

# Pioneer Middle Incoming Seventh Grade Fiction Summer Reading List

## Realistic Fiction

### *The Fourth Stall*

**Chris Rylander**

Reading level 5.1, 314 pages

Sixth graders Mac and Vince operate a business charging schoolmates for protection from bullies and for help to negotiate conflicts peacefully, with amazing challenges and results.

### *The Great Gilly Hopkins*

**Katherine Paterson**

Reading level 4.6, Fountas & Pinnell level S, 148 pages

An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.

### *Million-Dollar Throw*

**Mike Lupica**

Reading level 5.4, Fountas & Pinnell level V, 244 pages

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind. When Nate gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriots' game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

### *Poison Ivy*

**Amy Goldman Koss**

Reading level 5.7, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 166 pages

In a government class, three popular girls undergo a mock trial for their ruthless bullying of a classmate.

### *The Running Dream*

**Wendelin Van Draanen**

Reading level 4.1, Fountas & Pinnell level X, 336 pages

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

### *Waiting for Normal*

**Leslie Connor**

Reading level 3.7, 290 pages

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

## Historical Fiction

### *The Boy Who Dared*

**Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

Reading level 4.9, Fountas & Pinnell level Y, 202 pages

In 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

***Fever 1793***

**Laurie Halse Anderson**

Reading level 4.4, Fountas & Pinnell level Z, 251 pages

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

***Hattie Big Sky***

**Kirby Larson**

Reading level 4.4, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 289 pages

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, but encounters unexpected problems along the way.

***One-Handed Catch***

**Mary Jane Auch**

Reading level 4.2, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 248 pages

After losing his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, sixth grader Norman uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art, and other activities.

***Private Peaceful***

**Michael Morpurgo**

Reading level 5.2, 202 pages

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his county, his family, his childhood love, and himself.

***The Rock and the River***

**Kekla Magoon**

Reading level 3.9, 290 pages

In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

***A Single Shard***

**Linda Sue Park**

Reading level 6.6, Fountas & Pinnell level U, 152 pages

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

## **Fantasy/Science Fiction**

***Bigger Than a Bread Box***

**Laurel Snyder**

Reading level 4.3, 226 pages

Devastated when her parents separate, twelve-year-old Rebecca must move with her mother from Baltimore to Gran's house in Atlanta, where Rebecca discovers an old breadbox with the power to grant any wish—so long as the wished-for thing fits in the breadbox.

***City of Ember***

**Jeanne DuPrau**

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 270 pages

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

***The Emerald Atlas***

**John Stephens**

Reading level 4.9, 417 pages

Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now they learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy.

***The True Meaning of Smekday***

**Adam Rex**

Reading level 4.5, 423 pages

Twelve-year-old Gratuity “Tip” Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted. Tip must try to stop another alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.

***Tuck Everlasting***

**Natalie Babbitt**

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 139 pages

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older.

***When You Reach Me***

**Rebecca Stead**

Reading level 4.5, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 199 pages

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s TV show *The \$20,000 Pyramid*, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

## **Mystery/Suspense**

***Chasing Vermeer***

**Blue Balliett**

Reading level 5.4, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 254 pages

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.

***Chomp***

**Carl Hiaasen**

Reading level 5.2, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 290 pages

When the star of a reality TV show disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades, Wahoo Crane and his classmate, Tuna Gordon, set out to find the TV star while avoiding Tuna’s gun-happy father.

***Crossing the Wire***

**Will Hobbs**

Reading level 4.3, 216 pages

Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.

***Peak***

**Roland Smith**

Reading level 5.0, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 246 pages

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

***Poison Most Vial: A Mystery***

**Benedict Carey**

Reading level 4.5, 215 pages

When a famous forensic scientist turns up dead and Ruby's father becomes the prime suspect, Ruby must marshal everyone she can to help solve the mystery and prove her father didn't poison his boss.

***Running Out of Time***

**Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Reading level 4.8, Fountas & Pinnell level W, 184 pages

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

***Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer***

**John Grisham**

Reading level 5.2, Fountas & Pinnell level T, 263 pages

Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer.

## Series Fiction

***Gallagher Girls series***

**Ally Carter**

The Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women offers advanced martial arts during PE and code breaking in computer class, which prepares all of the girls for careers as spies. The first book in this series is *I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You*.

***Last Apprentice series***

**Joseph Delaney**

This series follows Thomas "Tom" Ward, who is apprenticed to become a Spook – a master fighter of supernatural evil. Tom is destined to either save the world or destroy it. The first book in this series is *Revenge of the Witch*.

***Maximum Ride series***

**James Patterson**

Fourteen-year-old Max knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock" are just like ordinary kids, only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true, but their lives can morph into a nightmare at any time. The first book in this series is *The Angel Experiment*.

***Series of Unfortunate Events***

**Lemony Snicket**

This series follows the turbulent lives of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire after their parents' death in an arson house fire. The children are placed in the custody of a distant relative, Count Olaf, who tries to steal their inheritance. This first book in this series is *The Bad Beginning*.

***Uglies series***

**Scott Westerfeld**

*Uglies* follows the story of Tally Youngblood, a sixteen-year-old girl living in a futuristic society which values an extreme form of cosmetic surgery. The first book in this series is *Uglies*.