

Middle School Summer Reading List

Lexile 1000+

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster boy - Schmidt, Gary D.

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot. AR: 5.9 Lexile: 1000

My brother's keeper - McCormick, Patricia,

Thirteen-year-old Toby Malone struggles to keep his family together after his father leaves; however, keeping his older brother Jake's drug habit from their mother is getting harder and harder. AR: 5.3 Lexile: 1010

The Black Canary - Curry, Jane Louise.

As the child of two musicians, twelve-year-old James has no interest in music until he discovers a portal to seventeenth-century London in his uncle's basement, and finds himself in a situation where his beautiful voice and the fact that he is biracial might serve him well. AR: 6.1 Lexile: 1020

The case of the missing marquess : an Enola Holmes mystery - Springer, Nancy.

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother. AR: 6.6 Lexile: 1020

Shark life : true stories about sharks & the sea - Wojtyla, Karen.

Contains fifteen stories, adapted for young people, in which Peter Benchley describes his encounters with sharks, and discusses what he has learned about the sea. AR: 7.4 Lexile: 1020

The Unvisibles - Whybrow, Ian.

After twelve-year-old Oliver recites an ancient Indian magical spell and becomes invisible, he enlists the aid of his classmate, Nicky. The two of them join forces to undo the damage as well as to help their families and themselves. AR: 6.1 Lexile: 1020

The ancient Aztecs - Sonneborn, Liz. Examines the civilization of the ancient Aztecs

from their emergence in the late 1300s, and includes information on how they built the large city of Tenochtitlan, with a particular emphasis on their social structure. Includes time line, glossary, and index. AR: 7.8 Lexile: 1030

City of the beasts - Allende, Isabel.

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians. AR: 7.8 Lexile: 1030

Harry Potter and the half-blood prince - Rowling, J. K.

Novice wizard Harry Potter, now sixteen-years-old, begins his sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the midst of the battle between good and evil which has heated up with the return of the Dark Lord Voldemort. AR: 7.2 Lexile: 1030

Phineas Gage : a gruesome but true story about brain science - Fleischman, John.

The true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions. AR: 7.4 Lexile: 1030

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The vacation - Horvath, Polly.

When his parents go to Africa to work as missionaries, twelve-year-old Henry's eccentric aunts, Pigg and Mag, take him on a cross-country car trip, allowing him to gain insight into his family and himself. AR: 5.6 Lexile: 1040

Begging for change - Flake, Sharon.

African-American teenager Raspberry Hill, off the streets after years of homelessness with her mother, inexplicably steals money from one of her best friends and wonders if she is no different than her recently returned, drug-addicted, thieving father.

AR: 3.7 Lexile: 1060

Nicholas - Goscinny, Rene.

Presents a collection of nineteen short stories by Rene Goscinny, author of the "Asterix" comics, originally published in 1960, and explores the adventures of a young school boy, Nicholas, and his friends who always seem to end up in trouble. Includes illustrations.

AR: 4.9 Lexile: 1070

Kingdom of the Golden Dragon - Allende, Isabel.

Sixteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his grandmother, a writer for a geography magazine, to the remote Forbidden Kingdom in the Himalayas to help locate a sacred statue of a golden dragon before it is stolen by a greedy outsider. AR: 8.3 Lexile: 1080

Mummies : the newest, coolest, and creepiest - Tanaka, Shelley.

Examines mummy discoveries made around the world, and looks at how advances in forensic science and other investigative techniques are helping scientists learn about the lives and deaths of these sometimes ancient, preserved bodies. AR: 7.7 Lexile: 1130

Larklight, or, The revenge of the white spiders!, or, To Saturn's rings and back! : a rousing tale of dauntless pluck in the farthest reaches of space - Reeve, Philip.

In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system. AR: 7.0 Lexile: 1170

The encyclopedia of preserved people : pickled, frozen, and mummified corpses from around the world - Prior, Natalie Jane,

A collection of facts about preserved people from around the world, including Egyptian mummies, bog bodies, Einstein's brain, and the Ice Man. AR: 8.0 Lexile: 1170

How Angel Peterson got his name : and other outrageous tales about extreme sports - Paulsen, Gary.

Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel. AR: 6.0 Lexile: 1180