

## **RMS SEVENTH GRADE READING**

### **Everyone At Richmond Reads!**

All English teachers at the Richmond School ask their students to read a minimum of two books over the summer and read continuously throughout the year. Our website contains the reading lists for students coming into the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and you can certainly choose books from any list or a bookstore or library. The 6TH GRADE LIST directs students to new books from Vermont's Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award and New Hampshire's Great Stoneface Award selections. 8TH GRADE LIST contains a wide selection of books listed by genre: fantasy and science fiction, historical fiction, realistic fiction, and non-fiction. The 8th grade list also has links to the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION recommendations and award books. Below, the seventh grade list contains brief reviews written by previous seventh graders. None of the lists are meant to be exclusive or definitive. They are simply an expression of Richmond's deep commitment to pleasure reading. Enjoy!

### **SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

#### **OVER THE SUMMER...**

Read at least two books of your choice. We have included this list of book reviews written by previous seventh graders from the past four years - there are additional suggestions at the end. You may choose from this list or make choices of your own. Please do not read the books which you will be reading in class this year or next -- see the list below, but read as many books as you can and bring in a list on the first day of school.

#### **AT SCHOOL...**

During the first two weeks, every seventh grader will present one of the books to his or her English class. This will be a presentation to create excitement and interest in the book and make others want to read it. You may sing, draw, videotape, write, design a dramatic presentation, create a game or quiz about the novel. To avoid a last minute rush, be sure to have both books read before school starts. There will be time to share ideas and work on presentations during the first week.

#### **SAVE THE FOLLOWING TO BE READ IN CLASS DURING SEVENTH GRADE:**

Paul Fleischman. *Bull Run*

William Gibson. *The Miracle Worker*

#### **SAVE THE FOLLOWING TO BE READ IN CLASS DURING EIGHTH GRADE:**

William Shakespeare. *Romeo and Juliet*

Harper Lee. *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Elie Wiesel. *Night*

John Steinbeck. *Of Mice and Men*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS BY 2008-2009 SEVENTH GRADERS**

**Alexie, Sherman.** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian.* (120. pp.) Imagine being born with a disability that makes you look strange. Imagine being the center point for all racism and having your entire community turn on you. This is the situation of Junior, the fourteen-year-old Native American protagonist of this story. He is expected to amount to nothing but a drunk like his father. But when his teacher inspires him to change schools and get a better education, he steps outside his reservation and his comfort zone. When he gets to the new school and gets a good dose of racism, he keeps on trying against great odds and shows that he has something special. At the reservation, his people think of him as a traitor and call him white boy. He experiences great tragedy, pain, and suffering. His best friend hates him and his new friends are much different. I loved this book. It was full of great decisions and Sherman Alexis was able to put a good amount of humor into it so that it was not only sad. I cried and laughed my way through this book and I think you should, too.  
*Reviewed by Jonathan P.*

**Allison, Jennifer.** *Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator* (pp. 336) A prickly feel behind her ear, is all Gilda Joyce needs to tell her that she is on to a ghostly mystery. In the book Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator, Gilda, a spunky thirteen year old invites herself to her uncle and cousin's home in San Francisco. Although she barely knew them, she had a feeling that there was something up there in San Francisco that she had to solve. Gilda soon finds herself at the Splinter's mansion in San Francisco where many secrets seem to be kept. For example, the witch-hat shaped tower that was locked up and forbidden to go into. She soon learns that Juliet (her cousin) has been seeing images of her dead aunt that had passed away years before. Through sleepless nights with echoing footsteps on the other side of her bedroom wall, and a secretive uncle,

Gilda and Juliet work together in solving the mystery of what really happened to Juliet's aunt. The author, Jennifer Allison, does a wonderful job in blending together a spooky mystery with a touch of humor. Her creative way of having Gilda type up her thoughts on her father's typewriter, and the cliff hanging ends of each chapter is especially interesting. I can connect to this book very well because I also like to write down my thoughts. People like me, who enjoy mysteries, should try this book. I was immediately hooked onto not only this book, but the rest of the series as well. Join Gilda Joyce in an exciting mystery and discover what you may really enjoy reading. Reviewed by Aparna A.

**Barry, Dave.** *Peter and the Shadow Thieves* (556 pp.) Peter is a young orphaned boy who lives on Mollusk Island with his mates the "Lost Boys". When Peter overhears that his friend Molly and her family are in trouble it is up to him and Tinkerbelle to find Molly in London. But, where could Peter find Molly's home? Specialty when she lives in London, England? It's a race against time to find Molly and save the Starcatchers and the whole world, once again. I loved this book. After I read *Peter and the Starcatchers* I had to read the second book, *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*. I would recommend this book for 6th graders and up. It's an outstanding book that is hard to put down once you get into it. I can't wait to read the third book in the series, *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*. This series is the best book series I have ever read. The action and the little romance in it makes it a great series to read for the ones who live lots of action and romance. Oh and magic. Reviewed by Signe C.

**Bloor, Edward.** *Tangerine* (305 pp.) Paul is legally blind. His parents tell him that he stared into an eclipse of the sun too long. Paul never really hears more than that story though. He's heard these words a million times, but he still doesn't remember. Paul Fisher is a twelve-year old boy who moves to the town of Tangerine, Florida where muck fires burn constantly and friendship is hard to win. There he battles himself onto the school's soccer team as a goalie and tries to get some attention from his parents, who only have eyes for Paul's older brother Erik, the incredible "football star." Soon Paul begins to recall memories of his earlier life (much to his parent's despair) and the whole truth comes clear. I recommend *Tangerine* to all children and teenagers. I like this story because it makes you feel like you are walking beside him every step of the way. The author does a great job describing his actions, and his emotions. This story pulls you in and never lets you go until the end. Reviewed by Lina T.

**Burch, Christian.** *The Manny Files* (304 pp.) Keats is a unique, oddball third grader with a lot of big ideas. He dresses up as a television news anchor for Halloween, makes connections to everything he does, has three crazy sisters, and has had five nannies, and is about to get a new one. But when the new nanny turns out to be a male nanny, or a "manny", life is turned upside-down for Keats, and life takes a turn for the best. With a fishing trip, a piano recital, a wishing fountain, and a bully named Craig who constantly picks on him, life is never boring for this American boy. This book is full of adventure, excitement, and sadness, as well as a lot of laughs. *The Manny Files* is a wonderfully quick-paced story, with many conflicts to resolve. As Keats connects what people do to other things like TV shows or book characters, you too can connect what's happening to real life characters and events, and actually visualize the people and events. I have experienced many of the things that happen to Keats, and it's nice to see how he deals with similar scenarios. *The Manny Files* may not be for fans of more action-packed novels, but it's one in a million for those who love great fiction novels. The book is everything and more. I would recommend the book for ages 10 and up, because some of the humor is hard to get at a young age. If you're trying to shake off a lot of stress or need a book for a rainy day, then you should read this book in a heartbeat. Reviewed by Isaiah S.

**Carlson, Melody.** *Mixed Bags* (224 pp.) Have you ever had to repeat your name to someone over and over? Well Desiree Carter had to live with that every day all because her mom was killed in a car accident. She was a tomboy living with internationally famous 60s fashion model Katherine Carter who is her grandmother. Ms. Carter won't let Desiree even be called by the name DJ. She expects Desiree to walk, talk, eat and most importantly dress like a lady. At this point her grandmother has decided to start a mini prep school for girls where she would teach them to be "lady's". This old lady didn't know what she was in for trying to raise 5 completely different girls and her granddaughter who had nothing in common with any of them but money. There are rules that get broken, hearts that get hurt and things they're ashamed of. Taylor, Casey, Eliza, Kriti, Rhiannon and DJ couldn't be more different but when they had to go to the same school, live in the same house and put up with the same grandma they might just learn how to put up with each other. At some point DJ might even be catching on to the other girls' ways when she goes out and actually spends money on cute clothes and to DJ's surprise she acutely looks good in them. There might even be a boy involved... The way Melody Carlson brought *Mixed Bags* to life amazed me. This book is a great story with real life problems some teen-age girls go through. It brought me in with a page turning story about friends, love, fashion and boys. There was never a boring moment where I wanted to put it down. If you love fashion and talking about clothes, this is most definitely a book for you. After I finished this book, I was

hooked right away through the six book series. It is a must read that will change your perspective on friendship forever!  
*Reviewed by Sydney S.*

**Carter, Alden.** *Bull Catcher* (288 pp.) Neil Larson (Bull) and Jeff Hanson are the best baseball players in their town. They are the eighth grade baseball team coaches, captains and top team players. They play baseball every day between April and September. If you like baseball, than *Bull Catcher* by Alden R. Carter is the perfect book for you. The characters develop a lot throughout this book as they go through high school. At the beginning of book, Jeff and Bull start in eighth grade, and then at the end they are seniors in high school. Bull's mom wants him to come to her house and work, but Bull doesn't want to leave and miss out on baseball. Almost anything can change instantly and you will be on your up until midnight seeing what happens next. The plot of this book is great, so you should read this great novel by Alden R. Carter. I would recommend this to anyone 12-15 who is interested in baseball. This is a great read and I could barely put it down. There are also a bunch of surprises in it and things twist and turn almost instantly. Once you pick up *Bull Catcher* you will not be able to put it down until it's done. You have to read this book to find out what happens next... *Reviewed by Peter U.*

**Collins, Suzanne.** *The Hunger Games* (374 pp.) The apocalypse has passed and the world is in ruins. The world has been through a civil war and there is not much left in the world to treasure. Most humans are living like cave men, using a basic bow to hunt. The place formerly know as the U.S.A, is now eleven "districts". The capital is the only place left with technology, but the way they use it is horrifying. The government's cruel way to punish civilians for rebelling is to force eleven kids(one kid from each district) to fight to the death every year-the Hunger Games. Katniss Everdeen is sixteen years old. She lives with her mother and sister on the edge of society. Her father died in a coal mining accident. Her mother has never been the same since Katniss' father died, so Katniss is responsible for taking care of the family. When Katniss' sister is selected for the Hunger Games, it is a no brainer for her to volunteer in her sister's place. In the Hunger Games, Collins shows what a child would do given the situation of killing and "running for their lives." This book shows great ethics and I strongly recommend it. I know that you will love the Hunger Games. The book gives a moral lesson as well as being a great thriller. I would recommend this book for children over ten. The Hunger Games are coming! *Reviewed by Anders B-H.*

**Fletcher, Susan.** *Alphabet of Dream* (432 pp.) Across oceans of sand and ancient villages of red brick and flowing streams, through vanished marshes and over fields of calmly grazing sheep, a miracle takes place. Far away, a girl lives with her brother in an underground world walled with bones. But her brother has a gift. The girl is Mitra, disguised as a boy so she can live undiscovered. Her brother is Babak, and his gift is dreaming. Mitra and Babak are the children of an exiled Persian king. They have only each other, and yet Mitra is willing to risk that to get back to her family and the life she lost. Babak has the power to dream other's dreams, and they come true. He only has to sleep with a possession of there's, and he can see there hopes, and there futures; but at what cost. Blinded by hopes of Palmyra, the city her relatives were said to have fled to, Mitra does not see how weak Babak is getting, until it is too late. Traveling with the Magi, who find Babak's dreams about a star very interesting, Mitra makes her way to the tiny city of Bethlehem, where she will discover things about herself that she never knew before. Susan Fletcher, the author of *Alphabet of Dreams*, skillfully intertwines the nativity with the story of an exiled Persian girl, layering a familiar story, with one that is entirely new. The events that carry the characters along are biblical, though the book is really about Mitra, as she struggles to hide her identity, while she longs to be herself. Susan Fletcher has created a character that any girl could relate to, while setting the scene of a remarkably different place and time. I loved reading *Alphabet of Dreams*. The characters are developed and believable, and Mitra's story pulled me in. It was a book I couldn't put down, and I reread parts even when I had finished. I would suggest it to readers in middle school, girls especially, but I think older and mature younger readers could enjoy it as well. It is a wonderful book, and I think that anyone who reads it will love being immersed in the world of Mitra and her brother.  
*Reviewed by Kristen P.*

**Hale, Shannon.** *Enna Burning* (pp. 317) Imagine water rushing at you. A fierce wind is about to drench you, but just a mere second before, it is blown off course. The water hits the ground with a deafening sound and then you feel heat soar past you. The water starts to hiss and come off the ground creating a misty fog. You see three girls in deep concentration. One with the language of water, one who has learned the language of the wind, and one who has learned to control fire from a mysterious vellum. Enna is willing to be able to control her power and not suffer the same fate of her dear brother. She will help and do whatever she can to help her home country, Bayern win the war against Tira once and for all. When Enna who is just 16 finds the magical vellum her brother had found and kept to secret, her world changes unspeakably. She no longer has the simple life she had been meant to have before she met her best friend Isi, now queen of Bayern, but beholds the power to drag in heat and release it, creating a fire. She is determined to use her fire as little as possible and by no

means to scorch a human being so that her beloved fire should not consume her to death from inside out. By mistake, she interferes in the fate telling war augury by burning the handle of the Tiran soldier's sword when one of Bayern's best swordsman as well as one of Enna's great friends, Finn, was about to be killed. Enna decides that by interfering, she caused Bayern a win, but they would only do so if she played her part as she had in the augury. Enna takes you on a magical journey with romance, excitement, fire, wind, friendship and adventure in the second book in the series of The Books of Bayern including The Goose Girl, Enna Burning, River Secrets and the book Shannon Hale is writing now, Forest Born. Enna Burning was my favorite of all of these, but I loved each and every one of them. I cherish the way the suspense and adventure as well as mystery of the book keeps you going, but in the mean time adding in romance, fantasy and things you never dreamed of, satisfying all different kinds of genre lovers. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves books that you just have to read until it is done. In the meantime barely noticing that you are flipping the pages until you run out of corners to turn. But then, you feel like you've just lost a great companion. Enna Burning is truly a remarkable book to all. *Reviewed by Valentina S.*

**Hornby, Nick.** *High Fidelity* (340 pp.) Top five things is like about this book: 1) The main character, Rob Fleming, owns a record shop called Championship Vinyl in North London. 2) His only friends are his two employees at the shop, Dick and Barry, who like Rob, spend most of their time listening to music, making fun of customers, or at the local pub. 3) Most of Rob's life revolves around music, and therefore you find hundreds of 70's rock n' roll and pop music lyrics and references in the story. 4) Rob's relationships with women are a constant problem in his life, and the ups and downs he experiences with them are comical and thought provoking. 5) High Fidelity is narrated through the eyes of Rob, and is filled with his cynical and hilarious thoughts and opinions of people and of life. I will never be able to forget some of the quotes, passages, and ideas that Nick Hornby presents so well in the novel High Fidelity. Throughout the book, Rob, Dick, and Barry, compose many top-five lists like the one you just read while sitting around in Championship Vinyl waiting for a customer. They categorize everything, from favorite movies to girlfriends to best side-one track-one songs ever released. The comedic trio fills the story with funny dialogue and musical history, as well as frequent trips to bars and clubs. Because of this, High Fidelity is rich with English culture, and Nick Hornby contrasts the differences between our lifestyle and theirs when a young American singer winds up at Championship Vinyl. Another main figure in Rob's life is Laura, his girlfriend who leaves him one day for the man who lives in the apartment above Rob. The breakup sets off a chain of events that compels Rob to check up on his all time top five worst breakups. Starting at the bottom of the list, Rob makes phone calls, talks, and visits with the women who broke his heart. His thoughts and feelings throughout the book fill up pages of hilarious, sad, and inspiring passages. I would recommend High Fidelity to any teen or adult willing to risk falling into ups and downs with Rob as he scrapes through his slightly depressing, mundane, yet hilarious life. A Londoner himself, Nick Hornby combines mid-life crisis with his knowledge of English culture and skill as a writer, to produce this great, must-read novel. *Reviewed by Sam B.*

**Horowitz, Anthony.** *Stormbreaker* (260 pp.) Fourteen year old Alex Rider wants to be a normal kid, but he just can't. His parents died when he was born and now his uncle Ian, his only other relative, dies in a car crash. Alex has suspicions about his uncle's death. He goes to the junkyard and spots Ian's car, with bullet holes through the steel and blood on the seats. He finds out that everything he knew about his uncle is a lie. Alex learns that his Ian worked for M16, Britain's intelligence agency. Now, M16 wants Alex to spy as well, and they won't take no for an answer. M16 wants Alex to finish what his uncle started, operation Stormbreaker. In Operation Stormbreaker, Alex will nearly escape death many times and will have to save thousands of lives. Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz is good because it's written really well and when you read it you feel like your actually there. Anthony Horowitz gives you great images of the dramatic scenes Alex Rider is in. I loved this book and lots of other seventh graders like it too. This book leaves you on the edge of your seat chapter after chapter. It is full of action, suspense, adventure, and fighting. Most every chapter ends in a cliff hanger. If you like action, adventure, and suspense this book is great for you. *Reviewed by Mattson R.*

**Horowitz, Anthony.** *Scorpi*a (388 pp.) He has been trapped with a giant Portuguese man of war, snowboarded down a cliff, nearly been blown to pieces by a nuclear bomb, and saved the world from many disasters, once again Alex Rider is back in one of his very best adventures yet. Alex Rider wants to be a normal school boy but what some people might think of as awesome or cool he's got a job filled with blood, fear, and one that takes a whole lot of bravery. Alex is a spy. Horowitz's masterpiece Scorpi>a is a constant thriller with action at every turn. He keeps the reader satisfied with the constant feed of suspense. I really liked this book because it is a good mixture of mystery and action. The Alex Rider series is one of the best and if you like nonstop escape, gadgets, and fights this book is for you. Speaking of audience this New York Times best selling author produces wonderful books that work for almost any age. From young teens to 90 year olds, this fourteen-year-old character entertains everybody. *Reviewed by Max S.*

**Hunter, Erin.** *Into the Wild* (288 pp.) "You haven't been taken by the two legs to see the cutter" meowed Bluestar gravely, "You would be very different then. Not quite so keen to fight a clan cat I suspect!" Rusty, is a six month old house cat who decides to go hunting in the woods one day. While he is hunting, he is attacked by another cat named Graystripe. Some other cats who watched them fight were impressed with Rusty's fighting capability and invite him to join the life of the forest. When he decides to stay in the forest, he is faced with new challenges. He must learn all new ways of living and how to live with cats that don't want to coincide with him. He now must fight for survival and support his clan, Thunderclan. Thunderclan is one of the four clans that live within boundaries and live by the "warrior code". His leader is Bluestar, and he makes friends with Graystripe. He is unsure whether he made the right decision. He knows secrets he shouldn't know and his life is threatened by another cat whose treacherous plans depend on that secrets not getting out. This book is one of the only books I have read and decided to read the sequel to. It is fast moving, when there are battles, its interesting with all the different parts of the codes and how the clans live together and the world they live in seems so realistic. I would recommend this book to everyone. I know it might sound cheesy with a book about cats who fight, but there is a lot more to it than that. *Reviewed by Tucker C.*

**Klass, David.** *You Don't Know Me* (272 pp.) A boy John about fourteen years old plays the tuba; he says, "The tuba plays him." John's stepfather is a cruel man; beats John for no reason. John's mother is unaware of that and doesn't believe it. John spends too much time inside his head. He gives nicknames to his friends and teachers. Calls his teacher Ms. Moonface, and calls his friend Billy Beazer because of his big nose. *You Don't Know Me* is a wonderful and sad book. It's a sad book because of the violent and cruel things John has to deal with at home. I recommend this book to someone who does not mind cruel and violent things. This genre is realistic fiction. This age range would be about thirteen to about fifteen years old. *You Don't Know Me* by David Klass is great book; once you start you have to finish. *Reviewed by Aphrodite P.*

**Lawhead, Stephen.** *In the Hall of the Dragon King* (384 pp.) Quentin, a young boy who lives in a large church, knows he doesn't want to work there his whole life but never expected to be dragged into a quest to save a king. He meets Ronsard, the king's dying body guard who tells him that he must bring an important message to the queen. He then must travel long and far on an epic quest to save the king. Quentin encounters many enemies, human, and not quite so human. On his way he meets many people such as a banished hermit, and knight and many others. I read this book and got cut and pasted into this story. It was almost as if I was in the story and riding alongside fending off wizards and giant snakes. If you read this book, you will know what all the people that read and enjoyed this book think. *Reviewed by Alex B.*

**L'Engle, Madeline.** *A Wrinkle in Time* (232 pp.) Have you ever imagined yourself traveling through space and time to rescue your father? That's exactly what happens in *A Wrinkle in Time*. Meg Murry (an awkward high school student), her little brother Charles Wallace (a brilliant six-year-old) and her friend Calvin O'Keefe (one of Meg's classmates), aided by Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which take a dangerous journey across the universe. They travel through space and time to reach the planet Camazotz, where trouble awaits them all, especially Charles Wallace. On Camazotz, something is fishy. Everything is in order. There are no wars or disagreements, but something is very wrong with the planet. I liked this book because of the original plot line about journeying through outer space and trying to reunite a family. I would recommend this book to kids and teenagers. It has an original plot and pulls you in from the first sentence. You will find yourself wrapped in a world of space and time travel, friendly aliens, and dangerous planets. *Reviewed by Cathleen B.*

**Maynard, Joyce.** *The Usual Rules* (382 pp.) It is just like any other day, September 11, 2001. While Wendy is at school the news spreads that terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. Immediately after she hears the news, her step-dad and half brother come to pick her up. Where is her mom? Isn't she taking a day off work? Shouldn't she be with them? All of these questions are haunting her for weeks, as her mother never comes home. Soon her biological father calls indicating that she must live with him for the time being. Her world turns upside down as the outrage builds up inside her. She is forced to leave her loving, hysterical brother whom she'll miss very much and her step-dad who she has recently become close to. How will she go on without the loving mother she's never been away from? Joyce Maynard's novel *The Usual Rules* thoughtfully explores the changes and emotions a thirteen-year-old girl faces after tragically losing her beloved mother. This book is filled with adventure, melancholy, and a little bit of romance. *The Usual Rules* is a wonderful book and once you begin reading it you can't put it down. I would highly recommend it to any middle school student. I could easily relate to this book considering all of the emotions I felt when I lost a loved one and moved away. *Reviewed by Isa B.*

**Meyer, Stephanie.** *Twilight* (498 pp.) What would happen if you were unconditionally and irrevocably in love with a villain? If your boyfriend thirsts for the sweet fragrance of your blood? And if at any moment he can crush you to pieces?

When already klutzy Bella Swan arrives to one of the rainiest towns in the country, she becomes even more of a danger magnet. Seventeen-year-old Bella decides to leave sun-drenched Phoenix to visit her father in Forks, which she detests. Bell thinks that she's ending up in an inclement town in the-middle-of-nowhere Washington, where the only think that happens is rain showers. Bella's thoughts are way out of line because she ends of finding her soul mate. Bella falls deeply into love with an angelic monster, Edward Cullen. Just when it seems that this relationship will work, disaster hits. Twilight by Stephanie Meyer is a book full of thrills, romance, and suspenseful events. Twilight is a classic story of romance with an unusual twist. The book got more intriguing as the further I read because the plot evolved into being action-packed. While reading Twilight, I could feel the intensity in Edward Cullen's eyes and I felt as if his heavenly face appeared before me. When I noticed the length of Twilight I thought, I'm never going to be able to read 498 pages! I taught myself wrong when I plowed through Twilight and was craving the sequel New Moon. *Reviewed by Hannah N.*

**Meyer, Stephanie.** *New Moon* (547 pp) When Bella and Edward get married and go on an island honeymoon, things couldn't seem better, their love can't be stronger when suddenly something goes wrong. Bella is weak and nauseated while everyone around her doesn't know how to help, or if she'll survive. While this is happening, Jacob is having problems of his own; he and the pack leader, Sam get into a big fight, and Jacob has had enough. All is in chaos and with Bella sick Charley is starting to get suspicious. Stephanie Meyer the author of New Moon's prequels: Twilight, Breaking Dawn and Eclipse brings an exciting and suspense filled novel to the Twilight saga. I have read all of the Twilight books and New Moon is my favorite, once a started reading it pulled me in and I didn't put it down until I was done, once I was I wished there was more. New Moon is a romance novel with plenty action, schemes and schisms. I recommend this book for people anywhere from eleven to teen and anyone else who enjoys fictional vampire romance. *Reviewed by Mesa*

**Nimmo, Jenny.** *Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors* (410 pp.) Charlie Bone, an eleven-year-old boy, has a perfect life at his school, Bloors Academy, except for a few minor problems. His father, Lyle Bone, has been missing for ten long years, and an evil mythical horse named Borah is after him. Everything in Charlie's life is changed after an evil shadow named Count Harken comes out of a picture, and Charlie's mom, Amy Bone, starts to forget her husband. Charlie learns where his father might be, when his friend Gabriel says there is a man in the Castle of Mirrors, in the book Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors by Jenny Nimmo. Charlie learns that one of his friends has a mysterious talent from the Red King. He now has to get his mom to remember his dad. Meanwhile the Bloors are after Borah and will do whatever they can to get the horse. Will Charlie ever save his dad and save his friends in time to get away from Borah. I was attached to the Charlie Bone I couldn't stop reading. I felt as though I was in the life of Charlie Bone, and having to go through what he has to do. I was also attached to the Charlie Bone series after reading the other 3 books; Midnight for Charlie Bone, Charlie Bone and The Time Twister, and Charlie Bone and the Hidden Boy. The Charlie Bone series has action, friendship, and mystery. I believe that any reader who likes Harry Potter and the Lighting Thief, will love the book Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors. *Reviewed by Christopher S.*

**Paolini , Christopher.** *Eragon* (497 pp.) Zing, Zing, arrows whistle through the tree two soldiers fall from their saddles. The Elf that was riding between them dismounts and runs in fright. Fwoosh. The trees around her erupt into a ring of fire. Caught, she watches as a man emerges from the fire. Slowly she holds up the blue stone that she has been carrying. Then a flash of blue light and the stone Eragon is hunting because his uncle is too poor to buy food for his family. The moment he is ready to shoot the deer, he sees the blue stone that changes his life. Hard as rock and hollow he has no idea that this stone is about to turn him into something that he thinks is legend. Christopher Paolini creates a wonderful fantasy story that people both young and old can enjoy. From Dragons to Elves and Dwarves to epic battle scenes Paolini writes a story with laughter and action on every page. Daring escapes and rescues add more suspense to the story. After one of these rescues Eragon finds that he has feelings toward an Elf called Arya. Though she does not look it Arya is over 100 years older than Eragon. But the fun does not stop here. If you like this book and you think that there just has to be a sequel, then read the sequel Eldest. *Reviewed by Dylan G.*

**Pelzer, Dave.** *The Lost Boy* (298 pp.) If you were an abused child you would remember it for the rest of your life, wouldn't you? That's what it's like for David life is hard. He never gets fed except at school. His mother beats him and his father just goes along with what his mother says. He decides to run away but gets found each time. Then he gets taken into foster care; sometimes he gets in fights at school so he has to keep switching foster homes. He just seems to hate his life. David lives in a world of pain and hatred. As you read this book you will feel as if you are along side this David in his troubles and his search for love and a place he can safely and happily call home. After reading The Lost Boy I felt upset but a strong will to continue my life. Before I read this book I had the thought that all foster children were bad but now I have a completely different perspective on foster children and abused children from before I read this book. You won't want to put

it down but at the same time you feel sad and don't want to continue. If you are an abused child or were an abused child you should definitely read this book or if your just interested in what it was like to be a foster child. It's a great nonfiction read and it seems like its over before it has even started. *Reviewed by Corrie P-B.*

**Picoult, Jodi.** *Nineteen Minutes.* (455 pp.) Imagine that kid in your grade who nobody wants to hang out with, the loner. The guy who will lower somebody's reputation for just talking o them in the hall. Peter Houghton's goal in school is just to keep from getting beaten up every time he walks to his cubby. Being the unloved, unpopular guy is hard, and Peter decides he's had enough, he wants revenge. This thrilling mystery unwinds and unravels before your eyes. Flashbacks to early years race through the book, and uncover true evidence about a school shooting at Sterling High. *Nineteen Minutes* uses many different perspectives that come together to explain a shooting that should never have happened. I mean it when I say this book changed my life. I look at the kids who get ignored, shoved into, and I can almost understand how they feel. Anger boiled up inside can cause so many more problems than anybody could expect. This is an amazing book, and I suggest it to anybody who's up for an exciting book with twist and turns. If you are easily disturbed by death or murder this book is probably not for you. Keep in mind it is an adult book, and should be read with that in mind. *Reviewed by Molly*

**Raskin, Ellen.** *The Westing Game* (192 pp.) What if you could win 2 million dollars, just by solving a riddle asked by a dead man? That is a question asked of the 12 heirs, who have no idea why they were chosen. Each of them thinks they know the answer, but only one will find out. Is it Turtle, aged thirteen, who kicks the shins of anybody who touches her hair? Is it Chris, or his brother Theo, sons the of the coffee-shop owners? Or is it Judge Ford, a black woman who broke all the barriers to become a state-appointed official? These four, as well as eight others, find themselves at Sunset Towers, which neither faces the sunset, nor has any towers, with one question in their mind. Who will win two million dollars? If you like a good mystery (or even if you don't) this is a great book for you! I loved how the author easily switched between the different points of views and showed all the pieces of the puzzle without revealing the final picture. Also, her different characters have really believable problems or weaknesses, which makes it easy to connect to at least one of the characters. The whole story weaves through all the alliances and betrayals that come up in the process of finding the answer to the question: Who killed Mr. Westing? Was it the delivery man in the parlor with the candlestick? Or the cook in the kitchen with the bomb? These questions, and others, are asked and answered with surprising plot twists in between. *Reviewed by Kaily A.*

**Rowling, J. K.** *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (312 pp.) Doesn't everyone wish they could do magic? Well in the book *Harry Potter*, most of the people use magic. There's everything that you've ever imagined magic to be and more in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J. K. Rowling. Harry Potter lives with his aunt and uncle and their son Dudley. Harry gets bullied a lot, not just Dudley but the whole family. He also finds that he can make odd things happen when he's sad or angry. Suddenly Harry starts getting letters sent to him, but his letters never seem to get to him. His uncle goes out of his almost crazy trying to keep the letters away from him, his uncle even moves the whole family to a shack on a large rock out at sea. Then in the middle of the night just as Harry turns eleven, a very large man with a bushy beard and a lot of hair, knocks down the door of the cabin. This man has come to take Harry to a school named Hogwarts. I like this book because it has clues along the way to help you figure out what's going to happen along the way. Also many things happen in this book that you would never have expected. Read the book *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's stone* to find out what amazing adventure he finds at Hogwarts! *Reviewed by Aoife F.*

**Schlosser, Eric.** *Fast Food Nation* (288 pp) McDonald's, a very popular fast food chain but do you know what really goes on behind closed doors. Eric Schlosser does a great job of describing the brutal and in part illegal work that goes on to bring you a Big Mac. *Fast Food Nation* covers every aspect of fast food from the history to how fast food changed the meat and potato industry. I would definitely would recommend this to anyone who would really like to see the truth behind corporate america. *Fast Food Nation* is a very well written and gripping book, its description is absolutely perfect and burns an image into your mind that may change your opinions all over the world about fast food. This book is great for most teens and for people who wish to see the "dark side of an all American meal." Note: *Fast Food Nation* may not be a great book for the squeamish of the faint of heart. *Reviewed by Andy M.*

**Shepherd, Sara.** *Pretty Little Liars* (304 pp.) In Rosewood, PA, nothing is ever what it seems. Best friends Allison DiLaurentis, Spencer Hastings, Hanna Marin, Aria Montgomery, and Emily Fields are living near to perfect lives. Or so it seems... each one of them has a disturbing secret that only Allison knows. But when Allison goes missing at an end-of-seventh-grade sleepover, no one knows what to do. Now it's three years later. Ever since Allison's disappearance the girls have drifted away from one another and formed new lives. Shortly after the start of sophomore year, all of them start getting

threatening texts, emails, and notes to spill their secrets only Allison knows. Could these messages signed with only the letter “A” be from Allison? Is she back in Rosewood after all these years? *Pretty Little Liars* was a page-turner for me. I recommend it to all who are drawn to mysteries and slightly haunting story lines. I couldn't put it down, with the thrill of each chapter uncovering a new piece of the puzzle, I had to go on. Shepherd is amazing at giving a new clue to the mystery and timing it with all the characters. Each chapter of her books focuses on one character's point of view, giving you multiple ideas on how they see things. Every novel in the series ends with an exhilarating event that will make you have to read on to the next book. I recommend *Pretty Little Liars* and the rest of the series to all people of middle school or high school age, and I guarantee it will be a fast read. Reviewed by Eleanor G.

**Westerfeld, Scott.** *Uglies* (425 pp.) If you could change the way you looked and become “pretty” would you do it? Tally Youngblood who is almost sixteen years old changes from a normal person like us, also known as an “ugly” into a “pretty” on her 16th birthday just by a simple operation. Later though everything seems to be wrong, but what, she's finally like everyone else a “pretty”? This book *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld is the kind of book you won't want to put down, always wondering what's going to happen next. The main character Tally loses her best friend and becomes friends with a girl named Shay. Together they begin their many adventures. As Tally and Shay become best friends they realize they don't know if they want to become “pretty” yet. Later through the book Shay leaves to go to the town smoke, which nobody is supposed to know about. The special circumstances force Tally to go after her. Tally goes on an adventure of a lifetime trying to find her friend and this old town, all she has is short note with clues to where it is. Tally does find Shay but isn't sure she wants to go back. This is an amazing adventure book, when I read it I felt like I was right there with Tally. It's not just adventure It has romance, hard choices to make, fights with friends, and sneaking around being a spy. It's a fight to stay herself, can she do it? *Reviewed by Grace C.*

**Zevin, Gabrielle.** *Elsewhere* (304 pp.) Elizabeth found herself in the middle of Elsewhere after dying in a car accident on her bike at 15 (almost 16) years old. She came to realize it was not a dream after meeting Betty, her grandmother who died at 50 from breast cancer. Liz had never seen her and thought it odd for her to look in her 30's until she understood how in Elsewhere, lives were lived backward. Liz could never get her Massachusetts driver's license, she could never finish high school or go to college, she could only become fourteen, then thirteen, until becoming one again and being sent back to earth to get a new name and mother. In Elsewhere there are observation desks (OD's) where people in Elsewhere can watch their families and friends go about their lives on earth. Liz spends hours and days at the OD - even watches her own funeral her best friend didn't attend - until she realizes that watching her family will not help her live her life in Elsewhere, her new home. Can Liz ever talk to her parents again? Can she let go of the only life she has ever known and take in a new one? *Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin is an excellent fantasy/science fiction book for all teen readers. It leaves readers wanting to find out what will happen next until the very last sentence that will captivate everyone. *Reviewed by Sarah M.*

**Zusak, Markus.** *The Book Thief* (550 pp.) Death has seen Liesel once before, on a train. He saw her just briefly, as he took her five year old brother in his arms, out of the frost bitten train. But he stayed to watch, as she picked up a book, a grave digging book. The book thief's first book. Liesel is a young girl, and she is adopted into a family because her mother cannot take care of her. She starts to get used to her new life, but there are other hardships. For one, she lives in Nazi Germany. Also, her country goes to war, and her family is hiding someone. Someone illegal. But even so, she has something to take her mind off it; books. Ever since she picked up a book at her brother's grave, she has loved books, and reading. Soon, she is stealing more and more books, from book burnings, and the mayor's library. Meanwhile, her town, and family, is in more and more danger. The war goes on, and the Nazi regime is harder to live under. More and more trouble comes, in the turbulence of the war. With more bombings, and lines of Jews walking through the town from the nearby labor camp, Liesel's life seems closer to the edge every day. *The Book Thief* is impossible to put down, as the narrator, Death, leads you through the life he has seen only when he carries a soul away in his arms. The minute I started reading, I was captivated. Zusak uses unique ways of conveying his story, with Death's narration and commentaries. It's unlike any other book I've read. *Reviewed by Sam G.*

***RECOMMENDATIONS BY EARLIER SEVENTH GRADERS FOLLOW*** 

## RECOMMENDATIONS BY 2005-2007 SEVENTH GRADERS

**Charlotte Brontë.** *Jane Eyre*. At first, Jane Eyre is an unloved orphan who lives with the family of her uncle. But then Jane becomes a governess at the strange house of Mr. Rochester. It's not an easy job. Mr. Rochester is a temperamental man, and Jane hears strange noises coming from the attic. In time, however, she sees the good qualities of Mr. Rochester, and he becomes more to her than just an employer. Read *Jane Eyre* for a great story of romance and innocence that is an immortal classic. *Caroline K. - 2005*

**Dan Brown.** *The Da Vinci Code*. In this book Robert Langdon gets pulled into a fast paced mystery. It starts when he gets an urgent phone call in the middle of the night. The curator of the Louvre has been murdered. He's left behind clues to solving his murder and with clues leading to ancient secret society and something that has been searched for for ages to no avail. *Miriam A, Emma W. & Emily M. 2007*

**Meg Cabot.** *All American Girl*. Samantha Madison is a girl who has a really popular sister but she is an outcast. She is an artist. Her parents sign her up for art lessons, and her whole life changes. She is set apart from everyone else once again during the first art class, so she skips the next one. That sets her up to save the president's life and she becomes famous. To top it all off the president's son just might be in love with her. *Caitlin M. - 2007*

**Meg Cabot.** *Avalon High* is a book about Ellie who is a teenage girl who must try to figure out if the teenage boy that she likes is the reincarnated king William. Ellie doesn't think so but the clues are really making her change her mind. The clues are really good and actually make you think that he is the king. Find out what happens in the end and what might happen to Ellie and her teenage boy Will. *Lindsay G. -2007*

**Orson Scott Card.** *Ender's Game* is a science fiction book about a boy, Andrew Wiggin, whose nickname is "Ender", with extraordinary intelligence for his age. When the International Fleet tries to find a new commander to fend off a possible second invasion by the Buggers, a sentient alien species, Ender, at the age of six, enters Battle School along with many other brilliant potential commanders to be trained for command. He encounters few friends and many enemies there, while moving up through the ranks. It all comes down to the final war with the Buggers. If you like action, futuristic ideas, and many interwoven subplots, you'll love this book. *Bei D. and Trey R. - 2007*

**Michael Chabon.** *Summerland*. If you travel to Clam Island, you will soon realize that there's a special corner of the island called Summerland. In Summerland, the weather is always perfect when the local Little League team plays baseball. This weather is caused by the small creatures called ferishers. The fate of Summerland, the ferishers, and indeed the entire world, however, is threatened by the ancient trickster Coyote. The ferishers need a hero, and that hero turns out to be Ethan Feld. Ethan really hates baseball, and that turns out to be a problem, because he's about to embark on an adventure involving Sasquatches, giants, learning about his own inner strength, and a whole lot of baseball. This book is a magical story that will leave you searching for your own Summerland. *Caroline K. - 2005*

**Gennifer Choldenko.** *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. When Moose and his family move to Alcatraz, his life changes drastically. He has to leave all his friends behind, and his dad doesn't even have time to play ball with him anymore. And it's all so his autistic sister can get into a special school for kids with her disability. But when she doesn't make it in, everything seems to fall apart. As if that isn't enough, he lives on an island with some of the world's most dangerous criminals! All he wants to do is help and protect his sister, live up to his parents' high expectations, and most of all, stay out of trouble. But with the warden's cute, annoying, nosy daughter around, it seems rather unlikely. In this entertaining but truthful novel, you learn about the sad and frustrating illness autism, while laughing out loud at Gennifer Choldenko's witty writing. This is a fantastic summer must read! *Emily B. - 2005*

**Eoin Colfer.** *Artemis Fowl and The Opal Deception* is a thrilling story about a brilliant boy named Artemis who has discovered the hidden life of fairies underground. This boy is a major criminal mastermind at age 12 who is insanely rich and has the best bodyguard in the world. Unfortunately, he is torn between abandoning his criminal life and becoming a normal teenager or having the pleasure of perfectly executing a plan. The fairies, on the other hand, are three times as smart as humans and have far more technology. However, they face a problem: their most dangerous criminal has escaped from a coma and has plotted and commenced a plan that threatens to wipe out the fairies and expose them to humans. A great book to read over the summer. *Jack B. - 2005*

**Caroline B. Cooney.** *Whatever Happened to Janie?* is a novel of a girl who suddenly finds that her family isn't hers. Janie's real family has been looking for her since she was three years old after she was kidnapped at a mall. Janie goes to live with her birth family trying to make the transition from being an only child in a rich family to a child of five in a cramped, small house with one bathroom. What happens when she finds she could never love her birth family? Who is she really, Jennie or Janie? Read this heart wrenching story to find the answers. Johanna B. - 2005

**Nancy Farmer.** *The House of Scorpion* is about a young clone named Matt. Clones are considered dirty and inhuman, and are used for organ transplants for the ruling Drug Lords. When a clone is born, by law it is required to have its brain stunted. Matt's genetic father, El Patron, is the most powerful Opium Drug Lord in Mexico, so he broke the law to get to know his clones. Matt is the next in line to rule and El Patron is very old. Matt must escape El patron's organ needs and overthrow him. Connor S., Pedro C. & Parker M. - 2007

**John Feinstein.** *Vanishing Act.* If you like books that have sports in them and are also fiction, you will want to read John Feinstein's books. *Vanishing Act* is the Sequel to *Last Shot*. *Vanishing Act* is about two thirteen year old sports writers who go to watch the US Open where a famous tennis is kidnapped. The story is about these two kids who try to uncover who kidnapped her and why. -Dylan N., Nick C., Tessa H. -2007

**Cornelia Funke.** *Inkheart.* Meggie's father is only a bookbinder, so she can't understand why when a stranger shows up in the middle of the night her father invites him in as if he knows him as a friend. In the morning, Meggie finds out that she and her father have to move. When she moves, though, she finds out that everything is not as she suspected, and she finds herself in the middle of an adventure full of magic, books, and danger. It is very scary, exciting, and full of adventures. Lupi L., Sonya G., Michaela H., and Rachel M. - 2007

**Lisi Harrison.** *It's Not Easy Being Mean.* This is the seventh amazing Clique book. What happens when you receive a key from the most popular eighth grader hinting you on how to get the key to the secret room that only popular eighth graders can go to? But the only thing stopping Massie Block (the most popular seventh grader, with designer clothes, best friends, new boyfriend, Derrington, and huge house) from getting the key is that there are LBR's (losers beyond repair) who are also looking for it. In a fast-paced, competitive fight to be number one, Massie and the PC (pretty committee) come up with a scheme to solve the problem. But will she have what it takes to win? *Kate D'Orsi, Annafaye Dunbar, Ella K. - 2007*

**Shannon Hale.** *The Goose Girl.* Suddenly Ani heard a fierce clank of swords and many screams in the air. Her first instinct was to run back as fast as she could to help out and see what was going on. Then it struck her. It had happened. Syria, her lady in waiting, was taking over, trying to take her position as crown princess. I have to run to save myself, she thought, All the guards want to kill me! She nearly screamed at the thought but covered her mouth instead. She ran to her horse and began to gallop away, This is a fabulous fairy tale that everyone should read. It the story of a de-crowned princess who needs to find herself to win back her crown. Rebecca W. - 2004

**Karen Hesse.** *Out of the Dust* is a book written in the form of poetry. It's about a young girl living in Oklahoma during the 1930's. When drought strikes, ruining her father's crops, the rest of her life starts to go downhill, too. If you want to find out if this girl's life turns around, read this book. Kate K. - 2004

**Carl Hiaasen.** *Hoot* is a great movie for little kids to see and the book is an easy read. This book is about owls that have burrowed in the ground. The owls are in danger because the construction workers are saying the den is abandoned but really it's not. The main character, Roy, and his friends are trying to save the owls. They pull some crazy stunts on the workers and the cops. Allison M. 2007

**Khaled Hosseini.** *The Kite Runner* follows a boy named Amir in his boyhood and through to adulthood. He deals with issues such as rape, suicide and various other issues dealing with his religion and life in Afghanistan. This book is a harder read and is for a more mature reader. His childhood friend Hassan is there with him throughout the book and the main story is about how friendship prevails all else. *Lottie B. & Nico G-H. - 2007*

**Allen Iverson.** *Only the Strong Survive.* A young ADHD basketball all-star in the hood who sleeps where he wants and goes to school when he wants gets caught with drugs right before college. The judge has Allen Iverson's life in his hands. Will Allen Iverson go to jail and lose his college opportunity or will he light up the score board at Georgeown University? This book is all about Iverson's path to the NBA. I recommend this book to any basketball fanatic. *Micki S. - 2005*

**Jon Krakauer, *Into Thin Air*.** This book is a suspenseful book about the dangers of climbing Mt. Everest. Krakauer travels to Nepal where he becomes acquainted with some of the best known-climbers while traveling to base camp. He fights the physical and emotional challenges while climbing Everest, which included a terrible disaster on summit day. Krakauer's incredible tale of hardship and success grabs the reader and takes them on the journey up Mt. Everest. *Lucy S. & Erin D. - 2007*

**David Lubar. *Hidden Talents*.** Martin is a 13 year old kid who has been expelled from three schools and is sent to an alternative school in Edgerview. He meets a very strange group of kids all with strange talents. It's up to him to get his new friends to realize that they have hidden talents and at the same time, figure out his own. *James W., Daniel A. - 2007*

**Adeline Yen Mah. *Chinese Cinderella*** is a heartbreaking true story of an unwanted daughter, Adeline Yen. Unable to visit friends, eat what she wants, or be loved by her family, her only outlet is her Aunt Baba, who is despised by Adeline's stepmother. Adeline's aunt encourages her and acts like a mother, but when Adeline is separated from her and put in a boarding school right in the path of the Communists during the Cultural Revolution, she is in grave danger. What will happen to Adeline? Will she ever win the respect of her family? *Elizabeth F. - 2005*

**Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. *Three Cups of Tea*.** Mortenson was trying to climb K2 and ran into trouble. His life was saved by his porter, a local man. Mortenson noticed while staying in a rural village that all the schools in the area admitted only boys and were run by extremists who promoted conflict and war. He realized that the way to get peace is to build new schools that would provide a balanced education and help people become lawyers, business owners, and other members of an educated community. He raises money for these new schools — especially for girls — in Afghanistan and Pakistan through his organization called Pennies for Peace. *Chloe B. - 2008*

**Han Nolan. *If I Should Die Before I Wake*** is a very compelling story that drags you back to a time during the Holocaust. It's about a girl named Hilary, who is part of a neo-Nazi gang in her hometown. After a terrible motorcycle accident, she ends up in a Jewish hospital near to death. While fighting for life in the hospital bed, Hilary falls back into a "dream land" where she becomes a Jewish girl named Chana, living during the Holocaust, with Nazis ruling her life. The book contains vivid details and descriptions of the horrible ways that women and girls were treated at concentration camps in Germany. *If I Should Die Before I Wake* gives you a really good sense of what it was like living during the Holocaust, and you won't be able to put it down until the very last word! *Katie C. - 2005*

**Gary Paulsen. *Hatchet*.** This life or death book is about a boy named Brian who gets lost in the woods after a plane crash and has to save himself. With no food or water, will he survive? This is a great novel about a person versus nature conflict. In this amazing book one boy connects with nature in a most astonishing way. It is a must read over the summer. Anything could happen. Will he die? It all happens in *Hatchet*! *Sean G. - 2005*

**Gary Paulsen. *Winterdance*** is a hilarious, sad, exciting nonfiction book about Gary Paulsen's experience training and running in the Iditarod. It includes his encounters with animals such as skunks and moose, near death experiences, inside details on the race itself, and much more. Each chapter is like a little story in itself explaining each experience in such detail. It really helps you respect sled-dog racers and understand a whole different type of lifestyle. What happened to Paulsen after being trampled by a moose, being sprayed by six skunks, and witnessing a murder? *Elizabeth F. - 2005*

**Katherine Paterson. *Bread and Roses, Too*.** Man, if you like historical fiction, do I have a book for you. This is a fantastic book about two children born into a poor Italian family, without a father. When the mother and the older sister go on strike, the younger brother, Ricci and the middle sister, Rosa, are sent away to a small town in Vermont, to conserve what little money they have left. A delightful combination of rebellion, love, and regret, this book is a must-read for anyone who wants to learn about the terrible working conditions of 1912, or wants to have an extremely satisfied feeling of content at the end of the best 288 pages you'll ever read. *Nick B. -2007*

**Jodi Picoult. *My Sister's Keeper*** is a moving book about a family and their struggles with their daughter Kate. Kate was diagnosed with leukemia when she was just a small girl. It was a serious diagnosis and they needed to find a donor. Anna, Kate's sister was the only one that could supply Kate with what she would need to survive. Many years go by with Anna unwillingly donated and going through surgeries to keep her older sister alive. Finally Anna was fed up with all the surgeries. Her parents refused to let her stop so she filed a lawsuit. If Anna doesn't donate to Kate there might not be any other way to keep Kate alive. *Ariel S., & Bridget H. 2007*

**Philip Pullman.** *The Dark Materials Trilogy: The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass.* Most of the time I absolutely hate fantasy books, but I loved these. They are very fast paced and have tons of action, which makes up for them being so long. These books take place in many different worlds which two children travel through, and in the end determined the fate of the universe. They can get a bit confusing so they're not a quick read. I know it may sound a little corny, but they're really not and I would recommend them to anybody. *Mac M.* - 2007

**Doug Wilhelm.** *The Revealers.* Parkland Middle School is home to bullies, cliques, and their tormented victims until three rejected kids get together. A new girl from the Philippines, a dinosaur geek, and their leader Russell, a quiet kid ignored until now. They start an online newsletter, The Revealer, to spread the truth about bullies at their school. To their surprise, it becomes popular and starts to slowly change the way kids are treated. This does not go smoothly though; they run into trouble with jocks, a popular clique and the principle. See how they make their school a better place, increase awareness of bullying, and escape trouble in this new, suspenseful story that anybody can learn from. *Jocelyn S.* - 2007

**Richard Yancey.** *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp.* If you're looking for a very funny and thrilling book, this book is for you. Alfred Kropp is a normal boy who lives with his uncle. His uncle has dreams of being a millionaire but has to steal something to get there. This something is sacred, and has people guard it with their lives. Alfred leaves the sword in the wrong hands, and has to attempt to recover it. The only problem is that people do guard this item, and the people who guard this item with their lives chase Alfred through many adventures that will leave you on the edge of your seat. What we loved about this book is the jump from a calm talking moment to a chaotic fighting scene. *Jack W. & Jake R.* - 2007