

2008 Summer Reading for High School

Dear Students and Parents,

The Fulton County School System strongly believes in developing readers who read both for information and for pleasure. Books on the ***Summer Reading List*** vary in subject matter and level of difficulty. Our intent is to provide students and their parents with a wide range of authors and styles of writing in both fiction and non-fiction, and to allow students to select reading materials that match their interests.

Lexile levels are indicated for most books, and they address vocabulary and sentence structure. When vocabulary is repeated often and sentences are more simply written, a text has a lower Lexile score. Texts with less frequently-used vocabulary and with complex sentence structures have higher Lexile scores.

However, Lexile levels do not address subject matter. While a text may have a lower Lexile number, the contents could be more mature. The short descriptions with each book title should assist you in your selections.

Enjoy your summer reading.

Fulton County Schools English/Language Arts Department
Fulton County Schools Media Services Department

2008 Summer Reading for High School

A Gathering of Flowers : Stories about Being Young in America. HarperTrophy, 1992. Lexile Number: 890.

A collection of eleven short stories depicting what it is like to be young in America, exploring such diverse cultures as urban San Francisco, a Chippewa Indian reservation, and a Latino barrio in Chicago.

Abbott, Hailey. **The Bridesmaid**. Delacorte Press, 2005. Lexile Number: 740.

Having vowed as children never to marry after witnessing many disastrous weddings and obnoxious brides in their parents' wedding planning business, fifteen-year-old Abby is dismayed when her older sister Carol suddenly gets engaged and turns into "Bridezilla."

Abbott, Hailey. **Summer Boys**. Scholastic, 2004. Lexile Number: 800.

Three cousins, Ella, Beth, and Jamie, spend the summer at their family's beach house, and experience a wild vacation when Ella becomes infatuated with her sister's boyfriend, Beth falls for her best friend, and Jamie gets her heart broken by her summer crush.

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. **Does My Head Look Big in This?** Orchard Books, 2007. Lexile Number: 850.

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.

Abrahams, Peter. **Down the Rabbit Hole : an Echo Falls Mystery**. Laura Geringer Books, 2005. Lexile Number: 680.

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth-grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve the murder of an eccentric local woman in her hometown of Echo Falls.

Adair, Robert Kemp. **The Physics of Baseball**. Perennial, 2002.

Explores the physics behind various aspects of the game of baseball, discussing the flight of the ball, the swing of the bat, pitching, the properties of bats, batting the ball, running, fielding, and throwing.

Alegria, Malin. **Estrella's Quinceanera**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. Lexile Number: 690.

Estrella's mother and aunt are planning a gaudy, traditional quinceanera for her, even though it is the last thing she wants.

Alexie, Sherman. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian**. Little, Brown, 2007. Lexile Number: 600.

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.

Allende, Isabel. **City of the Beasts**. HarperCollins, 2002. Lexile Number: 1030.
When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Twisted**. Viking, 2007. Lexile Number: 680.
After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

Anderson, M. T. **The Pox Party**. Candlewick Press, 2006. Lexile Number: 1090.
Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Appelt, Kathi. **Kissing Tennessee and Other Stories from the Stardust Dance**. Harcourt, 2004. Lexile Number: 820.
Graduating eighth graders relate their stories of love and heartbreak that have brought them to Dogwood Junior High's magical Stardust Dance.

Ashton, Victoria. **Confessions of a Teen Nanny : a Novel**. HarperCollins, 2005. Lexile Number: 650.
Drawn into the glamour, luxury, and romance of Manhattan's elite by the sister of one of their charges, two sixteen-year-old nannies enjoy high salaries, extravagant gifts, and attention--for which they may have to pay a very high price.

Barron, T. A. **Child of the Dark Prophecy**. Philomel Books, 2004. Lexile Number: 810.
The fate of Avalon rests in the hands of three people: Tamwyn, Elli, and Scree; however one of them is the true heir of Merlin and the only one who can save Avalon and one of them is the child of Dark Prophecy, the person chosen to destroy it.

Bradbury, Ray. **Dandelion Wine : a Novel**. Avon Books, 1999. Lexile Number: 880.
In a small town in 1928, a twelve-year-old boy savors the magic of childhood and the wonders of summer.

Bray, Libba. **A Great and Terrible Beauty**. Delacorte Press, 2003. Lexile Number: 760.
After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Brugman, Alyssa. **Finding Grace**. Delacorte Press, 2004. Lexile Number: 730.
Undecided about her future after graduating from high school, an Australian girl takes a job caring for a brain-damaged woman.

Cabot, Meg. **Avalon High**. HarperCollins, 2006. Lexile Number: 800.
Having moved to Annapolis, Maryland, with her medievalist parents, high school junior Ellie enrolls at Avalon High School where several students may or may not be reincarnations of King Arthur and his court.

Cann, Kate. **California Holiday, or, How the World's Worst Summer Job Gave Me a Great New Life**. Avon Books, 2005.
Rowen travels to America where she lands a summer job as a nanny with a family she absolutely hates; so she heads out for San Francisco and meets the handsome Landon on the way.

Hillary Rodham Clinton. **Living History**. Scribner, 2004
This autobiography traces Clinton's childhood to her election to the Senate. She offers her readers insights into her opinions on political matters and how it feels to experience American politics.

Cohn, Rachel. **Gingerbread**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. Lexile Number: 960.
After being expelled from a fancy boarding school, Cyd Charisse's problems with her mother escalate after Cyd falls in love with a sensitive surfer and is subsequently sent from San Francisco to New York City to spend time with her biological father.

Colfer, Eoin. **The Supernaturalist**. Hyperion Books for Children, 2004. Lexile Number: 650.
In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

Cook, Karin. **What Girls Learn : a Novel**. Vintage Contemporaries, 1998. Lexile Number: 850.
Tilden and her younger sister Elizabeth are uprooted again when their ever optimistic, romantic mother Frances moves them north to live with Nick, the owner of a limousine service, but everything seems to be going just fine until Frances discovers a lump in her breast.

Crichton, Michael. **Timeline**. Ballantine, 2000. Lexile Number: 620.
A group of scientists, having learned how to travel through time, enter life in fourteenth-century feudal France and threaten the history of the world.

Deaver, Julie Reece. **The Night I Disappeared**. Simon Pulse, 2002. Lexile Number: 600. Since moving to Chicago, seventeen-year-old Jamie Tessman has been plagued by mind-slips and vivid daydreams about her best friend Webb. When her daydreams begin blocking out reality, her mother, and her new friend Morgan see that she gets help from Morgan's psychiatrist aunt.

De la Cruz, Melissa. **Blue Bloods**. Hyperion Paperbacks, 2007. Lexile Number: 820. Schuyler Van Alen, a loner at a prestigious New York City private school, sets out to learn the secrets of the Blue Bloods, an ancient group of vampires.

De la Cruz, Melissa. **Fresh off the Boat**. HarperTrophy, 2006. When her family emigrates from the Philippines to San Francisco, California, fourteen-year-old Vicenza Arambullo struggles to fit in at her exclusive, all-girl private school.

Del Vecchio, Gene. **The Pearl of Anton**. Pelican Pub. Co., 2004. Jason Del struggles to master himself and the Pearl of Anton in order to defend humanity in the Final Contest.

Dessen, Sarah. **Someone Like You**. Viking, 1998. Lexile Number: 820. Halley's junior year of high school includes the death of her best friend Scarlett's boyfriend, the discovery that Scarlett is pregnant, and Halley's own first serious relationship.

DeVillers, Julia. **How My Private, Personal Journal Became a Bestseller : a Novel**. Dutton Children's Books, 2004. A young woman accidentally turns in a private story from her journal instead of an English assignment and becomes a best-selling author almost overnight.

D'Orso, Michael. **Eagle Blue : a Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska**. Bloomsbury Pub. , Distributed by Holtzbrinck, c2006. Follows the Fort Yukon Eagles high school basketball team from its 2004 preseason to the 2005 Alaskan state championship, exploring the lives of its players and coach and examining the six-hundred-person village's Gwich'in Athabascan heritage.

Echols, Jennifer. **Major Crush**. Simon Pulse, 2006. Virginia Sauter's feelings for Drew Morrow, the beautiful boy with whom she shares the position of drum major of the high school marching band, turn from hostility to romance, but a misunderstanding threatens to end the relationship before it can get started.

Ehrenhaft, Daniel. **Drawing a Blank, or, How I Tried to Solve a Mystery, End a Feud, and Land the Girl of my Dreams**. HarperCollins, 2006. Lexile Number: 680.

Carlton Dunne IV, an outcast boarding school student with a secret identity as a graphic novelist, teams up with a beautiful Scottish girl who yearns to be an American police officer, to resolve an ancient feud and rescue Carlton's kidnapped father.

Feynman, Richard Phillips. **"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!" : Adventures of a Curious Character**. W.W. Norton, 1997.

A collection of often humorous anecdotes about the 1965 Nobel Prize winner for physics.

Fforde, Jasper. **The Eyre Affair : a Novel**. Penguin Books, 2003. Lexile Number: 850.

Thursday Next, a Special Operative in literary detection in a time-altered Great Britain in which messing with the classics is a punishable offense, sets out to apprehend a criminal who is murdering characters from works of literature and has chosen Jane Eyre as his next victim.

Flake, Sharon. **Begging for Change**. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for children, 2003. Lexile Number: 1060.

African-American teenager Raspberry Hill, off the streets after years of homelessness with her mother, inexplicably steals money from one of her best friends and wonders if she is no different than her recently returned, drug-addicted, thieving father.

Flanagan, John (John Anthony). **The Ruins of Gorlan**. Philomel Books, 2005. Lexile Number: 920.

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

Flinn, Alex. **Diva**. HarperTempest, c2006.

Despite her mother's objections, sixteen-year-old Caitlin is determined to pursue her dream of becoming an opera singer by attending a performing arts school in Miami.

Frazier, Charles. **Cold Mountain**. Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997. Lexile Number: 1210.

Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, leaves the hospital where he is being treated and determines to walk home to his sweetheart Ada, only to find the land and the girl he remembers as changed by the war as he. (for mature readers)

Funke, Cornelia Caroline. **Inkheart**. Scholastic, 2003. Lexile Number: 780.

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Gaiman, Neil. **Coraline**. HarperCollins, 2002. Lexile Number: 740.
Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Lily's Crossing**. Delacorte, 1997. Lexile Number: 720.
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Giles, Gail. **Right Behind You**. Little, Brown, 2007.
After spending over four years in a mental institution for murdering a friend in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Kip begins a completely new life in Indiana with his father and stepmother under a different name, but has trouble fitting in and finds there are still problems to deal with from his childhood.

Goode, Caroline. **Cupidity**. Simon Pulse, 2005.
Laura is determined to find dates at her high school but is having difficulty, so she seeks the advice of an expert.

Griffin, Adele. **Amandine**. Hyperion Paperbacks, 2003. .Lexile Number: 710.
Her first week at a new school, shy, plain Delia befriends Amandine, not anticipating the dangerous turns their friendship would take.

Griffith, Marilyn. **Pink**. Fleming H. Revell, 2006.
Raya Joseph dreams of breaking free of the dull world around her and celebrating the color of the city, and sets off to conquer the design world, but she soon learns it takes more than a dream to rise to the top of the fashion industry.

Gruen, Sara. **Water for Elephants : a Novel**. Algonquin Books, 2006.
Ninety-year-old Jacob Jankowski finds himself haunted by memories of his past in the circus during the depression. (for mature readers)

Haddon, Mark. **A Spot of Bother : a Novel**. Doubleday, 2006.
George Hall is ready to settle down to a comfortable retirement, until his tempestuous daughter, Katie, announces she is marrying someone George disapproves of, and George is diagnosed with a devastating illness.

Hesse, Karen. **Witness**. Scholastic Press, 2001.
A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

Hopkins, Ellen. **Impulse**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007.
Three teens who meet at Reno, Nevada's Aspen Springs mental hospital after each has attempted suicide connect with each other in a way they never have with their parents or anyone else in their lives.

Horowitz, Anthony. **Snakehead**. Philomel Books, 2007.
Alex Rider crash lands off the coast of Australia where he is recruited by the Australian Secret Service to infiltrate one of the ruthless gangs operating across South East Asia, and in the midst of his dangerous mission, Alex discovers information about his parents' murder.

Hosseini, Khaled. **A Thousand Splendid Suns**. Riverhead Books, 2007.
A novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban, which tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband. (for mature readers)

Jenifer, Trevon. **Trevon Jenifer : from the Ground Up**. Sports Pub., 2006.
Presents the story of Trevon Jenifer, a young man who was born without legs, and describes his determination to succeed in spite of his handicap.

Jenkins, A. M. (Amanda McRaney). **Repossessed**. HarperTeen, 2007.
A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings before being caught and punished, while the boy's family and friends puzzle over his changed behavior.

Kakalios, James. **The Physics of Superheroes**. Gotham, 2005.
Presents an introduction to physics by exploring the forces and motion of action comic heroes, explaining basic rules of thermodynamics, energy, and solid state physics as it relates to real world experiences.

Kingsolver, Barbara. **The Bean Trees : a Novel**. HarperTorch, 2001. Lexile Number: 900.
Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **Field Notes from a Catastrophe : Man, Nature, and Climate Change**. Bloomsbury Pub. , Distributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2006.
Presents an examination of the build-up of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere and the effects on climate change and global warming.

Koontz, Dean R. **Odd Thomas**. Bantam Books, 2003. Lexile Number: 1040.
Odd Thomas, a short order cook at the Pico Mundo Grill, keeps his ability to speak with ghosts a secret from all but his girlfriend, Stormy, and the local police chief who he occasionally helps solve or prevent crime, but his unusual talent leads him and his fellow citizens into big trouble when a strange man comes to town followed by a horde of borachs--ghostly harbingers of mayhem.

Koss, Amy Goldman. **Side Effects**. Roaring Brook Press, 2006. Lexile Number: 760.
Everything changes for Isabelle, not quite fifteen, when she is diagnosed with lymphoma--but eventually she survives and even thrives.

Kostick, Conor. **Epic**. Viking, 2007. Lexile Number: 880.
On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

Krauss, Lawrence Maxwell. **Atom : a Single Oxygen Atom's Odyssey from the Big Bang to Life on Earth-- and Beyond**. Back Bay Books, 2002.
Traces the history of the atom from the Earth's beginnings to the present, describing how it has formed every aspect of life on Earth.

Krauss, Lawrence Maxwell. **The Physics of Star Trek**. Basic Books, 2007.
Looks at the scientific and technological aspects of the Star Trek films and television series, focusing on how the physics of the Star Trek universe compare to the physics of the real universe.

Lackey, Mercedes. **Joust**. DAW Books , Distributed by Penguin Putnam Inc., 2003.
Vetch, a young serf on the land once owned by his family before it was claimed by the Tian empire, finds his situation much improved when he is taken from the fields by the Jouster Ari who needs a boy to care for his dragon, Kashet, but Vetch cannot forget his anger over what the Tians have done to his life and loved ones, and slowly plans to even the score.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. **The Namesake**. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. Lexile Number: 1210.
A young man born of Indian parents in America struggles with issues of identity from his teens to his thirties.

LaRochelle, David. **Absolutely, Positively Not ...**. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2005.
Lexile Number: 730.
Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup-displaying heterosexual.

Lawrence, Michael. **A Crack in the Line**. Greenwillow Books, 2004. Lexile Number: 870.

Sixteen-year-old Alaric discovers how to travel to an alternate reality, where his mother is alive and his place in the family is held by a girl named Naia.

Leavitt, Martine. **Keturah and Lord Death**. Front Street, 2006. Lexile Number: 810.

When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.

Lehrer, James. **The Franklin Affair : a Novel**. Random House, 2005.

When R Taylor arrives in Philadelphia for the funeral of his friend and mentor, Dr. Wally Rush, he is given a letter written in Rush's last days that describes the contents of a series of pages that accuse Benjamin Franklin of a heinous crime, sending Taylor on a search for the truth, which could change the course of American history.

Lester, Julius. **Day of Tears : a Novel in Dialogue**. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2005.

Presents an historical fiction written in first-person format that follows Emma, the slave of Pierce Butler, through a series of events in her life as her master hosts the largest slave auction in American history in Savannah, Georgia in 1859 in order to pay off his mounting gambling debts.

Lockhart, E. **The Boyfriend List : (15 Guys, 11 Shrink Appointments, 4 Ceramic Frogs and Me, Ruby Oliver)**. Delacorte Press, 2005. Lexile Number: 830.

Ruby Oliver, a moderately popular fifteen-year-old who has suddenly become a social pariah, begins seeing a psychiatrist and makes a list of all her past boyfriends in an attempt to understand where her life went wrong.

Lowry, Lois. **Gathering Blue**. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. Lexile Number: 680.

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

Lowry, Lois. **Messenger**. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Lexile Number: 720.

In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

Mackler, Carolyn. **Love and Other Four-letter Words**. Dell Laurel-Leaf, 2002. Lexile Number: 880.

When she and her mother move to an apartment in New York City after her parents decide on a trial separation, sixteen-year-old Sammie learns to deal with her mother's fragile mental state, her best friend's self-centeredness, several new friendships, and her own budding sexuality.

John McCain .**Why Courage Matters: the Way to a Braver Life**. Random House Publisher, 2004

.Senator McCain investigates courage and how we apply that label. His examples range from Navajo leaders to his own personal anecdotes.

McCall Smith, Alexander. **The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency**. Pantheon Books, 2005. The cunning and engaging Precious Ramotswe sets up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, hoping to become a private detective, and she soon has more business than she expected, including a disturbing case involving a missing child.

McCarthy, Cormac. **The Road**. Knopf, 2006.

Traces the journey of a father and his son as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes.

McLarty, Ron. **The Memory of Running**. Penguin Books, 2006.

After his parents are killed in an auto accident and he also learns of his sister's death in Los Angeles, Smithy Ide, overweight and friendless, embarks upon a transcontinental bicycle ride to claim his sister's body and rediscovers what it means to live.

McMahon, Jennifer. **Promise Not to Tell : a novel**. Harper, 2007.

Soon after returning to her childhood home in Vermont to care for her mother who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, Kate Cypher learns about a recent murder that is similar to one thirty-one years earlier in which her friend Del was the victim, and as she investigates, surprising details about the community begin to unfold.

Medley, Linda. **Castle Waiting**. Fantagraphics Books , Distributed in the U.S. by W.W. Norton, 2006.

A series of linked stories, presented in graphic novel form, that follow the adventures of the people who take refuge in the castle vacated by Sleeping Beauty after she leaves with the prince.

Meyer, Stephenie. **Eclipse**. Little, Brown, 2007. Lexile Number: 670.

Bella must choose between her friendship with Jacob, a werewolf, and her relationship with Edward, a vampire, but when Seattle is ravaged by a mysterious string of killings, the three of them need to decide whether their personal lives are more important than the well-being of an entire city.

Meyer, Stephenie. **New Moon**. Little, Brown, 2006. Lexile Number: 690.
When the Cullens, including her beloved Edward, leave Forks rather than risk revealing that they are vampires, it is almost too much for eighteen-year-old Bella to bear, but she finds solace in her friend Jacob until he is drawn into a "cult" and changes in terrible ways.

Micklem, Sarah. **Firethorn : a Novel**. Scribner, 2004.
Firethorn, flees a life of drudgery to live alone in the forest, then accompanies one of King Thyrese's noblemen to war and she learns to use her gifts as a healer.

Morgenroth, Kate. **Jude**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. Lexile Number: 800.
Still reeling from his drug-dealing father's murder, moving in with the wealthy mother he never knew, and transferring to a private school, fifteen-year-old Jude is tricked into pleading guilty to a crime he did not commit.

Mosley, Walter. **47**. Little, Brown, 2005. Lexile Number: 860.
Number 47, a fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Autobiography of My Dead Brother**. HarperTempest, 2005.
Lexile Number: 830.
Jesse pours his heart and soul into his sketchbook to make sense of life in his troubled Harlem neighborhood and the loss of a close friend.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Street Love**. Amistad/HarperTempest, 2006.
This story told in free verse is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.

Nix, Garth. **Sabriel**. HarperCollins, 1995. Lexile Number: 1060.
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

Obama, Barack. **The Audacity of Hope : Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream**. Crown Publishers, 2006.
Senator Barak Obama addresses twenty-first century politics in the United States, commenting on economic insecurities of citizens, race, religion, terrorism, threat of a pandemic, and other related issues.

Patterson, James. **The Angel Experiment**. Little, Brown, 2005. Lexile Number: 700.
After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Paulos, John Allen. **Innumeracy : Mathematical Illiteracy and its Consequences**. Hill and Wang, 2001.

Presents a discussion of innumeracy, the inability to deal comfortably with the fundamental notions of number and chance, and looks at the consequences of mathematical illiteracy as seen in stock scams, diet and medical claims, sports records, lotteries, and other scenarios.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **Criss Cross**. Greenwillow Books, 2005. Lexile Number: 820.
Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

Petroski, Henry. **Invention by Design : How Engineers Get from Thought to Thing**. Harvard University Press, 1996.

Looks at the affect which economics, ecology, ethics, and other social concerns has on the design and construction of engineering projects.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **Life As We Knew It**. Harcourt, 2006. Lexile Number: 770.

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Picoult, Jodi. **Keeping Faith : a Novel**. Harper Perennial, 2006. Lexile Number: 780.

Seven-year-old Faith White, the object of a custody battle, becomes the focus of a much larger controversy when she begins quoting from the Bible, develops stigmata, and appears to be able to perform miraculous healings.

Pierce, Tamora. **Sandry's Book**. Scholastic, 1999. . Lexile Number: 730.

Four young misfits find themselves living in a strictly disciplined temple community where they become friends while also learning to do crafts and to use their powers, especially magic.

Pierce, Tamora. **The Will of the Empress**. Scholastic Press, 2005. Lexile Number: 840.

On a visit to Namorn to visit her vast landholdings and her devious cousin, Empress Berenene, eighteen-year-old Sandry must rely on her childhood friends and fellow mages, Daja, Tris, and Briar, despite the distance that has grown between them.

Price, Charlie. **Dead Connection**. Roaring Brook Press, 2006. Lexile Number: 740.

A loner who communes with the dead in the town cemetery hears the voice of a murdered cheerleader and tries to convince the adults that he knows what happened to her.

Quinn, Daniel. **Ishmael**. Bantam/Turner Book, 1995.

Records the philosophical conversations that take place between a man and a gorilla named Ishmael after the man answers an advertisement for a pupil with a desire to save the world.

Rand, Ayn. **The Fountainhead**. Plume, 2005. Lexile Number: 780.

Presents the story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.

Redel, Victoria. **The Border of Truth : a Novel**. Counterpoint, 2007.

College professor, Sara Leader, sets off on her own to discover the secrets of her father's past as a Holocaust survivor after her father refuses to discuss the subject.

Rice, Luanne. **The Edge of Winter**. Bantam Books, 2007.

Bonds are formed and hearts are healed within a group of five people in Rhode Island's South County as they work together to save a wounded snowy owl and prevent a developer from raising a sunken World War II U-boat that is a cherished part of the community.

Rothman, Tony. **Instant Physics : from Aristotle to Einstein, and Beyond**. Fawcett Columbine, 1995.

Reviews the principles and significant discoveries of physics, and provides information about the history of the science and some of the personalities who have impacted the field.

Runyon, Brent. **The Burn Journals**. Knopf , Distributed by Random House, 2004. Lexile Number: 690.

Presents the true story of Brent Runyon, who at fourteen set himself on fire and sustained burns over eighty percent of his body and describes the months of physical and mental rehabilitation that followed as he attempted to pull his life together.

Sheldon, Dyan. **Planet Janet**. Candlewick Press, 2003. Lexile Number: 980.

Sixteen-year-old Janet Bandry keeps a diary as she deals with an annoying family, school, a quirky best friend, and trying to find herself through vegetarianism, literature, romance, and her "Dark Phase."

Shusterman, Neal. **Everlost**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. Lexile Number: 860.

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

Simon, Rachel. **Riding the Bus with My Sister : a True Life Journey**. Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Rachel Simon chronicles the experiences she had and shares the lessons she learned during the year she spent riding the bus which her mentally handicapped sister rides on each day.

Sobel, Dava. **Longitude : the True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of his Time**. Penguin Books, 1996. Lexile Number: 1310.

Story of John Harrison's forty-year quest to build the chronometer, the clock that enabled sailors to measure longitude, saving lives and fortunes.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **Notes from the Midnight Driver**. Scholastic Press, 2006. Lexile Number: 930.

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

Sorrells, Walter. **Fake ID**. Sleuth/Dutton, c2005. Lexile Number: 650.

After a lifetime of moving and assuming new identities, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together the past that haunts her and her mother which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and the secrets of several people in a small Alabama town.

Soto, Gary. **Buried Onions**. Harcourt, 2006. Lexile Number: 850.

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.

Spradlin, Michael P. **To Hawaii, with Love**. HarperCollins, c2005. Lexile Number: 760. Headstrong Rachel Buchanan and her friends sneak away from Blackthorn Academy and set out to find a mysterious artifact before it falls into the hands of her nemesis, Simon Blankenship, a journey that takes them to the volcanic shores of Hawaii.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. **Shabanu : Daughter of the Wind**. Dell Laurel-Leaf, 2003.

Lexile Number: 970.

Eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, and must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. **Shiva's Fire**. HarperTrophy, 2001. Lexile Number: 990

A young Hindu girl from India, Parvati, who is known for the extraordinary events that occur when she dances, leaves her family to train in classical Indian dance with a great master, but her commitment to a program of dance, study, and devotion falters when she meets a gentle-eyed boy.

Stewart, Mary. **The Crystal Cave**. Eos, 2003. Lexile Number: 960.

Merlin, the son of a Welsh princess, survives a perilous childhood on his way to fulfill his destiny as mentor, advisor, and friend to King Arthur.

Stroud, Jonathan. **The Amulet of Samarkand**. Miramax Books/Hyperion Books For Children, 2003. Lexile Number: 800.

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

Tan, Amy. **The Bonesetter's Daughter**. Ballantine, 2002. Lexile Number: 800.

San Francisco ghostwriter Ruth Young finally begins to understand her Alzheimer's-afflicted mother LuLing's preoccupation with ghosts and curses when she reads LuLing's writings of her dark backwoods childhood in 1920s China--where LuLing's mute, disfigured nursemaid committed suicide, and a nearby cave held what may have been the bones of the lost ancient hominid Peking Man.

Tan, Amy. **Saving fish from Drowning**. Putnam, 2005.

When Bibi Chen, the leader of a group of twelve American tourists, mysteriously dies while on an art expedition in the Himalayan foothills of China, the remainder of the group discover that the Burma Road is filled with danger and uncertainty.

Townley, Rod. **The Great Good Thing : a Novel**. Aladdin Paperbacks, 2002. Lexile Number: 620.

Twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie's storybook kingdom really is a storybook, where nothing ever changes, even the character's mad scramble to reach their places whenever the book is opened, until Sylvie discovers she can enter new worlds with the Reader, and find new adventures.

Volponi, Paul. **Rooftop**. Viking, 2006. Lexile Number: 780.

Still reeling from seeing police shoot his unarmed cousin to death on the roof of a New York City housing project, seventeen-year-old Clay is dragged into the whirlwind of political manipulation that follows.

Volponi, Paul. **Rucker Park Setup**. Viking, 2007. Lexile Number: 790.

While playing in a crucial basketball game on the very court where his best friend was murdered, Mackey tries to come to terms with his own part in that murder and decide whether to maintain his silence or tell J.R.'s father and the police what really happened.

Vonnegut, Kurt. **Galapagos**. Delta Trade Paperbacks, 1999.

The author takes the reader back one million years--to A.D. 1986 and the beginning of the human race with the descendants of a small group of survivors of an ill-fated cruise ship to the Galapagos Archipelago. The narrator is the ghost of a Vietnam veteran.

Walls, Jeannette. **The Glass Castle : a Memoir**. Scribner, c2005. Lexile Number: 1010. The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

Watson, James D. **The Double Helix : a Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA**. Scribner Classics, 1998. Lexile Number: 1220. An account of the events which led to the solution of the structure of DNA.

Werlin, Nancy. **The Rules of Survival**. Dial Books, 2006. Lexile Number: 660. Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

Westerfeld, Scott. **Pretties**. Simon Pulse, 2005. Lexile Number: 860. Tally's perfect life as a Pretty is disrupted when she receives a letter from herself, written when she was an Ugly, reminding her of the promise she made to take a drug developed to cure the brain lesions that keep the Pretties shallow and happy--and when she takes the pills, she becomes a target of those determined to keep Pretty society carefree.

Westerfeld, Scott. **The Secret Hour**. Eos, 2004. Lexile Number: 740. Upon moving to Bixby, Oklahoma, fifteen-year-old Jessica Day learns that she is one in a special group born at the stroke of midnight who can roam the town at a secret hour while others sleep--and that she must fight the evil creatures who share her power.

Westerfeld, Scott. **Uglies**. Simon Pulse, 2005. Lexile Number: 770. Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

White, T. H. (Terence Hanbury). **The Once and Future King**. Ace Books, 1996. Lexile Number: 1080.

The fantasy epic of King Arthur and Camelot, telling the story of how Wart, the adopted son of Sir Ector, becomes the King of England when he is sent in search of a sword by his brother Kay, and is forced to pull one out of an anvil in the churchyard.

Wooding, Chris. **The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray**. Orchard Books, 2004. Lexile Number: 970.

As Thaniel, a wych-hunter, and Cathaline, his friend and mentor, try to destroy the terrible creatures that infest the alleys of London's Old Quarter, their lives become entwined with that of Alaizabel Cray, a woman who may be either mad or possessed.

Yang, Gene Luen. **American born Chinese**. First Second, 2006. Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

Yolen, Jane. **Sword of the Rightful King : a Novel of King Arthur**. Magic Carpet Books/Harcourt, 2004. Lexile Number: 1010.

Merlinus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England--pulling a sword from a stone--but trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.

Zevin, Gabrielle. **Elsewhere**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. Lexile Number: 720.

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

Zimmerman, Keith. **Mythbusters : the Explosive Truth Behind 30 of the Most Perplexing Urban Legends of All Time**. Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 2005.

The authors use extreme science to determine the truth or myth behind thirty urban legends.