumbles into a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered, and is raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen by the graveyard's ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Award 2009

***Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Miranda, a sixteen year old high school sophomore, is looking forward to getting her license and just being a teenager. She doesn't give a second thought to the news of a meteor speeding towards the moon, until it hits. Life as she knew it will never return.

***The New Way Things Work* by David Macaulay**

Text and numerous detailed illustrations introduce and explain the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines. Includes new material about digital technology.

***Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman**

Despite his resolve to be a "normal" teenager, Vince Luca finds himself seemingly drawn as a loan shark on a deal and must find a way to get out. Complicating the situation is the fact that he has started dating the daughter of the FBI agent investigating his father's activities.

***Stormbreaker (Alex Rider Adventure)* by Anthony Horowitz**

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world.

***Wild Magic (#1, The Immortals)* by Tamara Pierce**

In this exciting fantasy, the mage Numair, the knight Alanna, and Queen Thayet enlist thirteen-year-old Daine's help to battle the dreadful immortal creatures that have recently begun to attack the kingdom of Tortall.

2011 Nutmeg Teen Nominees

All of the Above by Shelley Pearsall

James, Rhondell, Sharice, and Marcel attend the same inner-city school. Their teacher Mr. Collins challenges these diverse students to build the world's biggest Sierpinski tetrahedron in an after-school club. Based on a true story.

Alphabet of Dreams by Susan Fletcher

Mitra and her little brother, Babak, are beggars in the city of Rhagae, but they are not what they seem. They are of royal blood, exiled in poverty. Babak's prophetic visions attract the attention of Melchior the wizard who kidnaps the boy so Babak can dream exclusively for him. Can Mitra save her little brother as they cross the Persian desert?

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart

Spunky boarding school sophomore Frances "Frankie" Landau-Banks is tired of being underestimated by the men in her life, including her boyfriend Matthew and his wittier-than-thou friends. She discovers Matthews secret male club, and, unbeknownst to them, begins orchestrating their elaborate pranks.

Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate

Kek has traveled from his family home in Africa to a new life in the U.S. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country - America.

The Last Dragon by Silvana de Mari

Imagine being sent into the unknown where magic, elves, dragons, trolls, and humans co-exist. Imagine if you were the last of your kind. Imagine if your name was Yorshkrunsquarklijolnerstrink. Get ready for hardships, unlikely friendships, humor, and love as Yorsh the elf tries to find the last dragon.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

When his cousin Salim rides the London Eye observation wheel and disappears, a perplexed Ted partners with his crabby teenage sister, Kat, to investigate the mystery. With his uniquely brilliant mind, can Ted convince his parents and aunt Gloria that he can find Salim before it is too late?

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

In this futuristic novel, set after the Second Civil War (Between the Pro-Life and Pro-Choice armies), three teens are trying to escape the Harvest Camp in which teens can be "unwound" and used for transplants and plastic surgery upgrades.

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor

Addie wants a normal life. But living in a trailer while her mom disappears for days at a time is anything but normal. Addie dreams of living with her half sisters as a disaster alters her future.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Holling Hoodhood is sure his 7th grade teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates him. After all, she is forced to supervise him while his Catholic and Jewish classmates attend religious education. Worse yet, she makes him read Shakespeare's plays. Holling realistically and sensitively depicts the confusion of adolescence during the turbulent 1960s.