

## Mendham Township Middle School 2018 Suggested Summer Reading List

The following list is intended as a guide and contains books that range in reading level, genre and subject matter. Some books included on the list may not be appropriate for all students and parents are required to review suggested books to ensure their children are reading books that are suitable for their maturity and reading ability.

\*\*Some book descriptions have been taken from publisher websites.

### Mystery

Connor, Leslie. **The Truth As Told Mason Buttle**

Mason is the biggest, sweatiest kid in 7<sup>th</sup> grade whose struggle with learning disabilities is compounded by grief. A year ago his best friend Benny, turned up dead in his family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Then tiny Calvin Chumsky moves to town and Mason finds a new friend and ally. But when Calvin goes missing things get even worse for Mason. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?

Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library, Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics**

Kyle is one of 12 lucky kids who are selected to be the first to enter the amazing new library created by legendary game maker Luigi Lemoncello. Locked in for the night, they must solve riddles, clues and puzzles to find the hidden escape route.

Kyle is then reunited with his friends and teammates as they join other teams from all over the country to compete in Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympic. But as the games progress it is clear there is a bigger mystery to be solved.

Lockhart, E. **we were liars**

Cadence Sinclair Easton returns to her family's private island off the coast of Cape Cod in a haze of amnesia, migraines, and painkillers and tries to piece together the events that surrounded the mysterious accident she had 2 years earlier. Why is this summer so different from the carefree summers she spent with her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and friend Gat since they were eight? What she finds out will take her breathe away, and yours!

Oliver, Lauren. **Panic**

In the rural city of Carp there isn't much to do in the summer, unless you a graduating senior and competing in *panic*. *Panic* is a legendary game of chicken that only the most fearless can win. The stakes are high, \$67,000 and a chance to escape the dead end town; but for some of this year's contestants the stakes are even higher and ones they are willing to die for.

Raskin, Ellen. **The Westing Game**

Self-made millionaire Sam Westing's will is a puzzle, literally. Westing's 16 heirs are divided into pairs and challenged to find the solution. Each pair is given \$10,000 cash and a different set of clues and the first group to solve the mystery will inherit Westing's entire \$200 million fortune.

Stead, Rebecca. **Liar and Spy**

After moving to a new apartment in Brooklyn, Georges meets Safer and the two become fast friends. Georges is fascinated by Safer's family's unique apartment and the people who live there. But what intrigues Georges the most is Safer's self-appointed occupation - spy. Soon Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit and finds himself tracking the mysterious Mr. X in the apartment upstairs and he starts to wonder: what is a lie, and what is a game?

Thompson, Lisa. **The Goldfish Boy**

Suffering from severe OCD, Matthew Corbin spends his time cleaning and watching the coming and goings of everyone on his cul-de-sac out his window. But when his neighbor's visiting grandson goes missing it becomes clear that Matthew was the last person to see the toddler alive. Everyone in the neighborhood is a suspect and Matthew is the key to solving the mystery... but will he be able to help save little Teddy if it means exposing his own secrets, and stepping out from the safety of his home?

Turnage, Sharon. **Three Times Lucky** and **The Ghost of Tupelo Landing**

Tupelo Landing, NC has been Moses LoBeau's home ever since she washed up on its shores during a hurricane when she was an infant. Living and working in the town's only café she knows everything that happens in Tupelo Landing and what she doesn't know she finds out with the help of her best friend and co-founder of the Desperado Detective Agency, Dale.

Wolk, Lauren. **Beyond the Bright Sea**

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.

## **Fiction**

Alvarez, Julia. **Return to Sender**

When Tyler's father is unable to maintain the family farm, he hires undocumented workers, resulting in an interdependent relationship that mirrors current social and political conditions in the U.S.

Bauer, Joan. **Close to Famous**

Foster, a 12 year old accomplished chef with dreams of having her own cooking show, and her mother move into Culpepper, they don't know what to expect. But they soon find themselves at home in the tiny town after Foster begins baking for the local coffee shop, and gets help in overcoming her biggest challenge - learning to read. But just as Foster and her mother start to feel at ease, their past catches up to them.

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**

The fifth grade boys and girls at Laketon Elementary school can't agree on anything, but their teachers all agree that they are the loudest, most talkative class they have ever seen. When Dave Packer reads about Gandhi's habit of not talking he is intrigued, can he refrain from talking? A challenge from rival Lindsey Burgess, sets off a chain of events that has the 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls in a battle of silence that upsets the balance of the whole school.

Creech, Sharon. **The Boy on the Porch**

When a young couple find a boy asleep on their porch who is unable to speak their lives are changed forever. With time they learn to appreciate his unusual manner and embrace his talents and the three become an unlikely family. But who does the boy belong to and when will they come back to claim him?

Davies, Jacqueline. **Nothing But Trouble**

Odawahaka has always been too small for Maggie's big scientific ideas. Between her stuck-in-a-rut mom, her grumpy grandpop, and the lifetime supply of sludgy soda in the fridge, it's hard for Maggie to imagine a change. But when Lena moves in with her creative spirit and outrageous perspective, middle school takes off with a bang. Someone starts pulling the kind of pranks that send their rule-loving new principal into an uproar—complete with purple puffs of smoke, parachuting mice, and a scavenger hunt that leads to secret passageways. Suddenly the same-old football games, election for class president, and embarrassing stories feel almost exciting.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **Fish in a Tree**

"Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid."

Ally has been able to hide her dyslexia from everyone but in the process has earned a reputation as a troublemaker. When her new teacher Mr. Daniels finally figures out her secret, he helps her realize that she has nothing to be ashamed of and that she is a smart, creative person and much more than the label she has given herself or the one she has worn as a mask.

McAnulty, Stacy. **The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl**

Lucy Callahan was struck by lightning. The zap gave her genius-level math skills, and ever since, Lucy has been homeschooled. Now, at 12 years old, she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass 1 more test--middle school! Lucy's grandma insists: Go to middle school for 1 year. Make 1 friend. Join 1 activity. And read 1 book (that's not a math textbook!). Lucy's not sure what a girl who does calculus homework for fun can possibly learn in 7th grade. She has everything she needs at home, where nobody can make fun of her rigid routines or her super powered brain. The equation of Lucy's life has already been solved. Unless there's been a miscalculation?

Schmidt, Gary. **Trouble**

Henry's father has always told him that if you build your house far enough away from Trouble, then Trouble will never find you. But Trouble comes careening down the road one night in the form of a pickup truck that strikes Henry's older brother. In the truck is a young Cambodian from his brother's school, and the accident sparks racial tensions in the school—and in town. Caught between anger and grief, Henry sets out to do the only thing he can think of: climb Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine, which he and his brother had planned to climb together.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. **Short**

Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of The Wizard of Oz, she'll realize how big she is inside. She hasn't ever thought of herself as a performer, but when she is cast as a Munchkin, she begins to see herself in a new way. As Julia becomes friendly with Olive—one of the adults with dwarfism who've joined the production's motley crew of Munchkins—and with her artistic neighbor, Mrs. Chang, Julia's own sense of self as an artist grows. Soon, she doesn't want to fade into the background—and it's a good thing, because her director has more big plans for Julia!

Stone, Tamara Ireland. **Every Last Word**

Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular junior girls. But Sam has a secret: she suffers from Purely-Obsessional OCD and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off. Exhausted by trying to appear normal to her popular and toxic "friends" Sam is saved when she meets Caroline who introduces her to Poet's Corner. As Sam spends more time with the misfit poets who meet in a secret locked room to share their poetry and by extension their lives, she begins to feel normal for the first time. Her new group a friends, and especially her romance with AJ, make her happier and more relaxed than she has since she can remember...until she finds a new reason to question her sanity and all she holds dear.

Urban, Linda. **A Crooked Kind of Perfect.**

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias longs to play the piano and become a musical prodigy, wearing a grand tiara. Unfortunately, her father buys her an organ instead.

VanDraanen, Wendelin. **Flipped**

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

### **Fantasy/Science Fiction**

Black, Holly. **Doll Bones**

12 year olds Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been playing the same make-believe game for years, one involving pirates and mermaids and, of course, the Great Queen—a creepy, bone-china doll at Poppy's house. Then Poppy reveals that she's been haunted by a girl whose ground-up bones lie inside the Great Queen, so the doll must be properly buried. Begrudgingly, the three agree to play one last game and hope against hope for "a real adventure, the kind that changed you."

Buckley, Michael. **Sister's Grimm** series

Life has been anything but easy for orphaned sisters, Sabrina and Daphne Grimm. After months in foster homes, they are taken in by their Granny Relda and introduced to a family legacy that is utterly unbelievable. Decedents of the famous Brothers Grimm, the girls find themselves back in the family business their parents had tried to protect them from. Now the girls take n the responsibility of being fairy tale detectives because the book of classic fairy tales the Grimm's wrote was in fact a history book of magical mischief and the main characters are still alive and causing trouble.

\* Riggs, Ransom. **Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children** series (**Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, Hollow City, Library of Souls**)

MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN: A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in this groundbreaking series, which mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling new kind of reading experience.

Roidan, Rick. **The Lost Hero** series (**The Son of Neptune, The Mark of Athena, The Blood of Olympus**)

Roidan takes readers back to Camp-Half Blood and introduces a new group of demigods, Jason, Piper and Leo whose parents are gods in their Roman rather than Greek personae. Old friends make an appearance as the new characters battle their way across the United States on an exciting and dangerous quest.

Yolen, Jane. **The Devil's Arithmetic**

When 12-year-old Hannah is transported back to a 1940's Polish village, she experiences the very horrors that had embarrassed and annoyed her when her elders related their Holocaust experiences.

Zevin, Gabrielle. **Elsewhere**

Welcome to Elsewhere. It is warm, with a breeze, and the beaches are marvelous. It's quiet and peaceful. You can't get sick or any older. Curious to see new paintings by Picasso? Swing by one of Elsewhere's museums. Need to talk to someone about your problems? Stop by Marilyn Monroe's psychiatric practice.

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different...

### **Dystopian Novels**

(for those who liked **The Hunger Games**)

Anderson, M.T. **Feed**

This book is set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies. The result is a chillingly recognizable consumer society where empty-headed kids are driven by constant customized murmurs in their brains of encouragement to buy, buy, buy.

Aveyard, Victoria. **The Red Queen Series (Red Queen, Glass Sword, King's Cage, War Storm)**

This is a world divided by blood – red or silver.

The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of god-like superpowers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. Mare finds herself working in the Silver Palace, surrounded by the people she hates when she discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own. One that threatens to destroy the balance of power. Mare enters a dangerous dance – Reds against Silvers, prince against prince, and Mare against her own heart.

Cass, Kiera, **The Selection, The Elite, The One, The Heir, The Crown**

Sixteen-year-old America Singer is living in the caste-divided nation of Illea, which formed after the war that destroyed the United States. America is chosen to compete in the Selection--a contest to see which girl can win the heart of Illea's prince--but all she really wants is a chance for a future with her secret love, Aspen, who is a caste below her.

\*Dashner, James. **Maze Runner series (Maze Runner, Scorch Trials, Death Curse, The Kill Order)**

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls.

\*Cline, Ernest. **Ready Player One**

In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

Grant, Michael **Gone series (Gone, Hunger, Lies, Plague, Fear, Light)**

In the blink of an eye. Everyone disappears. Gone.

Everyone except for the young have simply disappeared, there isn't a single adult left. No teachers, no cops, no doctors, no parents. Gone, too, are the phones, internet, and television. There is no way

to get help. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. A sinister creature lurks. Animals are mutating. And the teens themselves are changing, developing new talents—unimaginable, dangerous, deadly powers—that grow stronger by the day.

Meyer, Marissa. **The Lunar Chronicles series (Cinder, Scarlet, Cress, Winter)**

Once upon a time, in the future... The Lunar Chronicles series is a futuristic retelling of the classic fairy tales. It all begins when Cinder, a teenage cyborg, falls for New Beijing's Prince Kai leading her to start a rebellion against evil Lunar Queen Levana. Along the way Cinder forms an alliance with a French farm girl named Scarlet, a street fighter named Wolf, an imprisoned computer hacker named Cress and the sweet Lunar princess - Winter. Together they must destroy Queen Levana before she destroys the chance for anyone's happily ever after and the world.

Oliver, Lauren. **Delirium series (Delirium, Pandemonium, Requiem)**

Before the scientists found a cure, people thought love was a good thing. But now it is seen as a disease and the government demands that all citizens receive the cure upon turning eighteen. For Lena, this was something she has accepted and even looked forward to. Without the threat of love, life was safe, stable, predictable...happy. But then, with only ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena does the unthinkable: *She falls in love.*

Shusterman, Neal **Unwind Trilogy (Unwind, Unwholly, Unsouled)**

In America after the Second Civil War, the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement: The Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of 13. But between the ages of 13-18 a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called "unwinding." Now a common and accepted practice in society, troublesome or unwanted teens are able to easily be unwound.

## **Historical Fiction**

\*Alcott, Louisa May. **Little Women**

Four sisters experience the joys and sorrows of growing up in 19<sup>th</sup> Century New England.

Anderson, Laure Halse. **Fever 1793**

A deadly epidemic sweeps through Philadelphia where sixteen-year-old Mattie Cook watches her bustling city steadily descend into a devastating nightmare.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy**

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts, Al Capone Shines My Shoes, Al Capone Does My Homework**

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Colfer, Eoin. **Airman**

In the late nineteenth century on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king. He is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under

brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design and build.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Water Street**

1875 Brooklyn comes to life in this story of 13 year old Bird Mallon. Bird spends her days worrying about her future and her family and wishing a girl her age would move in to the building. Then Thomas Neary and his Pop move in upstairs. Thomas and Bird's friendship becomes the catalyst for changes that affect their lives and the lives of the people they love.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Full of Beans**

Grown-ups lie. That's one truth Beans knows for sure. He and his gang know how to spot a whopper a mile away, because they are the savviest bunch of barefoot conchs (that means "locals") in all of Key West. Not that Beans really minds; it's 1934, the middle of the Great Depression. With no jobs on the island, and no money anywhere, who can really blame the grown-ups for telling a few tales? Besides, Beans isn't anyone's fool. In fact, he has plans. Big plans. And the consequences might surprise even Beans himself.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Turtle in Paradise**

Sassy eleven-year-old Turtle finds her life turned on end when she is sent to live with her aunt in Depression-era Key West. With vivid details, witty dialogue and outrageous escapades, Jennifer Holm successfully explores the meaning of family and home... and lost treasures found.

Kelly, Jacqueline. **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**

Calpurnia struggles with growing up as she spends more of her free time with her grandfather, an avid naturalist, examining the beauty of nature, while at the same time her mother wants to teach her the responsibilities of a young woman during the turn of the century in Central Texas.

Kidd, Ronald. **Monkey Town: The Summer of the Scopes Trial**

When her father hatches a plan to bring publicity to their small Tennessee town by arresting a local high school teacher for teaching about evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes trial prompts fifteen-year-old Frances to rethink many of her beliefs about religion and truth, as well as her relationship with her father.

Klages, Ellen. **The Green Glass Sea**

In the fall of 1942, 11 year old Dewey finds herself joining her mathematician father in a town that officially doesn't exist. Along with other families of scientists, Dewey settles in at Los Alamos, a top secret town in New Mexico where famous scientists and mathematicians work night and day on "the gadget."

Schmidt, Gary. **The Wednesday Wars**

Set during the 1967-1968 school year, Holling Hoodhood finds his 7th grade year filled with challenges as he spends afternoons with his English teacher discussing the plays of Shakespeare, defending his precious cream puffs from a determined bully and preparing for his debut in the school play - while the issues of the Vietnam War loom over daily life.

Smith, Roland. **Elephant Run**

In 1941, bombs drop from the night skies of London, demolishing the apartment Nick Freestone lives in with his mother. Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma, hoping he will be safer living on the family's teak plantation. But as soon as Nick arrives, trouble erupts in this remote Burmese elephant village. Japanese soldiers invade, and Nick's father is taken prisoner. Nick is stranded on the plantation, forced to work as a servant to the new rulers. As life in the village grows more dangerous

for Nick and his young friend, Mya, they plan their daring escape. Setting off on elephant back, they will risk their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese POW camp.

Vawter, Vince. **Paperboy**

In this award winning novel, superstar pitcher Little Man takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July. For most boys his age a paper route is a piece of cake, but when you stutter so badly you can't say your own name, spending the month talking to strangers is the challenge of a lifetime.

### **Sports/ Adventure**

Alexander, Kwame. **Booked**

Twelve-year-old soccer player Nick learns the power of words as he struggles with bullies, girls and problems at home. Thankfully he has the support of his best friend Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.

Carter, Ally, **The Gallagher Girls** series

Cammie Morgan and her friends are students at a exclusive all girls boarding school. But the Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women is like no other school, it is here that the girls learn advanced martial arts, chemical warfare, code cracking, the art of disguise and all the other things they need to be an international spy.

Bloor, Edward. **Tangerine**

Paul Fisher isn't thrilled about moving from Texas to Florida so his older brother Erik can impress football scouts at some major universities. It is not that Paul is jealous. He is also a great athlete and impressive soccer player, despite being legally blind. But Erik is the favored son, indulged by parents, teachers, coaches, and friends, even though Paul knows that Erik's behavior is less than perfect. The move to Tangerine, Florida, might just open the eyes of everyone in the Fisher family.

Lupica, Mike. **Travel Team**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team – the very team his famous father once led to national prominence – 12 year old Danny Walker puts together his own team of cast offs and misfits. What the team lacks in skill they make up for in heart, but is that enough to win?

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **The Missing** series (**Found**, **Sent**, **Sabotaged**, **Torn**, **Caught** and **Risked**)

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Higson, Charlie. **SilverFin** series (**Blood Fever**, **Double or Die**, **Hurricane Gold**, **The Royal Command**, **Shoot to Kill** available 10/6/14)

Young James Bond attends the prestigious Eton School and investigates a mysterious disappearance, allegedly linked to a madman with a plot of global domination.

Ritter, John H. **The Boy Who Saved Baseball**

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game and Tom Gallagher feels responsible to lead the his team, the Wildcats, to victory and save the town and the game he loves. The Wildcats get unexpected help from a mysterious player, Cruz del a Cruz and in desperation the boys pay a visit to the reclusive Dante Del Gato, a disgraced former major league legend in hopes of getting Del Gato to share his secret of baseball.

Smith, Roland. **Peak**

Plucked by police from the top of a New York skyscraper, a fourteen-year-old boy and mountain climber wannabe finds himself facing the challenge of his life: climbing Mt. Everest.

### **Biography/Non Fiction**

Alexander, Kwame. **The Playbook : 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life**

The Playbook is intended to provide inspiration on the court of life. Each rule contains wisdom from inspiring athletes and role models such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, LeBron James, Carli Lloyd, Steph Curry and Michelle Obama. Kwame Alexander also provides his own poetic and uplifting words, as he shares stories of overcoming obstacles and winning games

Alifrenka, Caitlin and Ganda, Martin. **I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives**

This is the inspiring true story of a friendship that began with a fifth grade pen-pal project. When Caitlin wrote her first letter to a boy in Zimbabwe, she never could have predicted that it would be the beginning of a life changing friendship that would span decades.

Fleischman, Sid. **Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini**

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business.

Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka.**

Hilarious memoir of what it was like to grow up in the 1950's.

Yousafzai, Malala. **I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World**

Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive, but she did. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

### **Graphic Novels**

Bell, CeCe. **El Deafo**

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers!

Telgemeier, Raina. **Smile**

Being a 6<sup>th</sup> grader isn't easy, especially when your life seems to revolve around fixing your injured front teeth. *Smile* chronicles Rainia's frustrating dental journey which includes braces, surgery, awkward headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And if that wasn't hard enough; she also has to deal with typical tween stuff – problems with friends, family, boys and a major earthquake!

Telgemeier, Raina. **Sisters**

Sisters – can't live with them, can't live without them. Raina has always wanted a baby sister, but being a big sister isn't exactly what Raina expected. Through the years the girls have a strained

relationship. But when their baby brother enters the picture and things between their parents get strange, they realize they must figure out how to get along.

TenNapel, Doug. **Cardboard**

When Cam's father gives him a cardboard box for his birthday, he is less than thrilled. But he makes the best of the situation and uses the cardboard to create sculptures. When his creations magically come to life, Cam realizes he must keep his gift away from the neighborhood bully, Marcus before he destroys them all!

*(\*Reminder: the book is always better than the movie!)*