

# BOOK LIST GRADES 6-8

FOUNDATIONS  
MIDDLE LEVEL | 2012-2013

## AUGUST: HABITS

### ***Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff* by Jennifer L. Holm**

Despite having a to-do list, seven-grader Ginny is tripping through one problem after another in this story told through notes, reports, receipts, cartoons, and other "stuff."

### ***Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry**

When crippled Kira is orphaned, she fears being ostracized. Instead, her skill as an embroider is recognized, and she finds herself in the presence of cruel powers as she works to restore an invaluable ceremonial robe.

## SEPTEMBER: PRINCIPLES

### ***No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman**

Sick of stories in which the dog dies, Wallace Wallace gives *Old Shep, My Pal* a bad review. When his English teacher demands Wallace Wallace rewrite his review, he refuses, earning himself a spot at rehearsals for the school play, which is based on the same book.

### ***The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick**

Spaz, an epileptic who can't plug into the mind probes most people use to ignore reality in this post-apocalyptic world, embarks on a quest to save his desperately sick sister.

### ***Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer**

In this Newbery honor book, sixteen-year-old Hope and her aunt move from New York City to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work at the Welcome Stairways diner. When its owner decides to run against the town's wicked mayor, the two help with his campaign.

### ***Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins**

Gregor does not want to be the prophesied "overlander" who can save the Underland humans from the rats' invasion. But when he discovers the friends he might be holding is long-missing father prisoner, he steps up to the role of warrior hero.

## OCTOBER: PARADIGMS

### ***Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements**

When feeling invisible turns into the real thing for Bobby, the fifteen-year-old must figure out how to find himself before trouble descends on his family.

### ***The Misfits* by James Howe**

Shouldering the grief of their brandings, the misfits who make up the Gang of Five decide not to take their classmates' cruel taunts anymore.

### ***Habibi* by Naomi Shihab Nye**

When Liyana's family moves from St. Louis to her father's native Palestine, she feels lost among strangers and a strange language. Her homesickness eases as she develops a friendship with Omer, a Jew.

### ***Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse**

In this Newbery Medal winner, which is written in first-person free verse, emotionally and physically wounded Billie Jo struggles to adapt to life without her mother as dust storms devastate her family's Oklahoma farm during the Depression.

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## NOVEMBER:

### BE PROACTIVE®

#### *The Search for Belle Prater* by Ruth White

In this sequel to *Belle Prater's Boy*, Woodrow, his cousin Gypsy, and new girl Cassie embark on a mission to find Woodrow's mother, Belle, who disappeared without warning a year ago.

#### *Leepike Ridge* by N. D. Wilson

Eleven-year-old Tom is swept downstream on a packing-foam raft. He washes up in a cave complex housing a few dead bodies and mysterious carvings.

#### *Masters of Disaster* by Gary Paulsen

Three friends decide to add excitement to their lives by taking on some mighty adventures, including attempting to solve a hundred-year-old murder and riding a bicycle off a house's roof.

#### *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah, who lives in a runaway-slave settlement in Canada, decides to track down a thief who stole the money a friend of his was saving to buy his family out of captivity.

#### *Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool

After Abilene arrives in Manifest, Kansas, to live with her father's friend for the summer, she sets out to learn about her father's youth.

## DECEMBER: BEGIN

### WITH THE END IN MIND®

#### *Billy Creekmore* by Tracey Porter

Billy, an orphan, tramps through life as a coal miner, traveling-circus worker, and storyteller as he searches for his past and his place in the world.

#### *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka is regularly taunted about her dark skin. With the help of a new teacher who has a birthmark on her face, Maleeka learns to defend and love herself.

## JANUARY: PUT

### FIRST THINGS FIRST®

#### *Dark Water Rising* by Marian Hale

After Seth's family moves to Galveston, Texas, Seth grudgingly settles into his new life, until the deadly Galveston Storm of 1900 changes everything.

#### *Storyteller* by Patricia Reilly Giff

After discovering a portrait of her ancestor Eliza, Elizabeth delves into her ancestor's experiences as a girl growing up during the American Revolution.

#### *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jiménez

This autobiographical book recounts the childhood of Santa Clara University professor Francisco Jiménez as he moved from labor camp to labor camp with his family after they crossed the border into the US in 1947.

#### *Slant* by Laura E. Williams

Lacking self-esteem and tired of being called names, thirteen-year-old Lauren, a Korean American, considers undergoing a special eye surgery so she can blend in at school.

#### *Millicent Min, Girl Genius* by Lisa Yee

Eleven-year-old Millicent, genius and social outcast, is spending her summer tutoring a family friend and playing volleyball, during which she makes—and possibly loses—her first friend.

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## FEBRUARY: RELATIONSHIP BANK ACCOUNT®

### *The Storm Before Atlanta* by Karen Schwabach

During the Civil War, Jeremy aches to become a drummer boy while Dulcie, a runaway slave, seeks freedom as "contraband" of a Union troop. The two meet while with the 107th New York Volunteer Regiment.

### *The Boyfriend List* by E. Lockhart

A series of social crises lands fifteen-year-old Ruby in therapy. Dr. Z has Ruby write the boyfriend list, which documents the painful dramas that plague many teens' lives.

### *The Last Notebook of Leonardo* by B. B. Wurge

In this funny and fact-filled story, Jem's dad morphs into a huge orangutan and takes Jem out to hunt for Leonardo da Vinci's grave.

### *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck

In this episodic novel, Joey and Mary Alice visit their gutsy grandma each summer from 1929 to 1942. Those annual trips to rural Illinois are anything but sleepy as they fight town terrors, come face to face with a corpse, and spy the sheriff in his undies.

## MARCH:

## THINK WIN-WIN®

### *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen

Nick and Marta don't believe their biology teacher, Mrs. Starch, is really away because of a "family emergency." They suspect she disappeared during the field trip to Black Vine Swamp and head back in search of their fearsome teacher.

### *Hurricane Dancers* by Margarita Engle

When a hurricane sinks the pirate ship Quebrado is on, he escapes his captors and finds life on land amid kind people.

### *The PS Brothers* by Maribeth Boelts

Best friends Russell and Shawn decide to scoop poop to earn cash to buy a puppy. They never expected their efforts would lead them to a dog-fighting ring!

### *Zazoo* by Richard Mosher

Zazoo lives with her adoptive grandfather, a war hero who moved her from Vietnam to France when she was a toddler. A chance encounter with a bicyclist sends Zazoo on an exploration of the time when the Nazi's invaded France.

## APRIL: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD®

### *Airhead* by Meg Cabot

After a freak accident at the new Stark Megastore, tomboy Em's brain gets plopped into supermodel Nikki Stark's body. Now she has far bigger problems than catching the eye of her crush.

### *London Calling* by Edward Bloor

Unhappy with his purposeless life, Martin is content to sleep it all away—that is, until a long-dead boy shows up and asks, "Will you help me?"

### *Words in the Dust* by Trent Reedy

Now that the Taliban have been ousted from Afghanistan, Zulaikha hopes for change: a connection with her stepmother, an opportunity to go to school, and surgery to fix her cleft lip.

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## ***The War with Grandpa* by Robert Kimmel Smith**

Despite his love for his grandfather, Peter declares war when the older man moves into Peter's room. But Peter isn't the only one who knows how to play pranks.

## **MAY:**

### **SYNERGIZE®**

#### ***Someone Was Watching* by David Patneaude**

Three months after he lost his three-year-old sister, who has been presumed drowned, Chris finds clues in a video from that day and sets out to uncover the truth.

#### ***The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman**

Antsy concocts a plan to capitalize on the Schwa's near invisibility. Despite its promising start, the scheme soon lands them in trouble.

#### ***The Broccoli Tapes* by Jan Slepian**

Sara records her experiences during her family's months-long stay in Hawaii, including feeling neglected by her parents, her grandmother's passing, her and her brother's forbidden time with a wild cat they name Broccoli, and their unlikely friendship with the short-tempered Eddie.

#### ***Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson**

Fed up with being shipped between distant relatives, sixteen-year-old Hattie takes her life's reins and sets herself up on her late uncle's homestead.

#### ***Cicada Summer* by Andrea Beaty**

For the two years following her brother's death, Lily has feigned being mute. But when troublemaker Tinny shows up in her tiny town, Lily's big secret might come out.

## **JUNE:**

### **SHARPEN THE SAW®**

#### ***Joey Pigza Loses Control* by Jack Gantos**

In this sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, Joey is thrilled to finally get to spend part of his summer with his dad, a "wired" recovering alcoholic. But when Joey's dad flushes Joey's ADD medication, Joey must decide whether to trust himself or his father.

#### ***Soccerland* by Beth Choat**

After being invited to try out for a U.S. Girls' Soccer Team, Flora finds out the big leagues are a lot tougher than she's used to. But Flora made a promise to her mom before she died, and Flora intends to fulfill it.

#### ***Heart of a Champion* by Carl Deuker**

Best friends Seth and Jimmy are obsessive about baseball, but their friendship must survive harder times than those found on the field.

#### ***A Bundle of Sticks* by Pat Mauser McCord**

After a bully forces Ben to eat mud, Ben's dad sends him to Kajukenbo lessons so the boy can learn to defend himself. Despite his training, Ben, who hates to fight, doubts he can stand up to the bully.