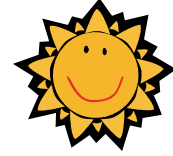




Summer Reading Recommendations From the LRC 2010



The list of outstanding young adult literature for the year is a very lengthy list, so we've highlighted only some of the gems from the year and included a few of our very favorite classics in this year's summer reading recommendations. We don't think you'll be disappointed.

Alcott, Louisa May / *Little Women*

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in mid-nineteenth-century New England.

Includes review questions.

Beil, Michael D. / *The Red Blazer Girls: The Ring of Rocamadour*

Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years ago.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell / *Cosmic*

Twelve-year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space, but when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.

Brittney, L. / *Nathan Fox: Dangerous Times*

After Nathan Fox--an actor in the same company as Shakespeare--is hired by England's spymaster general, he is trained and sent on a mission to Venice to forge an alliance against the King of Spain, eventually crossing paths with General Othello and becoming involved with Desdemona, a young noblewoman.

Byrd, Tim / *Doc Wilde and the Frogs of Doom*

Twelve-year-old Brian, ten-year-old Wren, and their father, Doc Wilde, risk their lives in a South American rain forest as they seek the eldest member of their famous family of adventurers, Grandpa, amidst a throng of alien frogs.

Carman, Patrick / *Ghost in the Machine*

Ryan, who records all of his findings in his journal, and Sarah, who uses her video camera to document everything, continue to search for answers surrounding the strange occurrences in their hometown of Skeleton Creek.

Carter, Ally / *Don't Judge a Girl by her Cover*

Cammie Morgan visits her roommate Macey in Boston and the two escape a kidnappers' plot using their espionage skills, and when Macey goes on the campaign trail with her father, the vice-presidential nominee, Cammie and other friends use their spy training as part of the security team.

Clayton, Emma / *The Roar*

In an overpopulated world where all signs of nature have been obliterated and a wall has been erected to keep out plague-ridden animals, twelve-year-old Mika refuses to believe that his twin sister was killed after being abducted, and continues to search for her in spite of the dangers he faces in doing so.

Cole, Steve / *Z. Rex*

From Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Edinburgh, Scotland, thirteen-year-old Adam Adlar must elude police while being hunted by a dinosaur come-to-life from a virtual reality game invented by his father, who has gone missing.

Dashner , James / *The Maze Runner*

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Defoe, Daniel / *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*

An adaptation of "The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," the story of an Englishman who is shipwrecked on a deserted island in the 1600s where he lives for over twenty-eight years.

Draper, Sharon M. / *Out of My Mind*

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Ferraro, Tina / *The ABC's of Kissing Boys*

When sixteen-year-old Parker Stanhope takes kissing lessons from the freshman

across the street as part of her plan to get on the varsity soccer team, a relationship blossoms that threatens her popularity at school and must be kept secret from their feuding fathers.

Fitzhugh, Louise / *Harriet the Spy*

Harriet's habit of keeping a journal of what she sees and hears gets her in trouble with her friends.

Flanagan, John / *Ranger's Apprentice: The Battle for Skandia*

After escaping slavery, Evanlyn is taken captive by a Temujai warrior, leaving Will to use his Ranger training to find her, despite being outnumbered by an enemy scouting party and the entire Temujai army.

Flanagan, John / *Ranger's Apprentice: The Burning Bridge*

Will is forced to overcome his fear of Wargals, the foot soldiers of rebel warlord Morgarath, as Araluen's army prepares to battle Morgarath's forces.

Flanagan, John / *Ranger's Apprentice: The Icebound Land*

Chasing the Skandian slave-traders who kidnapped Will and Evanlyn, Ranger Halt and warrior student Horace find themselves in the frozen northern islands, where they battle a ruthless black-clad knight as they attempt to rescue their friends.

Flanagan, John / *Ranger's Apprentice: The Sorcerer of the North*

Now a full-fledged Ranger responsible for a sleepy fief, Will finds a new adventure seeking the traitors who poisoned the king, investigating rumors of sorcery, and trying to rescue his friend Alyss, who is taken hostage.

Fleischman, Paul / *The Dunderheads*

When Miss Breakbone confiscates Junkyard's crucial find, Wheels, Pencil, Spider, and the rest of the Dunderheads plot to teach her a lesson.

Flinn, Alex / *A Kiss in Time*

Sixteen-year-old Princess Talia persuades Jack, the modern-day American who kissed her awake after a three-hundred-year sleep, to take her to his Miami home, where she hopes to win his love before the witch who cursed her can spirit her away.

Gilbreth, Frank B. / *Cheaper by the Dozen*

Presents a memoir by two siblings from the Gilbreth clan in which they look at the lives of their parents, Frank Bunker Gilbreth and Lillian Moller Gilbreth,

discuss Frank and Lillian's careers as industrial engineers and work with scientific management, and share the adventures the couple encountered raising a family of twelve children.

Hepler, Heather / *The Cupcake Queen*

While longing to return to life in New York City, thirteen-year-old Penny helps her mother and grandmother run a cupcake bakery in Hog's Hollow, tries to avoid the beastly popular girls, to be a good friend to quirky Tally, and to catch the eye of enigmatic Marcus.

Horowitz, Anthony / *Crocodile Tears*

Alex Rider's desire to return to life as a normal high school student must be put aside when he is asked to face his greatest adversary yet, a con man who plans to use genetically modified wheat to release a deadly virus that will kill millions of innocent people.

Hugo, Victor / *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*

In medieval Paris, the hunchbacked bellringer of Notre Dame Cathedral, Quasimodo, struggles to save the beautiful gypsy dancer Esmeralda from being unjustly executed.

Jinks, Catherine / *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*

Fifteen-year-old vampire Nina has been stuck for fifty-one years in a boring support group for vampires, and nothing exciting has ever happened to them--until one of them is murdered and the others must try to solve the crime.

Kadohata, Cynthia / *A Million Shades of Gray*

A boy takes refuge in the jungle with his elephant when the Viet Cong launch an attack on his village in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

Levine, Kristin / *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*

Harry "Dit" Sims and his newest friend Emma Walker work together to come up with a plan that could save the town barber, an African-American, who is on put on trial and faces a horrible end.

Lockhart, E. / *The Treasure Map of Boys*

A Seattle sixteen-year-old juggles therapy, running a school bake sale, coping with her performance artist mother, growing distant from an old friend, and conflicting feelings about her ex-boyfriend and potential new boyfriends.

Mass, Wendy / *11 Birthdays*

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

McCormick, Patricia / *Purple Heart*

While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

Millard, Glenda / *A Small Free Kiss in the Dark*

Skip, an eleven-year-old runaway, becomes friends with Billy, a homeless man, and together they flee a war-torn Australian city with six-year-old Max and camp out at a seaside amusement park, where they are joined by Tia, a fifteen-year-old ballerina, and her baby.

Myers, Walter Dean / *Amiri and Odette: A Dance for Two*

Presents a modern, urban retelling in verse of the ballet in which brave Amiri falls in love with beautiful Odette and fights evil Big Red for her on the streets of the Swan Lake Projects.

Montgomery, L.M. / *Anne of Green Gables*

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Paterson, Katherine / *Bridge to Terabithia*

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Patterson, James / *The Dangerous Days of Daniel X*

Fifteen-year-old Daniel has followed in his parents' footsteps as the Alien Hunter, exterminating beings on The List of Alien Outlaws on Terra Firma, but when he faces his first of the top ten outlaws, the very existence of Earth and another planet are at stake.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth / *The Dead and the Gone*

After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City.

Rollins, James / *Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow*

Jack Ransom and his sister, Kady, are sent on a wild hunt for answers when a mysterious letter arrives on the doorstep and leads them to a strange world inhabited by a mix of long-lost civilizations, where they hope to learn the truth about their parents' disappearance.

Salisbury, Graham / *Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet*

Nine-year-old Calvin catches the attention of the school bully on the day before he starts fourth grade, while at home, the unfriendly, fifteen-year-old daughter of his mother's best friend has taken over his room.

Schmidt, Gary D. / *Trouble*

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

Sinclair, Upton / *The Jungle*

Describes the conditions of the Chicago stockyards through the eyes of a young immigrant struggling in America.

Stone, Jeff / *Dragon*

Thirteen-year-old Long, a dragon-style kung fu master and the oldest of the five survivors of the destroyed Cangzhen, must get to the Forbidden City before Tonglong declares himself emperor.

Stratton, Allan / *Borderline*

Despite the strained relationship between them, teenaged Sami Sabiri risks his life to uncover the truth when his father is implicated in a terrorist plot.

Thor, Annika / *A Faraway Island*

In 1939 Sweden, two Jewish sisters wait for their parents to flee the Nazis in

Austria, but while eight-year-old Nellie settles in quickly, twelve-year-old Stephie feels stranded at the end of the world, with a foster mother who is as cold and unforgiving as the island on which they live.

[Tolkien, J.R.R.](#) / *The Hobbit*

The adventure of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, in a land inhabited by dwarfs, elves, goblins, dragons, and humans. He sets off to recover a stolen treasure from a dragon hidden in the Lonely Mountain.

[Webster, Jean](#) / *Daddy-Long-Legs*

A seventeen-year-old orphan is sent to a posh northeastern college for women by an anonymous benefactor. All she must do is write to the man she nicknames Daddy-Long-Legs and tell him of her progress.

[Williams, Suzanne Morgan](#) / *Bull Rider*

When his older brother, a bull-riding champion, returns from the Iraq War partially paralyzed, fourteen-year-old Cam takes a break from skateboarding to enter a bull-riding contest, in hopes of winning the \$15,000 prize and motivating his depressed brother to continue with his rehabilitation.

[Willis, Cynthia Chapman](#) / *Buck Fever*

Twelve-year-old Joey and his fifteen-year-old sister Philly relate their experiences trying to cope in a family already strained by the mother's extended travel, and pushed further apart by the father's disappointment that Joey is more interested in drawing deer than hunting them.

[Wilson, N.D.](#) / *The Chestnut King*

Twelve-year-old Henry York, finally reunited with his family, works with them and the Chestnut King, the long-deposed and mythic leader of the faeren people, to destroy Nimiane and her forces of evil.

[Wooding, Chris](#) / *Malice*

Presents a middle-school thriller about three boys who become trapped in the deadly world of a comic book.

[Young, E.L.](#) / *Storm: The Black Sphere*

The teenaged geniuses of STORM, a secret organization dedicated to eliminating the world's misery through science and technology, head to the Swiss Alps seeking the last of six scientists whose Project FIREball is of interest to MI6, the CIA, and an unknown assassin.

