

8th Grade Book Titles	Criteria
<b>Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne</b>	Historical Fiction
<p>This work was set in Berlin, 1942. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But, Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than what meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.</p>	Lexile: 1080
<b>Pirates! by Celia Rees</b>	Historical Fiction
<p>Nancy Kington, a wealthy merchant's daughter living in Bristol, England in the early 1700's, is sometimes lonely but enjoys the privileges her father's business brings. Minerva Sharpe is a penniless slave's daughter living and working on the Kington's Jamaican plantation. These two young women, united through a set of extraordinary circumstances including a brutal murder, an arranged marriage, and set of ruby earrings, find themselves sailing the high seas in search of love, adventure and freedom—as pirates!</p>	Lexile: 790
<b>Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll</b>	Poem
<p>"Jabberwocky" is a nonsense poem written by Lewis Carroll and included in his 1871 novel <i>Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There</i>, a sequel to <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>. The book tells of Alice's adventures within the back-to-front world of a looking glass.  <a href="http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/jabberwocky/">http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/jabberwocky/</a></p>	Lexile N/A
<b>Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion (Scientists in the Field Series) by Loree Griffin Burns</b>	Nonfiction, Science
<p>While the subtitle leads one to believe that the heart of this book is about the science of ocean currents, it's actually about why we need to protect our marine environment. Burns tells the tale of Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer who started to track trash (flotsam) that washed up on the shore near his Seattle home. Through floating sneakers and bath toys that accidentally fell off container ships and a computer program named OSCURS, Ebbesmeyer tracked the currents of the ocean. These experiments led to a discussion of how debris is polluting our oceans and causing harm to marine life. Burns introduces the work of several scientists who are working to clean up ghost nets and other dangerous debris. The well-written narration will keep readers engaged, and it's excellent for reports. The science is clearly explained, and the vivid and lively photographs and well-labeled charts and diagrams help to create interest and build understanding. This title will get readers thinking and possibly acting on these problems. —Esther Keller</p>	Lexile: N/A
<b>Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor by Michael Burgan</b>	Historical Fiction
<p>Little boys, some as young as 6, spent their long days, not playing or studying, but sorting coal in dusty, loud, and dangerous conditions. Many of these breaker boys worked 10 hours a day, six days a week all for as little as 45 cents a</p>	Lexile: N/A A.R. 7.1

<p>day. Child labor was common in the United States in the 19th century. It took the compelling, heart breaking photographs of Lewis Hine and others to bring the harsh working conditions to light. Hine and his fellow Progressives wanted to end child labor. He knew photography would reveal the truth and teach and change the world. With his camera Hine showed people what life was like for immigrants, the poor, and the children working in mines, factories, and mills. In the words of an historian, the more than 7,000 photos Hine took of American children at work aroused public sentiment against child labor in a way that no printed page or public lecture could.</p>	
<p><b>The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi by Neal Bascomb</b></p>	<p>Historical Nonfiction</p>
<p>This true story of a group of Jewish men brought together to capture and bring to justice a notorious Nazi war criminal takes place 15 years after the end of WWII. Adolf Eichmann, who had been in charge of eradicating the 725,000 Jews from Hungary and was discovered, living in Argentina, became the target of the Mossad, a new Israeli secret service intelligence agency. Eichmann's capture proved to be a hair-raising maneuver, as the Argentinians were not sympathetic to the cause, and any slight misstep could result in irreparable damage to both this endeavor and to the Israeli government. Bascomb has shortened and changed much of the language of his successful 2009 adult title Hunting Eichmann, but kept every bit of the suspense. This version includes a "list of participants" at the beginning to assist readers in keeping straight the many individuals involved in the scheme. This is a splendid example of fascinating storytelling blended with significant historical events. Periodic black-and-white photos expand the account.</p>	<p>Lexile: N/A A.R. 7.4</p>