

# Books for those New to Middle School

*Always pair a fiction book with a non-fiction book!*

## **FICTION**

***Agnes Parker-- Keeping Cool in Middle School* by Kathleen O'Dell:** Agnes Parker tries to maintain her old persona and keep a low profile in middle school, but her best friend Prejean's problems, persistent harassment from the eighth-grade boys, and a friendship with an interesting boy in her art class make it difficult. Call Number: FIC ODE.

***After Ever After* by Jordan Sonnenblick:** Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa. Call Number: FIC SON.

***Amelia's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Notebook* by Marissa Moss:** 12-year-old Amelia uses her diary to record the great events in her life during the year which she spent in the seventh grade, from being free from her sister who's moved on to a different school, to hanging with her Mom, to figuring out her adolescent identity! Call Number: FIC MOS.

***Brand New Emily* by Ginger Rue:** Tired of being picked on by a trio of popular girls, fourteen-year-old poet Emily hires a major public relations firm to change her image and soon finds herself "re-branded" as Em, one of the most important teens not only in her middle school, but in celebrity magazines, as well. Call Number: FIC RUE.

***Can You Get an F in Lunch?* by Nancy Krulik:** When best friends Jenny and Addie start sixth grade, Jenny quickly discovers that Addie is interested in joining the Pops, the coolest seventh grade clique in school. Call Number: FIC KRU.

***Click Here : (to find out how I survived seventh grade)* by Denise Vega:** Seventh-grader Erin Swift writes about her friends and classmates in her private blog, but when it accidentally gets posted on the school Intranet site, she learns some important lessons about friendship. Call Number: FIC VEG.

***Confetti Girl* by Diana López:** After the death of her mother, Texas sixth-grader Lina's grades and mood drop as she watches her father lose himself more and more in books, while her best friend uses Lina as an excuse to secretly meet her boyfriend. Call Number: FIC LOP.

***Donutheart* by Sue Stauffacher:** Usually preoccupied with his own concerns about hygiene and safety and with his crush on Glynnis, sixth-grader Franklin Delano Donuthead finds that he is unaccountably worried about his mother's feelings and his friend Sarah's difficult home life. Call Number: FIC STA.

***Do-over* by Christine Hurley Deriso:** Seventh-grader Elsa moves to a new town and starts a new school where, with the help of her recently deceased mother and a magic locket that allows her to redo the last ten seconds in any situation, she attempts to become popular. Call Number: FIC DER.

***Do the Math: secrets, lies, and algebra* by Wendy Lichtman:** Tess has always loved math, and she uses mathematical concepts to help her understand things in her life, so she is dismayed to find out how much math and life can change in eighth grade. Call Number: FIC LIC.

***Do the Math: the writing on the wall* by Wendy Lichtman:** Math-loving eighth-grader Tess learns that sometimes life, like algebra, has no solutions and that she must take risks and find her own answers. Call Number: FIC LIC.

***Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick:** When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. Call Number: FIC SON.

***Eddie and the Jets* by John Attanas:** Eddie Paulsen, sixth-grade football fanatic, is having the worst time of his life -- his father moves out, his football team is not coming together, he likes his best friend's sister, and his friends think he's a jerk. Eddie and his father learn together what life's real priorities are. Call Number: FIC PAU.

***Ethan, Suspended* by Pamela Ehrenberg:** After a school suspension and his parents' separation, Ethan is sent to live with his grandparents in Washington, D.C., which are worlds apart from his home in a Philadelphia suburb. Call Number: FIC EHR.

***Falling in Like* by Melissa J. Morgan:** The girls from Camp Lakeview keep in touch through a blog as Priya deals with a science fair project, Alyssa fights for the chance to be featured in an arts magazine, Val vies for a spot in a dance recital, and a Tori attracts the attention of the son of one of her father's clients. FIC MOR.

***From Algebra to Zits: a girl's guide to making the most of life at school* by Jeanne Strazzabosco:** Presents information and advice for girls in middle school on a variety of subjects from algebra and guys to periods and puberty and zits. Call Number: 372.18 STR.

***The Fruit Bowl Project* by Sarah Durkee:** An admittedly "dork" middle-school teacher arranges for a rock superstar to teach her eighth-grade students, who each tell a story about the same topic, in the style of a rap, poem, monologue, screenplay, haiku, fairytale, and more. Call Number: FIC DUR.

***Games* by Carol Gorman:** When fourteen-year-old rivals Boot Quinn and Mick Sullivan fight once too often, the new principal devises the punishment of having to play games together at his office, where they learn which battles are worth fighting. Call Number: FIC GOR.

***Happy Kid!* By Gail Gauthier:** After his mother bribes him into reading a self-help book on how to form satisfying relationships and enjoy a happy life, cynical eighth-grader Kyle finds there may be more to the book than he realized. Call Number: FIC GAU.

***Hangin' out and Having Fun: a girl's guide to cool stuff to do* by Kristin Ward:** Discusses constructive ways for girls in middle school to spend their time. Call Number: 305.235 WAR.

***Heads or Tails: stories from the sixth grade* by Jack Gantos:** Jack's diary helps him deal with his problems which include dog-eating alligators, a terror for an older sister, a younger brother who keeps breaking parts of himself, and next-door neighbors who are really weird. Call Number: FIC GAN.

***How to Survive Middle School* by Donna Gephart:** When thirteen-year-old David Greenberg's best friend makes the start of middle school even worse than he feared it could be, David becomes friends with Sophie, who shares his love of television shows and posts one of their skits on YouTube, making them wildly popular--online, at least. Call Number: FIC GEP.

***Invisible Lines* by Mary Amato:** Coming from a poor, single-parent family, seventh-grader Trevor must rely on his intelligence, artistic ability, quick wit, and soccer prowess to win friends at his new Washington, D.C. School, but popular and rich Xander seems determined to cause him trouble. Call Number: FIC AMA.

***The Kind of Friends We Used to Be* by Frances O'Roark Dowell:** Twelve-year-olds Kate and Marylin, friends since preschool, draw further apart as Marylin becomes involved in student government and cheerleading, while Kate wants to play guitar and write songs, and both develop unlikely friendships with other girls and boys. Call Number: FIC DOW.

***Luv Ya Bunches* by Lauren Myracle:** Four friends--each named after a flower--navigate the ups and downs of fifth grade. Told through text messages, blog posts, screenplay, and straight narrative. Call Number: FIC MYR.

***Math Doesn't Suck: how to survive middle school math without losing your mind or breaking a nail* by Danica McKellar:** The mathematically advanced actress best known for her roles on *The Wonder Years* and *The West Wing* demystifies middle-school math concepts that are most challenging to today's student, sharing step-by-step instructions for developing real-world math skills. Call Number: 510 MCK.

***The Meanest Girl* by Debora Allie:** Sixth-grader Alyssa Fontana, who thinks that her life is perfect, becomes the object of a practical joke which she blames on Hayden Martin, the new girl, who is tagged "the meanest girl in town." Call Number: FIC ALL.

***Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: a year told through stuff* by Jennifer L. Holm:** Ginny makes a to do list for her seventh grade year, which includes landing a role in the school play, trying to make friends, ignoring her horoscope, and going to see her grandpa Joe in Florida; but she always seems to come up short in accomplishing any of it. Call Number: FIC HOL.

***The Middle School Survival Guide* by Arlene Erlbach:** A guidebook to help deal with changes in school, families, social lives, and bodies that come during the middle school years, with specific advice for a variety of situations. Call Number: FIC ERL.

***Middle school: how to deal* by Sara Borden:** Written by five middle school girls, this book provides advice on dealing with issues such as popularity, being true to yourself, and resisting peer pressure. Call Number: 373.236 MID.

***Middle School: the real deal: from cafeteria food to combination locks* by Juliana Farrell, Beth Mayall:** Provides guidance for new middle schoolers on a wide range of topics, such as combination locks, getting to class on time, what technological devices are allowed, how the teachers differ from elementary ones, and activities, as well as why friendships end, how to handle crushes and relationships, and getting along with one's parents, and includes a guide to getting through the first day. Call Number: 373.18 FAR.

***My Teacher Fried My Brains* by Bruce Coville:** Duncan fears that seventh grade is going to be even worse than sixth grade when he finds an alien's hand in a dumpster. Call Number: FIC COV.

***Regarding the Bees: a lesson, in letters, on honey, dating, and other sticky subjects* by Kate Klise:** The seventh graders at Geyser Creek Middle School are preparing for a spelling bee and a horrible standardized test called the BEE, and try to smuggle their mascot--a bee that spells--into the local spelling competition. Call Number: FIC KLI.

***Science Fair: a story of mystery, danger, international suspense, and a very nervous frog* by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson:** The president of Kprshtskan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the United States government, but when Toby Harbinger, an ordinary student, makes up his mind finally to win the fair, the terrorists' plans go awry. Call Number: FIC BAR.

***Seventh Level* by Jody Feldman:** Twelve-year-old Travis is invited to become a member of The Legend, Lauer Middle School's most exclusive secret society, but first he must solve seven puzzles. Call Number: FIC FEL.

***Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You* by Barthe DeClements:** Helen fears that lack of improvement in her reading may leave her stuck in the sixth grade forever, until a good teacher recognizes her reading problem. Call Number: FIC DEC.

***Sixth-grade Glommers, Norks, and Me* by Lisa Papademetriou:** As she starts middle school, soccer-playing sixth-grader Allie Kimball worries about losing her best friend and being considered a "nerd," but ultimately makes important decisions about how to treat others and remain true to herself. Call Number: FIC PAP.

***The 6th Grade Nickname Game* by Gordon Korman:** Eleven-year-old best friends Jeff and Wiley, who like to give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl Cassandra, while adjusting to the football coach who has become their new teacher. Call Number: FIC KOR.

***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Secrets* by Louis Sachar:** When Laura Sibbie starts a club called Pig City, she incites a near-war among her sixth-grade classmates and generates the creation of a rival club that has designs on Pig City's precious box of secrets. Call Number: FIC SAC.

***Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time* by Lisa Yee:** After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer-school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father. Call Number: FIC YEE.

***The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger:** Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. \*Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda. Call Number: FIC ANG.

***Too Old for This, Too Young for That! : your survival guide for the middle-school years* by Harriet S. Mosatche and Karen Unger:** Quizzes, stories, surveys, and activities for middle schoolers addressing such issues as physical and emotional changes, connecting with friends and family, setting goals, and handling peer pressure. Call Number: 646.7 MOS.

**Trudy by Jessica Lee Anderson.** Twelve-year-old Trudy's life is filled with changes, mainly centered around starting middle school, and as she struggles to take them all in stride she is hit with the biggest change of all--her elderly father's diagnosis of dementia. Call Number: FIC AND.

**Write on, Callie Jones by Naomi Zucker:** As she continues to establish rules for navigating middle school, aspiring author Callie writes for the school newspaper until the principal cancels her article and Callie's quest to have her voice heard leads to a series of unexpected consequences. Call Number: FIC ZUC.

**Zen and the Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick:** When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master. Call Number: FIC SON.

## **NON-FICTION**

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**Swimming Upstream: middle school poems by Kristine O'Connell George:** A collection of poems capture the feelings and experiences of a girl in middle school. Call Number: 811 GEO.

**Too Old for This, Too Young for That!: your survival guide for the middle-school years by Harriet S. Mosatche and Karen Unger:** Quizzes, stories, surveys, and activities for middle schoolers addressing such issues as physical and emotional changes, connecting with friends and family, setting goals, and handling peer pressure. Call Number: 646.7 MOS.