

# SUMMER READING LIST-Grades 6-8

## *Wonder*

by **R.J. Palacio**  
Barnes and Noble, 2012,  
ISBN: 9780375869020  
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails during the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

## *The Bitter Side of Sweet*

by **Tara Sullivan**  
Putnam, 2016, ISBN:  
9780399173073  
Amadou and his brother, Seydou, are modern-day child slaves on a cacao plantation, until Khadija arrives. The three band to make their escape from the Ivory Coast to freedom.

## *The War that Saved My Life*

by **Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**  
Penguin Random House, 2016,  
ISBN: 9780147510488  
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

*The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*  
by **Phillip Hoose, Farrar, Straus and Giroux**, 2015,  
ISBN: 9780374300227  
A group of teenagers in Denmark resist the Nazi

invasion of their country and inspire others to follow suit in this award-winning nonfiction book.

## *Dead to Me*

by **Mary McCoy**  
Disney-Hyperion, 2015,  
ISBN: 9781423187127  
Veronica Mars meets L.A. Confidential as sixteen year-old Alice tries to piece together the events that lead to her older sister winding up in a coma.

## *Dream On, Amber*

by **Emma Shevah**  
Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky, 2015, ISBN: 9781492622505  
Amber's father left when she was little, so now she fills in the frustrating gap in her life with imagined conversations to help her deal with art projects, bullies, and little sisters.

## *Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat*

by **Gail Jarrow**  
Barnes and Noble, 2014,  
ISBN: 9781629792156  
Provides an account of the mysterious disease called pellagra that spread across the American South in the early 1900s that made people weak, disfigured, and insane and sometimes caused their deaths; and discusses how doctors and public health officials found the cause of the illness and stopped the epidemic.

## *Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods*

by **Hal Johnson**  
Illustrated by **Tom Mead**  
Workman Publishing, 2015,  
ISBN: 9780761184614  
This reworking of American tall tales features stories of fearsome legendary creatures

of the wooded wilds of early North America, including the snoligoster, the hodag, and the hoop snake. Glow-in-the-dark illustrations add to the alternately fun and creepy tone of this collection of stories.

## *Fish in a Tree*

by **Lynda Mullaly Hunt**  
Penguin/Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015, ISBN: 9780399162596  
Ally struggles to hide her dyslexia by continually getting into trouble, until a substitute teacher discovers what she is really hiding.

## *The Great Greene Heist*

by **Varian Johnson**  
Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, 2014, ISBN: 9780545525527  
Jackson Greene vowed never to get involved in another middle-school con, but he is put to the test when the girl of his dreams runs for class president.

## *The Crossover*

by **Kwame Alexander**  
Abe Books, 2016,  
ISBN: 9780544107717  
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

## *Hour of the Bees*

by **Lindsay Eagar**  
Candlewick Press, 2016,  
ISBN: 9780763679224  
Carol is stuck in the New Mexican desert one summer with her family and her grandfather, who suffers from dementia. Her world is rocked by the stories he tells her during that time.

## *I Kill the Mockingbird*

by **Paul Acampora**  
Roaring Brook Press, 2014,  
ISBN: 9781596437425

Over summer break, Lucy, Elena, and Michael launch a campaign to make a beloved teacher's favorite book "go viral."

## *The Iron Trial*

by **Holly Black and Cassandra Clare**  
Scholastic, 2014,  
ISBN: 9780545522250  
Despite his father's warnings about the dangers of magic, Callum enrolls in the Magisterium and begins to learn about himself and his own bewildering powers.

## *Lost in the Sun*

by **Lisa Graff**  
Philomel Books, 2015,  
ISBN: 9780399164064  
Trent blames an unfortunate event for his misfortunes and tries to turn things around. He is able to make that turn when he meets Fallon, and together they help him find the healing and redemption he seeks.

## *Brotherhood*

by **Anne Westrick**  
Little, Brown, 2015,  
ISBN: 9780545771535  
"The year is 1867, and the South has lost the Civil War. Those on the lowest rungs, like Shad's family, fear that the freed slaves will take the few jobs available. In this climate of despair and fear, a group has formed. Today we know it as the KKK."

## *Mark of the Thief*

by **Jennifer A. Nielsen**  
Scholastic, 2015,  
ISBN: 9780545561549  
Nic, a slave in the mines of ancient Rome, escapes after discovering a magical amulet. First in a series.

## *Masterminds*

by **Gordon Korman**  
Balzer + Bray, 2015,  
ISBN: 9780062299963  
After living in a perfect town his whole life, Eli discovers there are secrets that will change everything. First in a series.

## *Me & Miranda Mullaly*

by **Jake Gerhardt**  
Viking, 2016,  
ISBN: 9780451475404  
Three boys all trying to gain the attention of the same girl become rivals in this hilarious tale of misunderstandings.

## *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*

by **Steve Sheinkin**  
Roaring Brook Press, 2015,  
ISBN: 9781596439528  
From the Oval Office to the editor's office of the New York Times, Sheinkin tells a gripping tale of government secrecy and manipulation that is still relevant today.

## *The Night Gardener*

by **Jonathan Auxier**  
Abrams/Amulet Books, 2014,  
ISBN: 9781419711442  
Molly and Kip are orphaned and must find a way to take care of themselves. Molly finds work as a maid but soon discovers the family is being haunted, and she and her brother are soon targeted by the Night Gardener as well.

## *Echo*

by **Pam Muñoz Ryan**  
Illustrated by **Dinara Mirtalipova**  
Scholastic, 2015,  
ISBN: 9781338133028

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica--and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

## *Serafina and the Black Cloak*

by **Robert Beatty**  
Disney-Hyperion, 2015,  
ISBN: 9781484709016  
At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old secretly living in the basement of the Biltmore Estate solves an ancient evil and unravels her family history.

## *Some Kind of Courage*

by **Dan Gemeinhart**  
Scholastic, 2016,  
ISBN: 9780545665773  
Bears, bandits, and raging rapids can't stop Joseph from searching for what's left of his family—his beloved horse, Sarah—across the American Northwest frontier.

## *Tesla's Attic*

by **Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman**  
Disney-Hyperion, 2014,  
ISBN: 9781423148036  
When Nick holds a yard sale to get rid of the junk in the attic of his new home, he realizes too late that all the objects have mysterious powers and he needs to get them back. First in a series.