



Toms River Intermediate Schools
SUMMEREAD
For Students *ENTERING 6th* Grade



L = Lexile

GRL = Guided Reading Level

The One and Only Ivan *Katherine Applegate* 570L GRL: S-T **Realistic Fiction/Animals**

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide, The Seeing Stone, Lucinda's Secret, The Ironwood Tree, or The Wrath of Mulgareth *Holly Black and Toni DiTerlizzi*

570-690L GRL: T

Fantasy

The Grace children, Jared, Simon, and Mallory, have discovered a field guide to fairies and other magical creatures at their Aunt Lucinda's house. Suddenly, they find themselves the victims of mean tricks designed to get them to give up the book.

Doll Bones *Holly Black*

840L

GRL: Y

Adventure/Horror

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Cosmic *Frank Cottrell Boyce*

670L

GRL: S-T

Realistic Fiction

Twelve-year-old Liam Digby is very tall – so tall that he is often mistaken for an adult. He always considered this a problem, until he realizes that there are advantages, such as being mistaken for a teacher, or getting to take a Porsche out for a test drive. Liam, pretending to be a dad, and his friend Florida, posing as his daughter, win what they think is a vacation package. They soon find themselves stranded in space, with Liam as the only “adult” chaperone.

Al Capone Does My Shirts (or any book in the series) *Gennifer Cholden*

570-620L

GRL: S-T

Realistic Fiction

Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the Warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

Sports Classic (any book in the series) *Matt Christopher*

510-940L

GRL: R-X

Sports

Author Matt Christopher describes real life struggles in this action packed series filled with athletic adventure.

Extra Credit *Andrew Clements* 830L GRL: W **Realistic Fiction**

Abby will have to repeat sixth grade unless she meets some specific conditions, including taking on an extra-credit project to find a pen pal in a distant country. When Abby's first letter arrives at a small school in Afghanistan, the village elders agree that any letters going back to America must be written well and in English. And the only qualified student is a boy, Sadeed Bayat. As letters flow back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of central Asia, a small group of children begin to speak and listen to one another. And in just a few short weeks, they make important discoveries about their communities, about their world, and most of all, about themselves.

Hate That Cat *Sharon Creech* NPL GRL: S **Novel in Verse**

Jack is back. He's older now, but he still has poetry-loving Ms. Stretchberry as his teacher, and he still writes fantastic poetry as he learns. If you liked *Love That Dog*, you'll love *Hate That Cat*.

Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication

Ann Downer 1220L GRL: Y **Nonfiction**

Scientists have long been puzzled by elephant behavior, such as the way they suddenly regroup at the end of each day. Biologists have determined that elephants have a fascinating social system and a complex means of communication. This non-fiction book, with plenty of photos, is for those who enjoy science and love animals.

Jacob's Rescue: a Holocaust Story *Malka Drucker and Michael Halperin*

680L GRL: Y **Holocaust/Historical Fiction**

Once Jacob Gutgeld lived with his family in a beautiful house in Warsaw, Poland. He went to school and played hide-and-seek in the woods with his friends. But everything changed the day the Nazi soldiers invaded in 1939. Suddenly it wasn't safe to be Jewish anymore.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

Candace Fleming 930L GRL: Y **Biography**

In alternating chapters, readers move back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself, this unique nonfiction title is tailor-made for middle graders.

Magnificent 12 (any book in the series) *Michael Grant*

710-730L GRL: S-T **Fantasy/Adventure**

Mack MacAvoy suffers from a serious case of being average—average looks, average grades, average parents who barely notice him. And then, one day, something strange happens to Mack. A three thousand-year-old man named Grimluk appears in the boys' bathroom to deliver some startling news. Mack discovers he is one of the Magnificent 12. An evil force is on its way; Mack must track down eleven other twelve-year-olds in order to stop it. The books, so far, are *The Call*, *The Trap*, and *The Key*.

The Brooklyn Nine *Alan Gratz* 840L GRL: W **Historical Fiction/Sports**

Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Over the years this family has dodged bullets on the battlefield, pitched perfect games, and coped with the horrible loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. In nine innings, this novel tells the stories of nine successive Schneider kids and their connection to Brooklyn and baseball.

Babe and Me: Baseball Card Adventure (or any book in the series)

Dan Gutman

590-680L

GRL: R-V

Historical Fiction/Sports

With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

The Fourteenth Goldfish *Jennifer L. Holm* 550L

GRL: Z

Science Fiction/Humor

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

The Abduction (any book in the *Kidnapped* series)

Gordon Korman

730-760L

GRL: W Y

Realistic Fiction/Adventure

Aiden teams up with the FBI to track down his sister Meg, who was kidnapped while they were walking home from school.

Gossamer *Lois Lowry*

660L

GRL: X

Fantasy

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteads.

Middle School (any book in the series)

James Patterson

600-750L

GRL: V

Realistic Fiction/Humor

Each book in this series humorously deals with the anxiety, frustration, adjustment, and just plain "fitting in" in middle school. Author James Patterson portrays his main characters in a very funny manner, with witty dialogue describing how they navigate through middle school from their own personal perspective. Silly illustrations and jokes are peppered throughout each story and the books do not have to be read in any order.

Dead City Series (Dead City, Blue Moon and Dark Days)

James Ponti

720-800L

GRL: W

Fantasy/Supernatural

Seventh-grader Molly has always been an outsider, even at New York City's elite Metropolitan Institute of Science and Technology, but all that changes when she is recruited to join the Omegas, a secret group that polices and protects zombies.

Ninth Ward *Jewel Parker Rhodes*

HL470L

GRL: Q

Historical Fiction/Adventure

Twelve-year-old Laneshia lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. She doesn't have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane--Katrina--fast approaching, it's up to Laneshia to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.

The Kane Chronicles (any book in the series)

Rick Riordan

650-710L

GRL: Y

Fantasy

Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion. The doctor's children, Carter and Sadie, must embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs. The books in this series are *The Red Pyramid*, *The Throne of Fire* and *The Serpent's Shadow*.

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Change America

Sharon Robinson

1030L

GRL: Z

Nonfiction

This is a warm, intimate portrait of Jackie Robinson, America's sports icon, told from the unique perspective of a close family member, his only daughter. Sharon Robinson shares memories of her famous father in this loving biography of the man who broke the color barrier in baseball. Jackie Robinson was an outstanding athlete, a devoted family man, and a dedicated Civil Rights activist. The author explores the fascinating circumstances surrounding Jackie Robinson's breakthrough. She also tells the off-the-field story of Robinson's hard-won victories and the inspiring effect he had on his family, his community, and his country. This book includes never-before-published letters by Jackie Robinson, as well as photos from the Robinson family archives.

Plant Hunters

Anita Silvey

1170L

GRL: R

Nonfiction

Who knew that botany could be so exciting? These explorers traveled around the world, facing challenges at every turn: tropical illnesses, extreme terrain, and dangerous animals. They battled piranhas, tigers, and vampire bats. Then they tried to transport the plants—and themselves—home alive.

Liar & Spy

Rebecca Stead

670L

GRL: U

Realistic Fiction

Seventh-grader Georges (the "s" is silent) moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old, self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs, but as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder if things are going too far.

I Survived (any book in the series)

Lauren Tarshis

590-740L

GRL: R-V

Historical Fiction/Adventure

Each book takes the reader into the heart of history's most thrilling and terrifying events, including the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, the San Francisco Earthquake in 1906, the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the Shark Attacks of 1916, the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the attacks on September 11, 2001. Each book is fast-paced and tells a story of triumph over disaster.