



Toms River Intermediate Schools
SUMMEREAD
For Students *EXITING* 6th Grade



Anything But Typical *Nora Raleigh Baskin*

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

Tiger Threat (Or any book in the *Orca Sports* series) *Sigmund Brouwer*

Ray Hockaday is a center in the Western Hockey League who holds a secret. When he is assigned to help his new teammate, a Russian named Vlad, get accustomed to Canada, he soon finds that his companion holds a very dangerous secret of his own.

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party *Marian Calabro*

The author uses material from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

Sports Classic Series (Any book in the series) *Matt Christopher*

Author Matt Christopher describes real life struggles in this action packed series filled with athletic adventure.

Lunch Money *Andrew Clements*

Twelve-year-old Greg has always been good at moneymaking projects. Now he is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

Artemis Fowl *Eoin Colfer*

Twelve-year-old evil genius Artemis Fowl tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold. The fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Millions *Frank Cottrell-Boyce*

The Cunningham brothers literally have money drop in their laps when a bag of cash falls from the sky. However, the crooks who initially stole the loot are hot on the trail to retrieve it.

Love That Dog *or* Hate That Cat *Sharon Creech*

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem. In the sequel, Jack starts the next grade along with his perceptive teacher, Miss Stretchberry. Jack dislikes a mean neighborhood cat, but he changes his mind about felines when he gets a kitten as a Christmas present.

Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide, The Seeing Stone, Lucinda's Secret, The Ironwood Tree, The Wrath of Mulgareth *Tony DiTerlizzi*

The Grace children, Jared, Simon, and Mallory have discovered a field guide to fairies and other magical creatures at their Aunt Lucinda's house. Suddenly, they find themselves the victims of mean tricks designed to get them to give up the book.

London Eye Mystery *Siobhan Dowd*

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

The City of Ember, The People of Sparks, The Prophet of Yonwood, or

The Diamond of Darkhold *Jeanne DuPrau*

In *The City of Ember*, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger who will run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to Unknown Regions. The series continues as Lina's people join her above ground in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other. Then, while visiting the small town of Yonwood, eleven-year-old Nickie makes some decisions about how to identify both good and evil when she witnesses the townspeople's reactions to the apocalyptic visions of one of their neighbors. Finally, after obtaining an ancient book with only a few pages remaining, Lina returns to Ember seeking a machine that might be able to aid their new community.

Bat 6: A Novel *Virginia Euwer-Wolff*

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Inkheart, Inkspell or Inkdeath *Cornelia Funke*

This series begins as 12-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, can "read" fictional characters to life. An evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel *Inkheart* years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story. In *Inkspell*, Dustfinger finds a crooked storyteller who can read him back to Inkscape. He leaves his apprentice Farid behind, but Farid seeks out Meggie and the two follow him back into the enchanted book. Finally, in *Inkdeath*, Bluejay tries to keep the Book of Immortality from unraveling, and Adderhead kidnaps all the children in the kingdom.

The Thief Lord *Cornelia Funke*

Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo run away from their cruel aunt and uncle. They decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

The Graveyard Book *Neil Gaiman*

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

Babe and Me: Baseball Card Adventure (Or any book in the series) *Dan Gutman*

With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Among the Impostors *Margaret Peterson Haddix*

In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, third-born Luke has been in hiding for the entire twelve years of his life, until he enters boarding school under an assumed name and is forced to face his fears.

Deep and Dark and Dangerous *Mary Downing Hahn*

Thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home. While there, she stumbles upon a secret her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder *Tony Hawk*

Internationally known American skateboarding champ Tony Hawk chronicles his life and his very eventful involvement with the sport.

Bird Lake Moon *Kevin Henkes*

Twelve-year-old Mitch, spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents' separation, becomes friends with ten-year-old Spencer, who has returned with his family to the lake where his little brother drowned years earlier. As the boys spend time together and their friendship grows, each of them begins to heal.

Olive's Ocean *Kevin Henkes*

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate and on her relationship with her grandmother. She also examines her feelings for an older boy and her plans to be a writer.

1001 Cranes *Naomi Hirahara*

With her parents on the verge of separating, a devastated twelve-year-old Japanese American girl spends the summer in Los Angeles with her grandparents. As summer passes, she folds paper cranes into wedding displays, becomes involved with a young skateboarder, and learns how complicated relationships can be.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town *Kimberly Willis Holt*

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn *Dorothy Hoobler*

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Soldier Boys *Dean Hughes*

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II. Their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

Dragonfly Pool *Eva Ibbotson*

Tally and her friends at Dalderton Boarding School form a dance troupe and travel to Bergania. There, she befriends Karil, the crown prince, and helps him flee the Nazis after his father is assassinated.

The Crocodile Hunter *Steve Irwin*

Australian conservationists Steve and Terri Irwin describe their lives and adventures in their quest to study wildlife.

Secret of Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing *Suzanne Jurmain*

This book tells the story of the doctors and researchers who worked to track down the cause of yellow fever and find a way to eliminate the disease.

The Abduction (Or any book in the *Kidnapped* series) *Gordon Korman*

Aiden teams up with the FBI to track down his sister Meg who was kidnapped while they were walking home from school.

The Girls *Amy Goldman Koss*

Each of the girls in a middle-school clique reveals the strong, manipulative hold one of the group exerts on the others, causing hurt and self-doubt among the girls.

Lord of the Nutcracker Men *Iain Lawrence*

An English boy during World War I comes to believe that the battles he enacts with his toy soldiers control the war his father is fighting on the front.

The Smugglers or The Wreckers *Iain Lawrence*

In eighteenth-century England, after his father buys a schooner called the Dragon, sixteen-year-old John sets out to sail it from Kent to London and becomes involved in a dangerous smuggling scheme. *The Wreckers* finds 14-year-old John Spencer shipwrecked after a vicious storm. He attempts to save his father and himself while dealing with an evil secret about the Cornish coastal town where they are stranded.

Gossamer *Lois Lowry*

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteesds.

Dunk *David Lubar*

Chad hopes to work out his frustrations and his anger by taking a summer job as a dunk tank Bozo on the boardwalk at the New Jersey shore. Eventually, he comes to a better understanding of himself and the uses of humor as he undergoes training in the fine art of insults.

Neil Armstrong is My Uncle & Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me *Nan Marino*

Ten-year-old Tamara Ann Simpson thinks she has finally found a chance to prove Muscle Man McGinty is a liar when he brags he can beat anyone in the neighborhood at kickball, but as she awaits McGinty's downfall, she begins to understand his motives for lying.

Good Night Maman *Norma Fox Mazer*

After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

Indigo's Star *Hilary McKay*

Spurred on by his youngest sister, Rose, twelve-year-old Indigo sticks up for himself and an American boy who has replaced him as the primary target of the school bullies.

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller *Elizabeth Miller*

At age twenty-one, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama. Annie tries to teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills.

The Great Fire *Jim Murphy*

Vivid firsthand descriptions by people who lived through the 1871 Chicago fire are woven into a gripping account of this famous disaster.

Jade Green: A Ghost Story *Phyllis Naylor*

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small transgression causes mysterious happenings.

Here Lies the Librarian *Richard Peck*

Fourteen-year-old Eleanor "Peewee" McGrath, a tomboy and automobile enthusiast, discovers new possibilities for her future after the 1914 arrival in her small Indiana town of four young librarians.

Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg *W. R. Philbrick*

After Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, he sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army.

Only You Can Save Mankind or Johnny and the Dead or Johnny and the Bomb

Terry Pratchett

Twelve-year-old Johnny endures tensions between his parents and watches television coverage of the Gulf War. He also plays a computer game called Only You Can Save Mankind, in which he is increasingly drawn into the reality of the alien ScreeWee. In *Johnny and the Dead*, Johnny suddenly starts seeing and talking to ghosts. Along with his friends, Johnny becomes involved in a battle to save the local cemetery. In *Johnny and the Bomb*, Maxwell acquires the neighborhood homeless woman's shopping cart when she is injured and discovers that its contents have the ability to send him back in time to 1941 England. Now, he has to decide if he should warn the townspeople about the impending German bomb attack.

Nuclear Jellyfish of New Jersey (Or any book in the American Chiller Series)

Jonathan Rand

Shayleen Mills finds herself struggling for survival when her family vacation at the seaside resort of Wildwood, New Jersey, is interrupted by the arrival of hostile, glowing jellyfish.

Ghost Ship *Dietlof Reiche*

Twelve-year old Vicki, and her friend, Peter, try to solve the mystery of the appearance of a ghost ship, "Storm Goddess," when supernatural occurrences at a seaside resort casts the tourist town in a two-hundred-year-old legend.

The Maze of Bones (Or any book in the 39 Clues series) *Rick Riordan*

Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse, The Battle of Labyrinth, The Last Olympian, The DemiGod Files

Rick Riordan

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon. Now Percy is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr.

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America *Sharon Robinson*

A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter.

Yellow Star *Jennifer Roy*

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

Esperanza Rising *Pam Munoz Ryan*

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. While there, they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Paint the Wind *Pam Munoz Ryan*

After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, eleven-year-old Maya, an orphan, leaves her extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch. She discovers a love of horses and encounters Artemisia, a wild mare that her mother once rode.

Rewind *William Sleator*

Not long after learning that he was adopted, eleven-year-old Peter is hit by a car and then given several chances to alter events that could lead to his death.

Maniac Magee *Jerry Spinelli*

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Milkweed *Jerry Spinelli*

A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in Warsaw ghetto. With their support, he weathers the horrors of the Nazi regime.

When You Reach Me *Rebecca Stead*

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Hush *Jacqueline Woodson*

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

Rats *Paul Zindel*

When mutant rats threaten to take over Staten Island, which has become a huge landfill, fourteen-year-old Sarah and her younger brother Mike try to figure out how to stop them.