

Shaker Jr. High School 7th Grade



Reading List

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World.* Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, *Endurance*, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Cappuzzo, Mike. *Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916.* Details the first documented cases of sharks attacking humans off the coast of New Jersey in 1916.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts.* A 12 year old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when the guards families lived on the Island. He has to deal with an extraordinary environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander.* When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

Dhami, Narinda. *Bindi Babes.* Amber (10), Jazz (11), and Geena (13), three Indian sisters, live with their father in England. On the surface, they are perfect students who dress in perfect clothes and get along perfectly with each other. In reality, the girls are missing one big element in their lives, their mom. Ever since her death the year before, their father has indulged his daughters' every material wish, but is rarely at home. That suddenly changes when he invites his sister from India to live with them. The girls immediately plot how to get rid of her, including a plan to marry her off.

Dowell, Francis O'Rourke. *Dovey Coe.* When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong willed 12 year old girl, comes to a new understanding of others.

Funke, Cornelia. *The Thief Lord.* After their mother dies, 12 year old Prosper and his brother, Bo, five, flee from Hamburg to Venice where they live in an abandoned movie theater with several other street children under the care of the Thief Lord, a cocky youth who claims to rob "the city's most elegant houses."

Henkes, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean.* Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends. But they weren't—and now all that is left are eerie connections between two girls who were in the same grade at school and who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. A family summer on Cape Cod should help banish those thoughts; instead they seep in everywhere.

Hiaason, Carol. *Hoot.* Readers are plunged right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies—three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *My Louisiana Sky.* Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950's, 12 year old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

Hunter, Mollie. *The King's Swift Rider.* Unwilling to fight, but feeling a sense of duty, 16 year old Martin joins Scotland's rebel army as a swift rider and master of espionage for the leader, Robert the Bruce.

Jacques, Brian. *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman.* A boy and dog trapped aboard the legendary ship, the Flying Dutchman, are sent off on an eternal journey by an avenging angel, roaming the earth throughout the centuries in search of those in need. Their travels lead them to Chapelvale, a sleepy nineteenth century village whose very existence is at stake. Only by discovering the buried secrets and solving the dust-laden riddles of the ancient village can it be saved.

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Koja, Kathe. *Buddha Boy.* The kids at Edward Rucher High School call Jinsen “Buddha Boy” and condemn him as a freak. With his shaved head and perpetual smile, Jinsen certainly doesn’t help matters when he starts begging for lunch money in the cafeteria. So when Justin is paired with Jinsen for a class project, he plans to get done with it as soon as possible, and climb right back into his safe social niche. Then Justin discovers Jinsen’s incredible artistic talent and becomes curious about his beliefs. But being friends with Buddha Boy isn’t simple, and Justin is forced into a cruel contest with the jocks who just can’t seem to leave Jinsen, or his artwork, alone.

Lupica, Mike. *Travel Team.* Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court—but don’t tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny’s father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn’t the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.

Lynch, Chris. *Gold Dust.* In 1975, 12-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school. Hoping that he will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston School.

Murphy, Jim *An American Plague.* History, science, politics and public health come together in this dramatic account of the disastrous yellow fever epidemic that hit the nation’s capital more than 200 years ago.

Oppel, Ken. *Airborn.* In a future where airships and blimps travel across the Atlanticus and the Pacificus Oceans, cabin boy Matt Cruse, on board the *Aurora*, battles pirates and prehistoric cloudcats, accompanied by spirited heiress Kate DeVries.

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon.* When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is a lucky discovery until the stone brings a dragon hatchling.

Paulsen, Gary. *Guts, or How I Lived the Same as Brian Robeson.* The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

Peck, Richard. *The River Between Us.* When a steamboat from New Orleans brings two mysterious young ladies, Mama offers them room and board, and the Pruitts’ lives are forever changed.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *All Alone in the Universe.* Debbie is dismayed when her best friend, Maureen, starts spending time with ordinary, boring Glenna.

Pratchett, Terry. *The Wee Free Men.* Tiffany is all that stands between the monsters of Fairyland and her home. She allies herself with the local NacMacFeegle or the Wee Free Men, a clan of sheep-stealing, sword-wielding, six-inch high blue men who are as fierce as they are funny.

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass.* Accompanied by her daemon, Lura Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy.* From the sad and shameful actual destruction of an island community in 1912, Schmidt weaves an evocative novel.

Dianne Hobden, April 25, 2007