

Rupp, Rebecca – **Octavia Boone’s Big Questions About Life, the Universe, and Everything**

Seventh-grader Octavia puzzles over life’s biggest questions when her mother seems to find the answers in a conservative Christian church, while her artist father believes the writings of Henry David Thoreau hold the key.

Schmidt, Gary - **Okay for Now**

As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swietek has everything stacked against him until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer--a fiery young lady. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage.

Selznick, Brian - **Wonderstruck**

Spanning the fifty years from 1927 to 1977, the stories of Rose and Ben, told respectively through images and words, come together in New York.

Shusterman, Neal – **The Schwa Was Here**

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

Spradlin, Michael P. - **The Youngest Templar (series)**

In 1191, fifteen-year-old Tristan, a youth of unknown origin raised in an English abbey, becomes a Templar Knight’s squire during the Third Crusade and soon finds himself on a mission to bring the Holy Grail to safety.

Turner, Megan Whalen - **The Thief (series)**

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

Van Draanen, Wendelin - **The Running Dream**

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.

Zafron, Carlos Ruiz - **The Prince of Mist**

In 1943, in a seaside town where their family has gone to be safe from war, thirteen-year-old Max Carver and his sister, fifteen-year-old Alicia, with their new friend Roland, face off against an evil magician who is striving to complete a bargain made before he died.

These are just a few of the many books that seventh and eighth graders enjoy. Ask your local librarian for further suggestions.

Compiled by the Children's Services Advisory Council of the Vermont Dept. of Libraries.

This program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the Library Services and Technology Act.

BOOKS
for
GRADES 7 and 8



Almond, David - **My Name is Mina**

Creative, intelligent, nine-year-old Mina keeps a journal in her own disorderly way that reveals how her mind is growing into something extraordinary, especially after she begins homeschooling under the direction of her widowed mother. Companion to **Skellig**.

Anderson, Laurie Halse - **Speak**

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Bauer, Joan - **Close to Famous**

Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother escape from her mother’s abusive boyfriend and end up in the small town of Culpepper, West Virginia, where they use their strengths and challenge themselves to build a new life, with the help of the friends they make there.

Bradbury, Jennifer - **Shift**

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

Brooks, Martha - **Queen of Hearts**

Shortly after her first kiss but before her sixteenth birthday in December, 1941, Marie Claire and her younger brother and sister are sent to a tuberculosis sanatorium near their Manitoba farm.

Broskol, Vera - **Anya’s Ghost**

Anya, embarrassed by her Russian immigrant family and self-conscious about her body, has given up on fitting in at school but falling down a well and making friends with the ghost there just may be worse.

Collins, Suzanne - **The Hunger Games trilogy**

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss’s skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister’s place.

Delaney, Joseph - **The Last Apprentice series**

Warfare, good vs. evil, terror and humor combine in this gripping series.

Flanagan, John - **Brotherband Chronicles series**

Skandian outcasts Hal, Stig, and others do battle at sea against the Wolves and the Sharks, in the ultimate race across icy waters where not everyone thinks of the competition as play.

Fleming, Candace - **Amelia Lost**

In alternating chapters, Fleming moves back and forth between Amelia's life and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane.

Frost, Helen - **Hidden**

When fourteen-year-olds Wren and Darra meet at a Michigan summer camp, both are overwhelmed by memories from six years earlier when Darra's father stole a car, unaware that Wren was hiding in the back.

Gaiman, Neil - **The Graveyard Book**

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson - **Found (series)**

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.

Hale, Shannon - **Book of a Thousand Days**

Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Horowitz, Anthony - **Stormbreaker (series)**

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

Howe, James - **Addie on the Inside**

Outspoken thirteen-year-old Addie Carle learns about love, loss, and staying true to herself as she navigates seventh grade, enjoys a visit from her grandmother, fights with her boyfriend, and endures gossip and meanness from her former best friend.

Kadohata, Cynthia - **Cracker**

A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.

Lockhart, E. - **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**

Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society in order to enliven their mediocre pranks.

MacHale, D. J. - **Pendragon series**

Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal and somewhat reluctant 14-year-old boy who is swept into an amazing five-year quest.

Morris, Gerald - **The Squire's Tales (series)**

Sir Dinadan and his friend Sir Palomides, Sir Gaheris, Sir Terence, and other knights of the Round Table and their associates try to stop Mordred and his White Horsemen from ending King Arthur's rule of Great Britain, in this funny adventure series.

Napoli, Donna Jo - **Bound**

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well.

Oppel, Kenneth - **Half Brother**

In 1973, when a renowned Canadian behavioral psychologist pursues his latest research project--an experiment to determine whether chimpanzees can acquire advanced language skills--he brings home a baby chimp named Zan and asks his thirteen-year-old son to treat Zan like a little brother.

Patterson, James - **Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment (series)**

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Paulsen, Gary - **Guts**

The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character Brian Robeson.

Pratchett, Terry - **Nation**

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

Pullman, Philip - **The Golden Compass (series)**

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Riordan, Rick - **Kane Chronicles series**

Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.