

**Hazen Union School  
Summer Reading List  
Grades 7 & 8**

**Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,**

**Why not set a goal of reading one, two, or more books this summer? The following reading list highlights books of different genres which are extremely popular, with many which should peak your interest!**

**Research shows that continued reading over the summer keeps your skills sharp and makes returning to a regular reading habit in the fall an easier transition. Set some time aside to lose yourself in a book.**

**Many of the books on this list are available at your local public library. If you want to come to the Hazen library, call ahead to find out when it will be open.**

**Finally, do consider reading some of the 2010-2011 DCF nominees. Go to <http://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/cbec/dcfmasterlist10-11.pdf> for an annotated list of titles.**

***Happy reading! Judy Henchel, Hazen's librarian***

**Colibri.** Ann Cameron. 2003.

Kidnapped when she was very young by an unscrupulous man who has forced her to lie and beg to get money, a twelve-year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing she could return to the parents she can hardly remember.

**On My Honor.** Marion Dane Bauer. 1986.

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

**Williwaw.** Tom Bodett. 1999.

In their father's absence, thirteen-year-old September and her younger brother Ivan disobey his orders by taking the boat out on their Alaska bay, where they are caught in a terrifying storm called a williwaw.

**Waiting for Normal.** Leslie Connor. 2008.

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, NY.

**The Ear, the Eye and the Arm** Nancy Farmer. 1994.

In 2194 Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

**Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series.** John Feinstein. 2009.

Two teen reporters are covering a "feel-good story" about an underdog pitcher who finds himself pitching in a world series game. Secrets about him continue to be uncovered, making the teens wonder just what the true story really is.

**Stepping Up.** Mark Fink. 2009.

Fourteen-year-old Ernie Dolan goes to a summer basketball camp with his best friend, a popular guy and a better player than Ernie. This funny, realistic story is about basketball, friendship, and the consequences of peer pressure.

**The Kindling of Greenfyr.** Mark Freeman. 2008.

When fourteen-year-old Own McInish "saves a snow leopard from her pursuers... Owen finds himself experiencing friendships and adventures he has never imagined." (back cover)

**Shadow Spinner.** Susan Fletcher. 1998.

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.

**Princess Academy.** Shannon Hale. 2005.

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

**The Old Willis Place.** Mary Downing Hahn. 2004.

Tired of the rules that have bound them ever since "the bad things happened," twelve-year-old Diana ignores her brother's warnings and befriends the daughter of the new caretaker, setting in motion events that lead to the release of the spirit of an evil, crazy woman who once ruled the old Willis place. Young adult mystery writer M. D. Hahn is at her suspenseful best.

**Hattie Big Sky** Kirby Larson. 2006

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

**Summer Ball.** Mike Lupica. 2007. sequel to Travel Team

Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

**Beneath My Mother's Feet.** Amjed Qamar. 2008.

When her father is injured, fourteen-year-old Nazia is pulled away from school, her friends, and her preparations for an arranged marriage, to help her mother clean houses in a wealthy part of Karachi, Pakistan, where she finally rebels against the destiny that is planned for her.

**Where the Red Fern Grows.** Wilson Rawls. 1961.

A timeless classic about ten-year-old Billy Colman who saved money for two years to buy two coon-hounds. Once his, they become a remarkable hunting team.

**Under the Baseball Moon.** John H. Ritter. 2009.

Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player.

**Rage of Fire** Gloria Skurzynski and Alane Ferguson. 1998.

Jack, Ashley, and their parents visit Hawaii where they meet a Vietnamese boy who is going to live with his American grandfather whom he has never met, and are pursued by the Goddess Pele.

**Cabin on Trouble Creek.** Jean Van Leeuwen. 2004.

In 1803 Ohio, two young brothers are left to finish the log cabin and guard the land while their father goes back to Pennsylvania to fetch their mother and younger siblings.

**Danger on Panther Peak.** Bill Wallace. 1985.

When his sister gets sick, a young boy must go to get help even though there is a panther prowling in his neighborhood.

## Recommended Middle School Reading List Series Books

(There are many more- just ask!)

The Kingdom Keepers series by Ridley Pearson

- Bk. 1 **Disney After Dark**
- Bk. 2 **Disney in Shadow**
- Bk. 3 **Disney at Dawn**

Vet Volunteers series by Laurie Halse Anderson

- Bk. 1 **Fight for Life**
- Bk. 2 **Homeless**
- Bk. 3 **Trickster** (and there are many others, but this is all we have)

The Youngest Templar series by Michael P. Spradlin

- Bk. 1 **Keeper of the Grail**
- Bk. 2 **Trail of Fate**

The New Prophecy – Warriors series by Erin Hunter

- Bk 1 **Midnight**
- Bk 2 **Moonrise**
- Bk. 3 **Dawn**
- Bk. 4 **Starlight**
- Bk 5 **Twilight**
- Bk. 6 **Sunset** This author has several other series, too!

Alice series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

- Bk. 1 **The Agony of Alice**
- Bk. 2 **The Grooming of Alice**
- Bk. 3 **Reluctantly Alice**
- Bk. 4 **All but Alice** This series goes up to 20 books!
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Among the Hidden series by Margaret Peterson Haddix

- Bk. 1 **Among the Hidden**
- Bk. 2 **Among the Impostors**
- Bk. 3 **Among the Betrayed**
- Bk. 4 **Among the Barons**
- Bk. 5 **Among the Brave**
- Bk. 6 **Among the Enemy**
- Bk. 7 **Among the Free**

Echo Falls Mysteries by Peter Abrahams

Bk. 1 **Down the Rabbit Hole**

Bk. 2 **Behind the Curtain**

Bk. 3 **Into the Dark**

The Island Series by Gordon Korman

Bk. 1 **Shipwrecked**

Bk. 2 **Survival**

Bk. 3 **Escape**

Bk. 1 **A Long Way From Chicago** by Richard Peck (no series title)  
Bk. 2 **A Year From Down Under** " "

Bk. 1 **The Penderwicks** by Jeanne Birdsall (no series title)  
Bk. 2 **Gardem Street** " "

Bk. 1 **Face on the Milk Carton** by Caroline Cooney  
Bk. 2 **Whatever Happened to Janie**  
Bk. 3 **Voice on the Radio**  
Bk. 4 **What Janie Found**

Bk. 1 **A Time for Dancing** by Davida Wills Hurwin  
Bk. 2. **A Time to Run**

Bk. 1 **George's Secret Key to the Universe** by Lucy & Stephen Hawking (no series title)  
Bk. 2 **George's Cosmic Treasure Hunt** " "

### **NONFICTION**

**Marley & Me.** John Grogan. 2005.  
A young adult version of this story of life and love with the world's worst (but loveable) dog!

**Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays.** Peg Kehret. 1999.

**Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories.** Sandra Markle. 2009.  
"In these heartwarming, true stories, Sandra Markle shows how dogs, cats, cows, monkeys, and even dolphins use their normal senses or special training to help people in trouble or in need all over the world." (Inside book jacket)

**Touchdown: The Power and Precision of Football's Perfect Play.** Mark Stewart and Mike Kennedy. 2010.  
"Find out about football's top players, relive the most memorable touchdowns in college and the pros, and check out a full listing of NFL touchdown records!" (Inside book jacket)

**One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists.** Janet Wilson. 2008.  
World peace is attainable through positive action. Examples are taken from the lives of child crusaders for peace.

**Monumental Verses.** J. Patrick Lewis. 2005.  
Poems, accompanied by beautiful photographs and artwork, about wonders of the world, from Stonehenge and the Arc de Triomphe, to the Eiffel Tower and the Great Wall of China!

**The Originals: Animals That Time Forgot.** Jane Yolen. 1998.  
These "story poems" describe the history of many animals which have been forgotten. They are accompanied by beautiful illustrations, too.

**Mariano Rivera.** Judith Levin. 2009.  
Part of a Baseball Superstars series, this biography follows his childhood in Panama, through his rise in the minor leagues, his "Glory Years," and 2007 and beyond. Lots of photos, timeline, and statistics.

**Johnny Damon.** Brian O'Connell. 2009.

Part of a Baseball Superstars series, this biography follows Damon through his early years, his life with the Red Sox and Yankees, and the heartbreaks and headaches he has suffered along the way.

**Hidden Child.** Isaac Millman. 2005.

The author details his difficult experiences as a young Jewish child living in Nazi-occupied France during the 1940's. Sensitively told for a younger audience, with many accompanying illustrations.

**The Upstairs Room.** Johanna Reiss. 1972.

The true story of Annie de Leeu and her sister, Sini, who were hidden by a Gentile family during WW II in Holland.

**Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books.** Gary Paulsen. 2001.

The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson, of the Hatchet series.

**How Angel Peterson Got His Name: and other outrageous tales about extreme sports.**

Gary Paulsen. 2003.

An easy read book of "slapstick tales which capture the wonderful madness of growing up in a small town in northern Minnesota." (back book cover)