



## Suggested List of Recently Published Summer Reads



For R.J. Grey Junior High Students 2009  
Compiled by Mrs. Egnatz, Library Media Specialist

### *Fiction*

#### **Chandra's Wars** by Allan Stratton (HarperCollins, 2008)

Chandra Kabelo, a teenage African girl, must save her younger siblings after they are kidnapped and forced to serve as child soldiers in General Mandiki's rebel army. *Chanda's Wars* is the unforgettable story of a young woman who risks everything to save her brother and sister. Epic in its sweep, intimate in its humanity, here is a gripping tale of family intrigue, love and courage, forgiveness and hope. Stratton is also the author of the internationally acclaimed Michael L. Printz Honor Book *Chanda's Secrets* (Annick Press, 2004)

#### **Emperors of the Ice: a True Story of Disaster and Survival in the Antarctic, 1910 – 1913** by Richard Farr (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008)

Apsley Cherry-Garrard shares his adventures as the youngest member of Robert Scott's expedition to Antarctica in the 1910s, during which he and Edward Wilson try to learn the evolutionary history of emperor penguins. Consider pairing this historical fiction with another Antarctic adventure by Victoria McKernan, *Shackleton's Stowaway*, 2005. If you would prefer a non-fiction account, try *Trial by Ice: a Photobiography of Sir Ernest Shackleton* by K.M.Kostyal, 1999 or *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing, 1999.

#### **The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins, 2008)

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. "Bod's" earthly family is murdered by "a man named Jack". Bod is only 18 month's old as he climbs out of his crib and toddles out the front door to the graveyard next door. The story follows Bod's progress as he grows from baby to teen, learning life's lessons amid the long-dead, ghouls, witches and a nocturnal guardian named Silas who ensures that Bod receives food, books, and anything else he might need from the human world. By juxtaposing the world of the dead with the world of the living, Gaiman creates a fantastical world where the thoughtful protagonist comes to understand the power of family as he experiences the fear, pains, confusions, and joys of growing up. This thought provoking and entertaining book won the 2009 Newbery Award.

#### **Nation** by Terry Pratchett (Harper Collins, 2008)

After a tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and the things that matter to them. As the characters grapple with questions of leadership, humanity, and survival, Pratchett explores fundamental ideas about religion and culture. Quirky wit and broad vision make this a fascinating survival story on many levels. Other recommended books by Pratchett include *The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents*, 2001, *The Wee Free Men* and *A Hat Full of Sky*, 2004.

#### **The Unnameables** by Ellen Booraem (Harcourt, 2008)

On an island where only useful objects are named and the unnamed (like art and poetry) are ignored or forbidden, thirteen-year-old Medford encounters an unusual and powerful creature, half-man, half-goat and totally out of control. Together they attempt to bring some changes to the community. One of the funniest stories of friendship you will ever read, with a cast of unforgettable characters.

**The Underneath** by Kathi Appelt (Atheneum, 2008)

There is nothing lonelier than a cat that has been loved, at least for a while, and is then abandoned on the side of the road. The pregnant calico hears another lonely creature howling in the dense forest of the bayou, the hound dog, Ranger... chained, starved and abused by his master, Garface. The cat has 2 kittens, and with the dog rears them in the safety of the "underneath". But one kitten's curiosity unleashes a series of events that brings together shapeshifters, ancient magic and the power of love leading to a heart pounding ending. This book is for lovers of hauntingly beautiful prose who enjoyed *Shiloh*, *Old Yeller* and the *Yearling*.

**Santa Clause in Baghdad: And Other Stories about Teens in the Arab World** by Elsa Marston (Indiana University Press, 2008)

A collection of eight stories about what it is like to grow up in the Middle East today. Marston says, "As a New England Yankee who resides in Indiana, with many sojourns in the Middle East, I know that American young people need fair, accurate and engaging literature about the Arab world ... rather than the stuff of headlines, my book offers glimpses of 'real life'—challenges that teenagers face everywhere—against the background of Middle Eastern societies".

*Non-Fiction*

**Generation Green: The Ultimate Teen Guide to Living an Eco-Friendly Life** by Linda and Tosh Sivertsen, (Simon Pulse, 2008)

This book provides information on issues such as global warming and overflowing landfills; offers tips on how to shop, dress, eat, and travel the green way; and shows that being environmentally conscious can be a natural part of life. This is a fun and smart read filled with great tips, facts, stories, and interviews.

**The Boys of Winter: The Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team** by Wayne Coffey (Crown, 2005)

This book looks back at one of the greatest moments of twentieth-century sports history, the victory of the U.S. hockey team over the Soviet Union in the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic Games. It assesses the meaning of the triumph and the paths of the players and coaches on both sides since 1980.

**On Writing: a Memoir of the Craft** by Stephen King (Scribner, 2000)

Stephen King is one of the most popular and prolific writers of horror and mystery of our time. In this memoir, the author shares his insights into the craft of writing, offers a humorous perspective on his own experience as a writer and recounts some wonderfully personal anecdotes from his childhood.

**Side by Side: New Poems Inspired by Art From Around the World** by Jan Greenberg (Abrams, 2008)

This collection examines the connections between an artist's work and a poet's response, placing both poem and picture on the same page. An English translation accompanies each poem in its original language. This international collection of art and the written word inspires original thinking and deep reflection.

**Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ...One School at a Time** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (Penguin, 2006)

Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children. "Here we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family, and for our family we are prepared to do anything – even die."