

## **Eighth Grade**

### **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn , Mark Twain**

Tells the adventures of a boy and a runaway slave as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft

### **Al Capone Does My Shirts , Gennifer Chaldenko**

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.

### **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, & Through the Looking Glass , Lewis Carroll**

By falling down a rabbit hole and stepping through a mirror, Alice experiences unusual adventures.

### **The Amah , Laurence Yep**

Twelve-year-old Amy finds her family responsibilities growing and interfering with her ballet practice when her mother takes a job outside the home.

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

Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.

### **Among Friends , Caroline B. Cooney**

Six high school juniors discover surprising, often painful, things about themselves and their relationships with the people around them in the diaries they are asked to keep as a three-month English assignment.

### **Anne of Avonlea , L.M. Montgomery**

Sixteen-year-old Anne, mischievous and spirited as ever, returns to Avonlea to teach in the village school where she herself was taught.

### **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman , Ernest J. Gaines**

A 110-year-old African-American woman reminisces about her life, which has stretched from the days of slavery to the black militancy and civil rights movements of the 1960s.

**Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life , Candace Fleming**

Brings together eighteenth century etchings, artifacts, and quotations to create the effect of a scrapbook of the life of Benjamin Franklin

**Black Hearts in Battersea , Joan Aiken**

An orphan arrives in London and becomes embroiled in a plot against the king

**The Blue Sword , Robin McKinley**

Harry, bored with her sheltered life in the remote orange-growing colony of Daria, discovers magic in herself when she is kidnapped by a native king with mysterious powers.

**A Boy at War: a Novel of Pearl Harbor , Harry Mazer**

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack, and through the chaos of the subsequent days, tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

**The Buffalo Soldiers , Tracy Barnett**

Chronicles the histories of the 9th and 10th Cavalries, troops of African-American soldiers who fought with pride and honor in the Civil War and the Indian Wars, earning them the nickname Buffalo Soldiers. Includes photographs, a glossary, a time line, and resources

**Carver, a Life in Poems , Marilyn Nelson**

A collection of poems that combine to provide a portrait of the life of nineteenth-century African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.

**The Cheat , Amy Goldman Koss**

When Sarah gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging.

**A Christmas Carol , Charles Dickens**

A miser learns the true meaning of Christmas when three ghostly visitors review his past and foretell his future.

**The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students , Suzanne Jurmain**

Chronicles the life and struggles of Prudence Crandall who, in the 1830s closed her all-white boarding school for girls in Canterbury, Connecticut, and began admitting African-American students; and describes the intense opposition from the townspeople.

**The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories , O. Henry**

A collection of fourteen short stories that reflects various aspects of American life at the turn of the nineteenth century.

**Girl of Kosovo , Alice Mead**

Although Zana, an eleven-year-old Albanian girl, experiences the turmoil and violence of the 1999 conflict in her native Kosovo, she remembers her father's admonition not to let her heart become filled with hate.

**The Giver , Lois Lowry**

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives..

**Gypsy Rizka , Lloyd Alexander**

Living alone in her wagon on the outskirts of a small town while waiting for her father's return, Rizka, a Gypsy and a trickster, exposes the ridiculous foibles of some of the townspeople.

**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets , J.K. Rowling**

Harry Potter, a second-year student at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, finds himself in danger from a dark power that has once more been released on the school with the opening of the Chamber of Secrets.

**The Heart of a Chief , Joseph Bruchac**

An eleven-year-old Penacook Indian boy living on a reservation faces his father's alcoholism, a controversy surrounding plans for a casino on a tribal island, and insensitivity toward Native Americans in his school and nearby town.

**The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again , J.R.R. Tolkien**

The adventure of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, in a land inhabited by dwarfs, elves, goblins, dragons, and humans; he sets off to recover a stolen treasure from a dragon hidden in the Lonely Mountain.

**Kira-Kira , Cynthia Kadohata**

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill

**The Land , Mildred D. Taylor.**

Paul-Edward, the son of a part-Indian, part-African slave mother and a White plantation owner father, finds himself caught between the two worlds of his parents as he pursues his dream of owning land in the aftermath of the Civil War

**The Last Silk Dress , Ann Rinaldi.**

During the Civil War, Susan finds a way to help the Confederate Army and uncovers a series of mysterious family secrets.

**Little Women , Louisa May Alcott**

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England.

**The Man Without a Face , Isabelle Holland**

A fatherless fourteen-year-old boy develops an unusual relationship with the man living near his summer home who helps him prepare his entrance exams to boarding school.

**Maritcha: a Nineteenth Century American Girl , Tonya Bolden**

Presents the personal memoirs of Maritcha Remond Lyons who was born in nineteenth-century New York City and describes how she and her family escaped to Rhode Island during the 1863 Draft riots and how she overcame prejudice to become the first African-American person to graduate from Providence High School.

**Milkweed , Jerry Spinelli**

A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in Warsaw ghetto which helps him weather the horrors of the Nazi regime.

**The Misfits , James Howe**

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry , Mildred D. Taylor**

An African-American family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.

**Safe at Second , Scott Johnson**

Paulie Lockwood's best friend Todd Bannister is destined for the major leagues until a line drive to the head causes him to lose an eye, and they both must find a new future for themselves.

**A Tale of Two Cities , Charles Dickens**

Relates the adventures of a young Englishman who gives his life during the French Revolution to save the husband of the woman he loves.

**Tales of Mystery and Terror , Edgar Allan Poe**

A collection of thirteen mystery and horror tales written by the American author

**Tangerine , Edward Bloor**

Paul Fisher, a stellar soccer player despite being legally blind, finally comes into his own when his family moves to the strange town of Tangerine, Florida.

**Wuthering Heights , Emily Bronte**

Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of terror and hatred on the Yorkshire moors.