

Nisqually Middle School Required Summer 2008 Reading List Choices

The books can be found at the Lacey Timberland Library -- <http://www.trlib.org/>

Please choose one book from the following titles to read during summer 2008.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie.

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

230 p.

BD

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Jennifer Choldenko.

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 in addition to life with his autistic sister.

240 p.

BD

Book of A Thousand Days by Shannon Hale

When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment. As food runs low and the days go from broiling hot to freezing cold, it is all Dashti can do to keep them fed and comfortable. But the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—brings both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make the desperate choices of a girl whose life is worth more than she knows.

320 p.

Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable by John Boyne

The nine year-old boy Bruno, is the son of strict commander of a Nazi concentration camp. He has a strong headed sister, Gretel (the Hopeless Case). They live in a five story mansion, but are one day suddenly moved to a place called Out-With (Auschwitz). Bruno, angered and confused by his father's decision to move to Out-With, and desperate to go home, spends his time in his room, with no friends to play with. He misses their old five-story mansion, as with such a small space, there isn't any room for exploration (a hobby of Bruno's), misses sliding down the banister in their old house, and misses his friends.

215 p.

BD

The Gospel According to Larry by Janet Tashilan

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

227 p.

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Heat by Mike Lupica

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.

220 p.

BD

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

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

337 p.

BD

Schooled by Gordon Korman

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.

208 p.

BD

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

192 p.

The Revealers by Doug Wilhelm

Tired of being bullied and picked on, three seventh-grade outcasts join forces and, using scientific methods and the power of the Internet, begin to create a new atmosphere at Parkland Middle School.

224 p.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

288 p.

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Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie Tolan

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

224 p.

TC

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

In a futuristic society where all people undergo surgery to become beautiful on their 16th birthdays, a few rebels have carved out an enclave where they are happy to remain "ugly".

425 p.

BD

Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

272 p.

BD

Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

272 p.

BD

Wing Nut by Mary Jane Auch

When twelve-year-old Grady and his mother relocate yet again, they find work they find work taking care of an elderly man, who teaches Grady about cars, birds, and what it means to have a home.

Best Foot Forward by Joan Bauer

Between School and Al-Anon meetings, Jenna helps Mrs. Gladstone cope with the escalating problems that result from the merger of Gladstone Shoes with Shoe Warehouse Corporation, while managing a new employee with a shoplifting record. (Sequel to Rules of the Road)

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Being Bindy by Alyssa Brugman

Australian teenager Bindy finds it hard to cope when her best friend of many years suddenly finds other friends and interests and her divorced parents present her with choices that could change everything about her way of life.

The Lambkins by Eve Bunting

After being kidnapped by the lonely widow of a brilliant geneticist, Kyle finds himself shrunk to doll-size and living with three other children in a dollhouse from which there seems to be no escape.

Artemis Fowl [(Artemis Fowl, Book 1)] Artemis Fowl Series by Eoin Colfer

Artemis Fowl, Book One: When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with -- and protection from -- Venice's "Thief Lord." (Also try Dragonrider, Inkheart, Inkspell.)

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, Book One (Joey Pigza Series) by Jack Gantos

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention and controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Shrug by Jenny Han.

Twelve-year-old Annemarie is not happy about her life. While she'd love to change everything about herself, her friendships are changing in all the wrong ways. Not to mention her family. All these changes make for an interesting first year of junior high.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen.

With their father jailed for sinking a riverboat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister Abbey must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. (Also try Hoot.)

Penny from Heaven by Jennifer Holm

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953 (the year of Cathy Shippee's birth), Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

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Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy.

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

A Corner of the Universe by Ann Martin.

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.

The Amazing life of Birds by Gary Paulsen.

As twelve-year-old Duane endures the confusing and humiliating aspects of puberty, he watches a newborn bird in a nest on his windowsill begin to grow and become more independent, all of which he records in his journal.

Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White Spiders! By Reeve, Phillip.

In an alternate 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. (Also try Starcross.)

Percy Jackson & the Olympians Series Lightning Thief, Book One: by Rick Riordan.

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

Septimus Heap Series Magyk, Book One: by Angie Sage.

After learning that she is the Princess, Jenna is whisked from her home and carried toward safety by the Extraordinary Wizard, those she always believed were her father and brother, and a young guard known only as Boy 412.

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree by Lauren Tarshis.

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

Hurricane by Terry Trueman.

A fictional account of one of the worst storms to hit the Caribbean -- Hurricane Mitch in 1998 -- told from the perspective of a thirteen-year-old boy living in a small village in Honduras.

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Remembering Raquel by Vivian Vande Velde.

Various people recall aspects of the life of Raquel Falcone, an unpopular, overweight freshman at Quail Run High School, including classmates, her parents, and the driver who struck and killed her as she was walking home from an animated film festival.

Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery by Peter Abrahams

When Sherlock Holmes fan Ingrid gets lost running to soccer practice, “Cracked-Up Katie” invites her in and calls her a cab. The next morning, Katie turns up murdered, and Ingrid realizes that she left her red soccer cleats in Katie’s house, and she was the last person to see Katie alive. Sneaking back in to Katie’s house to retrieve her cleats, Ingrid crosses paths with the murderer. But she still has soccer practice, her new role as Alice in a local production of Alice in Wonderland, and the worrisome role of “x” in algebra to deal with. Sequel: Behind the Curtain.

Whales on Stilts! by M. T. Anderson

What sort of madman would unleash an army of stilt-walking, laser-beaming, thoroughly angry whales upon the world? Who cares! All that matters is that his dastardly plan be foiled. Lucky for Lily Gefelty, her two best friends are the intrepid stars of their own middle-grade series novels: Jasper Dash (better known as the Boy Technocrat) and Katie Mulligan (beloved by millions as the heroine of the Horror Hollow series). It’s going to take all their smarts to stop this preposterous plot from succeeding. Sequel: The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen.

Deep Dream of the Rain Forest by Malcolm Bosse

While on an expedition with his uncle in the jungles of Borneo in 1920, fifteen-year-old Harry Windsor is captured by Bayang, a young Iban tribesman, who believes that Harry has some power to help him and an outcast Iban girl on their dream quest.

I’d Tell You I Love You, But Then I’d Have to Kill You by Ally Carter.

The Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women is a typical all-girls’ school – except that it’s a school for spies. As a sophomore at that school, and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from “normal teenage life” until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission. Cammie Morgan may be an elite spy-in-training, but she’s also beginning her most dangerous mission – she’s falling in love.

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Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones.

When a moving Black Castle, blowing dark smoke from its four thin turrets, appeared on the horizon, everyone thought it was the Witch of the Waste. The castle, however, belonged to Wizard Howl, who, it was said, like to suck the souls of young girls. The Hatter sisters – Sophie, Lettie, and Martha – and all the other girls were warned not to venture into the streets alone. But that doesn't save Sophie. The Witch has placed a spell on Howl. Does the clue to breaking it lie in a famous poem? And what will happen to Sophie Hatter when she enters Howl's castle?

If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's my Prince? By Melissa Kantor

Lucy Norton loves art and basketball, but she hates being the new student for the second time in a year. Her father just had to marry her step-a mother Mara, marooning Lucy to a practically furnitureless existence in the basement in Mara's Long Island home, with two new bratty step-sisters, and new kids status at yet another high school. But for some reason, Connor Pearson, star of the basketball team, thinks she's cool, and invites her to the prom! Could her life be more like Cinderella?

Wildwood Dancing by Juliet Marillier

Jena and her sisters live at castle Piscul Draculi in Transylvania with their doting father. Every Full Moon, Jena and her sisters pass through a portal into the Other Kingdom, and dance through the night. Then Father falls ill and must go south to recover. Cousin Cezar says he'll help the girls survive the brutal winter, but Jena suspects his motives. Meanwhile, Jena's sister has fallen in love with a dangerous creature of the Other Kingdom. When Cezar's grip of power begins to tighten, everything Jena loves is at stake: her home, her family, and the Other Kingdom she has come to cherish.

Dragonsong by Anne McCaffrey

Menolly, daughter of the master-fisherman at Half-Circle Sea Hold and a gifted musician, dreams of becoming a Harper, and teaching with songs and music. But there are no women Harpers, and when her stern father forbids her from making music, she runs away. Taking shelter in a cave by the sea, Menolly finds herself in the middle of legendary fire lizards, the small relatives of the great dragons of the dragonriders!

The Blue Sword by Robin McKinley

Harry is bored with her sheltered life in the remote orange-growing colony of Daria. A voice in Harry's ear whispered that the home of her heart was not here, but across the border, in the desert lands of the Hillfolk. Then she is kidnapped by the Hillfolk king, whose powers guided him to her, and discovers magic in herself.

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Twilight by Stephanie Meyer.

17-year-old Bella Swan moves to Forks on the Olympic Peninsula to be with her father. At school, she notices a group of five impossibly beautiful students, and one of them, Edward, is her new lab partner. Edward finds himself helplessly drawn to Bella, and she to him. As she grows to know, and then love Edward, she learns his secret. He is a vampire.

Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City by Kiresten Miller

Life will never be the same for 12-year-old Ananka Fishbein after she ventures into an enormous sinkhole near her New York City apartment. For that is when she first meets Kiki Strike, who has a plan that involves a million rats, delinquent Girl Scouts out for revenge, and a secret city below the streets of Manhattan. And she needs Ananka's help to carry it out.

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy

It's 1793, and there's an invisible killer roaming the streets of Philadelphia. The city's residents are fleeing in fear. This killer has a name -- yellow fever -- but everything else about it is a mystery. Its cause is unknown, and there is no cure. The medical beliefs and practices of the time and the conditions that helped the disease to spread through the city that was then the nation's capital are vividly detailed. So, too, is the heroic role that free black Philadelphians played in saving their city. The efforts and intrigues of politicians and doctors -- among them George Washington and Benjamin Rush -- are also part of the narrative, and the search for the fever's causes and cure provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege.

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Matt Cruse is a 15-year-old cabin boy of the luxury airship *Aurora*. When Matt saves a dying old man from his crippled balloon, he tells Matt about fantastic winged beasts he has seen in the clouds. Matt dismisses the story; but when bold Kate arrives on the *Aurora* a year later, determined to prove the story is true, Matt gets caught up in her quest. Can he and Kate solve the mystery -- despite the dangers from pirates, shipwreck, and frightening predators?

Terrier by Tamora Pierce

When sixteen-year old Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve the case of a murdered baby in Tortall's Lower City.

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I was a Non-Blonde Cheerleader by Scott Kieran

New Jersey transplant Annisa is one of only two brunettes at her new Florida high school. And after accidentally breaking the nose of the most popular girl in school, being falsely accused of narking on students caught smoking and drinking, and discovering that the cheerleaders all hate her, she starts having second thought about trying out for a spot on the cheerleading squad. Annisa is on the verge of giving up, but her Jersey girl spirit just won't let her quit. (Sequel: Brunettes Strike Back! Non-Blonde Cheerleader in Love)

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

Orphan, clock keeper, thief. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. Combining elements of picture book, graphic novel, and film, Caldecott Honor artist Selznick breaks open the novel form to create an entirely new reading experience in this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

The Trap by John Smelcer

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

The New Policeman by Kate Thompson

When J.J.'s mother says that what she really wants for her birthday is more time in her day, J.J. decides to find her some. But how can he find time for her, when he barely has enough time to keep up with school and his music? And where will he get time to find out if the shocking rumor is true - that his great-grandfather was a murderer? It seems as though J.J.'s given himself an impossible task. But then a neighbor reveals a secret to him: there is a place where time stands still. J.J. realizes he's the only person who can make the journey, but to do so he'll have to vanish from his own life.

Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman? By Eleanor Updale

When a thief falls through a glass roof running from the police, it marks the beginning of a new life. After his body is reconstructed by an ambitious young doctor, he is released from prison, and -- with the help of Victorian London's new sewer system -- he becomes the most elusive burglar in the city. He is both Montmorency, a respectable, wealthy gentleman; and Scarper; his degenerate servant. The smallest mistake could reveal his secret and ruin both his lives. (Sequels: Montmorency on the Rocks, Montmorency and the Assassins)

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So Yesterday by Scott Westerfield

Hunter Braque is a professional cool-hunter. No ads go on TV without his approval, no new shoes hit the stores unless he's down with them. It's a pretty sweet deal, until he meets Jen - a rare Innovator, one of the people who actually creates cool at street-level. Real cool, not the corporate kind. Suddenly, strange things start to happen. First Hunter's boss Mandy disappears. When he enlists Jen to help find her, the two begin to uncover a plot to end consumerism as we know it! Will the world change forever; or can Hunter save the sacred bond between brands and buyers? Does he even want to?

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan

Like many girls her age in India, thirteen-year-old Koly is getting married. When she discovers that the husband her parents have chosen for her is a sickly boy with wicked parents, Koly wishes that she could flee. But on her wedding day, her fate is sealed. Then Koly's life takes an unexpected turn. Finding herself in a city of widows begging for food, this rare young woman sets out to forge her own future.