

## Middle School Reads

*Compiled by the Bernards Township Library Young Adult and Children's Departments*

*Down the Rabbit Hole an Echo Falls Mystery.* Peter Abrahams

Eighth-grader Ingrid Levin-Hill idolizes Sherlock Holmes. She gets the chance to solve a murder in her own hometown of Echo Falls where things are becoming “curiouser and curiouser.”

- JMYS ABRAHAMS

*Fever 1793.* Laurie Halse Anderson

Set in colonial Philadelphia Mattie Cook struggles to keep her family alive and together as yellow fever sweeps through the city.

- YAFIC ANDERSON
- JFICTION ANDERSON

*The Game of Sunken Places.* M.T. Anderson

Two teenage boys are drawn into a Board Game where they are transported to a different world and embark on a great adventure.

- YAFIC ANDERSON

*Crispin: The Cross of Lead.* Avi

Crispin, a poor peasant orphan must flee for his life when he is falsely accused of a crime. He finds friendship with a traveling juggler call Bear and together they must outwit their enemies to stay alive.

- JFICTION AVI
- YAFIC AVI

*Norman Tuttle on the Last Frontier.* Tom Bodett

A coming of age story of a teenage boy told through 15 short stories.

- YAFIC BODETT

*Al Capone Does My Shirts.* Gennifer Choldenko

12 year old Moose moves to Alcatraz Island where his father is employed as a guard. Moose takes care of his autistic sister Natalie while finding some unexpected adventures.

- JFICTION CHOLDENKO
- YAFIC CHOLDENKO

*The Steps.* Rachel Cohn

New York city girl Annabel visits her new stepfamily in Australia.

- YAFIC COHN

*Code Orange.* Caroline Cooney

Teenager Mitty unexpectedly stumbles across a potentially deadly virus that may be unleashed upon New York City.

- YAFIC COONEY

*The Face on the Milk Carton.* Caroline B. Cooney

When Janie sees her own face on a milk carton showing “missing children,” she goes on a search to discover her own identity. Sequels are *Whatever Happened to Janie*, *What Janie Found*, and *The Voice on the Radio*.

- JFICTION COONEY
- YAFIC COONEY

*Bucking the Sarge.* Christopher Paul Curtis

Luther dreams of a Harvard education all the while toiling under his conniving mother who controls the slums and halfway houses of Flint, Michigan. Can he escape this life to fulfill his dreams?

- YAFIC CURTIS

*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery.* John Feinstein

Two teens set out to solve a college basketball mystery when they overhear the star player of the Minnesota team being blackmailed.

- YAFIC FEINSTEIN

*Getting in the Game.* Dawn Fitzgerald

Everyone, including Joanna’s best friend Ben, tries to get her off the boys ice hockey team, but Jo is determined to fight for her spot on the team.

- JFICTION FITZGERALD

*Princess Academy.* Shannon Hale

14 year old Miri is taken from her family and home in Mount Eskel to be enrolled in the Princess Academy. The academy’s purpose is to find a bride for the crown prince of the land. Friendship, courage and believing in oneself are the central themes of this engaging folk tale.

- YAFIC HALE

*Raven’s Gate.* Anthony Horowitz

14 year old Matt has been in trouble with the law but that is nothing compared to the trouble he finds when he is sent to live with Mrs. Deverill in the small town of Lesser Malling. Matt is one of only 5 people who can stop a terrible evil from being unleashed.

- YAFIC HOROWITZ

*T-backs, T-shirts, Coat, and Suit.* E. L. Konigsburg

Chloe does not look forward to spending the summer with her stepfather’s sister in Florida. But Chloe and her aunt become involved in a controversy involving “appropriate” bathing suits as other issues come to the surface.

- JFICTION KONIGSBURG

*B for Buster.* Iain Lawrence

Set on the battlefield of World War II, 16 year old Kak finds himself flying for the Canadian Airforce. After lying about his age to enlist, Kak soon sees the deadly and grim realities of war.

- YAFIC LAWRENCE

*The Wreckers.* Iain Lawrence

In 18<sup>th</sup> century England, 14-year-old John Spencer discovers an evil secret about the coastal village where he is shipwrecked. Sequels are *The Smugglers* and *The Buccaneers*.

- YAFIC LAWRENCE
- JFICTION LAWRENCE

*Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.* David Lubar

Freshman Scott is determined to survive his first year of high school by keeping a low profile. Trying to make sense of his homework, writing for the school newspaper, meeting girls and avoiding those scary seniors takes a lot of energy and a good sense of humor.

- YAFIC LUBAR

*A Corner of the Universe.* Ann M. Martin

In the summer of 1960, 12 year old Hattie meets her uncle Adam who has long been kept a family secret. Hattie and Adam quickly become the best of friends but Adam's mental illness will affect Hattie and her family in ways they could not have foreseen.

- JFICTION MARTIN
- YAFIC MARTIN

*The Water Mirror.* Kai Meyer

Set in Venice, Italy where mermaids swim the canals and stone lions patrol the city, two orphans, Junipa and Merle are sent to be apprentices at the magic mirror shop.

- YAFIC MEYER

*Gender Blender.* Blake Nelson

A middle school assignment about gender issues takes a strange and amazing turn for a boy and a girl assigned as partners; they actually switch bodies.

- JFICTION NELSON

*Death by Eggplant.* Susan Heyboer O'Keefe

13 year old Bertie is navigating the trials and tribulations of 8<sup>th</sup> grade with a deep secret. He loves to cook and dreams about being a famous chef. But if this information falls into the hands of his nemesis Nick Dekker, Bertie knows he will be in big trouble!

- YAFIC O'KEEFE

*For Your Eyes Only.* Joanne Rocklin

Two sixth-grade students required to keep a journal for a class disclose the struggles and secrets of their lives.

- JFICTION ROCKLIN

*First Boy.* Garry Schmidt

14 year old Cooper is left to take care of the family farm when his grandfather dies. He soon finds himself mixed up with strange men in black cars, vandalism to the farm and the president of the United States.

- YAFIC SCHMIDT

*If We Kiss.* Rachel Vail

Teenager Charlotte is looking for love and her first kiss.

- YAFIC VAIL

*So B. It.* Sarah Weeks

Heidi sets off on a cross country trip to find the truth about her mentally challenged mother and herself.

- YAFIC WEEKS

*Bat 6.* Virginia Euwer Wolff

After World War II, a local girls' softball team recount the ugly events that occurred at an annual softball game.

- JFICTION WOLFF