

Incoming 8th Grade Reading List



& *RMS Parent-Teachers Association*



13: Thirteen Stories That Capture the Agony And Ecstasy of Being Thirteen

By James Howe

Written by some of today's finest writers for young adults, including Meg Cabot, Bruce Colville, and James Howe, this collection of stories truly captures the experience of being 13 years old.

Paperback, 288 pages

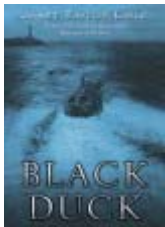


After Tupac and D Foster

Jacqueline Woodson

A lot can happen to three girls in a two-year period--especially when the rap music of Tupac Shakur is the glue holding them together.

Hardcover, 160 pages



Black Duck

Janet Taylor Lisle

When Ruben and Jed find a dead body on the Rhode Island shore, they are certain it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Suddenly, the boys find themselves caught in a war between two Prohibition gangs.

Paperback, 256 pages



Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman

Marc Tyler Nobleman

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, two misfit teens in Depression-era Cleveland, escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine adventure tales and went on to create one of the most famous comic-book heroes of all time. Full color.

Hardcover, 40 pages

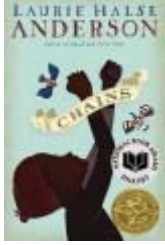


Cryptid Hunters

Roland Smith

In this thrilling new adventure from the author of "Zach's Lie," 13-year-old twins Grace and Marty are sent to live with their anthropologist uncle and discover that he's obsessed with finding cryptids, mysterious creatures believed to be long extinct.

Paperback, 352 pages



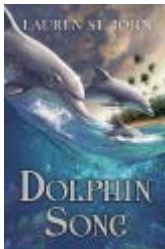
Chains

Laurie Halse Anderson

If an entire nation could seek its freedom, "why not a girl?"

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

Paperback, 320 pages



Dolphin Song

Lauren St. John (See All Contributors)

In this sequel to "The White Giraffe," Martine is on a school-sponsored sea adventure off the coast of South Africa when she and five of her classmates are thrown overboard. Saved by a pod of dolphins, Martine and the others are then marooned on a deserted island.

Paperback, 272 pages



Found

Margaret Peterson Haddix

One night a plane appears out of nowhere, the only passengers aboard: 36 babies. As soon as they are taken off the plane, they vanish. Now, 13 years later, two of those children are receiving sinister messages, and they begin to investigate their past.

Paperback, 336 pages



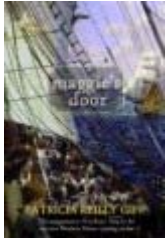
Kira-kira

Cynthia Kadohata

kira-kira (kee ra kee ra): glittering; shining

Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- kira-kira -- in the future.

Paperback, 272 pages



Maggie's Door

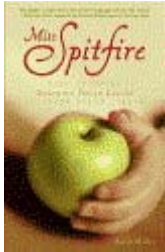
Patricia Reilly Giff

"We will dance on the cliffs of Brooklyn.

Maggie's Door is the story of the journey from Ireland to America told by both Nory and her neighbor and friend Sean Red Mallon, two different stories with the same destination-- the home of Nory's sister Maggie, at 416 Smith Street, Brooklyn, America.

Patricia Reilly Giff calls upon her long research into Irish history and her great powers as a storyteller in th

Paperback, 176 pages

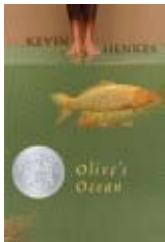


Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller

Sarah Miller

Annie Sullivan was little more than a half-blind orphan with a fiery tongue when she arrived at Ivy Green in 1887. Desperate for work, she'd taken on a seemingly impossible job -- teaching a child who was deaf, blind, and as ferocious as any wild animal. But Helen Keller needed more than a teacher. She needed someone daring enough to work a miracle. And if anyone was a match for Helen, it was the girl they used to call Miss Spitfire.

Hardcover, 240 pages



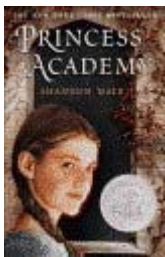
Olive's Ocean

Kevin Henkes

Sometimes life can change in an instant

Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends, but they weren't. Weeks after a tragic accident, all that is left are eerie connections between the two girls, former classmates who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now, even while on vacation at the ocean, Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. Things only get more complicated when Martha begins to like Jimmy Manning, a neighbor boy she used to despise. What is going on? Can life for Martha be the same ever again?

Paperback, 224 pages



Princess Academy

Shannon Hale

All the teenage girls from a small mountain village must attend the academy to learn how to become a princess. Miri soon finds herself confronted with a harsh academy mistress, bitter competition among the girls, and her own conflicting desires to be chosen.

Paperback, 314 pages



Running Out of Time

Margaret Peterson Haddix

Believing herself to be a frontier child in 1840, Jessie is shocked when her mother reveals a secret--it's really 1996. After a diphtheria outbreak strikes the village children, Jessie must venture out into the modern world where she faces a wealth of confusing 20th century innovations and the sinister man who will stop at nothing to make sure the village residents remain locked in their 19th century world.

Mass Market Paperback, 192 pages



Schooled

Gordon Korman

Capricorn Cap Anderson has been homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Rain. When Rain is injured in a fall, Cap is forced to attend the local middle school. Although he knows a lot about Zen Buddhism, nothing has prepared him for the politics of public school.



The Looking Glass Wars

Frank Beddor

The Myth: Alice was an ordinary girl who stepped through the looking glass and entered a fairy-tale world invented by Lewis Carroll in his famous storybook. **The Truth:** Wonderland is real. Alyss Heart is the heir to the throne, until her murderous aunt Redd steals the crown and kills Alyssa parents. To escape Redd, Alyss and her bodyguard, Hatter Madigan, must flee to our world through the Pool of Tears. But in the pool Alyss and Hatter are separated. Lost and alone in Victorian London, Alyss is befriended by an aspiring author to whom she tells the violent, heartbreaking story of her young life. Yet he gets the story all wrong. Hatter Madigan knows the truth only too well, and he is searching every corner of our world to find the lost princess and return her to Wonderland so she may battle Redd for her rightful place as the Queen of Hearts.

Paperback, 400 pages



Seeing Redd: The Looking Glass Wars

Frank Beddor

Battles rage, looking glasses explode, and the Alyssians are once again uniting to defend White Imagination, in this fast-paced second book in Beddor's Looking Glass Wars trilogy.

Paperback, 400 pages

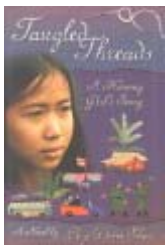


Side Effects

Amy Goldman Koss

As if it doesn't suck enough to have cancer, practically every time you pick up books or see movies where characters get sick, you know they'll be dead by the last scene. In reality, kids get all kinds of cancers, go through unspeakable torture and painful treatments, but walk away fine in the end. From the acclaimed author of "The Girls" and "Poison Ivy," "Side Effects" is about the pain, fear, and unlikely comedy of 15-year-old Izzy's journey, told in her own powerful and authentic voice. It is Izzy's story--screams and all.

Hardcover, 144 pages



Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story

Pegi Deitz Shea

For the Hmong people living in overcrowded refugee camps in Thailand, America is a dream. In 1995, ten years after their arrival at the camp, 13-year-old Mai Yang and her grandmother are about to experience that dream.

240 pages

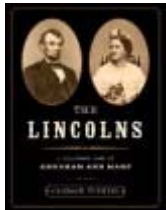


The Hunger Games

Suzanne Collins

The acclaimed author of the "New York Times"-bestselling Underland Chronicles series delivers equal parts suspense and philosophy, adventure and romance, in a stunning novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to the present.

Hardcover, 384 pages

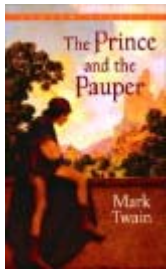


The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary

Candace Fleming

The award-winning author of "Ben Franklin's Almanac" and "Our Eleanor" has created an enthralling joint biography of one of the nation's greatest presidents and his complex wife unlike any other--a scrapbook history that uses photographs, letters, engravings, and even cartoons to form an enthralling museum on the page.

Hardcover, 200 pages

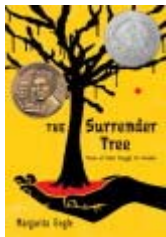


The Prince and the Pauper

Mark Twain

Rich with surprise and hilarious adventure, "The Prince And The Pauper is a delight satire of England's romantic past and a joyful boyhood romp filled with the same tongue-in-cheek irony that sparked the best of Mark Twain's tall tales. Two boys, one an urchin from London's filthy lanes, the other a prince born in a lavish palace, unwittingly trade identities. Thus a bedraggled "Prince of Poverty" discovers that his private dreams have all the come true -- while a pampered Prince of Wales finds himself tossed into a rough-and-tumble world of squalid beggars and villainous thieves. Originally written as a story for children, "The Prince And The Pauper is a classic novel for adults as well -- through its stinging attack on the ageless human folly of attempting to measure true worth by outer appearances.

Mass Market Paperback, 224 pages



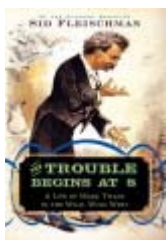
The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom

Margarita Engle

It is 1896. Cuba has fought three wars for independence and still is not free. People have been rounded up in reconcentration camps with too little food and too much illness. Rosa is a nurse, but she dares not go to the camps. So she turns hidden caves into hospitals for those who know how to find her.

Black, white, Cuban, Spanish--Rosa does her best for everyone. Yet who can heal a country so torn apart by war? Acclaimed poet Margarita Engle has created another breathtaking portrait of Cuba.

Hardcover, 176 pages



The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West

Sid Fleischman

A Newbery Medalist ("The Whipping Boy") delivers an engaging biography of Mark Twain focusing on his early days, from his childhood in Missouri to his adventures as a young man in the Wild West. Illustrated with archival photos and drawings, it also includes a sampler of Twain's novels.

Hardcover, 224 pages



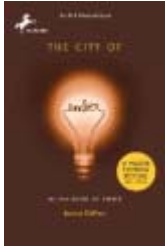
Tiger Moon

Antonia Michaelis

Like other great storytellers of India, newcomer Michaelis weaves a tale that is grand in spirit and earthy in humor. She introduces the young thief Farhad, master of many disguises but not of his own heart, who, with the help of a sarcastic tiger, must save a Hindu princess from marriage to a demon king.

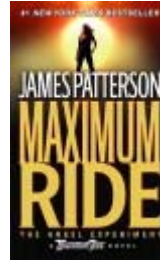
Hardcover, 464 pages

SERIES



City of Embers Series

Jeanne DuPrau



Maximum Ride Series

James Patterson



Percy Jackson Series

Rick Riordan



Redwall Series

Brian Jacques