

Reading suggestions for students entering 7th grade at HMS

Armstrong, William H. *Souder*. The son of a family of black sharecroppers comes of age in the Depression-era South after his father is imprisoned for stealing food. He grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and with the help of the devoted dog Souder.

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas : a Fable*. Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Buss, Fran Leper. *Journey of the Sparrows*. Maria and her brother and sister are illegal immigrants from El Salvador. They were smuggled into the United States in crates and try to survive in Chicago with the help of a sympathetic family.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. The first of a science fiction series set in a future where mankind is facing annihilation by an aggressive alien society, an insect-like race. Ender is one of the child soldiers trained to be the future leaders of the protection of Earth.

Cole, Brock *The Goats*. Stripped and marooned on a small island by their fellow campers, a boy and a girl form an uneasy bond that grows into a deep friendship when they decide to run away and disappear without a trace.

Collier, James Lincoln. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Cooney, Caroline. *Hush Little Baby*. One of many books by this mystery writer. Kit takes care of a baby of mysterious origin and later must try to save herself and the baby from desperate people who are after it.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, not Buddy*. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the famous bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Duncan, Lois. *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. This author often combines mystery and the supernatural. In this book four teen-agers who have desperately tried to conceal their responsibility for a hit-and-run accident are pursued by a mystery figure seeking revenge.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *City of Ember*. In this fantasy 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.

Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart*. In this fantasy 12-year-old Meggie discovers that her father has an unusual ability; when he reads aloud, he can bring characters and items from books into the real world. However, he does not have control over what goes in or out, which is how her mother disappeared 6 years ago. Now strange things are happening.

Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. A mix of murder, fantasy, and humor. While someone is killing all of his family, a toddler crawls out of the house and up a hill, beneath a locked iron gate and into a graveyard. There he is found and adopted by the ghosts, who raise him, hide him and protect him from the killer who is still searching for the boy.

Konigsberg, E. L. *Silent to the Bone*. When he is wrongly accused of injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell stops speaking, and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.

Koss, Amy Goldman. *The Girls*. In this middle-school girls clique one of the group becomes a leader who manipulates the others, causing hurt and self-doubt among the girls.

Lewis, C. S. *The Chronicles of Narnia*. A classic fantasy series of seven books beginning with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, in which four children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Lupica, Mike. *The Heat*. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

MacHale, D. J. *The Merchant of Death*. Fourteen-year-old Bobby Pendragon, having learned he is a Traveler--someone who can ride "flumes" through time and space, is soon off to the alternative dimension of Denduron where he teams up with Loor, a girl his age from the warrior-territory of Zadaa, in an attempt to save the gentle Milago people from slavery. Pendragon series, book 1

Myers, Walter Dean. *Won't Know Till I Get There*. When fourteen-year-old Stephen, his new foster brother Earl, and his friends are caught spray-painting graffiti on a train, they are sentenced to community service at a retirement home.

Rinaldi, Ann. *The Staircase*. The story is based on the legend of the "miraculous" staircase at the Chapel of Loretto in Santa Fe. 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. While the nuns pray to Saint Joseph for help to finish their choir loft which doesn't have a staircase, she befriends an unemployed carpenter who proceeds to build the staircase in a matter of weeks with only three simple tools and his faith. One of many fine historical novels by this author.

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*. Twelve-year-old dyslexic Percy Jackson goes to summer camp where he sees images of Greek gods and goddesses everywhere even when no one else can. Percy learns he is the child of a famous god right in the middle of an intense battle as the gods try to topple each other. Percy Jackson & the Olympians, book 1.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *The Dreamer*. Neftalí is a sickly, day-dreaming boy who lives in fear of his overbearing father. José Reyes, the railway foreman, who wants his son to be a doctor or a dentist. But Neftalí loves words, nature and the poetry of life and doesn't want to live the life his father wants for him. Though this is fiction, it recounts the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. Stanley Yelnats IV, a timid boy who is very unlucky supposedly due to a family curse, is wrongly accused of stealing the baseball player Clyde Livingston's shoes from a charity auction to benefit a homeless shelter. He is sentenced to 18-months at Camp Green Lake juvenile detention facility where all delinquents, are forced to dig holes 5 feet wide and 5 feet deep to "build their character" and then fill them up. In fact, the warden is searching for buried treasure.

Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de. *The Little Prince*. An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. Stargirl is new to Mica Area High School and different from everyone else at MAHS. Previously home-schooled, she is not accustomed to the cliques and conformity of the high school. She has the courage to be different, to be herself, and she changes Mica High School forever.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *After Tupac and D Foster*. The day D Foster, an eleven-year-old who has seen lots of foster homes, enters the lives of Neeka and her best friend, the world opens up for them. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families, and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious. The 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.

Yep, Laurence. *Ribbons*. When her Chinese grandmother emigrates from Hong Kong to live with her family, Robin, a promising young ballet student must give up her dancing lessons. This creates jealousy and conflict among the entire family.

Zindel, Paul. *The Gadget*. 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.