



Toms River Intermediate Schools  
**SUMMEREAD**  
For Students *ENTERING 7th Grade*



L = Lexile

**Anything But Typical** *Nora Raleigh Baskin* 640L

**Realistic Fiction**

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

**The Raft** *S.A. Bodeen* 680L

**Realistic Fiction/ Adventure**

Experienced traveler Robie, having decided to take a cargo plane from Honolulu to Midway Atoll after a visit with her aunt, struggles to survive with the co-pilot, Max, after the plane crashes in the Pacific Ocean and they are left on a raft in shark-infested waters with only one bag of Skittles.

**How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous or How They Choked: Failures, Flops and Flaws of the Awfully Famous** *Georgia Bragg* 950L

**Nonfiction**

This fascinating collection of remarkable deaths relays all the gory details of how 19 world figures gave up the ghost, including King Tut, Julius Caesar, George Washington, Edgar Allan Poe, and Henry VIII. The sequel knocks 14 famous achievers, including Thomas Edison and Amelia Earhart, off their pedestals to reveal the human side of history.

**The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party** *Marian Calabro* 1020L

**Historical Fiction / Adventure**

The author uses material from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

**The London Eye Mystery** *Siobhan Dowd* 640L

**Mystery**

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappear from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together—Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat—to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

**The Graveyard Book** *Neil Gaiman* 820L

**Horror & Ghost Stories**

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

**My Life in Pink and Green** *Lisa Greenwald* 680L

**Realistic Fiction**

When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem-solving talents to come up with a solution that might resuscitate the business and help the environment.

**Deep and Dark and Dangerous (or any mystery by this author)**

*Mary Downing Hahn*

650L

**Horror & Ghost Stories**

Thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home. While there, she stumbles upon a secret her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

**Chomp (also, Hoot, Scat or Skink)** *Carl Hiaassen* 800L

**Realistic Fiction**

The difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father. *(The other titles also have the same environmental theme.)*

**Soldier Boys** *Dean Hughes*

790L

**Historical Fiction/War**

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II. Their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

**The Girls** *Amy Goldman Koss*

710L

**Realistic Fiction**

Each of the girls in a middle-school clique reveals the strong, manipulative hold one of the group exerts on the others, causing hurt and self-doubt among the girls.

**Game Changers** *Mike Lupica*

870L

**Sports**

Ben McBain is every football team's dream player. When the game is on the line, Ben's number is the one being called for the final play. However, Ben wants to be the starting quarterback and the one thing standing in his way is the coach's son.

**Every Soul a Star** *Wendy Mass*

740L

**Realistic Fiction**

At Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun. It's also where three lives are about to be changed forever. Wendy Mass weaves an intricate and compelling story about strangers coming together, unlikely friendships, and finding one's place in the universe.

**Ghetto Cowboy** *Greg Neri*

660L

**Realistic Fiction**

Twelve-year-old Cole's behavior causes his mother to drive him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with a father he has never known. To Cole's astonishment, his father, Harper, turns out to be a kind of urban cowboy, living in the ghetto, where he and a group of friends keep and care for old racehorses they've saved from the slaughterhouse. Soon Cole is involved with a group of African-American "cowboys" who rescue horses and use them to steer youths away from drugs and gangs.

**False Prince** *Jennifer A. Nielsen*

710L

**Fantasy/Adventure**

In a discontented kingdom, civil war is brewing. Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. As Sage moves from a rundown orphanage to Conner's sumptuous palace, layer upon layer of treachery and deceit unfold, until finally, a truth is revealed that, in the end, may very well prove more dangerous than all of the lies taken together.

**Yellow Star** *Jennifer Roy*

710L

**Historical Fiction / Holocaust**

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945, when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

**Hope Solo: My Story** *Hope Solo* 810L **Autobiography**

In this young readers' edition of Hope Solo's exciting life story, the Olympic gold medalist and starting goalkeeper for the U.S. women's national soccer team gives readers behind-the-scenes details of her life on and off the field. Solo offers a fearless female role model for the next generation, driven to succeed on her own terms. Young fans will truly be inspired by Hope's repeated triumphs over adversity. Her relentless spirit has molded her into the person she is today—one of the most charismatic athletes in America.

**Milkweed** *Jerry Spinelli* 510L **Historical Fiction / Holocaust**

A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in Warsaw ghetto. With their support, he weathers the horrors of the Nazi regime.

**Storm Runners** *Roland Smith* 700L **Realistic Fiction / Adventure**

Chase Masters and his father are "storm runners," racing across the country in pursuit of hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Anywhere bad weather strikes, they are not far behind. Chase is learning more on the road than he ever would just sitting in a classroom. But when the hurricane of the century hits, he will be tested in ways he never could have imagined.

**I So Don't Do Mysteries or I So Don't Do Spooky** *Barrie Summy* 600L **Mystery / Fantasy**

Thirteen-year-old Sherry is visited by the ghost of her mother, who asks Sherry to help solve a case that involves rhinoceros poaching at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Sherry's involvement not only helps save the rhinos, but it also brings mother and daughter closer together than ever before. In the next book, Sherry helps her ghost mother investigate who is stalking Sherry's stepmother, but Sherry is also very busy with school and friends, while her mother is also striving for a gold medal in the Ghostlympics.

**Deadly Pink** *Vivian Vande Velde* 850L **Fantasy**

Grace Pizzelli is the average one, nothing like her brilliant older sister, Emily, who works for Rasmussem, creators of the world's best virtual reality games. Now Emily has hidden herself inside a pink and sparkly game meant for little girls. No one knows why—or how to persuade her to come back out. Grace may consider herself average, but she's the only one who can save Emily. So Grace enters the game, hoping to talk her sister out of virtual suicide before time runs out. Otherwise Emily will die—for real.

**Winning Season (any book in the series)** *Rich Wallace* 700L **Sports**

A series of sports-themed novels packed with plenty of action that will engage young sports fans.

**Scientists in the Field (any book in the series)** *Various Authors* 1040L **Nonfiction**

Far from the research laboratory, these books show firsthand adventures in the great outdoors—adventures with a purpose. From climbing into a snake den with thousands of slithering snakes to tracking wolves, swimming with hammerhead sharks, and collecting bugs, readers experience the thrill of discovering the unknown. Filled with beautiful photos, these books will excite those students already in love with science and inspire those who have not yet been bitten by the science bug.

**Summer's Bloodiest Days** *Jennifer L. Weber* 1170L **Nonfiction**

A brief, illustrated history of the Battle of Gettysburg in early July 1863, describing the events of the three days of fighting and the aftermath of the battle. Switching between the Northern and Southern perspectives, the author packs a lot of information into this slim volume. Paintings, maps, a timeline, and even a list of recommended web sites are all included.

**I Am Malala** - *Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick* 830L

**Biography / Memoir**

"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday."  
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.