

Middle School Suggested Reading List

Students may choose from the following list of highly recommended literature for young adults. Note that AR tests and mid-terms/finals may be taken on these titles. Students may take AR tests and mid-terms/finals test on the same book. Accelerated Reader tests are from 10-20 questions. Exam tests are approximately fifty question tests; therefore, students must read more closely for detail.

Fiction

Title	Author	RL	AR Test #	AR Points
<u>Belle Prater's Boy</u> by Ruth White Everyone in Coal Station, Virginia, has a theory about what happened to Belle Prater, but 12-year-old Gypsy wants the facts.		4.4	15791	5
<u>Bridge of San Luis Rey</u> by Thornton Wilder This Pulitzer Prize winner is the story of a monk's attempt to investigate and explain the meaning of the loss of five lives when the finest bridge in all Peru collapses.		7.9	526	6
<u>Bridge To Terabithia</u> by Katherine Paterson The story of a very special friendship between a boy and girl.		7.0	11	6
<u>The Chocolate War</u> by Robert Cormier A high school boy refused to be intimidated by the society and people around him.		5.4	5260	8
<u>The Contender</u> by Robert Lipsyte A novel about a young African American boy's struggle to grow up in Harlem and become a fighter.		4.5	5262	5
<u>Crash</u> by Jerry Spinelli Seventh grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and John's grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.		3.6	14993	4
<u>David Copperfield</u> by Charles Dickens An abandoned waif develops a "disciplined heart" through challenging encounters with distress and misfortune.		9.8	704	65
<u>Dacey's Song</u> by Cynthia Voigt With her grandmother's help, Dacey learns to cope with life's problems.		5.8	110	12
<u>Fahrenheit 451</u> by Ray Bradbury Story of a fireman of the future whose duty is not to put out fires, but burn books.		9.8	736	10

<u>The Giver</u> by Lois Lowry	5.7	8568	7
The Elders of the Committee choose Jonas to be the person responsible for receiving and keeping all the memories of the past--a huge task for this exceptional boy.			
<u>The Good Earth</u> by Pearl Buck	8.2	706	22
Through one Chinese peasant and his children, the author traces the whole cycle of life.			
<u>Hatchet</u> by Gary Paulsen	6.1	367	6
After a plane crash, 13-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother.			
<u>The Hero and the Crown</u> by Robin McKinley	7.0	227	15
Fighting the dragon made girl-warrior Aerin a legend for all time and a true hero who would wield the power of the blue sword.			
<u>The High King</u> by Lloyd Alexander	6.0	37	11
When the sword of Drynwyn falls into the hands of Arawn Death-Lord, Taran and his friends raise an army to march against him.			
<u>I Am the Cheese</u> by Robert Cormier	5.2	5270	7
Adam bicycles through New England to meet his father and journeys into the far reaches of his mind to unlock a devastating past he cannot accept.			
<u>Jacob Have I Loved</u> by Katherine Paterson	8.3	120	10
My beautiful and golden twin sister was adored by everyone except me--the one who should have loved her best.			
<u>Jane Eyre</u> by Charlotte Bronte	10	709	39
British Classic. The searching portrayal of a passionate mid-nineteenth century woman.			
<u>The Light in the Forest</u> by Conrad Richter	6.8	122	6
The unforgettable story of a white boy raised by Indians and returned to white society.			
<u>M.C. Higgins, the Great</u> by Virginia Hamilton	6.4	6950	6
Thirteen-year old M.C. hopes his mother will be offered a recording contract so his family can leave their home before a sliding slag heap destroys it.			
<u>Moby Dick</u> by H. Melville	12	711S	46
American Classic. Ahab's quest for the great White Whale is an allegory of the individual's struggle with fate.			
<u>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</u> by Robert C. O'Brien	5.9	62	9
A widowed mouse, Mrs. Frisby, attempts to save her family by acquiring some help from the well-taught rats of NIMH.			

<u>Number the Stars</u> by Lois Lowry	5.0	379	4
An inspiring story of a little Danish girl's bravery when Nazis threatened her best friend's safety.			
<u>The Outsiders</u> by S.E. Hinton	6.7	381	8
Story of a rough gang of long-haired teenagers from the wrong side of the tracks.			
<u>The Pigman</u> by Paul Zindel	5.8	780	6
Two lonely high school students met Mr. Pignati, an old man who lives in his dreams and makes daily visits to the baboons at the zoo. The three find love and laughter, but only for a short time.			
<u>The Pigman's Legacy</u> by Paul Zindel	5.7	8580	6
Haunted by the memory of a dead friend, two teenagers join an old man in a series of misadventures.			
<u>Pride and Prejudice</u> by Jane Austin	11	714	27
British Classic. A superb comedy of manners, detailing the romantic clash between an opinionated woman and her proud beau.			
<u>The Red Badge of Courage</u> by Stephen Crane	7.6	715	8
A young Civil War recruit is bewildered by the mad pattern of battle.			
<u>Remembering the Good Times</u> by Richard Peck	6.8	578	7
Three best friends seem to need no others, until one makes a change that leaves the other two wondering how well they knew each other in the first place.			
<u>Rumble Fish</u> by S.E. Hinton	4.9	782	4
James is the number one tough guy in junior high until a series of explosive events shatters his world.			
<u>Scorpions</u> by Walter Dean Myers	5.0	386	6
After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun, until a tragedy occurs.			
<u>Uncle Tom's Cabin</u> by Harriet Bee Stowe	9.3	16725	32
More than an outdated work of propaganda, this 1852 novel of slavery poses the question: "What is it to be a moral human being?"			
<u>The Westing Game</u> by Ellen Raskin	6.3	144	8
A puzzling mystery of sixteen players who are all suspects in the curious murder of millionaire Sam Westing--and heirs to his fabulous fortune.			
<u>Woodson</u> by Gary Paulsen	6.4	6950	6
A memoir about Paulsen's intimate relationship with Minnesota's north woods, the dog team he trained for Alaska's Iditarod race, and the mesmerizing day-by-day account of his first try at this 1,180-mile race.			

Historical and Multicultural Fiction

Title	Author	RL	AR Test #	AR Points
<u>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</u> by Ernest Gaines		7.0	61328	16
A fictional biography of a black woman born in slavery whose long life span saw the end of the Civil War and the contemporary second emancipation of her people.				
<u>I Heard the Owl Call My Name</u> by Margaret Craven		8.8	5271	7
Moving account of a young vicar, fatally ill, working among the Indians.				
<u>Johnny Tremain</u> by Ester Forbes		8.1	47	16
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.				
<u>Julie of the Wolves</u> by Jean Craighead George		6.4	49	6
The story of a girl caught between two cultures--Eskimo and white. She learns to communicate with a small pack of wolves and thus gets food when she is starving.				
<u>Let the Circle Be Unbroken</u> by Mildred Taylor		6.8	237	19
This inspiring story of a loving, close-knit black family confronted with racial injustice contributes to a deeper understanding of what it means to be black today.				
<u>Lily's Crossing</u> by Patricia Reilly Giff		4.6	17781	5
A young girl learns that World War II is bound to change everyone, even the Americans who never leave home.				
<u>Lyddie</u> by Katherine Paterson		5.6	6024	9
Impoverished farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker. When working conditions threaten the health of co-workers, she has to make a choice--speak up and risk her job or be silent.				
<u>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</u> by Elizabeth George Speare		6.3	98	10
When Kit's friendship with the old woman is discovered, she is accused of witchcraft.				

Nonfiction

Title	Author	RL	AR Test #	AR Points
<u>Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors</u>	by Piers Paul Read	7.7	19776	19
Spellbinding, inspirational account of a 1972 plane crash high in the snowbound Andes and of the young Uruguayans who survived it.				
<u>Black Like Me</u>	by John Griffin	9.0	730	13
A medically darkened white man's record of his month traveling as a black in the South.				
<u>Hiroshima</u>	by John Hersey	8.4	10036	9
Timeless and compassionate account of the catastrophic event which heralded the coming of the atomic age.				
<u>Snow Bound: A Story of Raw Survival</u>	by Harry Mazer	6.0	787	6
Two emotionally immature teenagers whose basic needs for food and shelter have always been taken care of are forced to come to grips with raw survival.				

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Title	Author	RL	AR Test#	AR Points
<u>Watership Down</u>	by Richard Adams	7.6	749	32
Bestselling picturesque saga of a maverick band of rabbits who, against all odds, seek a new home and a better society.				