

Middle School Reading List 2007

Award Winning Books: A complete list of award winning books can be found at <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/links/links.asp?idLinksCategory=2>

Newberry Medal Award Winner: The Higher Power of Lucky The 2007 Newbery Medal winner is written by **Susan Patron**, Patron takes us to the California desert community of Hard Pan (population 43). Ten-year-old Lucky Trimble eavesdrops on 12-step program meetings from her hiding place behind Hard Pan's Found Object Wind Chime Museum & Visitor Center. Eccentric characters and quirky details spice up Lucky's life just as her guardian Brigitte's fresh parsley embellishes her French cuisine.

2007 Honor Books

Penny from Heaven by Jennifer L. Holm, (Random House) In Holm's book, 11-year-old Penny looks forward to spending the summer rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers and scheming with her cousin Frankie. Instead she navigates the space between her two families and uncovers the reason for their estrangement in this funny and touching tale of intergenerational love set in 1953.

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson (Delacorte Press) In "Hattie Big Sky," 16-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks is looking for a place to belong – a home. In 1918 she leaves Iowa for the Montana prairie. In this engaging first-person narrative, Hattie strives to forge a new life. Vivid imagery and careful attention to historical detail distinguish this memorable novel that portrays her struggle to "prove her claim."

Rules by Cynthia Lord (Scholastic) "A boy can take off his shirt to swim, but not his shorts." Twelve-year-old Catherine creates rules for her younger, autistic brother David in an attempt to normalize his life and her own; but what is normal? In the debut novel, "Rules," Lord's heroine learns to use words to forge connections with her brother, her workaholic father and a paraplegic friend. With humor and insight, Lord demonstrates the transforming power of language.

Catherine, called Birdy by Karen Cushman: The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry: In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck: In 1937, during the Depression, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice, initially apprehensive about leaving Chicago to spend a year with her fearsome, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois, gradually begins to better understand and admire her grandmother's unusual qualities.

Classics- Contemporary

Harry Potter by Rowling J. K: A series of seven fantasy novels. The story is mostly set at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, a school for young wizards, and focuses on Harry Potter's fight against the evil wizard Lord Voldemort who killed his parents as part of his plan to take over the wizarding world.

Holes by Louis Sachar: As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Small Steps by Louis Sachar: Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

Kira-Kira by 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.

A Summer To Die by Lois Lowry: Thirteen-year-old Meg envies her sister's beauty and popularity. Her feelings don't make it any easier for her to cope with Molly's strange illness and eventual death.

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper: Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

Dacey's Song by Cynthia Voigt: After a long journey to reach her, Dacey Tillerman and her siblings begin a new life with her eccentric grandmother in Chesapeake Bay and try to cope with their mother's institutionalization.

The High King by Lloyd Alexander: The forces of good and evil meet in an ultimate confrontation, which determines the fate of Taran, the Assistant Pig-Keeper who wanted to be a hero.

Classics – Traditional

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen: Elizabeth Bennet falls in love with Darcy, but obstacles are in their way – her prejudice and his pride.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe: The experiences of an Englishman stranded by shipwreck on a desert island, where he survives for some thirty years.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London: The dog hero, Buck, is stolen from his home and pressed into service as a sled dog in the Klondike.

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien: Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

Fantasy/Science Fiction

Time and Again by Jack Finney Morley: steps out of his twentieth century New York apartment one night right into the winter of 1882.

Virtual War By Gloria Skurzynski: In a future world where global contamination has necessitated limited human contact, three young people with unique genetically engineered abilities are teamed up to wage a war in virtual reality.

Redwall by Brian Jacques: When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

Time For Andrew by Mary Downing Hahn: When he goes to spend the summer with his great-aunt in the family's old house, eleven-year-old Drew is drawn eighty years into the past to trade places with his great-great-uncle who is dying of diphtheria.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine: In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Historical Fiction

The Year of Impossible Goodbyes by Sook Nyui Hannalee Choi: A young Korean girl survives the oppressive occupation of North Korea, to later escape to freedom in South Korea.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox: Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen: Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Humor

Make Like a Tree and Leave by Paula Danziger: Sixth-grader Matthew gets into trouble at home and at school, spars with his older sister, and helps save an elderly friend's property from the hands of a developer.

Your Move, J.P! by Lois Lowry: Lovestruck J.P. finds himself doing all sorts of weird things to impress his new interest but his life becomes very complicated when a simple lie gets out of control.

Bel-Air Bambi and the Mall Rats by Richard Peck: Bambi, Buffie, and Brick, three totally cool siblings from Los Angeles, move with their parents to Hickory Fork, a small town terrorized by a high school gang.

Mystery/Suspense

Wolf Rider by Avi: After receiving an apparent crank call from a man claiming to have committed murder, fifteen-year-old Andy finds his close relationship with his father crumbling as he struggles to make everyone believe him.

The Boggart by Susan Cooper: After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought home with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

Don't Look Behind You by Lois Duncan: April finds her comfortable life changed forever when death threatens to her father, a witness in a federal case, force her family to go into hiding under assumed names and flee the pursuit of a hired killer.

Freak the Mighty by W.R. Philbrick: At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, who has a learning disability, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team

The Ghost Next Door by R.L. Stine: Hannah's boring summer changes when a new boy, who seems to disappear in the strangest ways, moves in next door.

Sports

S.O.R Losers by Avi: Each member of the South Orange River seventh-grade soccer team has qualities of excellence, but not on the soccer field.

Stotan! Chris Crutcher: A coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers: A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

Finding Buck McHenry by Alfred Slote: Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian Mack Henry to be Buck McHenry, a famous pitcher from the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.

The Runner by Cynthia Voight: As a dedicated runner, a teenage boy has always managed to distance himself from other people until the experience of coaching one of his teammates on the track team gradually helps him see the value of giving and receiving.
