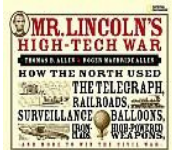
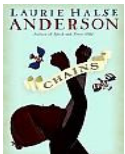


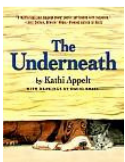
# 2009 Summer Reading List for Middle School Fulton County



**Allen, Thomas. Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War. 2009. Nonfiction.** In this 200<sup>th</sup> year since Lincoln's birth, we can explore his lifelong interest in technology and inventions and how he introduced these "new and useful things" to the nation. According to the authors, Abraham Lincoln was part of the last generation of Americans who didn't expect technology ever to change. The cabins, farm tools, guns and cooking utensils of his day were not significantly different from those of his great-great-great-grandfather. But the Industrial Revolution changed everyone's lives, and since war was the defining feature of Lincoln's presidency, technology changed the way war was waged. Lexile n/a.



**Anderson, Lauri Halse. Chains. 2008. Historical Fiction.** In 1776, Isabel, a teenage slave, is sold to a ruthless, wealthy loyalist in Manhattan. Isabel, overhearing her Loyalist master's scheme to kill George Washington, helps foil the plot. Her role forgotten by the Patriots, Isabel realizes it's up to her alone to find freedom. Anderson's novel is remarkable for its strong sense of place and portrait of slavery during the Revolutionary War. Lexile 780.



**Appelt, Kathi. The Underneath. 2008. Fable/Fantasy.** Deep among the Texas bayous, underneath a ramshackle cabin, an abandoned cat seeks refuge. Above lives Gar Face -- the scarred, embittered, product of a loveless, abusive childhood. Gar Face embodies cruelty and hate; yet his battered, ill-fed old bloodhound, Ranger, welcomes the cat; soon, with newborn kittens Sabine and Puck, they've made a loving, loyal family. Counterpointing the animals' present-day story is another that reaches back centuries. Easily read, with many brief chapters and its endearing characters, this book is most of all distinguished by the originality of the story and the fresh beauty of its author's voice. Lexile 830.



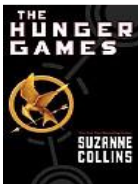
**Armstrong, Kelly. The Summoning. 2008. Science Fiction.** After fifteen-year-old Chloe starts seeing ghosts, she's sent to a group home and diagnosed with schizophrenia. There she meets two fellow teen "supernaturals." They convince Chloe that her power is real just in time for her to discover a sinister plot afoot among the home's caretakers. Interesting characters and tangible menace keep the pages turning--right up to the cliffhanger ending. Lexile 620.



**Berryhill, Shane. Chance Fortune and the Outlaws. 2006. Fantasy.** In this fantasy adventure of good versus evil, Burlington Academy exists for the sole purpose of training and grooming humans who have superpowers. Regular guy Josh, 14, doesn't care about that. All he's ever wanted to do is attend the academy. With help from a retired action hero, he manages to manipulate his way in, changing his name to Chance Fortune and listing his superpower as "Unnaturally good luck." Actually, what he really has is good old-fashioned common sense, something his teammates, the Outlaws, seem to lack. This is a fun, easy read with compelling action scenes. Lexile 870.



**Bowers, Laura. Beauty Shop for Rent. 2007. Contemporary Fiction/Humor.** Think *Steel Magnolias* for the younger set. This is good old fashioned story-telling without the gimmicks. Fourteen-year-old Abbey knows two things: she'll be a millionaire by age 35 and she'll never depend on anyone else for her happiness. Living with Granny Po and hanging out at her small town beauty shop allows Abbey to observe life from a unique perspective. Lexile 780.



**Collins, Suzanne. Hunger Games. 2008. Science Fiction/Fantasy.** This is a gripping survival story set in what was once North America. At the center of this barbaric civilization is the Capitol where the rich idle away their hours while the residents of the surrounding districts endure hard labor to produce the resources needed. The government keeps order by demanding an annual tribute for its Hunger Games, in which two contestants, a boy and a girl, are chosen from each district to fight in an event televised from an arena. Survival has always been the most important thing in 16-year-old Kat's life and no one is going to stand in her way. The games are so real that it is impossible to stop reading until you know who wins the Hunger Games. Lexile 810.



**Connor, Leslie. Waiting for Normal. 2008. Contemporary fiction.** Addie's stepfather has always been the responsible one in the family. But after he and her mother divorce, and he gets custody of Addie's two younger half-sisters, it's up to Addie, a sixth-grader, to keep order in the tiny mobile home where Addie and her mother live. While her mother disappears for days at a time with her new boyfriend, Addie cultivates friendships with people she meets at a neighboring convenience store, but the affection she receives from others doesn't compensate for the absence of love in her home. In the end, her positive attitude and ability to find happiness make all the difference as she patiently waits for "normal." Lexile 570.



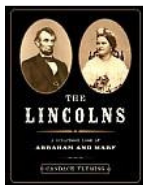
**Creech, Sharon. Hate That Cat. 2008. Poetry/Contemporary Fiction.** In this worthy sequel to *Love That Dog*, Jack is once again in Miss Stretchberry's class, developing his poetry composition skills and learning from the masters. His Uncle Bill disparages the free-verse form and mundane subjects, stressing the importance of metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and LARGE moments. When the Christmas-present kitten he has learned to love disappears, Jack grieves anew, until a despised neighborhood black cat saves the day. Jack also reveals gradually that his mother is deaf and learns the poetry of silence as he and his mother communicate through sign language and tender gestures. Lexile n/a.



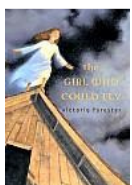
**Dowd, Siobhan. The London Eye Mystery. 2009. Mystery.** When Ted's cousin Salim visits London, he insists on riding "The London Eye," an immense observation wheel. A stranger gives Salim a free ticket; Salim enters a passenger capsule; 30 minutes later, when the capsule returns from its rotation, Salim has vanished. What follows is an intricate mystery, related from the unique point of view of 12-year-old Ted, who has Asperger's Syndrome. Lexile 640.



**Ferguson, Alane. The Christopher Killer: a Forensic Mystery. 2006. Mystery.** The sleepy Rocky Mountain town of Silverton, Colorado, hasn't seen a murder in years—according to Pat Mahoney, the county coroner. So when his teenage daughter, Cameryn, asks if she can be his assistant—as preparation for a career in forensic pathology—he figures it's a safe bet. But neither of them imagines that their first case will involve someone Cameryn knows . . . the fourth victim of a serial killer. Lexile 800.



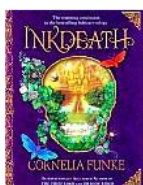
**Fleming, Candace. The Lincolns: a Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary. 2008. Nonfiction.** This book is chock-full of reproductions of primary sources, both text and photographs, and an abundance of interesting anecdotes. It is equally inviting for reference, browsing, or pleasure reading. Moreover, by giving Mary's story equal weight, the author gives us not only greater insight into each of them but also a fuller picture of the world of Mary and Abe Lincoln. Lexile 1050.



**Forester, Victoria. The Girl Who Could Fly. 2008. Fantasy/Science Fiction.** Piper has the ability to fly. Her parents keep her away from other children as much as possible, but she longs to have friends. When her parents let her join a softball game, she flies up to catch a ball, and the press and federal authorities take notice. Piper is whisked off to a top-secret institute whose purpose is to make the children normal at all costs. This does not set well with the strong-willed Piper. It is a great story about differences, friendship, and learning to do the best with what you have. Lexile 920.



**Freedman, Russell. Washington at Valley Forge. 2008. Nonfiction.** The winter of 1777 was a bleak one for the Revolutionary army. A relatively inexperienced Washington made the decision to camp his ragtag bunch of irregulars at Valley Forge, close to the British holed up comfortably in Philadelphia. It was a dreary and desolate place, and the soldiers faced malnutrition, starvation and disease but somehow came out strong and ready to take on the British army. While Washington is certainly the center of this book, it is less a look at one important figure from history than it is a tale of the triumph of endurance. Lexile 1210.



**Funke, Cornelia. Inkdeath. 2008. Fantasy.** This final volume in the trilogy returns readers to Inkworld and its wide cast of characters. Under the rule of the evil Adderhead, it is a bleak and dangerous place. The Inkworld is in disarray: Its author, Fenoglio, has lost his ability to write and, therefore, shape events; the odious Orpheus, however, has taken to recycling Fenoglio's words to control the narrative world himself. Readers who loved the detailed world building and the adventure in the earlier books will enjoy this one as well. Lexile 830.



**Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book. 2008. \*2009 Newbery Award Book\* Mystery/Fantasy.** After escaping the murder of his family, a toddler is taken in by the ghostly inhabitants of a local graveyard. Growing up in this strange setting entails many adventures, leading to a final showdown with the murderer. Occasional art enhances the otherworldly atmosphere with a flowing line and deep grays and blacks. This ghost-story/coming-of-age novel is both bittersweet and action-filled. Lexile 820.



**Haddix, Margaret. Found. 2008. Mystery.** When 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. Lexile 750.



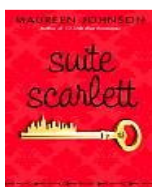
**Hahn, Mary Downing. Deep and Dark and Dangerous. 2007. Mystery.** Twelve-year-old Ali is excited by the prospect of spending the summer at the Lake with her cousin while her Aunt Dulcie paints at the long-deserted family cottage. But who is the neighbor girl "Sissy," who wedges herself like a thorn between the two girls? Who is "Teresa," the girl torn out of a family photograph? Why do Dulcie's paintings suddenly take a dark and watery tone? Here's a suspenseful ghost story filled with family secrets – just perfect for summer reading. Lexile 650.



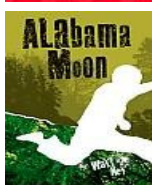
**Henkes, Kevin. Bird Lake Moon. 2008. Contemporary Fiction.** In a novel as tender as his acclaimed *Olive's Ocean*, Henkes probes the psyches of two boys facing family conflicts. Twelve-year-old Mitch, spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents' separation, becomes friends 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. Lexile 740.



**Hiaasen, Carl. Scat. 2009. Mystery/Adventure.** Once again, Hiaasen has written an edge-of-the-seat eco-thriller. When their unpopular biology teacher goes missing in a suspicious fire during a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Nick and Marta don't buy the headmaster's excuse for her absence and decide to do some investigating of their own. From the first sentence, readers will be hooked. The teens' dangerous detective work, with help from some unlikely sources, and the ethics of environmental awareness, are well balanced. Lexile 810.



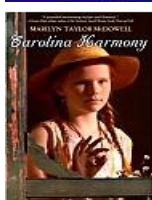
**Johnson, Maureen. Suite Scarlett. 2008. Contemporary Fiction.** Seventy-five years ago the Hopewell Hotel was a stylish Upper East Side address, but has since fallen on hard times. Its proprietors, the Martin family, have let the last remaining employee go, and now it's up to the four children, Spencer, Lola, Scarlett, and Marlene, to keep things afloat. Enter one Mrs. Amberson, a flamboyant, a mysterious guest who is all too ready to dispense advice—asked for or not. This novel blends sibling rivalry and the importance of family, friendship, and romance into a plot that is charming and well delivered. Lexile 690.



**Key, Watt. Alabama Moon. 2006. Adventure.** All his life, Moon Blake has lived with his reclusive father, Oliver, on a remote tract of land in the woods surviving only on what they trap and grow. Soon after Moon turns ten, his father dies, leaving Moon to fend for himself. Before dying, Oliver instructs Moon to go to Alaska where he'll find people just like them. Instead, Moon is taken and placed in a boys' home where he loves having friends, but cannot bear being confined. After multiple escapes and chases, Moon finally finds family he never knew he had. Lexile 720.



**Lombard, Jenny. Drita, My Homegirl. 2006. Contemporary Fiction.** When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond. Brought together in this way, the girls overcome barriers of language and custom to resolve issues they both have in common. Alternating chapters in the voice of each girl reveal more similarities than differences. Lexile 690.



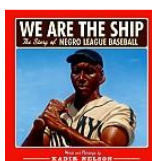
**McDowell, Marilyn. Carolina Harmony. 2009. Contemporary Fiction.** Carolina, having escaped from a foster home and living with Mr. Ray and Miss Latah on Harmony Farm, refuses to talk about the events surrounding the deaths of her parents and younger brother. She befriends a troubled runaway whom she secretly feeds and takes the blame for his pranks. The story's narrator aches for the red-headed child, who copes with far more than her share of trouble; she is reflective, resilient, and certainly deserving of the helping hand she gets from strangers and friends alike. Lexile n/a.



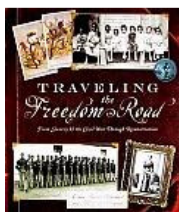
**Moses, Shelia. Joseph. 2008. Contemporary Fiction.** For Joseph Flood, life is tough. Tough because of Mama's addiction to drugs and alcohol. Tough because Daddy is away with the army fighting in Iraq. Tough because it looks like there's no way out once you're living in a homeless shelter. And tough because Joseph is enrolled in yet another new school where he doesn't know anyone and has to keep what's going on in his life a secret. Old beyond his years, he observes with a clear-eyed understanding the forces swirling around his fractured family. The harsh, realistic detail is heartbreaking, and so is the kindness he finds in himself and others, especially the role reversal in which the child has to be a father to his mother. Lexile n/a.



**Murphy, Pat. The Wild Girls. 2007. Contemporary Fiction.** Moving from Connecticut to California in 1972 changes more than geography for middle-schooler Joan. She weathers the end of her parents' marriage, discovers her affinity for writing, and befriends a remarkable girl. Together, the two become the "Wild Girls" of the title, celebrating their own creativity and imagination. Readers will be moved by this tender, thoughtful story. Lexile 630.

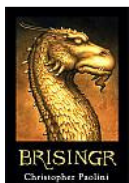


**Nelson, Kadir. We Are the Ship: the Story of the Negro Baseball League. 2008. 2009 Coretta Scott King Award. Nonfiction.** This award-winning book told from the vantage point of an unnamed narrator, reads like an old-timer regaling his grandchildren with tales of baseball greats, Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, and others who forged the path toward breaking the race barrier before Jackie Robinson made his historic debut. Lexile 900.

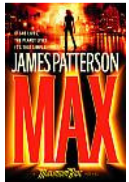


**Osborne, Linda. Traveling the Freedom Road: from Slavery and the Civil War through Reconstruction. 2009. Nonfiction.**

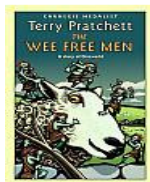
Published in association with the Library of Congress, this fascinating, well-designed volume offers an essential introduction to the experiences of African Americans from the late Colonial Period through Reconstruction. The book focuses on the lives of young people, beginning with the story of teenage sisters who escaped slavery in Washington, D.C., endured recapture, and, after winning their freedom, went on to become active abolitionists. Well-reproduced visuals, including photographs, magazine illustrations, and etchings further enhance the quality. Lexile n/a.



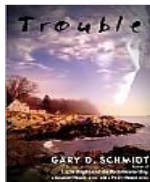
**Paolini, Christopher. Brisinqr. 2008. Fantasy.** Readers who liked *Eragon* and *Eldest* will be sure to read this 3<sup>rd</sup> book in the series by young author Paolini. The novel launches with magician and Dragon Rider Eragon, his cousin Roran and the dragon Saphira on a quest to rescue Roran's betrothed. The cousins soon split up, and Roran undergoes his own series of heroic tests, culminating in a well-choreographed and intense fight against an Urgal (a ram-human hybrid). Eragon, at the same time, encounters treacherous dwarves, undergoes even more training with the elf Oromis and gains a magical sword suitable for a Dragon Rider. Lexile 1050.



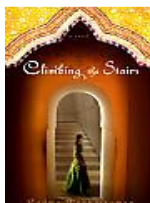
**Patterson, James. Max (Maximum Ride Series, Book 5). 2008. Science Fiction.** Maximum Ride and the other members of the Flock have barely recovered from their last Arctic adventure when they are confronted by the most frightening catastrophe yet. Millions of fish are dying off the coast of Hawaii and someone--or *something*--is destroying hundreds of ships. Unable to discover the cause, the government enlists the Flock to help them get to the bottom of the disaster before it is too late. While Max and her team are exploring the depths of the ocean, their every move is being carefully tracked by Mr. Chu--a criminal mastermind with his own plans for the Flock. Can they protect themselves from Mr. Chu's army of mercenaries and save the ocean from utter destruction? Lexile n/a.



**Pratchett, Terry. Wee Free Men. 2004. Fantasy.** There will be upheavals in the human and fantasy worlds of elves and witches, with drastic consequences, and Tiffany, with only a frying pan for a weapon, is caught in the middle. In an effort to rescue her spoiled baby brother whom the Elf Queen has stolen, she is joined by a troupe of tiny, red-bearded, blue-tattooed men called the Nac Mac Feegle. The book is full of witty dialogue and a wacky cast of characters, including a toad (formerly a lawyer). Lexile 680.



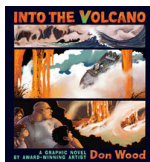
**Schmidt, Gary. Trouble. 2008. Mystery.** Henry Smith's father has made a mantra out of running from problems: "If you build your house far enough away from Trouble, then Trouble will never find you." Sure enough, the Smiths live in a remote area that has housed the family for 300 years. But when Henry's older, athletic brother is accidentally run down by a Cambodian classmate and lies in a coma, Henry must reconcile the perfect older-brother image with the abusive, racist jock he might really have been. Lexile 930.



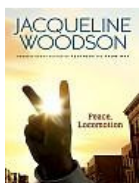
**Venkatraman, Padma. Climbing the Stairs. 2008. Historical Fiction.** Growing up in a progressive family in Bombay during World War II, 15-year-old Vidya hopes that college is in her future, though her classmates are preparing for arranged marriages. After her father is severely injured in a riot, her life suddenly changes. Vidya, her older brother, and their parents move to Madras to join her grandfather's traditional household where men and women live separately. Vidya does meet a young man who wants to marry her, but he also wants to go to college in America. As Vidya deals with her feelings, we see her mature from a child to a young adult. Lexile n/a.



**White, Ruth. Little Audrey. 2008. Historical Fiction/Memoir.** Based on incidents from the author's life and told in the voice of her older sister, Audrey is a heartfelt story of what it's like to be poor, hungry, and sometimes happy. It's 1948, and Audrey lives in a Virginia coal-mining camp with her father, who drinks; her mother, who drifts away, if not physically, emotionally; and her sisters, "the three little pigs." Eleven-year-old Audrey has her own troubles. Illness has left her eyesight compromised, and she is so thin kids call her Skeleton Girl. Yet it's her family's troubles that weigh on her most. Lexile 630.



**Wood, Don. Into the Volcano. 2008. Graphic Novel.** Brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg are mysteriously pulled out of class one day and sent to the island nation of Kokalaha to stay with unfamiliar family members. The boys meet Auntie, the shady matriarch of the household who sends the boys and their newfound cousins on an expedition into a volcano. Danger ensues, and the boys must fight for their survival, and, ultimately, discover the truth propelling their quest. Lexile n/a.



**Woodson, Jacqueline. Peace, Locomotion. 2009. Contemporary Fiction.** Readers of *Locomotion* (2003) will welcome the chance to revisit Lonnie's world. Written as letters from Lonnie to his sister, Lili, who is in a different foster home, the story's backdrop is the war in Iraq in which his foster brother, Jenkins, is fighting. When war directly affects the family, the 12-year-old begins to hope and pray for peace and to grapple with its meaning. As Lonnie's life becomes more and more interwoven with the lives of his foster brothers, his understanding of the meaning of family deepens and grows. Lexile 860.