

Great Reads for Middle School

Selected by librarians from Milwaukee Public Library

Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid: The Book of Scary Urban Legends by Jan Harold Brunvand. 398.20973 B365.

This collection of over ninety frightening urban legends will excite the thrill seeker.

Believing In Hope by Stephanie Moore. Yasmin Peace series. FIC MOORE.

As family tensions and school unrest soar, eighth-grade triplet Yasmin relies on her faith and, through a new club at school, discovers that there is hope on the other side of every obstacle, even for those living in the projects.

Faith, Hope, and Ivy June by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. FIC NAYLOR.

During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes, and communities, and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites, they have a lot in common.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. SF GAIMAN.

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other inhabitants of the graveyard.

The Greatest Moments in Sports by Len Berman. 796 B516GQ.

This book covers the highlights of sports history ranging from Super Bowl history to Olympic athletes like Michael Phelps.

I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want To Be Your Class President by Josh Lieb. FIC LIEB.

Twelve-year-old Oliver Watson has everyone convinced that he's extremely stupid and lazy, but he's actually a very wealthy, evil genius, and when he decides to run for seventh-grade class president, nothing will stand in his way.

Just Another Hero by Sharon M. Draper. FIC DRAPER.

The final book in the trilogy, Kofi, Arielle, Dana, November, and Jericho face personal challenges during their last year of high school.

The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan. SF RIORDAN.

In this 5th book of the series, it is up to Percy Jackson and an army of young demigods to stop the Lord of Time.

Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor. SF BEDDOR.

This series is a twist on *Alice in Wonderland*. Cast out of Wonderland by her evil aunt, young Alice Liddell struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne.

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma by Trenton Lee Stewart. MYS STEWART.

When an unexplained blackout engulfs Stonetown, the gang returns to investigate -- which may separate them from their families, friends, and even one another.

Patrick Carman's Ghost in the Machine by Patrick Carman. MYS CARMAN.

In this sequel to *Skeleton Creek*, Ryan and Sarah are forbidden to see each other, but continue their investigation by communicating through video clips, text messages, midnight meetings, and journaling. Check out the online videos by using links and passwords found in the text.

Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia text by Sy Montgomery.

599.7555 M788.

Animal lovers will enjoy this photo-journal describing how a team of people struggle to save the endangered snow leopard.

Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy. SF LANDY.

This first book in the series tells a tale of Stephanie Edgely, a twelve-year-old who inherits her weird uncle's estate. She joins forces with ace detective Skulduggery Pleasant, a walking, talking skeleton, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

The Unknowns: A Mystery by Benedict Carey. MYS CAREY.

When people start vanishing from a trailer park next to the Folsom Energy Plant, two eleven-year-olds investigate using mathematical clues that were hastily planted by their friend Mrs. Clarke before she disappeared.

Viola in Reel Life by Adriana Trigiani. FIC TRIGIAN.

When fourteen-year-old Viola is sent from her beloved Brooklyn to boarding school in Indiana, she makes friends with her roommates, goes on a real date, and uses the unsettling ghost she keeps seeing as the subject of a short film--her first.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. FIC STEAD.

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the television game show, *The \$20,000 Pyramid*, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. Winner of the 2009 Newbery Book Award.

Other cool things for Middle School readers:

You wish you could watch a short movie that describes your favorite books? Then check out the vast library of book trailers that you can find on Youtube.com. Just type in "children's book trailers" and you'll find a whole list! You can find more trailers by looking up the publisher of your favorite books, too.

Are you struggling to understand a book you are reading for school or just for fun? Sparknotes.com or Shmoop.com should be a help. These websites will help you understand a book so you can finish and enjoy it!

If you find a favorite series or author and can not find it on the shelf or in the online catalog just ask a librarian to help you. If we don't own it we can try to order it for you!



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