Shaker Heights Schools

7th-8th Grade Reading List

Recommended by your Shaker Schools Librarians
Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem and Obstfeld, Raymond  What Color is My World?: The Lost History of African-American Inventors

Twins Ella and Herbie learn about inventors from handyman Mr. Midal, giving them a new view of their heritage. Their story is interspersed with 1-page biographies about the inventors of the gamma electric cell, the ice-cream scoop, traffic lights, open-heart surgery and more.  Fiction/Nonfiction

Alexander, Kwame  The Crossover

Josh and his twin brother, JB, are best of friends and basketball stars. They struggle with challenges on and off the court while their father ignores his poor health. This story is told in fast-paced verse.  Fiction/Poetry

Anderson, Laurie Halse  Chains

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. In the sequel, Forge, Curzon is separated from Isabel after their escape from slavery. He serves as a free man in the Continental Army at Valley Forge until he and Isabel are reunited again as slaves.  Fiction

Andregg, Michael M.  Seven Billion and Counting: The Crisis in Global Population Growth

Earth’s population reached 7 billion in 2011. Until the 19th century, there were no more than 1 billion. What does this mean for life on earth?  Nonfiction

Applegate, Katherine  Crenshaw

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There’s no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He’s large, he’s outspoken, and he’s imaginary. He has come back into Jackson’s life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?  Fiction

Bavati, Robyn  Dancing in the Dark

When Ditty Cohen first sees a ballet on TV, the beautiful, gravity-defying dancing captivates her. She’s instantly connected to the graceful performers, and realizes that her passion is to be a dancer. There’s just one problem: Ditty is from an ultra-orthodox Jewish family and her parents forbid her to take dance lessons. Refusing to give up on her newfound love, Ditty starts dancing in secret. Her devotion to dance is matched only by her talent, but the longer Ditty pursues her dream, the more she must lie to her family. Caught between her passion and her faith, Ditty starts to question everything she believes in. How long can she keep her two worlds apart? And at what cost?  Fiction

Berger, Lee R. and Aronson, Marc  The Skull in the Rock: How a Scientist, a Boy, and Google Earth Opened a New Window on Human Origins

Professor Berger and his 9-year-old son discover an unknown species at the Malapa archeological site in South Africa. Read the story behind their discovery, as persistence, technology and luck are reshaping how scientists think about human evolution.  Nonfiction
Blatner, David  
*Spectrums: Our Mind-Boggling Universe from Infinitesimal to Infinity*

Stretch your imagination in this entertaining book about the spectrums that affect our lives, from invisible waves of natural light to colossal gamma rays. The author uses the six scales of measurement—numbers, size, light, sound, heat and time—to explore our bizarre and beautiful world.  

*Nonfiction*

Bloor, Edward  
*Tangerine*

A season with the toughest soccer team in the county gives twelve-year-old Paul the confidence to stand up to his wicked brother.  

*Fiction*

Bondy, Halley  
*Don’t Sit on the Baby: The Ultimate Guide to Sane, Skilled, and Safe Babysitting*

Any teen who babysits will appreciate the advice, tips, and strategies for finding, keeping, and excelling at part-time childcare jobs.  

*Nonfiction*

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  
*The War That Saved My Life*

Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada’s twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn’t waste a minute she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?  

*Fiction*

Carson, Rae  
*Girl of Fire and Thorns*

A fearful princess discovers her heroic destiny after being married off to the king of a neighboring country in turmoil. She is pursued by enemies seething with dark magic.  

*Fiction*

Castan, Mike  
*Fighting for Don tae*

When Javier is assigned to work with a special education class, he connects with Don tae, who has physical and mental disabilities. His reputation among gang members and drug abusers no longer seem very important.  

*Fiction*

Condie, Allie  
*Matched*

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander’s face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham’s face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her it’s a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she’s destined to lead with Xander. But Cassia can’t stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society’s infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she’s known and a path that no one else has dared to follow.  

*Fiction*
Condie, Allie   **Summerlost**  
It's the first real summer since the devastating accident that killed Cedar's father and younger brother, Ben. But now Cedar and what's left of her family are returning to the town of Iron Creek for the summer. They're just settling into their new house when a boy named Leo, dressed in costume, rides by on his bike. Intrigued, Cedar follows him to the renowned Summerlost theatre festival. Soon, she not only has a new friend in Leo and a job working concessions at the festival, she finds herself surrounded by mystery. The mystery of the tragic, too-short life of the Hollywood actress who haunts the halls of Summerlost. And the mystery of the strange gifts that keep appearing for Cedar. *Fiction*

Coriell, Shelley   **Good Bye, Rebel Bue**  
Rebecca Blue is a rebel with an attitude whose life is changed by a chance encounter with a soon-to-be-dead girl. Rebel (as she's known) decides to complete the dead girl's bucket list to prove that choice, not chance, controls her fate. In doing so, she unexpectedly opens her mind and heart to a world she once dismissed—a world of friendships, family, and faith. With a shaken sense of self, she must reevaluate her loner philosophy particularly when she falls for Nate, the golden boy do-gooder who never looks out for himself. *Fiction*

Covey, Sean   **The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make: a Guide for Teens**  
What choices will you make about important issues in your life, from choosing true friends to getting a good education to establishing who you are as a person? *Nonfiction*

Crutcher, Chris   **The Sledding Hill**  
Billy Bartholomew has an audacious soul, and he knows it. Why? Because it's all he has left. He's dead. Eddie Proffit has an equally audacious soul, but he doesn't know it. He's still alive. These days, Billy and Eddie meet on the sledding hill, where they used to spend countless hours—until Billy kicked a stack of Sheetrock over on himself, breaking his neck and effectively hitting tilt on his Earthgame. The two were inseparable friends. They still are. And Billy is not about to let a little thing like death stop him from hanging in there with Eddie in his epic struggle to get his life back on track. *Fiction*

Dowd, Siobhan   **The London Eye Mystery**  
Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye. But after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery. *Fiction*

Draper, Sharon   **Stella by Starlight**  
Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end. *Fiction*
Feinstein, John  *Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics*

Competing in the Summer Olympics in London, Susan is targeted by agents, sponsors and media representatives. Stevie suspects they are using unscrupulous tactics to ensure that Susan wins the gold.  *Fiction*

Flake, Sharon  *You Don’t Even Know Me: Stories and Poems about Boys*

Through short stories and poems, readers see the lives of teenage African-American boys and issues they deal with – including HIV, teen pregnancy, and homelessness.  *Fiction*

Funke, Cornelia  *Inkheart*

Meggie learns that she and her father can "read" fictional characters to life. When one of those characters kidnaps them, she tries to send the villain Capricorn back between the pages where he belongs!  Read more in *Inkspell* and *Inkdeath!*  *Fiction*

Galbraith, Judy and Jim Delisle  *The Gifted Teen Survival Guide: Smart, Sharp, and Ready for (Almost) Anything*

Just what does the label “gifted” mean?  This book covers issues such as intelligence testing, educational options, and relationships with parents and friends.  *Nonfiction*

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz  *The Red Umbrella*

In 1961 Fidel Castro has come to power in Cuba, and children begin disappearing. Lucia’s parents, who oppose the new regime, send Lucia and her brother to the United States. How will they cope in Nebraska living among strangers without their family?  *Fiction*

Grandits, John  *Technically, It’s Not My Fault: Concrete Poems*

You’ll enjoy these visual, funny poems that explore moments like a boring school day, a baseball game, a sick day and more.  *Poetry*

Green, Tim  *Unstoppable*

Harrison, a foster kid in a cruel home, knows his dream of playing for the NFL is a long shot. His luck changes when he finds a good home, and his talent is recognized. His luck changes again when a knee injury leads to a devastating diagnosis.  *Fiction*

Hamilton, Virginia  *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales*

This anthology of African-American folktales uses animals, fantasy, and the supernatural to convey the sorrow of slaves as well as their hope and desire for freedom.  *Folk Tale*
Hautman, Pete  Snatched

Too curious for her own good, Roni, crime reporter for her high school newspaper, teams up with Brian, freshman science geek, to investigate the beating and kidnapping of a classmate.  Fiction

Heyser, Amber J.  Sneaker Century: A History of Athletic Shoes

A history of athletic shoes and their role in popular culture discusses technical developments, athletic performance, economic aspects, how they are made, and collectors, and explains the influence of young people on them and vice versa.  Fiction

Holyoke, Nancy  A Smart Girl’s Guide to Money

Learn the ins and outs of managing money—and making money!  Explore job possibilities and learn how to track your earnings and spending.  Nonfiction

Hoose, Phillip  The Boys Who Challenged Hitler

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation’s leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys’ exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance.  Nonfiction

Horowitz, Anthony  Eagle Strike

Teen spy Alex Rider survives a bullfight, a high-speed bicycle chase, and a human video-game only to face his most disturbing challenge yet!  You’ll come back for more in this series:  Stormbreaker, Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Scorpia, Ark Angel, and Snakehead.  Fiction

Huey, Lois Miner  Forgotten Bones: Uncovering a Slave Cemetery

Details archaeological findings about slavery in America as revealed by the discovery of 13 skeletons in upstate New York that were identified as 18th-century African-American slaves who once worked at the nearby Schuyler Farm.  Nonfiction

Jamieson, Victoria  Roller Girl

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.  Graphic Novel
Johnson, Jen Cullerton  
*Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace*

Scientist Wangari Maathai is the first African woman and first environmentalist to win a Nobel Peace Prize for her work planting trees in her native Kenya.  *Biography*

Kadohata, Cynthia  
*Weedflower*

Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their California farm to an internment camp in Arizona. She becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and dreams of owning a flower shop.  *Fiction*

Konigsberg, Bill  
*Openly Straight*

Tired of being known as “the gay kid”, Rafe decides to assume a new persona when he enters an elite prep school. But trying to deny his identity is complicated, and he encounters unexpected consequences.  *Fiction*

Korman, Gordon  
*Ungifted*

Donovan pulls a major prank at his middle school. An administrative mix-up sends him to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students.  *Fiction*

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell  
*March: Book One*

This graphic novel tells the life story of Georgia congressman John Lewis. It focuses on his Alabama youth, his meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.  *Graphic Novel*

Lipsyte, Robert  
*Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made It America’s Favorite Game*

Read about men who did more than hit home runs or pitch perfect games. These heroes changed the way America looks at itself and the goals we set as people and as a nation.  *Nonfiction*

Lowry, Lois  
*The Giver*

At the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.  Read more in *Gathering Blue* and *The Messenger*.  *Fiction*

Lu, Marie  
*Legend*

In the dark future, North America has split into 2 warring nations. Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.  *Fiction*

Mayer, Robert H.  
*When the Children Marched: The Birmingham Civil Rights Movement*

In chronicling the Birmingham (AL) civil rights movement, Mayer spotlights the great leaders of the movement and the role of the children who helped fight for equal rights and an end to segregation in Birmingham.  *Nonfiction*
McCaughrean, Geraldine  The Kite Rider

In 13th-century China, Haoyou tries to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage. He takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and meets the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.  Fiction

McMullan, James  Leaving China: An Artist Paints His World War II Childhood

In a unique memoir comprising more than fifty watercolor paintings and accompanying text, award-winning artist and New York Times bestselling author James McMullan explores how his early childhood in China and wartime journeys with his mother influenced his whole life, especially his artwork.  Nonfiction

Muchamore, Robert  The Recruit

James has been in a lot of trouble, but he is brilliant at math. He is recruited by CHERUB, where he undergoes 100 days of training. And the adventure has just begun in this first book of the CHERUB series.  Fiction

Mussi, Sarah  The Door of No Return

Zac never believed his grandfather’s tales about their enslaved ancestors being descended from an African king. When his grandfather is murdered, Zac sets out for Ghana to find King Baktu’s long-lost treasure before the murderers do.  Fiction

Neff, Henry  The Hound of Rowan

After glimpsing his destiny in a mysterious tapestry, Max McDaniels goes to Rowan Academy, where he trains in mystics and combat, preparing for war with an enemy that kidnaps children like him.  Fiction

Newquist, H. P.  The Book of Blood: From Legends and Leeches to Vampires and Veins

At once both blood-curdling and fascinating, this delightful investigation into blood’s past and present is great fun with the faux blood-spattered pages.  Nonfiction

Noyes, Deborah  Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of Original “Girl” Reporter Nellie Bly

Young Nellie Bly had ambitious goals, especially for a woman at the end of the nineteenth century, when the few female journalists were relegated to writing columns about cleaning or fashion. But fresh off a train from Pittsburgh, Nellie knew she was destined for more and pulled a major journalistic stunt that skyrocketed her to fame: feigning insanity, being committed to the notorious asylum on Blackwell's Island, and writing a shocking exposé of the clinic’s horrific treatment of its patients. Nellie Bly became a household name as the world followed her enthralling career in “stunt” journalism that raised awareness of political corruption, poverty, and abuses of human rights. Leading an uncommonly full life, Nellie circled the globe in a record seventy-two days and brought home a pet monkey before marrying an aged millionaire and running his company after his death.  Biography
Pearsall, Shelley  
**The Seventh Most Important Thing**

It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it’s the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service... working for him. Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can’t believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people’s trash? But it isn’t long before Arthur realizes there’s more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the “trash” he’s collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .  
*Fiction*

Perkins, Mitali  
**Bamboo People**

Two Burmese boys meet in the jungle. Tu Reh is a Karenni refugee; Chiko is a guerrilla fighter. To survive they must learn to trust each other.  
*Fiction*

Rankin, Kenrya  
**Start it Up: The Complete Teen Business Guide to Turning Your Passions into Pay**

You can become a business entrepreneur using tips from this book, from making a business plans to managing employees to marketing and customer service. Find out how you can make a difference.  
*Nonfiction*

Reey, Trent  
**Words in the Dust**

Afghani teenager Zulaikha faces frightening but positive changes in her life. She defies her father, secretly learns to read, and is offered surgery to fix her disfiguring cleft lip by the American troops.  
*Fiction*

Sandler, Martin W.  
**Imprisoned: the Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II**

Find out about the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II, when they were sent to concentration camps. Once the war was over, their struggle continued as they had to rebuild their lives.  
*Nonfiction*

Scieszka, Jon, editor  
**Guys Write for Guys Read**

There’s something for every boy in this collection of short stories, poems, memories, and advice by some boys’ all-time favorite authors.  
*Nonfiction*

Scott, Michael  
**The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel**

Twins Sophie and Josh find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists over possession of a book containing secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.  
*Fiction*

Shulman, Mark  
**Scrawl**

School bully Tod gets caught committing a crime on school property. His penalty is staying after school to write a journal. Watched by the guidance counselor, Tod reveals things about himself he’d rather keep secret.  
*Fiction*
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In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

Charlie Bucktin, a bookish thirteen year old, is startled one summer night by an urgent knock on his bedroom window. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in their small mining town, and he has come to ask for Charlie's help. Terribly afraid but desperate to impress, Charlie follows him into the night. Jasper takes him to his secret glade, where Charlie witnesses Jasper's horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion. He locks horns with his tempestuous mother, falls nervously in love, and battles to keep a lid on his zealous best friend. In the simmering summer where everything changes, Charlie learns why the truth of things is so hard to know, and even harder to hold in his heart.

Doug and his sister Colette move to a wilderness area where they encounter some weird creatures whose lives are endangered.

Fifteen-year-old Colette is addicted to lying. Her shrink says this is because she’s got a very bad case of Daughter-of-a-famous-movie-star Disorder—so she lies to escape out from under her mother’s massive shadow. But Colette doesn’t see it that way. She says she lies because it’s the most fun she can have with her clothes on. Not that she’s had that much fun with her clothes off. At least not yet, anyway… When her mother drags her away from Hollywood to spend the entire summer on location in a boring little town in the middle of nowhere, Colette is less than thrilled. But then she meets a sexy biker named Connor. He’s older, gorgeous, funny, and totally into her. So what if she lies to him about her age, and about who her mother is? I mean, she has to keep her mother’s identity a secret from him. If he finds out who she really is, he’ll forget all about Colette, and start panting and drooling and asking her for her mother’s autograph. Just like everyone always does. But what Colette doesn’t know is that Connor is keeping a secret of his own…

If you like gym class, you’ll enjoy this eye-opening look at how forces and energy, muscles and balance are involved in sports. The book includes instructions for testing these concepts.

Using actual documents from the time, Swanson tells the story of the 12-day manhunt for President’s Lincoln’s assassin.
Telgemeier, Raina  Drama
Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of "Moon over Mississippi" as relationships start and end, or never quite get going. Graphic Novel

Thomas, Leah  Because You’ll Never Meet Me
In a stunning literary debut, two boys on opposite ends of the world begin an unlikely friendship that will change their lives forever. Fiction

Thomson, Jamie  Dark Lord: The Early Years
Evil Dark Lord tries to recover his dignity, his power, and his lands when an arch-foe transports him to a small town, into the body of a teenage boy. Fiction

Tibbitts, Tim  Echo Still
Fig’s life in seventh grade is perfectly normal: his Life Science teacher hates him, his dad is forcing him to attend bar mitzvah classes because his mom would have wanted it, and he has just been passed over for the travel soccer team in favor of Gus Starks, a ball hog and a bully. As if Fig’s life needed one more complication, his grandmother, Gigi, is unexpectedly coming to stay for a while with Fig and his father. But as Gigi helps Fig navigate the obstacles of seventh grade and a tough soccer season, Fig comes to understand some important things: about his religion, about his family, and about Fig himself. Fiction

Turner, Henry  Ask the Dark
A compelling tale of redemption and tour-de-force YA debut, Ask the Dark is an absorbing first-person thriller about Billy Zeets, a 14-year-old semi-delinquent in a deadly tango with a killer. Fiction

Tyson, Neil Degrasse  Death by Black Hole & Other Cosmic Quandaries
What if your spaceship got too close to a black hole? Tyson poses this question and many more on a journey from Earth’s hot springs to the frozen desolate stretches of the Oort Cloud, pondering both space and time. Nonfiction

Vail, Rachel  Lucky
As Phoebe and her clique of privileged girlfriends get ready to graduate from 8th grade, a financial scandal which threatens her family’s security and her social status teaches Phoebe the real meaning of friendship. Fiction
Footer Davis is on the case when two kids go missing after a fire in this humorously honest novel that is full of Southern style. "Bless your heart" is a saying in the South that sounds nice but really isn’t. It means, “You’re beyond help.” That’s what folks say about fifth grader Footer Davis’s mom, who “ain’t right” because of her bipolar disorder. She just shot a snake in Footer’s yard with an elephant gun, and now she’s been shipped off to a mental hospital, and Footer is missing her fiercely yet again. “Bless their hearts” is also what folks say about Cissy and Doc Abrams, two kids who went missing after a house fire. Footer wants to be a journalist and her friend Peavine wants to be a detective, so the two decide to help with the mystery of the missing kids. But when visiting the crime scene makes Footer begin to have “episodes” of her own, she wonders if maybe she’s getting sick like her mom, and that’s a mystery that she’s not at all sure she wants to solve. Fiction

Venkatraman, Padma  Climbing the Stairs

In India, in 1941, Vidya's father is brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march. She and her family are forced to move in with her father's relatives and adjust to a totally different way of life. Fiction

Weitzman, David  Skywalkers: Mohawk Ironworkers Build the City

Skyscrapers define the American city. Explore the lives of Mohawk ironworkers who risked their lives to build these structures, exploring Native American history, structural engineering and architecture. Nonfiction

White, Jen  Survival Strategies of the Almost Brave

It’s easy to be brave when your eight-year-old sister, Billie, looks up to you as her protector. Twelve-year-old Liberty feels it’s her job to look after Billie once they are sent to live with their father, whom they haven’t seen since they were very young. Dad is unpredictable on his best days, but when he abandons the girls at a gas station in the middle of nowhere, Liberty's courage is truly put to the test. As she and Billie struggle to make it home on their own, they encounter a cast of both helpful and not-so-helpful characters, including a man with caterpillar eyebrows, a lady dressed entirely in lavender, a tattooed trucker with a soft spot for cats, a kid who is a little too obsessed with Star Wars, and a woman who lives with a houseful of nontraditional pets. Along the way, they learn that sometimes you have to get a little bit lost to be found. Fiction

Woodson, Jacqueline  After Tupac & D Foster

Life changes for two girls in a New York neighborhood when D Foster joins their double Dutch game. They bond over their love of Tupac’s music and find their friendship tested by unpredictable and tragic events. Fiction

Yang, Gene Luen  Boxers

In 1898 during the Boxer Rebellion Little Bao recruits an army of Boxers to rid China of foreign missionaries and soldiers who bully and rob Chinese peasants. Read Saints for the other side of the story. Graphic Novel
Yee, Lisa  
*Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time*

After flunking 6th-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong struggles to pass his summer-school class. *Fiction*

Yousafzai, Malala  
*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. *Biography*
The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with their students—your children—to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills will serve students well throughout their school career and beyond. Our goal is to help all children make good selections and learn to judge the quality and intent of information in all formats.

Our libraries also provide online resources for students and families to use, accessible from any Internet connection. You can find them on http://www.shaker.org/library.aspx, or by going to your school building and clicking the library link there. Use the “Information/Databases” link to see the online materials we have for school and home use. You can get the access codes needed from your school library staff.

We encourage you to use the Shaker Heights Public Library to bring a multitude of good books and reading experiences to your children. They can suggest other great books for you to enjoy, as well as provide events like story hours and their summer reading program. Their kids’ page can be found at http://shakerlibrary.org/kids/.

Reading Links

Looking for more good reading? Here are some websites that will help.

New York Public Library’s Teen Links
A variety of booklists and resources are linked, along with their Facebook and Twitter feeds. http://www.nypl.org/help/getting-oriented/resources-teens

Reading Rants: Out of the Ordinary Teen Book Lists
Librarian Jennifer Hubert Swan offers a “thinking teen’s” set of book suggestions and organizes them by topic. http://www.readingrants.org/

For more information about the Shaker Heights Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-4181.