

Recommended Reads for Middle Schoolers

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FICTION

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. **The Fixer**. 2015.

Lexile: HL620L

When her grandfather develops dementia, 16-year-old Tess, who has been keeping his Montana ranch going, is whisked away to Washington, D.C. by a sister she barely knows and thrown into a world of politics, power, wealth, love triangles and family secrets.

Bauer, Joan. **Soar**.* 2016.

Lexile: 510L

Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, 12-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has 60 days to find a baseball team to coach.

Carson, Rae. **Walk on Earth a Stranger**.* 2015.

Lexile: 740L

Lee Westfall, who has the magical ability to sense gold, must flee her home to avoid people who would abuse her powers. So when her best friend heads out across Gold Rush-era America to stake his claim, Lee disguises herself as a boy and sets out on her own dangerous journey.

Carter, Aimee. **Simon Thorn and the Wolf's Den**. 2016.

When his mother is kidnapped by a herd of New York City rats, 12-year-old Simon learns he, his mother and his uncle are all able to change into an animal at will, and that Simon may be able to save the beleaguered Five Animal Kingdoms.

Gerhardt, Jake. **Me and Miranda Mullaly**. 2016.

Lexile: N/A

The fates of three eighth-grade boys converge in biology class one day, as each falls desperately in love with the same girl. The object of their affection? The enigmatic Miranda Mullaly—the girl who smiles like she means it...and barely realizes her admirers exist!

Holt, K.A. **House Arrest**. 2015.

Lexile: 610L

Young Timothy, sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears and frustrations.

McLemore, Anna-Marie. **The Weight of Feathers**. 2015.

Lexile: HL730L

Although Lace Paloma knows all about the feud between the Palomas and the Corbeaus, she finds herself falling for Cluck Corbeau when he saves her life while both families are performing in the same town.

Tromly, Stephanie. **Trouble is a Friend of Mine**. 2015.

Lexile: HL630L

After her parents' divorce, Zoe moves from Brooklyn to upstate New York, where she meets the weirdly compelling misfit Philip Digby, who pulls her into his investigation into the kidnapping of a local teenage girl, which may be related to the disappearance of his sister.

NONFICTION

The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century by Sarah Elizabeth Miller. 2016.

Lexile: 1100L

The Borden murders are examined, using newspaper articles to recreate the events and Lizzie's trial. Her story is explored to theorize on what may have happened.

J 364.1523 MIL

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown (adapted for young readers by Gregory Mone). 2015.

Lexile: 1000L

Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans.

J 797.123 BRO

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose. 2015.

Lexile: 970L

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, 15-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not.

J 940.5348 HOO

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir by Margarita Engle. 2015.

Lexile: 1120L

In this poetic memoir, Engle, the first Latina to receive a Newbery Honor, tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War.

B ENGLE MARGARITA

First Flight around the World: The Adventures of the American Fliers Who Won the Race by Tim Grove. 2015.

Lexile: 1100L

In 1924, the U.S. Army sent eight young men to attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the globe by flight. Men from five other countries - Great Britain, France, Portugal, Italy and Argentina - had the same goal, and so the quest became a race.

J 629.13 GRO

This Side of Wild: Mutts, Mares, and Laughing Dinosaurs by Gary Paulsen. 2015.

Lexile: 1210L

Paulsen is an adventurer who competed in two Iditarods, survived the Minnesota wilderness and climbed the Bighorns. None of this would have been possible without his truest companion: his animals.

J 636.002 PAU

This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon by Nancy Plain. 2015.

Lexile: N/A

Before Audubon, no one had seen, drawn or written so much about the animals of the largely uncharted U.S. Audubon remained committed almost to the end of his life "to search out the things which have been hidden since the creation of this wondrous world."

J B AUDUBON

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