

# Green Acres School

## Suggested Reading

### For Students Entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

This is a list of suggested books, taken from several sources, including Green Acres student recommendations. Try other books by these authors, too. We hope that your child's schedule will allow for many relaxing times to read and ponder.

Adams, Douglas. **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** (trilogy)

Funny science fiction. A must read for science fiction lovers.

Adams, Richard. **Watership Down**

Whether read as pure adventure or as allegory, this migration of a band of rabbits to a safer home is a classic.

Almond, David. **Heaven Eye**

When three friends run away from the orphanage, they find a mysterious girl, who, like them, yearns for roots and family.

Anderson, M.T. **The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation; Volume: I The Pox Party** (series)

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War

Anderson, M.T. **Feed**

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

Avi. **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

Bass, L.G. **Sign of the Qin**

As powerful creatures from Chinese mythology are awakened, the Emperor's son and his outlaw guardians prepare to save the earth.

Bauer, Joan. **Hope Was Here**

A funny, independent 16-year-old waitress, Hope moves with her aunt from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin where she becomes involved with the diner owner's attempt to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Bloor, Edward. **Tangerine**

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Brashares, Ann. **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** (series)

A pair of jeans that fits each girl perfectly is a vehicle for following four girls' summer experiences.

Budhos, Marina Tamar. **Ask Me No Questions**

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the

expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Card, Orson Scott. **Ender's Game** (series)

Intense science fiction where the government breeds military geniuses to prevent the aliens from destroying the human species.

Collins, Suzanne. **The Hunger Games**

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Collins, Suzanne. **Catching Fire**

Continues the story of Katniss Everdeen in the dystopic world from *The Hunger Games* with its spreading rebellion.

Cooney, Caroline. **Goddess of Yesterday**

Fascinating retelling of the Greek myth of Helen of Troy through the eyes of a wise and courageous young girl.

Cooney, Caroline. **Hit the Road**

Sixteen-year-old Brittany acts as chauffeur for her grandmother and three other eighty-plus-year-old women going to what is supposedly their college reunion, on a long drive that involves lies, theft, and kidnappings.

Cooper, Ilene. **Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy**

Biography of President Kennedy as a boy and young adult.

Cormier, Robert. **The Chocolate War**

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fundraising drive. (A controversial author, but one older students appreciate.)

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. **The Seeing Stone** (trilogy)

In this first installment of the trilogy, young Arthur comes to understand his own life in 1199 when he sees the legendary Arthur in Merlin's stone. (See also the King Arthur series by Gerald Morris, e.g., *Parsifal's Page*.)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bucking the Sarg**

Fourteen-year-old Luther's greatest obstacle to success is his fraudulent, cheating, and manipulative mother. Will he be able to escape unharmed?

DuPrau, Jeanne. **The City of Ember**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. (See also the sequel, *The People of Sparks*.)

Ellis, Deborah. **Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees**

Provides interviews with twenty-three young Iraqi children who have moved away from their homeland and tells of their fears, challenges, and struggles to rebuild their lives in foreign lands as refugees of war.

Farmer, Nancy. **The House of the Scorpion**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Fleming, Candace. **Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life**

Presented in the style of Franklins own original almanac, this biography is full of information that makes history jump right out of the page.

Fradin, Judith Bloom. **5,000 Miles to Freedom**

Relates the lives of Ellen and William Craft, who risked everything to flee their lives as slaves in the South, journey endless miles away from their home, and work to end slavery when they reached their safe destination in the North.

Going, K.L. **Fat Kid Rules the World**

Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.

Haddon, Mark. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Heligman, Deborah. **Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith**

Biography of the marriage and man behind the evolutionary theory.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Hoot**

A boy tries to fit into a new place that includes a bully, burrowing owls, and a junior eco-terrorist. (See his other eco-thrillers *Flush* and *Scat*.)

Hickam, Homer. **October Sky**

Originally published as *Rocket Boys*, this bestseller--based on a true story--follows a group of boys in a small West Virginia town in 1957 as they light up the skies with their flaming rockets and dreams of glory. A warm memoir with humor.

Hoose, Philip. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**

An African American teenager helps change segregation in the South.

Howe, James. **The Misfits**

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

Le Guin, Ursula. **Gifts**

Orrec has been given the gift of "undoing" but refuses to accept it. A book about the meaning of power and the ability to refrain from using it.

Le Guin, Ursula. **The Wizard of Earthsea** (series)

In this first of the *Earthsea Cycle* series, a boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Lester, Julius. **Day of Tears**

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets," possibly including Emma.

Lubar, David. **Dunk**

While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore the summer before his junior year in high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and hopes to see again the girl that got away.

Marcus, Leonard, ed. **The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy**

A fascinating look inside the minds of top fantasy authors.

Marsden, John. **Tomorrow, When the War Began** (series)

Seven Australian teenagers return from a camping trip in the bush to discover that their country has been invaded and they must hide to stay alive.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. **The Kite Rider**

An exciting story of loyalty and bravery set against a background of superstition, greed, and revenge in Kubla Khan's China.

McGhee, Alison. **Snap: A Novel**

Eleven-year-old Edwina confronts old and new challenges when her longtime best friend Sally faces the inevitable death of the grandmother who raised her.

McWhorter, Diane. **A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968**

Examines the lives and times of Southerners during the Civil Rights struggle for equality for African Americans in the 1950's and 1960's. Includes other civil rights facts.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Dairy Queen**

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Murphy, Jim. **Savage Thunder: Antietam and the Bloody Road to Freedom**

Discusses the bloodiest single day of the Civil War, with nearly 23,000 casualties.

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

Narrative telling the story of soldiers on both sides of the conflict during WWI who defied their commanding officers and held Christmas celebrations with their "enemies."

Myracle, Lauren. **ttyl**

In "instant message" format, chronicles the day-to-day experiences, feelings, and plans of three friends as they begin tenth grade. The sequel *tfn* is meant for high schoolers.

Nix, Garth. **Lirael** (trilogy)

In this sequel to the first book in the *Abhorsen Trilogy*, Lirael, still lacking the gift of sight, discovers her own powers and destiny.

Oppell, Kenneth. **Airborn**

Aboard a dirigible, a cabin boy and a girl passenger combat sky pirates and discover unknown winged species. Lots of excitement! The sequel, *Skybreaker*, is even better.

Paolini, Christopher. **Eragon** (series)

In this first book in the *Inheritance* series, Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage, finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. (A book written by a home-schooled boy.)

Park, Linda Sue. **When My Name Was Keoko**

During the Japanese occupation of Korea, Sun-hee and her family suffer tremendous hardships and humiliation.

Partridge, Elizabeth. **Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary**

Moving prose about the bravery of children who propelled the Civil Rights movement forward and inspired the adults in their lives during the months before the march with King from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

Pattou, Edith. **East**

Full of fear and excitement, a young woman travels to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear, only to find that her journey has just begun.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **Criss Cross**

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

Pratchett, Terry. **The Wee Free Men** (series)

Some of the Discworld books are for younger ages and others, including this series, are for older audiences. Older students have also recommended *Guards! Guards!* and *Moving Pictures*, as well as *Mort*.

Pratchett, Terry. **Nation**

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, an island boy and an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

Pullman, Philip. **The Golden Compass** (trilogy)

In the first book of Pullman's *Dark Materials Trilogy*, Lyra Belacqua, who is accompanied by her daemon, sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Reeve, Philip. **Mortal Engines**

This fast-paced science fiction is set in a postapocalyptic future, where cities of the world move around on tractor treads pursuing and scavenging each other.

Rennison, Louise. **Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson**

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Salisbury, Graham. **Eyes of the Emperor**

Following orders from the United States Army, several young Japanese American men train K-9 units to hunt Asians during World War II.

Schyffert, Bea Uusma. **The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins**

A biography of Michael Collins, the astronaut who circled the moon in the Apollo 11 space capsule while his colleagues Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed the lunar module and walked on the moon.

Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing up Scieszka**

A mostly humorous memoir.

Shusterman, Neal. **Downsiders**

When fourteen-year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers the Downsiders world which had evolved from the subway built in New York in 1867 by Alfred Ely Beach, she and her new friend experience the clash of their two cultures. See also *Speeding Bullet* and *The Dark Side of Nowhere*.

Sleator, William. **The Duplicate**

Handy to have a copy of yourself to visit grandma while you go out on a date, but what happens when the duplicates begin to show an evil side? (Also read other books by this author.)

Stork, Francisco X. **Marcelo in the Real World**

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces

new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

Stroud, Jonathan. **The Amulet of Samarkand** (trilogy)

In *Book One* of *The Bartimaeus Trilogy*, Bartimaeus, a powerful 5,000-year-old djinni with a sarcastic bent, is summoned by an inexperienced apprentice magician. The results are danger, death, and a big dose of comic relief.

Tan, Shaun. **Tales from Outer Suburbia**

Fifteen illustrated short stories, some humorous and some haunting, set in the Australian suburbs.

Tashjian, Janet. **The Gospel According to Larry**

A brilliant seventeen-year-old launches an anonymous anticonsumerism campaign on the Internet, with disturbing results.

Taylor, Mildred D. **The Land**

In this prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, fourteen-year-old biracial boy works toward his dream of owning land.

Tolkein, J.R. **The Hobbit; Lord of the Rings**

Classic fantasy, must reads.

Trueman, Terry. **Stuck in Neutral**

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

Westerfeld, Scott. **Leviathan**

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn, who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically engineered beasts.

White, T.H. **The Sword in the Stone**

King Arthur tales.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. **True Believer**

Living in the inner city, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn tells how she learns to cope with all sorts of obstacles as she moves toward her goal of "getting out." Sequel to *Make Lemonade*.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **After Tupac and D Foster**

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

Yang, Gene Luen. **The Eternal Smile**

Presents three short stories in graphic novel format that deal with the blurred line between fantasy and reality. Includes stories about an office assistant who falls for an e-mail scam and about a young knight whose life is not what it seems.

Yang, Gene Luen. **American Born Chinese**

Alternates three interrelated stories in graphic format that deal with the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

Zevin, Gabrielle. **Elsewhere**

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

Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.