

Ms. Mulhern's "Must Reads" List:



All of the following are excellent books for reading aloud or independent reading. Most are also great books to start important discussions. The grade levels are not exact. Each child is different, but this gives a general idea of what books are typical for what age based on difficulty and maturity.

The summer is the perfect time to sit back, grab a great book, and relax!
Remember, KEEP READING!

Key: 🐛 Follows books that may have mature themes.

☆ Follows books that usually interest struggling or reluctant readers.

Picture Books for All Ages:

- Patricia Polacco's *Pink and Say*, Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*, William Steig's *Shrek!*, anything by Chris Van Allsburg – try *Jumanji* or *The Polar Express*, *The Lorax* and *The Sneetches and Other Stories* by Dr. Seuss, and *Independent Dames* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Grades 5-7

- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder (The full Little House series is great!)
- *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*☆ by Judy Blume (The whole Fudge series is wonderful!)
- *Beezus and Ramona*☆ by Beverly Cleary
- anything by Gordon Korman – try *Nose Pickers from Outer Space*☆, *On The Run* series☆, *The Island* series☆, *Maxx Comedy: The Funniest Kid in America*☆, or *Sixth Grade Nickname Game*
- anything by Andrew Clements – try *Frindle*, *Report Card* or *A Week in the Woods*.
- *4th Grade Rats*☆ by Jerry Spinelli
- *Because of Winn Dixie* and *Tale of Despereaux*☆ by Kate DiCamillo
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg
- *Matilda*, *The Twits*☆, or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*☆ by Roald Dahl
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*🐛 by C.S. Lewis (The Chronicles of Narnia series is great!)
- *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles* by Julie Andrews Edwards
- *Hatchet* ☆ by Gary Paulsen
- *Inkheart* or *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke
- *Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine
- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* ☆ by J.K. Rowling
- *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts*☆ by Gennifer Choldenko
- *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* or *Crispin* by Avi
- *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes
- *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt
- *Number the Stars* ☆ by Lois Lowry
- *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker
- *Thumbelina:: Tiny Runaway Bride* by Barbara Ensor
- *Ellie McDoodle* by Ruth McNally Barshaw
- *Holes* and *Small Steps* ☆ by Louis Sachar
- *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau
- *Maniac Magee* ☆ by Jerry Spinelli
- *Beyond the Deep Woods* by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell (The first in The Edge Chronicles series.)
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- *The Princess Diaries* Collection by Meg Cabot
- *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery (The first in a long series.)

- *Wolf Rider* by Avi
- *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *Ranger's Apprentice* by John Flanagan
- *Fallen Angels, Hoops, or Bad Boy* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Eragon and Eldest* by Christopher Paolini
- *Crash or Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kroop* by Rick Yancey
- *Among the Hidden* ☆ (the first in The Shadow Children series) or *Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Out of the Dust* and *Brooklyn Bridge* by Karen Hesse
- *Airborn* and *Skybreaker* by Kenneth Oppel
- *Wild Magic* by Tamora Pierce
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- *Fever 1793* ☆ or *Chains* by Laurie Anderson
- *The Great Gollywopper Games* by Jody Feldman
- *The Comeback Kids* (series) by Mike Lupica
- *The Trial* by Jen Bryant
- *Regarding the Bathrooms: A Privy to the Past* by Kate Klise
- *Welcome To Camden Falls (Main Street)* by Ann M. Martin
- *Physics: Why Matter Matters* by Dan Green
- *Lady Liberty- A Biography* by Doreen Rappaport
- *Grayson* by Lynne Cox

Around or after 7th Grade:

- *Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman
- *Lord of the Rings* trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien
- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton
- *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier
- *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams
- *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank
- *Night* by Elli Wiesel
- *Feed* by M.T. Anderson
- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon
- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonneblick
- *Maus* by Art Spiegelman
- *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer
- *Homecoming* by Cynthia Voight
- *Reaching for the Sun* by Tracie Zimmer
- *Iqbal* by Francesco D'Adamo
- *The Incredible Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick
- *Travel Team, Summer Ball, Heat* by Mike Lupica
- *Uglies, Pretties, and Specials* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You* by Hanna Jansen
- *Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson
- *Sold* by Patricia McCormick
- *The Rules of Survival* by Nancy Werlin
- *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang
- *Emma Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* by Lauren Tarshis
- *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *A Drowned Maiden's Hair* by Laura Amy Schlitz

- *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman
- *The Red Kayak* ☆ by Priscilla Cummings
- *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* by John Grogan
- *How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor
- *Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters* by Lesley M.M. Blume
- *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Willoughbys* by Lois Lowry
- *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer
- *Leepike Ridge* by N.D. Wilson
- *Trouble* by Gary Schmidt
- *Dodger and Me* by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *The Lightning Thief* series by Rick Riordan

These are only a few of the thousands of books out there! Remember, find what you love!! If you want to keep up to date on new books and where to find them, check out these ideas:

Resources for Locating Books:

- Ms. Mulhern's Blog- <http://thereadingzone.wordpress.com>
- Reading Rants- <http://www.readingrants.org/>
- Welcome to My Tweendom- <http://tweendom.blogspot.com/>
- Kids Lit- <http://kidslit.menashalibrary.org/>
- I.N.K. (Interesting Nonfiction for Kids)- <http://inkrethink.blogspot.com/>
- Reading Guru Nancy Atwell's School's Kids Choice (updated yearly) – http://www.c-t-1.org/kids_recommend.html

Looking to get ARCs (advance review copies)? Check out this website! (You need to sign up, so check with Mom or Dad!)

- Harper Collins FirstLook:
<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/HarperChildrens/Members/firstlook/index.aspx>