

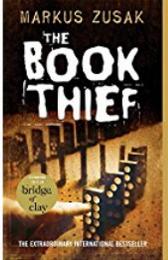
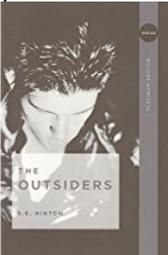
# Summer Reading List

## Middle School

| Book Title  | Synopsis   | Lexile Level                                |
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| <p data-bbox="262 337 567 414"><i>Hello, Universe</i><br/>By: Erin Entrada Kelly</p>       | <p data-bbox="751 337 1346 820">In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball.</p> <p data-bbox="751 824 1346 1140">They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.</p> | <p data-bbox="1648 337 1722 365">690L</p>   |
| <p data-bbox="252 1153 577 1226"><i>The Art of Keeping Cool</i><br/>By: Janet Lisle</p>  | <p data-bbox="745 1153 1354 1502">Only Robert ever sees the plane. But the pilot is shadowy -- maybe his missing father, maybe not. Robert doesn't mention this vision to Elliot, his cousin, whom he meets when he moves from Ohio with his mother and sister to live out the war with his grandparents in Rhode Island. Elliot can draw better than anyone Robert has ever seen, but he keeps his talent hidden in</p>   | <p data-bbox="1648 1153 1722 1177">730L</p> |

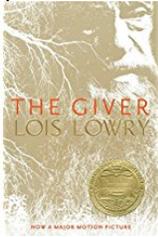
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|  | <p>Grandpa's house. He won't say why. No one will talk either about Robert's father, who left the house as a teenager, never to return.</p>  |      |
| <p><i>The Book Thief</i><br/>By: Markus Zusak</p>   | <p>It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.</p> <p>Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.</p>  | 730L |
| <p><i>The Outsiders</i><br/>By: S. E. Hinton</p>  | <p>No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.</p> | 750L |

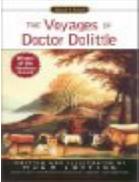
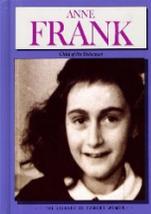
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| <p><i>The Giver</i><br/>By: Lois Lowry</p>  The book cover for 'The Giver' by Lois Lowry features a close-up of a man's face with a beard, looking slightly to the side. The title 'THE GIVER' and the author's name 'LOIS LOWRY' are printed in a serif font. At the bottom, it says 'NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE'. | <p>The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.</p>  | <p>760L</p> |
| <p><i>Redwall</i><br/>By: Brian Jacques</p>  The book cover for 'Redwall' by Brian Jacques shows a group of anthropomorphic animals, including a squirrel and a mouse, in a forest setting. The title 'REDWALL' and the author's name 'BRIAN JACQUES' are prominently displayed.                                    | <p>One of the most beloved fantasy adventures of our time.</p>  | <p>800L</p> |
| <p><i>Frindle</i><br/>By: Andrew Clements</p>  The book cover for 'Frindle' by Andrew Clements features a young boy with red hair holding a pen. The title 'frindle' is written in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font.   | <p>Is Nick Allen a troublemaker? He really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is</p> | <p>830L</p> |

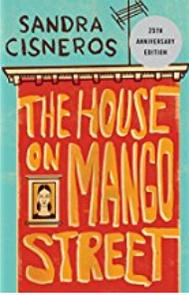
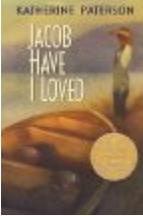
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|   | <p>frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.</p>   |      |
| <p><i>The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle</i><br/>By: Hugh Lofting</p>         | <p>Dr. John Dolittle, the world's greatest naturalist, has the unique ability to communicate with the animals in their own languages. With young Tommy Stubbins at his side, Dr. Dolittle embarks on a series of extraordinary adventures. From translating a dog's courtroom testimonial and challenging Spain's greatest bullfighter, to saving the inhabitants of the mysterious floating Spidermonkey Island, then journeying across the bottom of the ocean on the back of the <i>Great Glass Sea-snail</i>. This 1923 Newbery Award-winner is sure to fascinate and educate readers for generations to come.</p> | 860L |
| <p><i>Anne Frank: Child of the Holocaust</i><br/>By: Gene Brown</p>  | <p>Although she was only a child during the Holocaust, her writing has touched people of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds for generations.</p>  | 870L |
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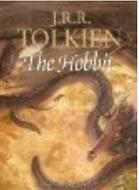
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| <p><i>The House on Mango Street</i><br/>By: Sandra Cisneros</p>  | <p>Told in a series of vignettes - sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous - it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become.</p>  | <p>870L</p> |
| <p><i>Jacob I Have Loved</i><br/>By: Katherine Paterson</p>     | <p>Sara Louise Bradshaw is sick and tired of her beautiful twin Caroline. Ever since they were born, Caroline has been the pretty one, the talented one, the better sister. Even now, Caroline seems to take everything: Louise's friends, their parents' love, her dreams for the future. For once in her life, Louise wants to be the special one. But in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is . . . and find a way to make a place for herself outside her sister's shadow.</p> | <p>880L</p> |
| <p><i>The Hiding Place</i><br/>By: Corrie Ten Boom</p>         | <p>"I pray that God forgive them..." Corrie Ten Boom stood with her older sister Betsie, watching a concentration camp matron beating a prisoner. "Oh, the poor woman," Corrie cried. "Yes. May God forgive her," Betsie replied. And, once again, Corrie realized that it was for the souls of the brutal Nazi guards that her sister prayed. Both woman had been sent to the camp for</p>  | <p>900L</p> |

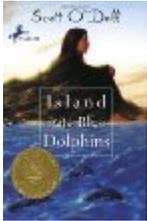
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|  | helping the Jews. Christ's Spirit and words were their guide; it was His persecuted people they tried to save-- at the risk of their own lives; it was His strength that sustained them through times of profound horror.   |       |
| <p><i>Blue Willow</i><br/>By: Doris Gates</p>         | A little girl, who wants most of all to have a real home and to go to a regular school, hopes that the valley her family has come to, which so resembles the pattern on her treasured blue willow plate, will be their permanent home.  | 920L  |
| <p><i>Julie's Wolf Pack</i><br/>By: Jean George</p>  | <p>From the author of the Newbery Medal-winning "Julie of the Wolves" and its sequel, "Julie", comes a third exciting adventure about the wolf pack that saved the life of a young girl when she was lost in the tundra.</p> <p>Jean Craighead George's research and first-hand observation form this engrossing, epic tale that's sure to draw readers into the fascinating world of wolves.</p> | 950L  |
| <p><i>The Hobbit</i><br/>By: J.R.R. Tolkien</p>     | Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo was drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse unknown dangers. Finally, it was Bilbo alone and unaided who had to  | 1000L |

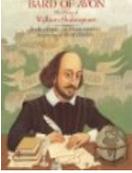
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|  | <p>confront the great dragon Smaug, the terror of an entire countryside . . . This stirring adventure fantasy begins the tale of the hobbits that was continued by J.R.R. Tolkien in his bestselling epic, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>.</p>  |       |
| <p><i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i><br/>By: Scott O'Dell</p>  | <p>In the Pacific, there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea birds abound. Karana is the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Hers is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.</p> | 1000L |

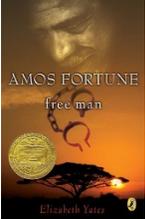
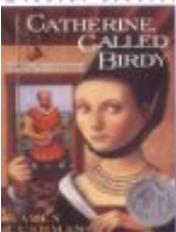
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| <p><i>Bard of Avon: Story of William Shakespeare</i><br/>By: Diane Stanley</p>  | <p>William Shakespeare was the son of a glove maker, a small-town boy with a grammar school education. Yet he grew up to become the greatest English-speaking playwright in the world. Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare is both his story and that of a great art rediscovered in the modern world. Drama had been forgotten since the days of ancient Greece, but it reemerged in Elizabethan London with the building of the first modern theater. Its impact can still be imagined today. There were the theaters, open to the weather and featuring neither sets nor curtains, but equipped with dramatic special effects.</p> | <p>1030L</p> |
| <p><i>War of the Worlds</i><br/>By: H.G. Wells</p>                            | <p>H.G. Wells' classic science fiction tale in which, as life on Mars becomes impossible, Martians and their terrifying machines invade the Earth.</p>   | <p>1040L</p> |

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| <p><i>The Time Machine</i><br/>By: H.G. Wells</p>              | <p>When the Time Traveler courageously stepped out of his machine for the first time, he found himself in the year 802,700--and everything has changed. In another, more utopian age, creatures seemed to dwell together in perfect harmony. The Time Traveler thought he could study these marvelous beings--unearth their secret and then return to his own time--until he discovered that his invention, his only avenue of escape, had been stolen.</p>                              | <p>1070L</p> |
| <p><i>Amos Fortune, Free Man</i><br/>By Elizabeth Yates</p>   | <p>Amos Fortune was born the son of an African king. In 1725, when he was 15 years old, he was captured by slave traders, brought to America, and sold at auction. For 45 years, Amos worked as a slave and dreamed of freedom. At 60, he began to see those dreams come true.</p>   | <p>1090L</p> |
| <p><i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i><br/>By: Karen Cushman</p>  | <p>"Corpus Bones! I utterly loathe my life."<br/>Catherine feels trapped. Her father is determined to marry her off to a rich man--any rich man, no matter how awful. But by wit, trickery, and luck, Catherine manages to send several would-be husbands packing. Then a shaggy-bearded suitor from the north comes to call--by far the oldest, ugliest, most revolting suitor of them all. Unfortunately, he is also the richest. Can a sharp-tongued, high-spirited, clever young</p> | <p>1170L</p> |

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|  | maiden with a mind of her own actually lose the battle against an ill-mannered, pig-like lord and an unimaginative, greedy toad of a father? |  |
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### Other Great Books to Explore:

*Anne of Green Gables Series*

*Black Stallion Series*

*Boggart Series*

*Chronicles of Narnia Series*

*Corner Stones of Freedom American History Series*

*Dear America Series*

*Frances Tucket Series*

*Great Brain Series*

*Harry Potter Series*

*Lord of the Rings Series*

*Who Was Series*

*What Was Series*

*Titles by Roald Dahl*

*Titles by Newbery Authors*

*Magazines and Newspapers*

*All cover art, synopses, and Lexile levels were used, courtesy of [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).*