

## MMS SUMMER READING LIST 2008

### NON-FICTION

**Allen, Thomas B.: *Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent***

Tells the story of Harriet Tubman and other slaves and free African-Americans who risked death to gather information about the Confederacy for the Union during the Civil War.

**Barakat, Ibtisam: *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood***

A riveting, compelling memoir about a Palestinian childhood and the Six Day War in the Middle East.

**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***

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.

**Burns, Loree Griffin: *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion***

Aided by an army of beachcombers, oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer tracks the trash that humans have deposited into the ocean, making important discoveries in the name of marine science.

**Deen, James M.: *Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii***

Describes the eruption of Vesuvius that destroyed the ancient city of Pompeii and the archaeological excavations that revealed what happened.

**Fleischman, Sid: *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini***

The story of magician Harry Houdini comes to life in this account of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats.

**Freedman, Russell: *The Adventures of Marco Polo***

Using well-known facts and myths and historical accounts, Freedman considers the truth of Marco Polo's great tales of exploration.

**Freedman, Russell: *Children of the Great Depression***

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

**Hopkinson, Deborah: *Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America***

The stories of men, women, and children who toiled in America's cotton industry, from sharecroppers to slaves, through oral histories, photographs, and text about their dangerous duties and working conditions.

**Jurmain, Suzanne: *Forbidden Schoolhouse: the True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and her Students***

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

**Keenan, Shiela: *Animals in the House: a History of Pets and People***

When and why our favorite animals became domesticated.

**Margarita, Engle: *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano***

Born a slave, raised by a woman not his mother, and denied an education, Juan overcame all the personal obstacles he faced as a child to reach freedom, pursue his natural talents, and become the celebrated poet he was destined to be.

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

Smallpox ravaged people of every continent until Jenner developed a vaccine in the 1790s – but is an outbreak still possible today?

**Montgomery, Sy: *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: an Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea***

The story of the scientists who research the amazing Matschie's tree kangaroo, which makes its home in the ancient trees of Papua, New Guinea's cloud forest.

**Revkin, Andrew C.: *The North Pole Was Here: Puzzles and Perils at the Top of the World***

An environmental reporter recounts his expedition to the North Pole where he followed oceanographers as they drilled through nine feet of ice to delve into frigid waters.

**Sullivan, George: *Built to Last: Building America's Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers***

Profiles seventeen architectural and engineering achievements spanning over two centuries. Includes the Brooklyn Bridge, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the U.S. Interstate Highway System.

**Thimmesh, Catherine: *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon***

The story of Apollo 11 and the first moon landing, told from direct quotes from the people behind the scenes, NASA transcripts, national archives and NASA photos.

*Student may also read any past Siebert award winner. To access a list of these titles, you may go to the following webpage:*

*[www.darienlibrary.org/children/Goodreads/Awards/sibert.php](http://www.darienlibrary.org/children/Goodreads/Awards/sibert.php)*

## **FICTION**

### **ADVENTURE/SUSPENSE**

**Boyce, Frank Cottrell: *Framed***

When some strange men with valuable paintings arrive in the small town of Manod, Wales, Dylan and his sisters consider turning to crime.

**Fama, Elizabeth: *Overboard***

Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws comfort from his quiet but firm Islamic faith.

**Key, Watt: *Alabama Moon***

After the death of his father, Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends – and a relentless enemy.

**Lawrence, Ian: *The Wreckers* (series)**

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the Cornish coastal town where they are stranded.

**Mason, Prue: *Camel Rider***

Two teens are stranded in the Middle Eastern desert.

**Salisbury, Graham: *Night of the Howling Dogs***

A group of Boy Scouts are hit by an earthquake and tsunami while camping in Hawaii.

**Smelcer, John: *The Trap***

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year old Johnny, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and his grandfather, Albert, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel bear trap in the Alaskan winter.

## **CLASSICS**

**Alcott, Louisa May: *Little Women* (series)**

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

**Babbitt. Natalie: *Tuck Everlasting***

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents people from growing any older.

**Greene, Bette: *Summer of My German Soldier* (series)**

In Arkansas, a twelve-year old girl shelters a German soldier who is an escaped prisoner of war.

**Hunt, Irene: *Across Five Aprils***

Nine-year old Jethro must run the farm in Southern Illinois almost alone during the Civil War. He finds that dangers on the homefront prove as exciting as those in battle.

**Orgel, Doris: *The Devil in Vienna***

A Jewish girl and the daughter of a Nazi have been best friends since they started school, but in 1938 the thirteen-year olds find their friendship difficult to maintain.

**Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan: *The Yearling***

A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

**Speare, Elizabeth George: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond***

A young girl's rebellion against bigotry culminates in a terrifying witch hunt and trial.

**Stevenson, Robert Louis: *Treasure Island***

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest, an inn mistress and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as to great danger.

**Williams, Marcia: *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales* (retelling)**

Chaucer's pilgrims come to life in this exciting, modern retelling of nine medieval tales.

**Zindel, Paul: *The Pigman* (series)**

A teenage boy and girl, children from unhappy homes, tell of their bizarre friendship with an old man.

**FANTASY**

**Almond, David: *Clay***

The developing relationship between teenager Davie and a mysterious new boy in town morphs into something darker and more sinister when Davie learns firsthand of the boy's supernatural powers.

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

After falling in love with an Abenaki woman, a white great horned owl named Wabi transforms into a human being and has several trials and adventures while learning to adapt to his new life.

**Carey, Janet Lee: *Dragon's Keep***

In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with that reflects only one of her mother's dark secrets.

**Carman, Patrick: *Atherton: the House of Power***

Edgar, an eleven-year-old orphan, finds a book that reveals significant secrets about Atherton, the strictly divided world on which he lives, even as geological changes threaten to shift the power structure that allows an elite few to live off the labor of other.

**Carman, Patrick: *The Dark Hills Divide*** (series)

When she finds the key to a secret passageway leading out of the walled city of Bridewell, twelve-year-old Alexa realizes her lifelong wish to explore the mysterious forests and mountains that lie behind the wall.

**Cornish, D.M.: *Foundling*** (series)

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.

**Croggin, Alison: *The Naming*** (series)

A manuscript from the lost civilization of Edil-Amarandah chronicles the experiences of sixteen-year-old Maerad, an orphan gifted in the magic and power of the Bards, as she escapes from slavery and begins to learn how to use her Gift to stave off the evil Darkness that threatens to consume her world.

**De Mari, Silvana: *The Last Dragon***

Struggling to survive in a post-apocalyptic world after his village is destroyed, Yorsh, the world's last elf, must embark on a perilous quest to decipher a powerful prophecy and find the last dragon, who holds the key to saving the world from the Dark Age that has begun.

**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.

**Hardinge, Frances: *Fly By Night***

Mosca Mye and her homicidal goose, Saracen, travel to the city of Mandelion on the heels of smooth-talking con-man, Eponymous Clent.

**Harris, Joanne: *Runemarks***

Maddy uses her magical powers to prevent a war between the Norse gods.

**Hearn, Julie: *Sign of the Raven***

In the basement of his grandmother's home in London where his mother is recuperating from cancer, twelve-year-old Tom discovers a path to the past where, in the year 1717, a "fairy child" and her friends desperately need his help.

**Higgins, F.E.: *The Black Book of Secrets***

Ludlow is apprenticed to a man who buys people's darkest secrets.

**Kostick, Conor: *Epic*** (series)

On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**LeGuin, Ursula: *Gifts*** (series)

When a young man in the Uplands blinds himself rather than using his gift of “unmaking” – a violent talent shared by members of his family – he upsets the precarious balance of power among rival, feuding families, each of which has a strange and deadly talent of its own.

**Mieville, China: *Un Lun Dun***

Stumbling into an alternate funhouse version of her home city, twelve-year-old Londoner Deeba finds herself trapped in a world of killer giraffes, animated umbrellas, and ghost children, and must take on the role of savior to prevent utter destruction.

**Pratchett, Terry: *Wintersmith*** (series)

When witch-in-training Tiffany Aching accidentally interrupts the Dance of the Seasons and awakens the interest of the elemental spirit of Winter, she requires the help of the six-inch-high, sword-wielding, sheep-stealing Wee Free Men to put the seasons aright.

**Taylor, Laini: *Faeries of Dreamdark Blackbringer***

When the ancient evil of the Blackbringer rises to destroy the world, only one determined faerie, with the help of her faithful gang of crows, stands in its way.

**Thal, Lilli: *Mimus***

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

**Thompson, Kate: *Switchers*** (series)

When freakish weather grips the Arctic regions and moves Southward, two Irish children must save the world from disaster through their ability to switch into animal forms.

**Wooding, Chris: *Storm Thief***

With the help of a golem, two teenaged thieves try to survive on the city island of Orokos, where unpredictable probability storms continually change both the landscape and the inhabitants.

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

**Cooper, Susan: *Victory***

Alternating chapters follow the connection between a homesick English girl living in present-day America and an eleven-year old boy serving in the British Royal Navy in 1803, aboard the H.M.S. Victory, commanded by Admiral Horatio Nelson.

**Donnelly, Jennifer: *A Northern Light***

In 1906, sixteen-year old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

**Ferris, Jean: *Much Ado About Grubstake***

A mysterious city slicker comes to the town of Grubstake in 1888.

**Frost, Helen: *The Braid***

Two Scottish sisters, living on the western island of Barra in the 1850s relate their experiences after their family is separated with one sister accompanying their parents and younger siblings to Cape Breton, Canada, and the other staying behind with other family on the small island of Mingulay.

**Gratz, Alan: *Samurai Shortstop***

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 relationship with his father.

**Grey, Christopher: *Leonardo's Shadow, or, My Astonishing Life as Leonardo da Vinci's Servant***

Fifteen-year old Giacomo, servant to Leonardo da Vinci, helps his procrastinating master finish "The Last Supper" while also trying to find clues to his parentage and to pursue his own career as an artist in late fifteenth-century Milan.

**Larson, Kirby: *Hattie Big Sky***

After inheriting her uncle's homestead in Montana, sixteen-year old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe.

**Lawrence, Ian: *B for Buster***

In the spring of 1943, sixteen-year-old Kak, desperate to escape his abusive parents, lies about his age to enlist in the Canadian Air Force and soon finds himself based in England as part of a crew flying bombing raids over Germany.

**Mal, Peet: *Tamar***

In England in 1995, fifteen-year-old Tamar, grief-stricken by the puzzling death of her beloved grandfather, slowly begins to uncover the secrets of his life in the Dutch resistance during the last year of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

**Napoli, Donna Jo: *Stones in Water***

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theatre along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.

**Nolan, Han: *A Summer of Kings***

Over the course of the summer of 1963, fourteen-year-old Esther Young discovers the passion within her when eighteen-year-old King-Roy Johnson, accused of murdering a white man in Alabama, comes to live with her family.

**Nuzman, K.A.: *A Small White Scar***

Fifteen-year-old Will Bennon leaves his family and begins life as a cowboy, but his mentally disabled twin brother follows him and joins the journey.

**Patterson, Katherine: *Bread and Roses, Too***

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

**Ruby, Lois: *Shanghai Shadows***

From 1939 to 1945, a Jewish family struggles to survive in occupied China – young Isle by remaining optimistic, her brother by joining a resistance movement, her mother by maintaining connections to the past, and her father by playing his beloved violin.

**Selznick, Brian: *Invention of Hugo Cabret***

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy-seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Slade, Arthur: *Megiddo's Shadow***

After the death of his beloved older brother Hector in World War I, sixteen-year old Edward leaves the family farm in Canada to enlist in Hector's battalion, where he attempts to come to terms with what has happened.

**Smith, Dodie: *I Capture the Castle***

In a classic English story, Cassandra Mortmain chronicles in her diary what happens to her eccentric family when a young American man inherits the local estate. The bittersweet love story that ensues is far more complicated than she ever imagines.

**Sturtevant, Katherine: *A True and Faithful Narrative* (series)**

In this sequel to *At the Sign of the Star*, in 1860s London, Meg – now sixteen years old – tries to decide whether to marry either of the two men who court her, taking into account both love and her writing ambitions.

**Toksvig, Sandi: *Hitler's Canary***

Ten-year old Bamse and his Jewish friend Anton participate in the Danish Resistance during World War II.

**Torrey, Michele: *Voyage of Midnight* (series)**

In the early nineteenth-century, when his sea-captain uncle invites him to assist the ship's surgeon on his next voyage, fourteen-year-old orphaned Philip, eager to be with his family, accepts only to find out that his uncle is a slave-trader.

**Wemmlinger, Raymond: *Booth's Daughter***

In 19<sup>th</sup> Century New York City, Edwina, daughter of the famous actor Edwin Booth and niece of John Wilkes Booth, finds it difficult to escape the family tragedy and to meet the needs of a demanding father while maintaining her independence.

**Whelan, Gloria: *Summer of the War***

Fourteen-year-old Belle resents the presence of her sophisticated cousin on a family vacation in the summer of 1942, but their strained relationship is overshadowed by the war in Europe.

**Williams, Susan: *Wind Rider***

Fern, a teenager living in 4000 B.C., defies the expectations of her people by displaying a unique and new ability to tame horses and by questioning many of the traditional activities of women.

**Wells, Rosemary: *Red Moon at Sharpsburg***

This stunning novel tells the story of one brave Southern girl's struggle to survive the devastation of the Civil War.

**Wulffson, Don: *The Golden Rat***

In 12-th century China, Baoliu is falsely accused of murdering his stepmother.

**Zusak, Markus: *The Book Thief***

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel – a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family – and the Jewish man they are hiding.

**MYSTERY/SUSPENSE**

**Allison, Jennifer: *Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator* (series)**

During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year old daughter, where she uses her “psychic abilities” and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion’s boarded-up tower.

**Cooney, Caroline: *Diamonds in the Shadow***

The Finches, a Connecticut family, sponsor an African refugee family of four, all of whom have been scarred by the horrors of civil war, and who inadvertently put their benefactors in harm's way.

**Dowd, Siobhan: *The London Eye Mystery***

Ted and Kat’s cousin disappears on a Ferris wheel.

**Henderson, J.A.: *Bunker 10***

Something is going horribly wrong at the Pinewood Military Installation, and the teenage geniuses who study and work there are about to discover a terrible truth as they lead a small military force trying to retrieve data and escape before the compound self-destructs.

**Hoffman, Mary: *The Falconer's Knot***

The author of the Stravaganza series creates an intriguing world full of murder, mystery, and romance. A young man named Silvano is accused of murder and is sent to a friary. While there, he meets a charming girl named Chiara.

**LaFevers, R.L. *Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos***

Twelve-year-old Theo uses arcane knowledge and her own special talent when she encounters two secret societies, one sworn to protect the world from ancient Egyptian magic and one planning to harness it to bring chaos to the world, both of which want a valuable artifact stolen from the London museum for which her parents work.

**Stewart, Trenton Lee: *The Mysterious Benedict Society* (series)**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Miller, Kristen: *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City* (series)**

Twelve-year old Ananka Fishbein 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.

**Napoli, Jo: *Breath***

A magic piper lures unsuspecting children from a plague-ridden town.

**Wells, Rosemary: *When No One Was Looking***

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

**Whelan, Gloria: *Parade of Shadows***

In 1907, sixteen-year-old Julia Hamilton, happy to accompany her diplomat father on a tour of the Ottoman-controlled cities of Istanbul, Damascus, Palmyra, and Aleppo, soon finds the journey increasingly hazardous as she begins to uncover her father's true mission and the secret motivations of the other travelers in their group.

**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.

**Bingham, Kelly: *Shark Girl***

Jane loses her arm in a shark attack and must cope with the loss.

**Brown, Susan Taylor: *Hugging the Rock***

Through a series of poems, Rachel expresses her feelings about her parents' divorce, living without her mother, and her changing attitude towards her father.

**Heldring, Thatcher: *Toby Wheeler, Eighth-Grade Benchwarmer***

Tony joins the school basketball team only to end up sitting on the bench.

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

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

**Jocelyn, Marthe: *How it Happened in Peach Hill***

When fifteen-year-old Annie Grey and her "clairvoyant" mother arrive in Peach Hill, New York, in 1924, each finds a reason for wanting to finally settle down, but to reach their goals they will have to do some serious lying and Annie will have to stand up for herself.

**Kinney, Jeff: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal* (series)**

Greg records his sixth-grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings among boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive. But when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

**Konigsburg, E.L.: *The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World***

Amedo discovers a treasure with an astonishing past in his neighbor's house.

**Korman, Gordon: *Schooled***

After his hippie grandfather ends up in the hospital, Cap Anderson is forced to leave the commune where he is homeschooled to attend Claverage Middle School, where his odd looks and behavior make him the target of bullies.

**Lewis, Richard: *The Killing Sea***

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.

**Martin, Ann M: *Welcome to Camden Falls* (series)**

After their parents die, Flora and her sister Ruby move to the sleepy small town of Camden Falls to live with their grandmother, Min.

**Newbery, Linda: *At the Firefly Gate***

After moving with his parents from London to Suffolk near a former World War II airfield, Henry sees the shadowy image of a man by the orchard gate and feels an unusual affinity with an elderly woman who lives next door.

**Parkinson, Siobhan: *Something Invisible***

With a new baby sister and a stepfather, the life of eleven-year old Jake is full of change, but nothing prepares him for his relationship with an enigmatic girl, her large family, and the tragedy that strikes them all.

**Resau, Laura: *What the Moon Saw***

Fourteen-year old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

**Sonneblick, Jordan: *Zen and the Art of Faking It***

In his new school, San wins friends by pretending to be a Zen Buddhist master.

**Soto, Gary: *Mercy on These Teenage Chimps***

At age thirteen, best friends Ronnie and Joey suddenly feel like chimps – long armed, big eared, and gangly – and when the coach humiliates Joey in front of a girl, he climbs up a tree and refuses to come down.

**SCIENCE FICTION**

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

Jack's predictable existence on Freedom space station is transformed when Kit enters his life and enlists him and a sensitive robot in an effort to outwit the Company.

**Halam, Ann: *Siberia***

After spending two years at a prison school, thirteen-year old Sloe sets off on foot across frozen wastelands, tending to the secret "seeds" of wild animals her mother left in her care, trying to reach a new life for all of them.

**Hautman, Pete: *Rash***

In a future society that has decided it would "rather be safe than free," sixteen-year-old Bo's anger control problems land him in a tundra jail where he survives with the help of his running skills and an artificial intelligence program named Bork.

**Hughes, Monica: *Invitation to the Game***

Unemployed after high school in the highly robotic society of 2154, Lisse and seven friends resign themselves to a boring existence in their "Designated Area" until the government invites them to play the game.

**Pfeffer, Beth: *Life as We Knew It* (series)**

Through journal entries, sixteen-year old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.

**Reeve, Philip: *Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White Spiders!, or, To Saturn's Rings and Back: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space* (series)**

In an alternative Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system.

**Richards, Justin: *The Death Collector***

Three teens and a curator of unclassified artifacts at the British Museum match wits with madmen determined to bring dead humans and dinosaurs back to life.

### **SHORT STORIES**

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

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

**Mercado, Nancy E. (ed.): *Tripping over the Lunch Lady: and other School Stories***

An anthology of ten humorous short stories about life in school, written by well-known authors of children's books.

**Peck, Richard: *Past Perfect, Present Tense: New and Collected Stories***

A collection of short stories that examines the way life *could* be.

### **2009 NUTMEG BOOKS: Teen Nominees**

**Budhos, Marina: *Ask Me No Questions***

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents, leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas brings frustration, sorrow, and fear to the whole family.

**Choldenko, Jennifer: *Al Capone Does My Shirts***

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment along with the special needs of his sister.

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

An account in dialogue of a historical 1859 slave auction in Georgia.

**Lupica, Mike: *Heat***

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve-years-old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.

**Murdock, Catherine Gilbert: *Dairy Queen* (series)**

After spending the summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

**Paver, Michelle: *Wolf Brother* (series)**

A demonic bear has killed Torak's father, and Torak, a stone-age boy, must destroy the beast. On his journey, he finds an orphan wolf cub with whom he can communicate. Now both orphans are on a perilous journey to defeat evil.

**Shusterman, Neal: *The Schwa Was Here***

When Antsy Bonano and his friends discover that fellow eighth-grader Calvin Schwa can become invisible, they use the knowledge to hatch a money-making plot.

**Springer, Nancy: *The Case of the Missing Marquess* (series)**

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

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

When Tally Youngblood turns sixteen, she will be transformed from an “Ugly” to a “Pretty,” receiving society’s mandated plastic surgery to look like everyone else – super beautiful. But before her birthday, she meets some Uglies who have never had the surgery. And they have a secret to share with her.

**Zevin, Gabrielle: *Elsewhere***

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to “live.”

**2009 NUTMEG BOOKS: Intermediate Nominees**

**Arnold, Louise: *Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost* (series)**

Tom escapes the school bullies by teaming up with an invisible ghost.

**Broach, Elise: *Shakespeare’s Secret***

When Hero starts sixth grade at a new school, she meets Danny Cardova, the most popular boy. Together, they work to solve the mystery of the missing million-dollar diamond that’s hidden somewhere in Hero’s house.

**Carbone, Elisa: *Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607***

After traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of Jamestown, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

**Corbett, Sue: *Free Baseball***

Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder.

**Evans, Douglas: *MVP \* Magellan Voyage Project***

Twelve-year-old Adam Story is challenged by the deposed ruler of Babababad and his mongoose companion to become the first youngster to travel around the world in forty days without an adult.

**Fox, Helen: *Eager* (series)**

Unlike Grumps, their old-fashioned robot, the Bell family’s new robot, Eager, is programmed not only to obey, but to question, reason, and exercise free will.

**Gutman, Dan: *The Homework Machine***

Who wouldn't love a machine that does homework for you? Can four unlikely friends keep the biggest secret of their lives?

**Lowry, Lois: *Gossamer***

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream-giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteads.

**Stewart, Jennifer J.: *Close Encounters of a Third-World Kind***

12-year-old Annie's world is turned upside down when her father agrees to move the family to Nepal on a medical mission.

**Vande Velde, Vivian: *Three Good Deeds***

Howard's troublemaking backfires when he steals the eggs of a goose belonging to a witch. Maybe life as a prankster isn't all it's quacked up to be.

***Students may also choose another book or books by any author on this list to count toward their summer reading.***