

*Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds.

**YA FIC REYNOL J**

A collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school.

*The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz.

**YA FIC SCHLIT A**

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends? Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herself.

*Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary Schmidt.

**YA FIC SCHMID G**

Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen. When Joseph has begun to believe he'll have a future, he is confronted by demons from his past that force a tragic sacrifice.

*Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Steve Sheinkin.

**YA 940.5453 SHE**

Presents an account of the 1944 civil rights protest involving hundreds of African-American Navy servicemen who were unjustly charged with mutiny for refusing to work in unsafe conditions after the deadly Port Chicago explosion.

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli.

**JF SPINEL J**

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

*The Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud.

**YA FIC STROUD J**

Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

*The Thief* by Megan Whalen Turner.

**JF TURNER M**

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

*When You Were Everything* by Ashley Woodfolk.

**YA FIC WOODFO A**

In New York City, follows the breakup of teenaged best friends Cleo and Layla, told in alternating timelines.



# RECOMMENDED READS FOR EIGHTH GRADE



*More than books*

595 Granite Run Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-560-6441  
[www.mtpl.info](http://www.mtpl.info)



*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor.

### **YA FIC BLOOR E**

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.

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card.

### **YA FIC CARD O**

Ender Wiggin isn't just playing games at Battle School: he and the other children are being tested and trained in Earth's attempt to find the military genius that the planet needs in its all-out war with an alien enemy.

*Absolutely Normal Chaos* by Sharon Creech.

### **JF CREECH S**

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up considerably during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

*Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman.

### **JF CUSHMA K**

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.

*Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George.

### **JF GEORGE J**

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

*The Goose Girl* by Shannon Hale.

### **YA FIC HALE S**

Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse.

### **JF HESSE K**

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

*Girl of the Southern Sea* by Michelle Kadarusman.

### **JF KADARU M**

A 14-year-old girl living in the Jakarta slums who longs to be a writer sees an opportunity to raise money for school fees when she survives a minibus accident and the locals begin saying she has magical good luck. But when the crowd turns against her and she discovers her father's plan to marry her off to an older man, she must summon courage and conviction to write her own story.

*Alexander Hamilton: The Making of America* by Teri Kanefield.

### **JB HAMILT ALEXAN KANEFI**

A poor immigrant, Hamilton believed that America should be a land of opportunity for newcomers. He rose from poverty through his intelligence and ability, and did more to shape our country than any of his contemporaries.

*A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin.

### **YA FIC LEGUIN U**

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London.

### **JF LONDON J**

The adventures of an unusual dog, part Saint Bernard and part Scotch shepherd, that's forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord.

### **910.91634 LOR**

A riveting account of the Titanic's fatal collision and the behavior of the passengers and crew, both noble and ignominious.

*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia.

### **JF MBALIA K**

Middle schooler Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

*I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson.

### **YA FIC NELSON J**

A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah.

*Eragon* by Christopher Paolini.

### **YA FIC PAOLIN C**

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

*Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen.

### **JF PAULSE G**

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, teenage Samuel, a skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.

*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick.

### **JF PHILBR R**

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max 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 Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman.

### **JF PULLMA P**

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.