

# Reading List

## Suggested Reading for Middle School Students (Grades 6–8)

The following titles are recommended as summer reading both to maintain fluency and reading level and to encourage independent reading. Students may find these titles at libraries and bookstores.

**Alexander, Lloyd.** *The Arkadians.*

Three Arkadians wander through a fantasy land from one misadventure to another. An out-of-work bean counter, a young woman of mysterious talents, and a poet try to escape the wicked King Bromios and his crooked soothsayers.

**Armstrong, Jennifer.** *Steal Away.*

Two women, one white and one black, tell the story of their escape from a southern farm during the 1850s and of their difficult journey north to freedom.

**Banks, Lynne Reid.** *Mystery of the Cupboard.*

After moving to a home his mother recently inherited, Omri uncovers the mystery of the house and its link to a magic cupboard. A sequel to *Indian in the Cupboard*.

**Beller, Susan.** *Cadets At War: The True Story of Teenage Heroism at the Battle of New Market.*

The story of 280 schoolboys who fought during the Civil War to stop the Union troops.

**Bruchac, Joseph.** *A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull.*

The true story of a child so deliberate and methodical he was called Slow; he turns out to be Sitting Bull, the Lakota's greatest leader.

**Bruchac, Joseph.** *The Boy Who Lived with the Bears and Other Iroquois Stories.*

Six Iroquois stories illustrated with dramatic scratchboard.

**Byars, Betsy.** *The Moon and I.*

The author describes her hilarious adventures with a black snake and some comical stories about her first attempts at becoming a professional writer.

**Collier, James L. and Christopher.** *With Every Drop of Blood.*

Although Johnny promises his dying father he will not desert the family to fight for the rebel cause, the lure of adventure and financial gain are strong. The book realistically focuses on the reasons the Civil War was fought as well as the enormity of the suffering of soldiers and civilians.

**Cooney, Caroline.** *Among Friends.*

Six high school juniors discover surprising things about themselves and their friends in the diaries they are asked to keep as a three-month English assignment.

**Cooney, Caroline.** *Out of Time.*

In this sequel to *Both Sides of Time*, Anne Lockwood returns to New York City in the 1890s where she discovers her friends from her former trip are suffering through hard times. As a time traveler, she must learn nineteenth-century ways to help her friends.

**Coville, Bruce.** *Jennifer Murdley's Toad.*

Imagine owning a talking toad! Read about Jennifer's remarkable adventures after she purchases such a talented pet.

**Coville, Bruce.** *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher.*

When twelve-year-old Jeremy unwittingly buys a dragon's egg, his whole life changes.

**Creech, Sharon.** *Absolutely Normal Chaos.*

Mary Louis is keeping a journal as an English class assignment. Through the entries, the events of her summer come alive.

**Cummings, Pat.** *Talking with Artists: Volume Two.*

Thirteen renowned picture book illustrators describe their childhood, working methods, and sources of inspiration, as well as offer advice for budding artists.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul.** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963.*

A family story, both comic and moving, touches on the frightening times of the early civil rights movement.

**Cushman, Karen.** *The Midwife's Apprentice.*

A homeless girl in Medieval England finds a place when she becomes a midwife's apprentice.

**Dubois, Muriel L.** *Abenaki Captive.*

This historical narrative tells the story of the growth of hatred and fierce competition between a nineteen-year-old Abenaki warrior, Ogistin, and Vermont settler, John Stark.

**Engel, Dean & Freedman, Florence B.** *Jack Keats: A Biography with Illustrations.*

A biography with rich insights into the life of an internationally acclaimed author and illustrator, including full-color reproductions of his early work.

**Filipovic, Zlata.** *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo.*

This personal narrative of life, death, and the loss of childhood depicts Zlata's life before and during the war in Bosnia.

**Freedman, Russell.** *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery.*

A biography of one of this century's most outstanding, inspirational women.

**Fritz, Jean.** *You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?*

This engaging historical biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton presents a lively look at her impatient, outspoken personality as she fought for women's suffrage.

**George, Jean Craighead.** *Julie.*

A terrific sequel to *Julie of the Wolves*. When Julie returns to her father's Eskimo village, she struggles to find a way to save her beloved wolves in a changing Arctic world.

**Gray, Luli.** *Falcon's Egg.*

Keeping a dragon in a New York City apartment can be challenging!

**Haas, Jessie.** *Uncle Daney's Way.*

Twelve-year-old Cole learns how to work with a logging horse as well as valuable lessons about life from his Uncle Daney.

**Hesse, Karen.** *Letters from Rifka.*

In a series of letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl reveals the struggles of her family's flight from Russia in 1919.

**Hite, Sid.** *It's Nothing to a Mountain.*

After the death of their parents, Lisette and Riley go to live with their grandparents in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. There they experience a series of adventures that change their lives.

**Hobbs, Will.** *The Big Wander.*

Searching for his uncle in rugged Southwest canyon country, Clay becomes involved with a group of Navajo Indians who are trying to save some of the last wild mustangs.

**Hoestlandt, Jo.** *Star of Fear, Star of Hope.*

During the German occupation of Paris, Helen becomes distraught when her best friend, a Jewish girl, disappears after they have quarreled.

**Klass, David.** *Danger Zone.*

In this thriller, Jimmy is recruited for an all-star basketball team scheduled to represent the U.S. in an international tournament. When they travel to Rome, the all-star teens are trapped in events beyond their understanding.

**Lewin, Ted.** *I Was a Teenage Professional Wrestler.*

The true-story account of how a children's illustrator earned his way through college.

**Lowry, Lois.** *All About Sam and Attaboy Sam.*

Anastasia Krupnik describes the adventures of her brother, from his first day as a newborn through his mischievous early years.

**McKay, Hilary.** *Dog Friday.*

A boy finds himself in a series of often hilarious, occasionally dangerous scrapes when a wild and eccentric family moves next door.

**Myers, Walter Dean.** *Shadow of the Red Moon.*

Terrorists are about to attack Crystal City. In order to protect their children, parents send them to search for the Ancient Land.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.** *Alice the Brave.*

For Alice, spending the summer around the pool should be ideal, but instead her secret fear of drowning is revealed when a group of boys try to throw her into the pool. Her brother helps her to conquer her fears.

**Olaleye, Isaac.** *The Distant Talking Drum: Poems from Nigeria.*

Fifteen original poems illustrated with folk art paintings.

**Paterson, Katherine.** *Lyddie.*

In an effort to gain independence, a poor girl from a Vermont farm leaves home and becomes a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts during the 1840s.

**Paulsen, Gary.** *Brian's Winter.*

What would have happened if Brian Robeson, the subject of *Hatchet*, had not been rescued when he had? Brian must confront the Canadian winter; he scrambles to reinforce his shelter and make animal skin clothing and arrowhead tools to help him improve hunting techniques.

**Paulsen, Gary.** *Call Me Francis Tucket.*

In this sequel to *Mr. Tucket*, Francis feels he can handle himself in the wild. The story relates his many mishaps as he attempts to conquer the wilderness.

**Peck, Robert Newton.** *A Part of the Sky.*

A sequel to *A Day No Pigs Would Die*. Robert's coming-of-age story continues as the Peck family struggles to keep the family farm during the Depression.

**Plummer, Louise.** *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman.*

Kate, seventeen, is writing a romance novel based on her real romance with her brother's friend, Richard. As time goes by Kate is able to reflect upon her relationship and her writing.

**Powell, Randy.** *Dean Duffy.*

Dean is assured of a scholarship until his pitching arm gives out and he bats only .052 in his last season. His future is questionable until he receives an offer from a small private college for a one-semester scholarship.

**Rawls, Wilson.** *Where The Red Fern Grows.*

A young boy living in the Ozarks works hard to fulfill his dream of purchasing two redbone hound dogs and training them to be champions.

**Rosen, Michael J.** *A School for Pompey Walker.*

A true narrative of an escaped slave who returned to the South to raise money for a school by selling himself back into slavery again and again.

**Rostkowski, Margaret.** *Moon Dancer.*

Sixteen year old Miranda and her 21-year-old cousin Emily take part in a summer excursion into a southern Utah canyon to explore cliff dwellings of the Hopi people.

**Rylant, Cynthia.** *The Van Gogh Cafe.*

Magic seems to occur at a cafe in Kansas where Clara and her father witness a series of unusual happenings.

**Stevenson, James.** *Sweet Corn.*

Twenty-eight short poems accompanied by creative designs that complement the text.

**Taylor, Mildred.** *The Well: David's Story.*

Despite the racial prejudice and injustice of the South in the early 1900s, the Logans share their well water.

**Taylor, Theodore.** *The Bomb.*

In 1946, sixteen-year-old Sorry and his family are confronted by U.S. military personnel who tell them their home will be used as a testing site for atomic bombs and that they may return in a few years!

**Taylor, Theodore.** *The Cay* (and its prequel *Timothy Of The Cay*).

When the ship Phillip is traveling on is torpedoed during WWII, the twelve-year-old boy becomes stranded on a small island in the Caribbean, where he must rely on Timothy, an elderly island man.

**Van Laan, Nancy.** *In a Circle Long Ago: A Treasury of Native Lore from North America.*

A collection of stories, songs, and poems from Native American tribal traditions.

**Wallace, Bill.** *Buffalo Gal.*

Fifteen-year-old Amanda finds herself leaving her refined life to accompany her mother to the Oklahoma Territory on a crusade to save the buffalo.

**Watkins, Yoko Kawashima.** *My Brother, My Sister, and I.*

This is a sequel to *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*. Living as refugees in Japan in 1947, thirteen-year-old Yoko and her brother and sister search for their missing father.

**Yolen, Jane.** *The Ballad of the Pirate Queens.*

A renowned storyteller weaves the legends of history's proudest and most fearless pirates, Anne Bonney and Mary Read, into a celebration in verse.

## NON FICTION

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell: *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow***

A fascinating—and chilling—account of life in Hitler's Youth Organization.

**Blumenthal, Karen: *Let Me Play: the Story of Title IX, the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America* (Jane Addams Book Awards)**

A look at the history of Title IX, which gave girls and women equal access to physical education and athletic scholarships at schools and universities.

**Cross, James Giblin: *Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of John Wilkes Booth and Edwin Booth* (Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards)**

Edwin Booth was an actor on the verge of national fame when his brother, John Wilkes, shot and killed Abraham Lincoln.

**Freedman, Russell: *Children of the Great Depression* (Golden Kite Awards)**

An account in words and photos of the Great Depression from the perspective of the children who lived through it.

**Jurmain, Suzanne: *Forbidden Schoolhouse* (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards)**

In 1831, in the face of much violent opposition, Prudence Crandall allowed an African-American teenager to enroll in her CT school for white children.

**Marin, Albert: *Dr. Jenner and the Speckled Monster***

Smallpox ravaged people of every continent until Jenner's development of the vaccine in the 1790's—but is an outbreak still possible today?

**Partridge, Elizabeth: *This Land Was Made for You and Me: the Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie* (Golden Kite Awards)**

Folk music-legend Woody Guthrie wrote and recorded more than 3000 songs about the Great Depression, the dust storms of the Midwest, and the trenches of WWI.

**Walker, Sally: *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine* (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards)**

The story of the *H.L. Hunley*, a Confederate submarine lost during the Civil War and found/examined in 1995.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

**Blackwood, Gary: *Second Sight***

When Cassandra has visions of President Lincoln's assassination, she and Nicholas must hurry to prevent the murder. Historical fiction with a twist.

**Bradley, Kimberly Baker: *For Freedom* (Nutmeg Book)**

13-year old Suzanne risks her life to spy for the Allies when Germany invades her beloved country of France.

**Bruchac, Joseph: *Code Talker***

During WWII, Ned is trained by the U.S. Marines to be a Code Talker—a soldier who uses the Navajo language as military code for radio messages.

**Carvell, Marlene: *Sweetgrass Basket* (Jane Addams Book Awards)**

Upon the death of their mother, Mattie and Sarah, two Mohawk sisters, must attend the Carlisle Indian Boarding School in PA, where they face an abusive headmistress.

**Duble, Kathleen Benner: *The Sacrifice***

10-year old Abigail is accused of witchcraft and imprisoned during the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Salem trials.

**Durrant, Lynda: *My Last Skirt: the Story of Jennie Hodgers, Union Soldier***

Teenage Jennie Hodgers, an Irish immigrant to America, passes as a man to fight in the Civil War.

**Houston, Julian: *New Boy***

16-year old Rob Garrett is the first African American to attend his elite Connecticut boarding school.

**Kadohata, Cynthia: *Weedflower***

After the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Sumiko and her family are sent by the American government to live at an internment camp in the Sonoran desert.

**Lester, Julius: *Day of Tears***

An account in dialogue of a historical 1959 slave auction in Georgia.

**Lawlor, Laurie: *He Will Go Fearless***

After the Civil War, Billy runs away from his Montana home and becomes a teamster in the Wild West.

**Meyer, Carolyn: *Marie, Dancing***

Marie, a poor ballet student in Paris, becomes a model for Edgar Degas's famous statue, "The Little Dancer."

**Morpurgo: *Private Peaceful* (Booklist Editor's Choice Awards)**

At 15, Thomas is too young to fight, but lies about his age to follow his beloved brother to the trenches of France. (World War I)

**Napoli, Donna Jo. *Bound***

During the Ming Dynasty in China, Xing Xing is stuck living with her cruel stepmother after her father dies. A version of the Cinderella myth, drawn from history.

**Rodman, Mary Ann: *Yankee Girl***

When Alice moves from Chicago to Missouri in 1964, she is the biggest outsider in the sixth grade—until Valerie, an African American girl, joins the class.

**Salisbury, Graham: *Under the Blood-Red Sun***

Tomi, a Japanese American boy living in Hawaii, witnesses the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

**Spillebeen, Geert: *Kipling's Choice* (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards)**

18-year old John Kipling, son of the famous writer Rudyard, is wounded in battle during WWI.

**Sturtevant, Katherine: *A True and Faithful Narrative***

Living in 17<sup>th</sup> Century London, young Meg must decide between two potential husbands.

**Whelan, Gloria: *Listening for Lions***

While in East Africa in 1919, 13-year old Rachel's parents are both killed by the Spanish flu, leaving Rachel orphaned and alone.

**Wilson, Diana Lee: *Black Storm Comin'***

In 1860, with the Civil War looming, Colton joins the Pony Express to make a crucial delivery for his sick mother.

**FANTASY**

**Bruchac, Joseph: *Wabi: a Hero's Tale***

A white great horned owl named Wabi transforms into a human being and has several trials and adventures while adapting to his new life.

**Cornish, D.M.: *Foundling***

In a world at war with Grinnings and other wicked creatures, Rossamund Brookchild must wander the roads as a lamplighter—lighting and extinguishing streetlights at dusk and dawn.

**Delaney, Joseph: *Revenge of the Witch* (series)**

Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, works as a “spook” apprentice, learning to protect ordinary folks from ghouls, beasts, and other wicked creatures.

**Dunkle, Clare: *Hollow Kingdom* (series)**

In 19<sup>th</sup> Century England, a powerful sorcerer and King of the Goblins, chooses Kate, an orphan, to be his bride and queen.

**Funke, Cornelia: *Inkspell* (series)**

In this sequel to *Inkheart*, some readers have the power to bring characters from books into the “real world” with fascinating—and sometimes terrifying—results.

**Gardner, Sally: *I, Coriander***

In 17<sup>th</sup> Century England, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magical power from her mother, must discover how to harness this magic to save herself.

**Griffin, Adele: *Where I Want to Be* (National Book Award Finalist)**

Rose and Lily, two teenage sisters, are separated by death but remain connected as they work toward accepting change, loss, and mistakes of the past.

**Gruber, Michael: *The Witch's Boy***

A grotesque foundling turns against the witch who sacrificed almost everything to raise him.

**Hale, Shannon: *Princess Academy* (Newbery Honor Book)**

14-year old Miri attends a strict academy for potential princesses and learns more than she bargains for.

**Larbalestier, Justine: *Magic or Madness* (series)**

From the Sydney, Australia home of her grandmother who claims to be a witch, 15-year old Reason is magically transported to New York City.

**Pierce, Tamora: *Trickster's Choice* (series)**

On the Copper Isles, Alianne struggles to survive in a royal court full of political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.

**Pullman, Philip: *The Golden Compass* (series)**

Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming subjects of cruel experiments in the Far North.

**Pullman, Philip: *The Scarecrow and His Servant***

A scarecrow and his boy servant embark on a dangerous adventure to outwit the crooked Buffaloni family.

**Riordan, Rick: *The Lightning Thief* (series)**

When Percy Jackson learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea, he becomes involved in a quest to save the world from a catastrophic war between the gods.

**Thal, Lilli: *Mimus***

After a shocking betrayal, Prince Florin of Moltovia is placed as a lowly apprentice of a spiteful jester, Mimus.

**Ursa, Anne: *Shadow Thieves* (series)**

13-year old Charlotte battles evil creatures of the underworld—Nightmares, Death, and Pain.

## SCIENCE FICTION

**Anderson, M.T. *Whales on Stilts***

Three middle school students must stop a mad scientist from taking over the world with an army of whales.

**Bechard, Margaret: *Spacer and Rat***

Jack, who has spent his whole life in space, reconsiders his ideas about what it takes to be human when he meets an “Earthy” named Kit.

**Cooney, Caroline B. *Code Orange***

When he finds an envelope containing 100-year old smallpox scabs, Mitty fears he has infected himself and all of New York City.

**Fox, Helen: *Eager***

The Bell family's new robot, Eager, is programmed not merely to obey, but to reason, question, and use his own free will.

**Halam, Ann: *Siberia***

In a bleak future in which almost no animals survive, 14-year old Sloe spends two years in prison school before embarking on a dangerous quest across a frozen wasteland.

**Silberberg, Alan: *Pond Scum***

Oliver stumbles across a mysterious gem that gives him the power to transform into any animal he touches.

**Westerfeld, Scott: *Uglies* (series)**

Tally Youngblood lives in a future society where all citizens are considered “ugly” until undergoing a transformative operation on their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**REALISTIC FICTION**

**Acampora, Paul: *Defining Dulcie***

When 16-year old Dulcie’s father dies, she and her mother drive cross-country from Connecticut to California to begin a new life.

**Alcott, Louisa May: *Little Women***

The classic coming-of-age novel about the March sisters—Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth—living in 19<sup>th</sup> Century New England.

**Birdsall, Jeanne: *The Penderwicks* (National Book Award)**

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire mountains, four sisters share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

**Canales, Viola: *The Tequila Worm* (Pura Belpre Medal Book)**

After growing up in a tight-knit Mexican-American community, Sofia considers accepting a scholarship to an elite boarding school in Austin, Texas.

**Dickens, Charles: *Oliver Twist***

The classic story of Oliver, an a 19<sup>th</sup> Century orphan forced into thievery to survive on the London streets.

**Dowell, Frances O’Roark: *Chicken Boy***

Nothing has been going right for Tobin and his family since his mother died, but 7<sup>th</sup> grade brings the promise of new friends and new possibilities.

**Ford, Christine: *Scout***

A story in free-verse of Scout, an 11-year old girl, and her friendship with the new boy at school.

**Holt, Kimberly Willis: *Keeper of the Night***

Isabel, a 13-year old girl living on the island of Guam, and her family cope with the death of Isabel’s mother, who committed suicide.

**Jansen, Hanna: *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You***

After surviving terrible violence in her home country of Rwanda, Jeanne is adopted by a German family, and, as she grows older, struggles to come to terms with her past.

**Jaramillo, Ann: *La Linea***

15-year old Miguel leaves his poor Mexican village to illegally cross the U.S. border and join his parents in California.

**Jones, Kimberly K.: *Sand Dollar Summer***

12-year old Lisa and her family spend the summer in Maine as her mother recovers from a bad car accident.

**Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables***

The classic novel about Anne, a orphan who goes to live with a lonely couple in Canada and stirs up excitement with her love of adventure, romance, and fun.

**Park, Linda Sue: *Project Mulberry***

Julie and Patrick learn about a lot more than worms while working on a science project for an after-school club.

**Parkison, Siobhan: *Something Invisible***

11-year old Jake must adapt to life with a new baby sister, a new stepfather, and a new—very peculiar—best friend.

**Perkins, Lynn Rae: *Criss Cross* (Newbery Medal)**

A group of teenagers in the 1960's find different ways to view friendship and everyday life as they leave childhood behind.

**Perkins, Mitali: *Monsoon Summer***

When 15-year old Jazz spends the summer in India with her family, she must leave Steve—the boy with whom she's secretly in love—behind.

**St. Anthony, Jane: *The Summer Sherman Loved Me***

12-year old Margaret spends her summer trying to sort out her feelings for the boy next door who claims to love her.

**Sachar, Louis. *Small Steps* (series)**

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

**Smith, Betty: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***

The classic coming-of-age story of Francie Nolan, an Irish-American girl in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Brooklyn.

**Weeks, Sarah: *So B. It* (Booklist Editor's Choice Awards)**

12-year old Heidi leaves Reno, Nevada, for New York to uncover questions about her parents, her past, and her identity.

**Whelan, Gloria: *Chu Ju's House***

To save her baby sister, 14-year old Chu Ju runs away from her home in modern China and must survive on her own.

**MYSTERY/ SUSPENSE**

**Abrahams, Peter: *Behind the Curtain: an Echo Falls Mystery***

An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ingrid Levin-Hill is kidnapped while investigating mysterious happenings in her home town.

**Abrahams, Peter: *Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery***

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.

**Balliett, Blue: *Chasing Vermeer***

11-year olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to investigate an international art scandal.

**Balliett, Blue: *The Wright 3***

Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to save Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished. (Sequel to *Chasing Vermeer*)

**Coulombus, Audrey: *Say Yes (Nutmeg Book)***

In her struggle to survive after the disappearance of her stepmother, Casey will resort to anything—including robbery.

**Ingold, Jeanette: *Mountain Solo***

After a disastrous performance, Tess, a teenage violin prodigy, spends the summer in Montana with her father and considers giving up music.

**Lisle, Janet Taylor: *The Crying Rocks***

When she sees a portrait of a Narragansett Indian woman on the library wall, Joelle, an adopted 13-year old, begins an exploration of her heritage.

**Roberts, Willo Davis: *Blood On His Hands***

While on the run from the police, young Marc attempts to find his long-lost father for assistance.

**Wells, Rosemary: *When No One Was Looking (Edgar Allan Poe Awards)***

A tragic chain of events threatens a 14-year old girl's promising tennis career.

**ADVENTURE/SUSPENSE**

**Hobbs, Will: *Wild Man Island***

After slipping away from his kayaking group, 14-year old Andy is stranded on Admiralty Island in Alaska.

**Lee, Tanith: *Piratica***

16-year old Art leads a pirates' adventure on the high seas featuring sword fights, stormy weather, and deadly canon shots.

**Mikaelsen, Ben: *Touching Spirit Bear***

As punishment for his violent and angry behavior, 15-year old Cole is sent to a remote Alaskan island where he encounters a giant "Spirit Bear."

**Schmidt, Gary: *First Boy***

14-year old Cooper, a New Hampshire farm boy, is dragged into the turmoil—and dirty dealings—of a political election.

**Sprandlin, Michael: *Spy Goddess: Live and Let Shop***

Rachel, a Beverly Hills teenager, becomes entangled in a case of international espionage.

**SPORTS**

**Baskin, Nora Raleigh: *Basketball (or Something Like It)***

Hank, Nathan, Jeremy, and Anabel deal with the pressures and excitement of middle school basketball.

**Coy, John: *Crackback***

Under the pressures of a new football coach, a critical father, and a best friend with bad ideas, Miles's love for the game begins to fade.

**Lupica, Mike: *Heat***

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is banned from playing Little League baseball when rival coaches question his real age.

**Roberts, Kristi: *My Thirteenth Season***

13-year old Fran abandons her dream of becoming the first female professional baseball player after a coach attacks her for being "just a girl."

**Yee, Lisa: *Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time***

Stanford Wong must pass summer school to keep his spot on the basketball team.

**SHORT STORIES**

**Dahl, Roald: *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More***

An extraordinary collection of magical and imaginative tales, including the title story of Henry Sugar, a man who learns to see without his eyes.