




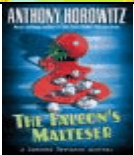












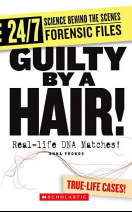


# 2010 Summer Reading List for Middle School Fulton County

	<p><b>The Civil Rights Movement: An Interactive History Adventure</b> by Heather Adamson. Three story paths, forty choices, twelve endings – this interesting approach to history contains three paths which allow the reader to explore the people and events of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement from the perspectives of a Freedom Rider, a protester in Birmingham, Alabama, and a resident of Little Rock, Arkansas. Includes a timeline and resources for further study. Non-fiction. Lexile 680.</p>
	<p><b>Return to Sender</b> by Julia Alvarez. After an accident injures Tyler's father, their farm is in danger of folding--until a family of Mexican immigrants (some illegal) comes to help. Tyler befriends Mari, the oldest daughter, who writes heartrending letters and diary entries, especially about Mamá who has disappeared during a trip to Mexico. Is Mamá in the hands of the border-crossing "coyotes"? Have they hurt her? Will Homeland Security raid the farm? The plot is purposeful, with messages about the historical connections between migrant workers today and earlier immigrants seeking refuge. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 890.</p>
	<p><b>The Potato Chip Puzzles</b> by Eric Berlin. Winston and friends, along with an overzealous math teacher, enter into a potato-chip company's puzzle-solving contest, the winner of which will get \$50,000 for his or her school. Adding a touch of drama to the proceedings is a mysterious and possibly dangerous saboteur. The clever yet solvable puzzles are perfect to keep analytical attentions invested and to challenge readers to think sideways. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 650.</p>
	<p><b>Fat Boy Chronicles</b> by Lang Buchanan. "I'm the diet-challenged kid who sits in the last seat by the door. I'm probably bigger now than I was this morning because your class is right after lunch," writes Jimmy Winterpock. At age fourteen, and 5'5", Jimmy weighs 187 pounds. Outside the comfort of his family and church, life for Jimmy is a constant struggle. The cruel taunts of his classmates make going to school or playing sports a humiliating experience. Yet, he still manages to focus on his goals--to lose weight and win over the girl of his dreams. Realistic Fiction. Lexile n/a</p>
	<p><b>Good Fortune</b> by Noni Carter. Brutally kidnapped from her African village and shipped to America, a young girl struggles to come to terms with her new life as a slave, gradually rising from working in the fields to the master's house, secretly learning to read and write, until, risking everything, she escapes to seek freedom in the North. Historical Fiction. Lexile n/a</p>
	<p><b>If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period</b> by Gennifer Choldenko. Between her parents' constant arguing and the defection of her best friend to the inner circle of A-list mean girls, the start of seventh grade is tough for Kirsten. It's no easier for her classmate who has left his inner-city school to become the only black student at an expensive private school. Together they explore middle school life – but with an unexpected twist. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 530.</p>
	<p><b>Catching Fire</b> by Suzanne Collins. By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 representatives Katniss and Peeta have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. (Sequel to Hunger Games) Fantasy/SciFi. Lexile 820.</p>
	<p><b>They Never Came Back</b> by Caroline Cooney. A forgotten scandal surfaces when 15-year-old Cathy Ferris is accused by another student of being his long-lost cousin, Murielle Lyman. Murielle's parents embezzled millions of dollars and fled the country without their daughter five years earlier. The FBI, which never lost interest in capturing the embezzling pair, wants to use Cathy to try and lure them back to the US. As the fast-paced plot unfolds, it goes from an is-she-or-isn't-she story to something emotionally richer, a tale about selfishness and self-sacrifice and the deep connections of family ties. Realistic Fiction. Lexile n/a.</p>
	<p><b>Bodies From the Ice</b> by James Deem. With global warming, the glaciers that crown our highest mountains have retreated, revealing humans who died there long ago. Individual chapters cover types of glaciers and why they are fertile territory for housing bodies such as the Chamonix glacier, which saw women climbers in the early 1800s and the mystery of George Mallory, who died trying to climb Mt. Everest. Perhaps most fascinating to students will be the chapter on recently discovered Incan children sacrificed to their ancient gods. Non-fiction. Lexile 1180.</p>

	<p><b>Signal</b> by Cynthis DeFelice. After his mother's death, Owen and his father move to rural New York where he discovers an injured girl named Champion hiding in the woods. He believes her story that she is an alien. She asks Owen to help her make a signal so her loving parents can come from their planet to find her. Even as Owen helps and considers joining her in space, readers will catch on that there is a deeper secret to unravel. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 780.</p>
	<p><b>Uprising</b> by Margaret Haddix. Haddix depicts the early-twentieth-century labor struggle through the eyes of three girls from very different backgrounds whose lives intersect at New York's infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. The story culminates in the tragic factory fire that claimed the lives of 146 workers. The portrayal of the fire and its legacy memorably drives home both the bravery of girls who stood up to the powerful factory owners and the highly personal cost of progress. Historical Fiction. Lexile 790.</p>
	<p><b>Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith</b> by Deborah Heiligman. With empathy and humor, the author's narrative examines Darwin's legacy through the unique lens of his domestic life. Charles's wife Emma, devoutly religious, supported him but feared for his eternal welfare. Charles, in turn, wanted to please Emma, but not at the expense of science. This timely, relevant book works as a history of science, a biography, and a romance. Biography. Lexile 1020.</p>
	<p><b>Operation Yes</b> by Sara Lewis. War is very real to Miss Loupe and her sixth graders at the military base school. When her brother goes missing in Afghanistan, Miss Loupe's students, armed with their drama skills, their desire to do something, and a lot of plastic army men, help everyone face the challenges of the homefront. Pitched to readers in both military and civilian families, this engaging story avoids larger questions of war and peace, focusing instead on how they affect the lives of American kids who deal with the consequences every day. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 730.</p>
	<p><b>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</b> by Phillip Hoose. Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama, high-school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. The clear explanations of background figures and events alternate with lengthy passages in Colvin's own words, and the mix of voices creates a comprehensive view of the Montgomery bus boycott and the landmark court case that resulted from it. Biography. Lexile 1000.</p>
	<p><b>The Falcon's Malteser</b> by Anthony Horowitz. An inept and cowardly former police officer opens a detective agency, but it's his thirteen-year-old brother who ends up catching most of the bad guys. The brothers guard a strange package worth five million dollars, until the owner of the package is murdered, leaving them to outwit every crook in town who is trying to get the money. Mystery. Lexile 640.</p>
	<p><b>Runaway Twin</b> by Peg Kehret. Sunny Skyland has missed her twin sister ever since they were separated at age three after their mother and grandmother were killed in an automobile accident. Sunny has kept her memories of Starr alive over the past decade and in seven foster homes. Propelled by her dream of finding her sister, Sunny carefully escapes by bus but isn't prepared for the homeless dog, the bullies or the tornado she encounters en route. Nor is she prepared for what her search reveals. Mystery. Lexile 740.</p>
	<p><b>The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</b> by Jacqueline Kelly. Growing up with six brothers in rural Texas in 1899, 12-year-old Callie prefers to spend her time exploring the river, observing animals, and keeping notes on what she sees. Trouble is, the only other family member interested in nature is her cantankerous Grandfather. They soon form a very special relationship, hunting and collecting samples in the woods behind their home. When they find a possible new species, Callie and her grandfather send pictures to the Smithsonian. The excitement is contagious as they wait to hear about their discovery. Historical Fiction. Lexile 830.</p>
	<p><b>Ophelia</b> by Lisa Klein. Beyond the maiden's madness, who was Ophelia? How did she and Hamlet fall in love? Who would she have grown up to be if she had survived? No doubt all readers of Hamlet really want to know more about Ophelia. Teen readers who love long, detailed period pieces will adore this one. Historical Fiction. Lexile 860.</p>
	<p><b>Search for Safety</b> by John Langan. Ben, a new sophomore, is the victim of domestic abuse and must decide whom to trust before either he or his mother is badly hurt. Quick pacing, modern settings, and contemporary slang (but no objectionable language) are sure to captivate reluctant readers in this Bluford Series novel. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 650</p>

	<p><b>Hattie Big Sky</b> by Kirby Larson. What dreams would lead a 16-year-old to leave her safe home in Arlington, Iowa, and take a chance on a homestead claim in Montana? Set during World War I, the novel tells a gripping story of frontier life through the eyes of an unlikely homesteader--a sixteen-year-old orphan girl. Pressures to be a "loyal" American complicate her situation after she befriends a German couple. Historical Fiction. Lexile 700.</p>
	<p><b>Scurvy Goonda</b> by Chris McCoy. Fourteen-year-old Ted has had the same imaginary friend (or "ab-com," short for abstract companion) since the age of seven, and it's ruining his life. Everyone thinks he's nuts because he always seems to be talking to himself, plus Scurvy Goonda, a disreputable, bacon-loving pirate, is messy and destructive. When Ted tries to cast aside the pirate, he finds that he causes the disappearance of imaginary friends around the world which in turn, leads to an unexpected and climactic battle. Fantasy/Humor Lexile 890.</p>
	<p><b>The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z</b> by Kate Messner. Seventh-grader Gianna Zales loves art and cross-country running. She is not so crazy about research projects or anything involving time-management skills, and has somehow gotten to within a week of the due date of a huge science assignment with no work to show. When her coach tells her she must bring up her science grade in order to compete in cross-country, family matters and deadlines are almost her un-doing. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 710.</p>
	<p><b>Frogs and French Kisses</b> by Sarah Mlynowski. Love spells run amok in New York City when high school freshman Rachel asks her younger sister, who is a witch, for magical help in winning the affection of her heartthrob. Complications ensue as Rachel tries to bring her normally level-headed family members under control, while dealing with the results of a love spell gone wrong and a fast-approaching prom. Fantasy/Humor. Lexile 610.</p>
	<p><b>Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting</b> by Jim Murphy. The first part of this book sparsely and effectively outlines the causes of the Great War. Murphy then moves into a close-up view of the trenches before providing an account of the 1914 Christmas Truce. This historical background gives the truce emotional intensity; the subsequent brutalities of war are all the more sobering in contrast. Plentiful photographs and period illustrations add to this well-written book. Non-fiction. Lexile 1160</p>
	<p><b>Faith, Hope and Ivy June</b> by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Ivy June Mosley and Catherine Combs are participating in the first-ever exchange program between their schools. Both are seventh-graders in Kentucky, but their worlds couldn't be more different: Ivy June lives with her grandparents in their mountain home without indoor plumbing or a telephone, while Catherine lives in a big house in Lexington and has her own cell phone. In spite of obvious differences, they discover that the most important things they have in common are the love of family and the power of faith and hope. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 900.</p>
	<p><b>The Leanin' Dog</b> by K. A. Nazam. Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean, mourning the death of her mother, finds an injured dog on her porch which allows both Dessa and the dog to heal together with a friendship that shapes both of their lives. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 960.</p>
	<p><b>Witch and Wizard</b> by James Patterson. A sister and brother, along with thousands of young people, have been kidnapped and either thrown in prison or turned up missing after accusations of witchcraft were made against them, and the ruling regime will do anything in order to suppress life and liberty, music and books. Mystery. Lexile n/a.</p>
	<p><b>Guilty By a Hair!: Real-life DNA Matches</b> by Anna Prokos. Through colorful illustrations, vocabulary definitions, and extra information in page insets, readers are taken behind the scenes of actual investigations. They become the detectives as crimes are presented, questions are asked, the gathered evidence is analyzed, and conclusions are drawn. DNA evidence, fingerprints, and forensic artists all come into the picture. Non-fiction. Lexile 650.</p>
	<p><b>World War II: An Interactive History Adventure</b> by Elizabeth Raum. Three story paths, fifty-seven choices, twenty-four endings"-- Includes bibliographical references and index. Contains three story paths that explore the events of World War II from the perspectives of a member of the Dutch resistance, a Canadian soldier, and an American soldier. Includes a timeline and resources for further study. Non-fiction. Lexile 650.</p>

	<p><b>Leigh Ann's Civil War: A Novel</b> by Ann Rinaldi. Spunky Leigh Ann Conners, eleven years old when the Civil War erupts, faces the biggest challenge of her life when she is arrested and charged as a traitor after placing a French flag on top of the family mill in Roswell, Georgia, in hopes of convincing the invading Yankees to spare the business. Lexile 620.</p>
	<p><b>Jimmy's Stars</b> by Mary Ann Rodman. In this beautifully crafted story about World War II on the home front, 11-year-old Ellie McKelvey is terrified of losing her beloved brother Jimmy when he is drafted and the family hangs a blue star service flag for him at their home. Promising to return for Christmas, Jimmy asks Ellie to keep the tree up until he comes home. Readers will find this emotionally gripping story of love and loss profoundly moving. Historical Fiction. Lexile 640.</p>
	<p><b>The Schwa Was Here</b> by Neal Shusterman. Brooklyn kid Antsy Bonano is intrigued by Calvin Schwa, a nondescript classmate who at times blends into the background and can't be seen by others. The two boys battle for the affections of a spirited blind girl and learn the truth about the Schwa's missing mom in an inventive novel peopled with strong characterizations and written in vivid, often humorous, prose. Mystery. Lexile 790.</p>
	<p><b>Unwind</b> by Neal Shusterman. In the not-so-distant future, everyone has an absolute right to life-- unless your parents decide on the do-over option. Between your 13th and 18th birthdays, they can have you "unwound," your pieces and parts extracted and recycled for the donor market. Readers meet Connor, Risa and Lev, Their story of escape and struggle to survive in a society that lauds itself on the protection of life unrolls against a bleak background of indifference, regret, loss, pain and rebellion. Scary? You bet! Science Fiction. Lexile 740.</p>
	<p><b>Smiles to Go</b> by Jerry Spinelli. A self-proclaimed "weird kid", Will Tuppence is obsessed with proton decay, chess tournaments, and ritualistic Saturday night Monopoly games with his two friends. For Will, life has always been ruled by science and common sense but in ninth grade he begins to see the entire world differently and gains new perspective on his relationships with those closest to him. Realistic Fiction. Lexile 490.</p>
	<p><b>Dweeb: Burgers, Beasts, and Brainwashed Bullies</b> by Aaron Starmer. After being framed for stealing bake sale money, the five smartest boys in the eighth grade are imprisoned in a small room beneath their junior high school in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, and must use their nerdish powers to expose a conspiracy involving fast food, standardized testing, and a school full of overachieving zombies. Fantasy/Humor. Lexile 640.</p>
	<p><b>When You Reach Me</b> by Rebecca Stead. 2010 Newbery Award. Sixth grader Miranda's life is an ordinary round of family and school. But when she starts receiving anonymous notes that seem to foretell the future, it's clear that all is not as it seems. The first real indication that this book is going to get seriously weird is when events in her life seem to parallel her favorite book, <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>. Fantasy. Lexile 750.</p>
	<p><b>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</b> by Tanya Stone. At a time when women weren't allowed to rent a car, play professional sports, fly jets, or serve as police officers, 13 strong women pilots sought the impossible: to be part of the Mercury 13 astronaut program in 1961. Non-Fiction. Lexile n/a.</p>
	<p><b>Viola in Reel Life</b> by Adriana Trigiani. When fourteen-year-old Viola is sent from her beloved Brooklyn to boarding school in Indiana for ninth grade, she overcomes her initial reservations as she makes friends with her roommates, goes on a real date, and uses the unsettling ghost she keeps seeing as the subject of a short film--her first. Fantasy. Lexile 820.</p>
	<p><b>Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes</b> by Pamela Turner. Presents a full-color-illustrated examination of the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda, and describes the effects of human exposure on the gorillas, how emergency medical care is provided to them in the wild, and ways to protect their species from poachers and common human diseases. Non-fiction. Lexile 910.</p>
	<p><b>Catherine the Great of Russia</b> by Zu Vincent. The <i>Wicked History</i> series does a great job of introducing kids to some notorious names. This one, a biography of Catherine the Great, tells of her eighteen-year effort to form alliances and gain power, which culminated with her seizing the throne from her husband, Peter III. Even kids who don't think they like history may change their minds when confronted with the books from this series. Biography. Lexile 890.</p>

<b>POPULAR AUTHORS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Cabot, Meg	Princess Diaries series; contemporary fiction
Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl series; Fantasy, adventure
Cooney, Caroline	Mystery, contemporary fiction
Curtis, Christopher Paul	African American contemporary fiction
Draper, Sharon	African American historical fiction; contemporary fiction
Haddix, Margaret	Science fiction; historical fiction
Horowitz, Anthony	Alex Rider series; Diamond Brother Mysteries; fantasy/science fiction
Myers, Walter Dean	African American contemporary fiction
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Mystery; Contemporary fiction
Spinelli, Jerry	Humor, contemporary fiction

<b>POPULAR SERIES</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Alex Rider	Anthony Horowitz	Science fiction. fantasy
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer	Science fiction, fantasy
Pendragon	D. J. MacHale	Fantasy
Warriors	Erin Hunter	Fantasy
Percy Jackson & the Olympians	Rick Riordan	Fantasy/Mythology
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney	Humor
Maximum Ride	James Patterson	Fantasy
Charlie Bone	Jenny Nimmo	Fantasy

<b>Classic Titles</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description</b>
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Horror, science fiction
Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	Fantasy
Chronicles of Narnia	C. S. Lewis	Fantasy
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	Historical Fiction
The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings	J. R. R. Tolkien	Fantasy
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	Mystery
Anne of Green Gables	L.M. Montgomery	Historical Fiction
The Three Musketeers	Alexandre Dumas	Historical Fiction