

Middle School Summer Reading List  
Lexile 500's

Say yes - Couloumbis, Audrey.

In her efforts to hang on following the disappearance of her stepmother, Casey resorts to anything, including robbery. Lexile: 510

A piece of heaven - Wyeth, Sharon Dennis.

Thirteen-year-old Haley holds her life together with the help of good people after her mother suffers a nervous breakdown and her brother is arrested. Lexile: 510

The fire-eaters - Almond, David,

Despite observing his father's illness and the suffering of the fire-eating Mr. McNulty, as well as enduring abuse at school and the stress of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Bobby Burns and his family and friends, living in England in 1962, still find reasons to rejoice in their lives and to have hope for the future. Lexile: 520

Stand tall - Bauer, Joan,

Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school. Lexile: 520

Who is stealing the twelve days of Christmas? - Freeman, Martha, When parts of outdoor Christmas displays go missing from neighborhood yards, Alex and his friend Yasmeen investigate. Lexile: 520

A boy at war : a novel of Pearl Harbor - Mazer, Harry.

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. Lexile: 530

Seventh-grade tango - Levy, Elizabeth, When Rebecca, a seventh-grader, is paired up with her friend Scott for a dance class at school, she learns a lot about who her real friends are. Lexile: 530

The monster garden - Alcock, Vivien.

Using a tissue sample she believes is from one of her father's experiments, Frankie accidentally creates a baby monster, which begins to grow at an alarming rate. Lexile: 540

The werewolf of Fever Swamp - Stine, R. L.

Grady begins to suspect his new pet might be a werewolf when a series of strange incidents occur in Fever Swamp right after the dog's arrival. Lexile: 540

Lost in cyberspace - Peck, Richard.

While dealing with changes at home, sixth-grader Josh and his friend Aaron use the computer at their New York prep school to travel through time, learning some secrets from the school's past and improving Josh's home situation. Lexile: 550

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Prairie whispers - Arrington, Frances.

Only twelve-year-old Colleen knows that her baby sister died just after she was born and that Colleen put another baby in her place, until the baby's father shows up and makes trouble for her and her family on the South Dakota prairie in the 1860s. Lexile: 560

The two princesses of Bamarre - Levine, Gail Carson.

With her adventurous sister, Meryl, suffering from the Grey death, meek and timid Princess Addie sets out to find a cure. Lexile: 570

Cirque du freak : tunnels of blood - Shan, Darren.

Darren, Evra, and Mr. Crepsley leave the Cirque Du Freak and get a taste of the city, but when corpses drained of blood are discovered, Darren and Evra must confront a dangerous creature of the night. Lexile: 580

Haunting at home plate - Patneude, David. After they hear stories about their baseball field being haunted by the ghost of a boy who died there many years ago, twelve-year-old Nelson and his teammates start finding messages written in the dirt. Lexile: 580

Year of no rain - Mead, Alice.

In 1999, when rebel soldiers come to their village in southern Sudan, Stephen and his friends escape but hope to be able to return again. Lexile: 580

The gadget - Zindel, Paul.

In 1945, having joined his father at Los Alamos, where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II, thirteen-year-old Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue. Lexile: 590

Over the wall - Ritter, John H., Thirteen-year-old Tyler, who has trouble controlling his anger, spends an important summer with his cousins in New York City, playing baseball and sorting out how he feels about violence, war, and in particular the Vietnamese conflict that took his grandfather's life. Lexile: 590

Perfect - Friend, Natasha,

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own. Lexile: 590

The staircase - Rinaldi, Ann. In 1878, after her mother's death on the way West, thirteen-year-old Lizzy Enders is left by her father at a convent school in Sante Fe, where she must deal with being the only non-Catholic student and where she plays a part in what some consider a miracle. Lexile: 590

Stargirl - Spinelli, Jerry.

Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform. Lexile: 590