

# JFK Middle School

## Summer Reading List 2011

*Bolded & italicized titles available on audio*

Select one book from **List A** and one book from **List B** for your grade level.

Grade Sept. 2010	List A <i>Popular Titles</i>	List B <i>Historical Titles</i>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i><u>Chasing Vermeer</u></i></b> – Blue Balliett	<b><i><u>Lily’s Crossing</u></i></b> – Patricia Reilly Giff
	<b><i><u>Things Not Seen</u></i></b> – Andrew Clements	<b><i><u>Letters from Rifka</u></i></b> – Karen Hesse
	Jelly Belly – Robert Kimmel Smith	<b><i><u>Detectives in Togas</u></i></b> – Henry Winterfield
	<b><i><u>Project Mulberry</u></i></b> - Linda Sue Park	<b><i><u>Zlata’s Diary</u></i></b> – Zlata Filipovic
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i><u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u></i></b> – Gennifer Choldenko	<b><i><u>Lyddie</u></i></b> – Katherine Patterson
	Tangerine – Edward Bloor	<b><i><u>Witch Child</u></i></b> - Celia Rees
	Shadow People series: <u>Among the Hidden</u> – Margaret Peterson Haddix	<b><i><u>The Fighting Ground</u></i></b> - Avi
	<b><i><u>Lunch Money</u></i></b> - Andrew Clements	<b><i><u>The Ghost Wore Gray</u></i></b> – Bruce Coville
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i><u>Heat</u></i></b> – Mike Lupica	<b><i><u>Devil’s Arithmetic</u></i></b> – Jane Yolen
	<b><i><u>The Wanderer</u></i></b> – Sharon Creech	<b><i><u>The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963</u></i></b> – Christopher Paul Curtis
	<b><i><u>Among Friends</u></i></b> – Caroline B. Cooney	<b><i><u>A Long Way from Chicago</u></i></b> – Richard Peck
	<b><i><u>Red Kayak</u></i></b> - Priscilla Cummings	<b><i><u>The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky</u></i></b> – Farah Ahmedi

\*\*\*\*\* WILDCARD – May be substituted for any Popular Title on any grade level. (List A)

***Adventures of Tom Sawyer*** – Mark Twain (Full, unabridged version)

\*\*\*\*\* WILDCARD – May be substituted for any Historical Title on any grade level. (List B)

***Teddy Roosevelt: American Rough Rider*** – John Garraty

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett**

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

### **Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements**

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

### **Jelly Belly by Robert Kimmel Smith**

It's tough for eleven-year-old Ned to stop eating. When his parents send him to a summer diet camp, he and his bunkmates can't quite give up their old habits. How can he resist temptation without hurting his grandma and himself?

### **Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park**

Julia and her family have just moved to Illinois where they are the only Korean-American family in the neighborhood. Julia meets Patrick, and together they try to create a ribbon-winning project for the state fair. Along the way, she learns to be proud of her heritage and value Patrick's friendship.

### **Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff**

When Lily meets Albert, a refugee from Hungary, during the summer of 1944, they begin a special friendship. However, Lily and Albert have both told lies, and Lily has told a lie that may cost Albert his life.

### **Letters From Rifka by Karen Hesse**

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

### **Detectives in Togas by Henry Winterfield**

Seven boys in Ancient Rome solve strange crimes . . . thanks to some help from their cranky teacher, a little bit of logic, and a lot of amusing misadventure.

### **Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic**

When Zlata first began her diary, she was 11 years old, and concerned mostly with friends, school, and MTV. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo. Zlata has been described as the new Anne Frank.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko**

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.

### **Tangerine by Edward Bloor**

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

### **Among the Hidden (Shadow People series) by Margaret Haddix**

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

### **Lunch Money by Andrew Clements**

Sixth-grader Greg Kenton has always had a talent for making money. His latest scheme, creating and selling miniature comic books, looks to be a success. However, problems arise when his classmate and longtime nemesis, Maura, competes with him by making her own mini-stories.

### **Lyddie by Katherine Patterson**

A story of an orphan girl, separated from her siblings, and her struggle to earn enough money to reunite them, along with her struggle for better working conditions in the Lowell, Mass. mills.

### **Witch Child by Celia Rees**

During the witch hunts of the mid-1600s, many young Englishwomen died on the gallows, innocent victims of false or hysterical accusations of witchcraft. But what of those women who actually claimed the name "witch" as their own?

### **The Fighting Ground by Avi**

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

### **The Ghost Wore Gray by Bruce Coville**

Sixth-grader Nina convinced her architect father to let her best friend Chris go with them to stay in the old inn he's restoring. When they arrive, the girls find a faded photograph of a very handsome Confederate soldier. Nina and Chris are stunned when the ghost of the young soldier suddenly appears at the dinner table that night!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Heat by Mike Lupica**

When someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

### **The Wanderer by Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

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

Through journal entries, six high-school juniors reveal their jealousies, frustrations, fears, and hopes.

### **Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings**

It was a mean-spirited prank--but no one was supposed to die. What happens now? Revealing the terrible secret would implicate Brady's friends in the accident, and it clouds his whole world with guilt and fear.

### **Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen**

Hannah thinks tonight's Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await.

### **The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis**

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

### **The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky by Farah Ahmedi and Tamin Ansary**

Farah Ahmedi, a victim of a land mine at twelve, tells of her childhood before and during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and how she and her Mother coped after coming to America.

### **A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck**

When Joey and his sister Mary Alice travel from their home in Chicago to their Grandmother's small town, they don't expect the crazy adventures they encounter there. In eight hilarious episodes taking place during the Great Depression, Grandma plots outlandish schemes to even the score with various colorful members of her community.

## Wildcard Choices

### **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain (unabridged version)**

This tale of boyhood adventure overflows with comedy, warmth, and slapstick energy. It brings to life an array of irresistible characters and a range of unforgettable incidents. Below Tom's sunny surface lurk hints of a darker reality, of youthful innocence confronting the realities of the adult world.

### **Teddy Roosevelt: American Rough Rider by John Garraty**

Before Teddy Roosevelt earned his reputation as a strong, masculine hunter, explorer, and Rough Rider, he actually endured a sickly childhood. That's just one aspect of his life covered in this biography, which follows his transformation into a disciplined athlete and one of the world's best-known public servants and presidents.

