

## **Librarians' Summer Reading List 2009 Middle Grades Titles**

Bauer, Joan. **Stand Tall**. Middle Grades

*Summary: Many of you may know this one--somehow I missed it until the recent SLMS conference, when I got a free (and defective--no pp. 119-150) copy. It was definitely worth scaring up a complete copy. Lots of laughs, from the opening when Tree has to map out a battle plan across the no-man's-land of joint custody and school paperwork, to the antics of a geriatric dog, a lethargic reptile, and an obsessive-compulsive parrot. As if that weren't enough, Bauer does a lovely job with the serious plots of adolescent bullying and of Tree's Vietman-veteran grandfather Leo, who courageously meets the consequences of his and the nation's wartime experiences.*

DiCamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson Series**. Middle Grades

*Summary: Mercy Watson is the cherished pet pig of Mr. and Mrs. Watson. Her neverending search for treats, especially toast with a great deal of butter on it, leads to all sorts of funny adventures. Loved by children, fun for adults to read.*

Ensor, Barbara. **Cinderella (As If You Didn't Already Know the Story)**. Middle Grades

*Summary: A sassy retelling of the Cinderella Story in a chapter book form but with tons of word art and pictures. Will be loved by middle grades and young adults alike.*

Hale, Shannon. **Book of a Thousand Days**. Middle Grades.

*Summary: Set in medieval Mongolia, this is a retelling of a Grimm's fairy tale. Dashti, a maid and her Lady Saren, are shut in a tower for 7 years since Saren refused to marry a man she despises. Lyrically told, this is a sweeping adventure with a dash of humor, romance and great drama.*

Lowry, Lois. **The Willoughbys**. Middle Grades

*Summary: **The Willoughbys** is a fun read about 4 orphans, a foundling, neglectful and even malicious parents, and a nanny who sets it all right. A parody that references many other classic orphan novels, this novel ties up all loose ends at the conclusion when everyone gets their just deserts.*

Philbrick, Rodman. **The (mostly True) Adventures of Homer P. Figg**. Middle Grades

*Summary: This tongue-in-cheek and very funny story is set in the time of the Civil War. When Homer's older brother Harold is quite literally sold into the army by the boys' evil Uncle Squint, Homer goes on an epic journey to try and find Harold. A rollicking tale that nevertheless manages to touch on the truth and suffering of this time in US history.*

Rex, Adam. **The True Meaning of Smekday**. Middle Grades

*Summary: Gratuity Tucci and her alien Boov sidekick take the van across the country in quest of the entire displaced population of America. Huck Finn meets a twisted update of Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee in this cheeky, multi-layered sci-fi satire.*



- Titles which have also appeared on previous lists.



- Titles which have had multiple recommendations.

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

*Summary: Loved this memoir of Scieszka's growing up with his 5 brothers! It brought back lots of memories of my own childhood with 8 brothers, Catholic schools, nuns, playing outside with no more than a mudpile and a stick. This should be a great read for kids!*



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