



Shaker Junior High School Summer Reading List 2007

Grade 8

Adams, Douglas. **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.** Arthur takes a tour of the universe with only his towel and his Babel fish.

Bauer, Joan. **Rules of the Road.** If it's one thing she's good at it's selling shoes. It's certainly not dealing with her alcoholic father.

Bauer, Joan. **Stand Tall.** Being the tallest boy in his school means expectations of being more mature and being great at basketball. What it doesn't mean is being good at your parent's divorce and figuring out grandfathers and girls.

Card, Orson Scott. **Ender's Game.** Genetically engineered warriors and genius generals are necessary for Earth to fight off the Alien onslaught. By playing the game, can Ender Wiggin lead Earth to victory?

Cheaney, J. B. **The Playmaker.** The year is 1597. Richard has come to London searching for his father and instead finds himself acting in Will Shakespeare's troupe. He is unaware that a shadowy figure watches his every move.

Crowe, Chris. **Mississippi 1955.** Using the true story of the murder of Emmett Till in the plot, this novel looks at the decisions Hiram is dealing with and the violence of racism in the early days of the civil rights movement.

Crutcher, Chris. **Ironman: A Novel.** In letters written to talk show host, Larry King, Beau struggles with his father, his coach, his friends and his dream to win the Yukon Jack Triathlon.

Crutcher, Chris. **King of the Mild Frontier.** Crutcher shares the funny as well as the serious moments of his life as a quick-tempered, sports-loving kid growing up in the late 1950's.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. **The Conch Bearer.** Travel from Kolkata, India to the Himalayas with Anand as he helps a mysterious stranger return a mystical shell to its rightful home. An exotic, fantasy/adventure.

Donnelly, Jennifer. **A Northern Light.** It's 1906 in the Adirondacks of New York and Mattie desperately wants to accept a scholarship to Barnard College. Unfortunately her father needs her to help run the farm and her job at the hotel brings needed money. When she meets a hotel guest that is later murdered, Mattie finds the strength to make a decision.

Easton, Kelly. **Life History of a Star.** In her diary, Kristen reveals the comic and tragic events of life in the 1970's-high school, friendship, love, and family, all shadowed by the Vietnam War and the brother she lost.

Farmer, Nancy. **House of the Scorpions.** Matt, a human clone, finds the courage to escape his future as spare parts for his patron, a powerful drug lord. National Book Award Winner .

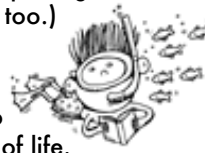
Fleischman, Paul. **Seek.** Written in a radio program format, Rob tells the story of his life, from seeking his father, a mythical radio DJ to discovering the family he already has. Funny and touching.

Gantos, Jack. **Hole In My Life.** Gantos' biography describes his road to prison, his journey out and his lifeline-writing.

Harlow, Joan Hiatt. **Shadows On The Sea.** The US is at war with Germany, but submarines off the coast of Maine? 14 year old, Jill, knows it's true and worries about her mother traveling by ship. When she discovers a spy is sending the subs messages, she vows to spoil their plan.

Horowitz, Anthony. **Stormbreaker.** Alex knows his uncle's death wasn't an accident, but when he discovers what really happened he is pulled into a dangerous web of espionage and murder. (Other books in the series may be read, too.)

Johnson, Scott. **Safe At Second.** A tragic baseball accident leaves best friends struggling to get back in the game, the game of baseball and of life.



Koertge, Ron. **Shakespeare Bats Cleanup.** Death, romance, junior high and baseball all find a place in the poetry Kevin writes while recuperating from a severe case of mononucleosis.

Koller, Jackie French. **Nothing to Fear.** Danny becomes father to his immigrant family when his father abandons them in New York City during the Great Depression.

Krakauer, Jon. **Into Thin Air.** Riveting account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest by Outside magazine journalist and climber Jon Krakauer. The expedition, led by expert guides, left seven people dead.

Lubar, David. **Sleeping Freshman Never Lie.** Scott is lost, a loser and in love. Yes, he's a high school freshman, and between telling his problems to his unborn sibling, too much school work and not enough fun, Scott tells his trying yet often funny tale of high school's first year.

Lynch, Chris. **Slot Machine.** Everyone has a slot at the Knights Summer Camp- football, baseball, basketball. Elvin knows, he's tried them all.

Marsden, John. **Tomorrow When the War Began.** Friends return from a camping trip in the bush to find their country has been invaded and their families taken prisoner.

Martel, Yann. **Life of Pi.** Shipwrecked on his way from India to Canada, 16 year old Pi fantastically recounts how he and the surviving members of his father's zoo animals survived 227 days at sea.

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Mazer, Harry. **A Boy At War: A Novel Of Pearl Harbor.** A son of a naval officer must choose between his father's wishes for a promotion and befriending a Japanese-American boy in the time following Japan's attack.

McKinley, Robin. **Beauty.** Competent, intelligent, but not very pretty, this girl's beauty is selflessness.

McKinley, Robin. **Hero and the Crown.** A king's daughter, abandoned by a mother who wanted a boy, finds strength in her own brand of magic.

Mitchell, Margaret. **Gone With the Wind.** The story of Scarlet, a headstrong southern belle who survives the hardships of war and to establish a successful business from the struggle to rebuild the South after the Civil War.

Monk, Sue. **Secret Life of Bees.** Lily Owen shot and killed her mother. Or so everyone says. While struggling to find clues to solve her own mystery, Lily witnesses the struggle for freedom during the 1960's Civil Rights Movement.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Monster.** Steve is accused of acting as lookout for a robbery that left a victim dead. If convicted, he could serve 25 years to life. An amateur filmmaker, Steve tells his intense and gritty story in a combination of film script and journal.

Nelson, Peter. **Left For Dead.** Story of the USS Indianapolis, the worst naval disaster in U. S. history is indeed true. This is the story of the ship, their wronged captain her brave sailors and a young man's crusade to right an old injustice.

Orr, Wendy. **Peeling the Onion.** A car accident leaves Anna, once an athlete, in constant physical pain and with questions about who she is and what she will be.

Paulsen, Gary. **Transall Saga.** Mark thinks he is ready for his first solo desert camping trip. Luckily he is prepared since he finds himself transported to another, more frighteningly hostile world.

Peck, Richard. **Fair Weather.** Aunt Euterpe never expected to get the kids, granddad and the dog, but it's 1893 in Chicago and the World's Columbian Exposition is taking place. History and tall tales unfold, as everyone has the time of their lives at the fair.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. **The Body of Christopher Creed.**

A mystery divides a school and a town. The possible murder of a classmate that no one liked forces Torey to reevaluate the way he treats people who are different.

Preston, Richard. **Hot Zone.** Truth may be stranger than fiction, and it's definitely more scary, as this tale of the Ebola virus proves. Be prepared for the gruesome!

Sobel, Dava. **Longitude: the True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time**

Thousands of lives were lost each year due to the inability of determining longitude. This is the engrossing story of the clock maker J. L. Harrison who solved the problem that Newton and Galileo failed to conquer.

Sones, Sonya. **What My Mother Doesn't Know.**

Sophie tells her heart wrenching secrets and desires-about her best friends, her boyfriends and how her mother is a soap-opera addict.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie.**

Steven is leading a pretty typical life-for an 8th grade drummer-until his little brother is diagnosed with leukemia. But the author proves that in the midst of tragedy life and loves goes on. Also try **Notes From A Midnight Driver.** about Alex's run in with a lawn gnome and how he faced his new life.

Weaver, Will. **Farm Team.** Keeping the farm going while his father is in jail means giving up baseball until an empty field provides a solution.

Whelan, Gloria. **Homeless Bird.** Married and widowed at 13, Koly is abandoned by her husband's family and struggles to create a place for herself.

Wolff, Tobias. **This Boy's Life.** A memoir of frustration and unfulfilled dreams that holds out hope that a backwoods boy can find success-, and not just the kind with money and prestige.

