



Toms River Intermediate Schools

SUMMEREAD

For Students *EXITING* 7th Grade



In the Forests of the Night *Amelia Atwater-Rhodes*

Risika, a teenage vampire, wanders back in time to the year 1684 when, as a human, she died and was transformed against her will.

Hope Was Here *Joan Bauer*

Sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner. They become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Looking Glass Wars or Seeing Redd or ArchEnemy *Frank Beddor*

This trilogy begins when Alyss Heart is cast out of Wonderland by her evil Aunt Redd and finds herself living in Victorian Oxford. She struggles to keep memories of her kingdom intact until she can return and claim her rightful throne. In the second book Alyss returns to her rightful place on the throne of Wonderland as enemies inside and outside her queendom push their own agendas and wield horrific weapons. The finale finds Queen Alyss and her rival Redd working together to defeat King Arch of Boarderland, who has seized control of Wonderland.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas *John Boyne*

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Blackwater *Eve Bunting*

When a boy and a girl are drowned in the Blackwater River, thirteen-year-old Brodie must decide whether to confess that he may have caused the accident.

Ender's Game or Ender's Shadow *Orson Scott Card*

Ender Wiggin is a six-year-old genius who is the Earth's only hope for victory over invading "bugger" aliens. He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet? In *Ender's Shadow*, we learn more about Ender's friend Bean who must overcome his past and prove to the recruiters at the Battle School that he can help save the planet from an alien invasion.

Al Capone Does My Shirts or Al Capone Shines My Shoes *Gennifer Choldenko*

Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz in 1935 so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco. It is a time when the federal prison is home to notorious criminals like gangster Al Capone, and middle school antics combine with excitement on the prison island. In the sequel, drama with the kids gives way to intrigue among the cons, and it's up to the children to foil a dangerous escape plan.

Waiting for Normal *Leslie Connor*

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters. She and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

I Am the Cheese *Robert Cormier*

A young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.

The Rag and Bone Shop *Robert Cormier*

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery or Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series or Cover-Up: Mystery At the Super Bowl *John Feinstein*

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. In *Change-Up*, they uncover some inconsistencies in the life story of a popular new pitcher and begin to investigate. Then, in *Cover-Up*, Stevie and Susan learn that every player on a professional football team has failed his drug test. The owner has covered up the results, and now they must find a way to prove it.

The Big Splash *Jack Ferraiolo*

Matt Stevens, an average middle schooler with a glib tongue and a knack for solving crimes, uncovers a mystery while working with "the organization." The mafia-like syndicate is run by seventh-grader Vincent "Mr. Biggs" Biggio and specializes in forged hall passes, test-copying rings, black market candy selling, and taking out hits with water guns.

Dead Girls Don't Write Letters *Gail Giles*

Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier.

Football Genius or Football Champ *Tim Green*

Twelve-year-old Troy's uncanny gift for predicting football plays proves a powerful secret weapon for the Atlanta Falcons. A seedy reporter with a vendetta suspects something is going on and sets out to shred the reputations of Troy and star linebacker Seth Halloway. In *Football Champ*, thanks to Troy's ability to predict winning plays, the Falcons are pulling in victories. Then suddenly Troy's perfect world comes crashing down...

Football Hero *Tim Green*

Ty Lewis can't believe it when he is recruited for the football team. This is Ty's big chance to prove how fast he is on the field. But Ty's guardian won't let him play... he needs Ty to scrub floors and toilets for his cleaning business while he cooks up gambling schemes with the local mob boss.

Double Identity *Margaret Peterson Haddix*

Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets. Soon she begins to question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

Found or Sent *Margaret Peterson Haddix*

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. Then, in *Sent*, Jonah, Katherine, Chip, and Alex find themselves in 1483 at the Tower of London, and discover that Chip and Alex are Prince Edward V and Richard of Shrewsbury, imprisoned by Richard III. Trying to repair history without knowing what is supposed to happen proves challenging.

Uprising *Margaret Peterson Haddix*

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory. When Harriet was only five years old, miserable working conditions led to a strike then a fire that took the lives of Mrs. Livingston's two best friends,

Dr. Franklin's Island *Ann Halam*

When their plane crashes over the ocean, three students are left stranded on an island. They are then imprisoned by a doctor who is performing experiments on humans involving the transfer of animal genes.

Soul Surfer *Bethany Hamilton*

Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

Well Witched *Frances Hardinge*

Three friends fall prey to the demands of the Well Witch when they trespass in her wishing well and steal some coins.

Rocket Boys: A Memoir *Homer Hickam*

Homer Hickam, A NASA engineer, recounts his childhood in a West Virginia mining town, and discusses his dreams of launching rockets into outer space, and how he made those dreams come true.

Jason's Gold *Will Hobbs*

When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon Territory in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 10,000-mile journey to strike it rich.

Far North *Will Hobbs*

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Dene friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories of Canada.

Raven's Gate (or Evil Star or Nightrise or Necropolis) *Anthony Horowitz*

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle. This series tells chilling tales of world changing secrets, terrifying truths, and a full-power fight between good and evil.

The Alex Rider series (Stormbreaker, Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, ArkAngel, Snakehead, or Crocodile Tears) *Anthony Horowitz*

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle. He soon goes from schoolboy to super spy, embarking on secret missions and using incredible gadgets to save the world.

The Misfits *James Howe*

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

Heaven *Angela Johnson*

Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

Safe at Second *Scott Johnson*

Paulie Lockwood's best friend Todd Bannister is destined for the major leagues until a line drive to the head causes him to lose an eye and they both must find a new future for themselves.

The Green Glass Sea *Ellen Klages*

It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father - but no one will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he is working on a top secret government program.

Danger Zone *David Klass*

Jimmy Doyle joins a predominantly African-American "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome. He makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.

Blood and Chocolate *Annette Curtis Klause*

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

Swindle *Gordon Korman*

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing and his friends break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back. They plan to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.

The Cheat *Amy Goldman Koss*

When Sara gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging.

Angels of Mercy *Betsy Kuhn*

This book relates the experience of World War II Army nurses, who brought medical skills, courage, and cheer to hospitals throughout Europe, North Africa, and the Pacific.

Skulduggery Pleasant *Derek Landy*

When the evil Baron Vengeous escapes from prison, Detective Skulduggery Pleasant and his apprentice, Valkyrie Cain, have just two days to recapture him or the Baron's creature, the Grotesquery, may summon the Faceless Ones back to their world.

The Big Field or Heat or Summer Ball or Travel Team *Mike Lupica*

Mike Lupica, newspaper columnist and TV sports commentator, writes sports books for intermediate students and offers his own wisdom and experience about competition, hero-worship, the drive to reach for your dreams, and the importance of family.

Slot Machine *Chris Lynch*

When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at St. Paul's Seminary Retreat Center, he and his two best friends are forced to try out various sports in order to find out where they belong.

Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491 *Charles C. Mann*

A book for young readers based upon the explorations of the Americas in 1491, before those of Christopher Columbus. Mann paints a picture of pre-Columbian America in which he overturns the misconceived image of Natives as simple, widely scattered savages with minimal impact on their surroundings.

Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall: A Novel *Wendy Mass*

When high school junior Tessa Reynolds gets hit in the head during gym class and falls into a coma, she experiences heaven as the mall where her parents work. She revisits key events from her life, causing her to reevaluate herself and how she wants to live.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting *Jim Murphy*

This book tells the true story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas during World War I.

Wild Girls *Pat Murphy*

Twelve-year-old Joan, worried that she will not have any friends when her family moves from Connecticut to California, bonds right away with Sarah, a girl who prefers to be called Fox. The two spend a joyous summer playing outside, making up stories, and attending a writing class.

Airborn *Kenneth Oppel*

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Darkwing *Kenneth Oppel*

Dusk, the world's first bat, must lead his colony to safety in a time of changing species.

Peeling the Onion *Wendy Orr*

Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family.

How Angel Peterson Got His Name *Gary Paulsen*

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 car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex *Nathaniel Philbrick*

This is the true story of the *Essex*, a whale ship that set sail from Nantucket in 1819 on a routine voyage. It was rammed and sunk by an enraged sperm whale in the South Pacific, setting the twenty-man crew adrift in three tiny boats.

Slob *Ellen Porter*

Overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star *Randy Powell*

Grady Grennan is a skateboard punk whose one claim to fame is being the son of a dead heavy-metal singer.

Girl in Blue *Ann Rinaldi*

To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, fourteen-year-old Sarah, dressed as a boy, leaves her Michigan home to enlist in the Union Army. She becomes a soldier on the battlefields of Virginia as well as a Union spy working in the house of Confederate sympathizer Rose O'Neal Greenhow in Washington, D.C.

Numbering the Bones *Ann Rinaldi*

Thirteen-year-old Eulinda is a house slave on a Georgia plantation in 1864. She turns to Clara Barton, the eventual founder of the American Red Cross, for help in finding her brother Neddy, who has run away to join the Northern war effort.

The Wednesday Wars *Gary D. Schmidt*

Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school. He and his teacher read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Cirque du Freak Series *Darren Shan*

Cirque du Freak, The Vampire's Assistant, Tunnels of Blood, Vampire Mountain, Trials of Death, The Vampire Prince, Hunters of the Dusk, Allies of the Night, Killers of the Dawn, The Lake of Souls, Lord of the Shadows, Sons of Destiny

These stories will chill and thrill; they are filled with grotesque creatures, murderous vampires, and unexpected endings.

King George: What Was His Problem? Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the American Revolution *Steve Sheinkin*

This book presents an informal history of the American Revolution, covering the Stamp Act, Paul Revere, and the battle of Ticonderoga. It includes extracts from letters, memorable quotes, and line illustrations.

National Parks Mysteries (Any in series) *Gloria Skurzynski*

Exciting mystery-adventure stories take place in the U.S. National Parks, and introduce readers to each park's history as well as its ecology.

The Boxes *William Sleator*

Fifteen-year-old Annie discovers a swarm of telepathic creatures when she opens two strange boxes left in her care by her mysterious uncle. She unleashes a power capable of slowing down time.

Marco's Millions *William Sleator*

Twelve-year-old Marco loves for travel and his sister Lilly, who has psychic powers. He embarks on a journey to other universes, gaining the ability to go wherever he wishes without growing old.

Pacific Crossing *Gary Soto*

Fourteen-year-old Mexican American Lincoln Mendoza spends a summer with a host family in Japan, encountering new experiences and making new friends.

Love, Stargirl *Jerry Spinelli*

Still moping months after being dumped by her boyfriend Leo, fifteen-year-old Stargirl, a home-schooled free spirit, writes "the world's longest letter" to Leo, describing her new life in Pennsylvania.

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree *Lauren Tarshis*

Emma-Jean Lazarus is a quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl. She discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

Stuck in Neutral *Terry Trueman*

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

Never Trust A Dead Man *Vivan Vande Velde*

Seventeen-year-old Selwyn is wrongly convicted of murder and punished by being sealed in a tomb with a dead man. He enlists the help of a witch and the resurrected victim to find the true killer.

The Runner *Cynthia Voigt*

As a dedicated runner, a teenage boy has always managed to distance himself from other people until the experience of coaching one of his teammates on the track team gradually helps him see the value of giving and receiving.

Winning Season (Any book in the series) *Rich Wallace*

A series of sports themed novels packed with plenty of action that will engage young sports fans.

Millicent Min, Girl Genius *Lisa Yee*

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with their grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Loch *Paul Zindel*

Fifteen-year-old Loch and his younger sister join their father on a scientific expedition searching for enormous prehistoric creatures sighted in a Vermont lake. It soon becomes obvious that the expedition's leaders aren't interested in preserving the creatures.