

**BOOKS**  
for  
**GRADES**  
7 and 8



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.

Avi - **Nothing but the Truth: A Documentary Novel**

Multiple perspectives grace this complex tale of censorship and duplicity, all begun by a ninth grader's refusal to sing the "Star Spangled Banner."

Bauer, Joan - **Rules of the Road**

Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of shoe stores from Chicago to Texas, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.

Bloor, Edward - **Tangerine**

Twelve-year-old, nearly blind Paul encounters some very strange things and retrieves a frightening memory after his family moves to Florida.

Cooney, Caroline B. - **The Face on the Milk Carton**

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

Cormier, Robert - **The Chocolate War**

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and angering the school bullies.

Creech, Sharon - **Walk Two Moons**

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route.

Crutcher, Chris - **Whale Talk**

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Cushman, Karen - **Catherine, Called Birdy**

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Dahl, Roald - **Boy: Tales of Childhood**

Memoirs of the author's early years.

Dickinson, Peter - **Eva**

When Eva awakes after a long coma caused by a traffic accident, she discovers that she is now living in the body of a chimp.

Farmer, Nancy - **House of the Scorpion**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire.

Ferris, Jean - **Love Among the Walnuts**

Born and raised in isolation in a wealthy, eccentric family, Sandy is shocked when he, his parents, and their servants become victims of a vicious plot.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson - **Running Out of Time**

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists.

Hesse, Karen - **Out of the Dust**

In a series of poems, Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Hobbs, Will - **Wild Man Island**

After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the site of his father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska.

Kindl, Patrice - **Owl in Love**

A fourteen-year-old girl, who can transform into an owl, has a crush on her science teacher that leads her into interesting new relationships.

Klause, Annette Curtis - **The Silver Kiss**

A mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's terminal illness.

LeGuin, Ursula K. - **A Wizard of Earthsea (series)**

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Lowry, Lois - **The Giver (series)**

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Lynch, Chris - **Slot Machine (series)**

When overweight Elvin Bishop is sent to camp, he and his two best friends are forced to try out various sports in order to find out where they belong.

Mah, Adeline Yen - **Chinese Cinderella**

The author recounts her painful childhood in China where she lived until the age of fourteen with her father, stepmother, and siblings, all of whom thought her bad luck because her mother died shortly after giving birth to her.

Marsden, John - **Tomorrow When the War Began (series)**

Seven Australian teenagers return from a camping trip in the bush to discover that their country has been invaded and they must hide to stay alive.

Morris, Gerald - **The Savage Damsel and the Dwarf (series)**

Lynet journeys to King Arthur's court in order to find a champion to rescue her beautiful older sister, and she is joined in her quest by a clever dwarf and a bold kitchen knave, neither of whom are what they seem.

Murphy, Jim - **Blizzard!: The Storm That Changed America**

Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snowstorm that hit the Northeast in 1888.

Myers, Walter Dean - **Bad Boy: A Memoir**

The author recounts his beginnings as an inner-city child.

Napoli, Donna Jo - **Zel**

Based on the fairy tale Rapunzel, the story is told in alternating chapters from the point of view of Zel, her mother, and the nobleman who pursues her.

Nix, Garth - **Sabriel (series)**

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

Paterson, Katherine - **Jacob Have I Loved**

In this story of sibling rivalry between twins, Louise resents her pretty sister and struggles to find her own identity.

Paulsen, Gary - **Guts**

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

Philbrick, Rodman - **Freak the Mighty**

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Pope, Elizabeth M. - **The Perilous Gard**

In 1558 while imprisoned in a remote castle, a young girl becomes involved with the last practitioners of druidic magic.

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.

Salisbury, Graham - **Lord of the Deep**

Working for his stepfather on a charter fishing boat in Hawaii teaches thirteen-year-old Mikey about fishing, and about taking risks, making sacrifices, and facing some of life's difficult choices.

Spinelli, Jerry - **Stargirl**

In this story about the perils of popularity and the courage of nonconformity, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Tolkien, J.R.R. - **Lord of the Rings (a trilogy)**

This trilogy tells of the adventures of Frodo Baggins and his companions as they journey through Middle Earth to defeat the forces of evil.

Wilhelm, Doug - **The Revealers**

Tired of being bullied and picked on, three seventh-grade outcasts join forces and, using scientific methods and the power of the Internet, begin to create a new atmosphere at Parkland Middle School.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer - **Make Lemonade (series)**

In order to earn money for college, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother.

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

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