



Toms River Intermediate Schools

SUMMEREAD

For Students *ENTERING 8th Grade*

L = Lexile



Backwater *Joan Bauer*

810L

Realistic Fiction

While compiling a genealogy of her family of successful attorneys, sixteen-year-old history buff Ivy Breedlove treks into the mountain wilderness to interview a reclusive aunt with whom she identifies and who, in turn, helps her to truly know herself and her family.

Liberty or Death: The Surprising Story of Runaway Slaves Who Sided with the British During the American Revolution *Margaret Whitman Blair* 1160L

Nonfiction

In 1775, Virginia's Royal Governor proclaimed that any slaves who took up arms on England's behalf would be granted their freedom. Many of the volunteers succumbed to battle wounds or smallpox, which ran rampant on the British ships on which they were quartered. After the successful Revolution, they emigrated to Canada and, ultimately, to West Africa.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different *Karen Blumenthal* 1110L

Biography

Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and, at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched.

Gallagher Girls (any in series) *Ally Carter* 630-1000L

Mystery/Adventure

Cammie "The Chameleon" Morgan and her friends Bex, Liz, and Macey are students at Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women. They are training to join the ranks of the famous "Gallagher Girls," women who comprise some of the cleverest spies ever. Along with studying covert operations and code-breaking, the girls also deal with the usual hazards of teenage life.

Dark Secrets novels *Elizabeth Chandler* 670-700L

Horror/Suspense

Dark Secrets 1 contains *Legacy of Lies*, in which Megan's visit with her grandmother puts her in the middle of a twisted love triangle, and *Don't Tell*, in which Lauren returns to the town where her mother died years earlier hoping to unlock the secrets of her past. *Dark Secrets 2* has Jenny being stalked by the same serial killer who murdered her sister in *No Time to Die*, and Kate tutoring a boy living in the estate she used to call home in *The Deep End of Fear*. Students must read only one of the four novels.

Somebody on This Bus Is Going to Be Famous *J. B. Cheaney*

840L

Realistic Fiction/Mystery

Spencer's the smart kid. Shelly's the diva. Miranda's the scaredy-cat. Matthew's just average (so far). In fact, there's nothing about any of the nine middle-schoolers on Mrs. B's bus route that screams "fame." But before the end of the year, somebody on this bus is going to be famous. Every morning, their school bus waits at an empty bus stop. Nobody ever gets on. Nobody ever gets off. And Mrs. B refuses to answer questions about it. Strangest of all, it's Bender the bully who decides to investigate the mystery. But it will take all nine students to find out the truth, for each of them has a clue to the mystery that will change their lives forever.

Sports Mysteries (any in series) *John Feinstein* 760-820L

Mystery/Sports

In *Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*, Steven Thomas is one of two lucky winners of the U.S. Basketball Writer's Association's contest for aspiring journalists. He and his friend Susan Carol Anderson are nosing around the Superdome and overhear what sounds like a threat to throw the championship game. Now they have just 48 hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of MSU's star players. If basketball is not your game, try one of the other mysteries. *Vanishing Act* is set at the U.S. Tennis Open, *Cover Up* is a Super Bowl mystery, *Change-Up* takes place at the World Series, *The Rivalry* describes a mystery at the Army-Navy football game, and *Rush for Gold* has Susan competing as a swimmer in the Olympics.

Dead Girls Don't Write Letters *Gail Giles* 550L

Mystery

Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier.

Football Genius (any in series) *Tim Green* 720-880L

Sports

Twelve-year-old Troy's uncanny gift for predicting football plays proves a powerful secret weapon for the Atlanta Falcons. His story is told in a series of novels that include *Football Genius*, *Football Hero*, *Football Champ*, *Deep Zone*, *The Big Time*, and *Perfect Season*.

Missing (any in series) *Margaret Peterson Haddix* 720-800L

Science Fiction

In the first book, *Found*, thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board. Then, in *Sent*, the teens find themselves in 1483 at the Tower of London, imprisoned by Richard III. In *Sabotaged*, Jonah teams up with his sister Katherine to help Virginia Dare, the first child born in America to English parents. The series continues in *Torn*, *Caught*, *Risked*, *Revealed*, and *Redeemed*.

Alex Rider series (any book except *Stormbreaker*) *Anthony Horowitz*

610-780L

Action/Adventure

Did you love *Stormbreaker* when you read it in class? In the second book, *Point Blank*, an investigation into a series of mysterious deaths leads agents to an elite prep school for rebellious kids. MI6 assigns the teen-aged Alex Rider to the case. The remaining books in the series are *Skeleton Key*, *Eagle Strike*, *Scorpia*, *Ark Angel*, *Snakehead*, *Crocodile Tears*, and *Scorpia Rising*.

Fish in a Tree *Lynda Mullay Hunt*

550L

Realistic Fiction

"Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid." Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. However, her newest teacher sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

See You At Harry's *Jo Knowles* HL600L **Realistic Fiction**
Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible in her family. Grumpy, eighteen-year-old Sarah is working at the family restaurant, fourteen-year-old Holden is struggling with school bullies and his emerging homosexuality, and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention. When tragedy strikes, the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point.

The Cheat *Amy Goldman Koss* 620L **Realistic Fiction**
When Sara gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging.

Hero *Mike Lupica* 730L **Fantasy/Adventure**
Billy Harriman's dad had been a hero, a savior to America, and a confidante of the President. What Billy never knew was that his father was no ordinary man—he was a superhero, battling the world's evil. Then he died, and changes began in Billy: a sharpening of his senses, incredible strength and speed, and the strange need to patrol Central Park at night. It's Billy's turn to become a hero and take on his father's fight.

Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy *Albert Marrin* 1000L **Nonfiction**
On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City burst into flames. The factory was crowded. The doors were locked. One hundred forty-six people—mostly women—died. But the story of the fire is not the story of one accidental moment in time. It is the story of poor working conditions and greedy bosses. It is the story of unimaginable, but avoidable, disaster. And it is the story of fearless immigrants and women who stood up to business and changed working conditions for our entire nation.

Shadow *Michael Morpurgo* 780L **Realistic Fiction/War**
With the horrors of war bearing down on them, Aman and his mother are barely surviving in an Afghan cave and staying there any longer will end horribly. The only comfort Aman has is Shadow, the loyal spaniel that shows up from places unknown just when Aman seems to need him most.

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel *Megan Morrison* 680L **Fantasy/Adventure**
Rapunzel believes she is the luckiest person in Tyme, because Witch tells her so. When Jack climbs into her tower to steal an enchanted rose, he hints that Witch is not telling the whole truth. Spurred on by anger and curiosity, Rapunzel descends from her tower for the first time. Well-drawn characters and an inventive, magical realm make this a great choice for Harry Potter fans.

Lost in the Pacific, 1942 *Tod Olson* 880L **Nonfiction**
World War II, October 21, 1942. A B-17 bomber drones high over the Pacific Ocean, sending a desperate SOS into the air. The crew is carrying America's greatest living war hero on a secret mission deep into the battle zone. But the plane is lost, burning through its final gallons of fuel. At 1:30 P.M., there is only one choice left: an emergency landing at sea. If the crew survives the impact they will be left stranded without food or water hundreds of miles from civilization. Eight men. Three inflatable rafts. Sixty-eight million square miles of ocean. What will it take to make it back alive?

Slob *Ellen Porter*

740L

Realistic Fiction/Bullying

Overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

Hidden Like Anne Frank: 14 Stories of True Survival *Marcel Prins*

790L

Nonfiction

Fourteen unforgettable true stories of children hidden away during World War II

Some were only three years old when they were hidden, some were teenagers, some hid with neighbors or family, some with complete strangers. But all know the pain of losing their homes, their families, even their own names. They describe the secret network of brave people who kept them safe. And they share the coincidences and close escapes that made all the difference.

Orca Sports Books (any title) *Various Authors* HL520–HL730L

Sports

Exciting sports action for boys and girls! Contemporary, fast-moving adventures, with so many titles that there's something for everyone. Some of the many titles are *Sidetracked* (Track), *Boarder Patrol* (Snowboarding), *Squeeze* (Caving), and *Underhand* (Lacrosse).

I Am SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an American Soldier *Howard Wasdin*

930L

Nonfiction/Memoir

When the Navy sends their elite, they send the SEALs. When the SEALs send their elite, they send SEAL Team Six—a secret unit made up of the finest soldiers in the world. This special edition of the best seller for young readers is the dramatic tale of how Howard Wasdin overcame a tough childhood to live his dream and enter the exciting and dangerous world of Special Forces snipers.

The Survivors *Will Weaver*

HL650L

Action/Adventure

Two years ago, the volcanoes erupted and the ash started falling like gray snow. For Miles and his sister, Sarah, the real disaster started in the violent aftermath—when they were forced to leave their cushy suburban home and flee to the north woods for safety. Miles got them to a cabin, but now winter is setting in. All they have to get them through is the milk from Sarah's prized possession—her goat—and Miles's memory of wilderness survival skills.