

These books are ones that our Middle School teachers will be reading:

**books that are in the SJNCS library

SJNCS summer library hours: MW 10:00AM - 12:00 PM, TuTh 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Maybe He Just Likes You by Barbara Dee

Seventh-grader Mila learns how to stand her ground and how to respect others—and herself when faced with uncomfortable situations caused by boys in her class. This book is best suited for middle school students.

The author reading a chapter of the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-xa4zSzO1c>

Audacity by Melanie Crowder

A novel in verse, this is inspired by the real-life story of a young woman who changed the world. Clara Lemlich emigrated from Russia to New York at the turn of the twentieth century and fought tenaciously for equal rights and better working conditions.

The author talking about the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJVfjQtbHso>

****The Day I was Erased by Lisa Thompson**

Maxwell always gets in trouble with his teachers and big sister, but he is a good friend to his rescued dog and elderly neighbor. One day, while looking through a mysterious cabinet of curiosities, Maxwell finds himself erased from his life: it's as if he's never been born. A story of family, friendship and finding your place in the world.

****Beauty by Robin McKinley**

In this much-loved retelling of Beauty and the Beast, Beauty is a courageous young woman who travels to the Beast's castle of her own free will. Her father is scared for her safety, but she asks, "Cannot a Beast be tamed?" If you like fairy tales, this book is for you!

The author talking about the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh1zfm05nmo>

****The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies**

Fourth-grader Evan Treski is good at talking with people, even grownups. His younger sister, Jessie, on the other hand, is math-smart, but not especially good with people. So when the siblings' lemonade stand war begins, there really is no telling who will win, or even if their fight

will ever end. This is a fresh, funny, emotionally charged story about how arguments can escalate beyond what anyone intends.

****Wish by Barbara O'Connor**

Charlie has always had the same wish, but when she has to move to North Carolina she finds that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all. A story about a girl, her dog, and the meaning of family.

Book trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZcc_g0ThUc

****A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins**

In this prequel to The Hunger Games series, a young President Snow is preparing to be the mentor for a young tribute. A story about survival, fate, and long-lasting consequences.

Book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A6LAeQy0eE>

The author reading a part from chapter three: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ua74tKP3MiY>

****The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**

Twin brothers Josh and Jordan are a team on and off the basketball court. Over the course of a season, however, their lives change. Told in verse, this is a Newbery Medal-winning story about brotherhood, music, and middle school.

The author talking about the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BONWz5Ao82E>

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin

As a young man, the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea was reckless in his hunger for power and knowledge. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

****The Black Cauldron by Lloyd Alexander**

Taran, the assistant pig-keeper, must go on a dangerous quest to destroy the Black Cauldron and bring an end to the evil reign of Arawn, the Lord of the Land of Death. This is a Newbery Medal-winning story of sacrifice and glory.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

An all-boys boarding school in New England is home to Gene and Phineas, two very different friends who must grow up quickly during World War II.

The Beast Player by Nahoko Uehashi

Elin's family has an important responsibility: caring for the fearsome water serpents that form the core of their kingdom's army. Elin soon discovers that she can communicate with both the terrifying water serpents and the majestic flying beasts that guard her queen. While her skill gives her great power, it also involves her in deadly plots that could cost her life. Can she save herself and prevent her beloved beasts from being used as tools of the terrible battles to come?

****The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin**

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game. A Newbery Medal-winner, this story is one of the most fun and intriguing mystery stories ever written; perfect for fans of Agatha Christie.

****Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers by Celia C. Pérez**

When three very different girls find a mysterious invitation to a lavish mansion, the promise of adventure and mischief is too intriguing to pass up. In their quest for justice, independence, and an unforgettable summer, the girls form their own troop and find something they didn't know they needed: sisterhood.

Fallout by Todd Strasser

In the summer of 1962, the possibility of nuclear war is all anyone talks about. But Scott's dad is the only one in the neighborhood who actually builds a bomb shelter. When the unthinkable happens, neighbors force their way into the shelter before Scott's dad can shut the door. With not enough room, not enough food, and not enough air, life inside the shelter is fraught. But even worse is the question of what will — and won't — remain when the door is opened again.

****The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo**

When a fortuneteller's tent appears in the city square, orphan Peter knows the questions that he needs to ask: Does his sister still live? And if so, how can he find her? The fortuneteller's mysterious answer (an elephant! An elephant will lead him there!) sets off a chain of events so remarkable, so impossible, that you will hardly dare to believe it's true.

****The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer**

Twins Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. In this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

These books are ones that our Elementary School teachers will be reading:

****Grandpa's Top Threes by Wendy Meddour**

Henry's Grandpa has been sad for a long time, so in order to connect with him he invents a new game. A story about love, resilience, and intergenerational relationships.

Read aloud by the author: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGmBinRuiCc>

****The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler**

When the school gets a new gym teacher, Mr. Green (whose nickname is Coach Kong), the students don't know what will be in store for them.

****We Are in a Book! and **Are You Ready to Play Outside? by Mo Willems**

Elephant and Piggie discover the magic of reading and a perfect sunny day.

****The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet by Eleanor Cameron**

Chuck and David are on the adventure of their lifetime as they travel to the alien planet Basidium in their homemade spaceship.

****Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl**

In this classic book, five lucky children get to tour Willy Wonka's magical chocolate factory.

****A Stone Sat Still by Brendan Wenzel**

A beautifully illustrated book about a stone who experiences the world from a different perspective.

****Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. When Mama gets sick, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

****The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock**

A young outcast simply named Boy is swept up into an action-packed and suspenseful quest across Europe to gather seven precious relics of Saint Peter.

****Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold and Perfectly Norman by Tom Percival**

The dream adventure of eight-year-old Cassie, who flies above her apartment-building rooftop, the 'tar beach' of the title, looking down on 1939 Harlem. Part autobiographical, part fictional, this allegorical tale sparkles with symbolic and historical references central to African-American culture.

Read aloud by the author: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9RKJleFdBU>

Norman is perfectly normal, until he grows a pair of wings! Norman loves his new wings, but he's worried about everyone will think. After all, they're definitely NOT normal. Can Norman find the courage to be himself?

****Gooney Bird Greene by Lois Lowry**

From the moment Gooney Bird Greene arrives at school, her fellow second-graders are intrigued by her unique sense of style and unusual lunches. So, when story time arrives, the choice is unanimous: they want to hear about Gooney Bird Greene. And that suits Gooney Bird, because, as it turns out, she has quite a few interesting and "absolutely true" stories to tell.

****The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood**

Little Mouse loves strawberries, but so does the bear...How will Little Mouse stop the bear from eating his freshly picked, red, ripe strawberry?

****The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein**

This classic book tells the story of a boy and the tree who loves him with great tenderness and acceptance.

****James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl**

After James's parents are tragically eaten by a rhinoceros, he goes to live with his two horrible aunts. Life there is no fun, until a peach at the top of their tree begins to grow, and before long it's as big as a house. Inside, James meets a bunch of oversized friends and the great adventure begins!

****Mouse Mess by Linnea Asplind Riley**

There's a mouse in the house, and when he wakes up, he's going to be very hungry for a snack.

****Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbit**

What if you could live forever? That is what young Winnie Foster must consider when she discovers a spring whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older.

****Here Lies the Librarian by Richard Peck**

Peewee idolizes Jake, a big brother whose dreams of auto mechanic glory are fueled by the hard road coming to link their Indiana town and futures with the twentieth century. And motoring down the road comes Irene Ridpath, a young librarian with plans to astonish them all and turn Peewee's life upside down. This is a story with quirky characters, classic cars, and hilarious comedy that is also unexpectedly moving.

****Llama Llama Misses Momma and Llama Llama Home with Momma by Anna Dewdney**

Llama Llama heads to preschool for the first time and has to stay home sick from school one day.

Scribble Stones by Diane Alber

A heartwarming story about a little stone who is able to spread kindness to the world.

****The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog! and **The Duckling Gets a Cookie! by Mo Willems**

When Pigeon finds a delicious hot dog, he can hardly wait to shove the entire thing in his beak. But . . . then a very sly and hungry duckling enters the scene and wants a bite. Who will be the more clever bird?

The Duckling asks for a cookie -- and gets one! Do you think the Pigeon is happy about that?