**Summer Reading Recommendations for Incoming 7th Graders, 2023, GFMS**

\*If a series is listed, it is the first in the series that is described. Read “any in the series” as long as you are reading the books in their proper sequence.

Alcott, Louisa May.  Little Women (or Little Men) **HISTORICAL FICTION, CLASSIC**

This story chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England. See if you can brave a tried and true classic! This one may have been on your grandparents’ reading list.

Anderson, Laurie Halse.  Chains **HISTORICAL FICTION**

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

Avi.  Crispin: The Cross of Lead (any by this author) **HISTORICAL FICTION, ADVENTURE**

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Balliet, Blue.  The Danger Box **REALISTIC FICTION, DISABILITIES,  MYSTERY**

In small-town Michigan, twelve-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box and find family secrets and a more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.

\*Barron, T.A.  The Lost Years of Merlin (or any in the series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

To discover his identity and the secret of his powers, a nameless boy must escape to the mist shrouded isle of Fincayra, the enchanted land between earth and sky.

Benjamin, Ali. The Thing About Jellyfish **REALISTIC FICTION, FRIENDSHIP**

Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

Bloor, Edward. Tangerine **REALISTIC, SPORTS, DISABILITIES, BULLIES**

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.

\*Bosch, Pseudonymous.  The Name of This Book is Secret (or any in the series) **MYSTERY FICTION**

The story is secret too, but the secret about the mysterious vials and vanishing magicians may be revealed!

Burnett, Frances Hodgson.   The Secret Garden **HISTORICAL FICTION, CLASSIC**

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. If this one doesn’t interest you, try another great by this author: The Little Princess. May have been on grandma’s reading list! Both have been made into movies. Read before you watchJ

\*Colfer, Eoin.  The Eternity Code: Artemis Fowl (or any in the series) **FANTASY**

Artemis Fowl’s father has made him promise to give up his life of crime and Artemis must go along with it, but not before he completes one last scheme; a super computer that will render all human technology obsolete.

\*Dashner, James.  The Maze Runner (or any in the series) **SCIENCE FICTION**

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

DeFelice, Cynthia.  Wild Life **REALISTIC FICTION, ADVENTURE**

When twelve-year-old Eric's parents are deployed to Iraq, he goes to live with grandparents he hardly knows in a small town in North Dakota, but his grandfather's hostility and the threat of losing the dog he has rescued are too much and Eric runs away.

 Deuker, Carl, Payback Time,  **FOOTBALL, MYSTERY, REALISTIC**

Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field--or to discuss his past.

Draper, Sharon. Out of My Mind, **REALISTIC, DISABILITIES, FAMILY**

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

\*DuPrau, Jeanne.The City of Ember (or any in the series)**, SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURE**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a messenger, to run to new places in her beloved but decaying city.

\*Flanagan, John.  The Ruins of Gorlan (or any in the series) **HISTORICAL FICTION, ADVENTURE**

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battle school, he becomes the

reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting

the kingdom from danger.

Flinn, Alex.  Beastly **FANTASY, ROMANCE**

A modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

Gaiman, Neil.  The Graveyard Book **FANTASY, MYSTERY, GHOSTS**

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

Gratz, Alan, Refugee **REALISTIC FICTION, SURVIVAL**

Separated by continents and decades, Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together. Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel is a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction.

 \*Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Found (or any in series)**, SUSPENSE, FICTION**

Thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board. They unknowingly have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Hiaasen, Carl. Squiem **REALISTIC FICTION, MYSTERY, ADVENTURE**

Billy Dickens discovers that his mysterious father lives in Montana, so this summer Billy will fly across the country, hike a mountain, float a river, dodge a grizzly bear, shoot down a spy drone, and save his own father.

House, Silas. Same Sun Here **REALISTIC FICTION, FRIENDS**

A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly, One for the Murphys **REALISTIC, FAMILY, FOSTER HOME**

After heartbreaking betrayal, Carley is sent to live with a foster family and struggles with opening herself up to their love.

Jansen, Hanna.  Over A Thousand Hills I Walk With You **Based on Actual Events. NONFICTION**

Jeanne, the only member of her family not murdered in the Rwandan genocide, struggles to start a new life without her family while coping with the violent memories that haunt her. Her foster mother helps her write down her story and come to terms with her grief.

Korman, Gordon.  MasterMinds **SCIENCE FICTION, CLONING**

A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment.

Le, Loan. A Pho Love Story **ROMANCE, HIGH SCHOOL, VIETNAMESE**

High school seniors B£ao and Linh, whose feuding families own competing Vietnamese restaurants, conceal their budding romance, as well as Linh's desire to become an artist.

Levine, Gail Carson.  The Wish (or any by author) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.

Larson, Kirby.  Hattie Big Sky **HISTORICAL FICTION, ADVENTURE**

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and faces many insurmountable problems.

Lu, Marie. Legend   **MYSTERY, SUSPENSE, SCIENCE FICTION**

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

Lupica, Mike.  Travel Team (or any by author) **REALISTIC FICTION, SPORTS**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team—the very same team that his father once led to national prominence—Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Nimmo, Jenny.   Charlie Bones and the Time Twister **FANTASY, MYSTERY**

             The new semester at Bloors’ Academy holds a nasty surprise for Charlie

 when Henry Yewbeam appears, twisted through time from 1916.

\*MacHale, D.J.   The Merchant Of Death (or any in series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

When Bobby completely disappears, it is up to his friends to discover his whereabouts. This seems nearly impossible when they begin their search and his friends find that even the house he lived in has disappeared.

Malone, Marianne.  The Sixty-Eight Rooms **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

When Ruthie's sixth-grade class visits the Art Institute of Chicago, she and her friend Jack discover a magic key that shrinks them to the size of gerbils and allows them to explore a collection of sixty-eight miniature rooms.

 Mass, Wendy.  Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life **REALISTIC FICTION, ADVENTURE**

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box set aside by his father before his death five years earlier. Jeremy feels compelled to open it, but five different keys are needed and they all happen to be missing. The box is said to contain the meaning of life.

\*Meyer, Marissa. Cinder (or any in series) **SCIENCE FICTION, ADVENTURE**

Cinder, a cyborg and a brilliant techie, must financially support her cruel stepmother. Life is ok but not wonderful. When the country’s prince hires her to repair a robot, he finds her irresistible and Cinder is terrified that he will discover that she is a lowly cyborg.

  \*Mikaelsen, Ben.  Touching Spirit Bear (or any in the series) **REALISTIC FICTION, ADVENTURE**

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert.  Dairy Queen **REALISTIC FICTION, SPORTS, ROMANCE**

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Napoli, Donna Jo. North **SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE, FICTION**

Tired of his mother's overprotectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year-old Alvin travels north and spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.

Palacio, R. J. Wonder **REALISTIC FICTION**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan. Will he be able to endure the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student?

Paterson, Katherine.  Of Nightingales that Weep **HISTORICAL FICTION**

The vain daughter of a Samurai finds her comfortable life ripped apart when opposing warrior clans begin a struggle for imperial control of Japan.

 Patterson, James.  Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment **SCIENCE FICTION, ADVENTURE**

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Paulson, Gary. Nightjohn **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Twelve-year-old Sarny’s brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her how to read.

 Philbrick, W. R. Wildfire **REALISTIC FICTION, ADVENTURE, COURAGE**

When summer camp is evacuated ahead of a fast-moving wildfire, Sam Castine makes the mistake of going back for his phone. He finds himself left behind, disoriented, and running for his life, together with a girl, Delphy, from a different camp--finding an old jeep keeps them going, but in the wilds of Maine, there are only logging roads and the deadly crown fire is everywhere.

Preus.Margi. Heart of a Samurai: Based on True Story of Nakahama Manjiro **ADVENTURE HISTORICAL, NONFICTION**

In 1841, after he is lost a sea during a fishing expedition, teenage Manjiro is rescued by an American whaling ship. He dreams of becoming a samurai, but instead he must learn new law and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Reynolds, Jason. Ghost **REALISTIC FICTION, SPORTS**

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

Ritter, William. Jackaby  **MYSTERY FICTION, CRIME, CLAIRVOYANCE**

Newly arrived in 1892 New England, Abigail Rook becomes assistant to R.F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with the ability to see supernatural beings, and she helps him delve into a case of serial murder which, Jackaby is convinced, is due to a nonhuman creature.

\*Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone #1(or any in the series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

            Amazing books! Forget the movies. Read them in order.

 Sonnenblick, Jordan.  Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie **REALISTIC FICTION**

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

Stone, Tanya Lee.  Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers **NONFICTION**

This is the story of the role of African Americans in the military through the history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought against attacks perpetrated on the American West by the Japanese during World War II

Van Draanen, Wendelin. The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones **REALISTIC FICTION, FRIENDS**

Lincoln Jones is always working on the latest story he has going in his notebook. Those stories are his refuge. Real life is messy and complicated, so Lincoln sticks to fiction and keeps to himself. Which works fine until a nosy girl at his new school starts prying into his private business. She wants to know what he's writing, where he disappears to after school, and why he never talks to anybody.

\*Westerfeld, Scott.  Uglies, (or any in the series) **SCIENCE FICTION, ADVENTURE**

When Tally's friend Shay risks joining a non-conforming community, rather than participate in the surgery to become a “pretty,” Tally questions the ethics involved in the society’s demand that all attain the "pretty" status she herself been enthusiastically anticipating.

Wilson, N.D. 100 Cupboards **MYSTERY, FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

After his parents are kidnapped, timid twelve-year-old Henry York leaves his sheltered Boston life and moves to small-town Kansas, where he and his cousin Henrietta discover and explore hidden doors in his attic room that open onto other worlds.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. Counting on Grace **FRIENDS, CHILD LABOR**, **HISTORICAL FICTION**

In 1910, twelve-year-old Grace and her friend Arthur go to work in the textile mills of Pownal, Vermont, and experience the dangerous working conditions that led to the arrival of a photographer from the Child Labor Board.

Wright, Barbara Crow **DISCRIMINATION, HISTORICAL FICTION**

In 1898, Moses Thomas's summer vacation does not go exactly as planned as he contends with family problems and the ever-changing alliances among his friends at the same time as he is exposed to the escalating tension between the African-American and white communities of Wilmington, North Carolina.