Entering 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2015

NYS Common Core ELA Curriculum Recommended Texts
The following books will help students better understand the themes we will be discussing in ELA this upcoming school year.

**Behind enemy lines: a young pilot's story** by DeMallie, H. R. LEX 990. Presents the true story of Howard DeMallie, a young American pilot who, along with his crew were forced to bail out of their B-17 over occupied Holland during World War II, helped by the Dutch underground, and imprisoned in a German prisoner of war camp.

**Prisoner B-3087** by Gratz, Alan. LEX 760. "Based on the true story by Ruth and Jack Gruener.";"While the story of Jack Gruener is true--and remarkable--this book is a work of fiction. As an author I've taken some liberties with time and events to paint a fuller and more representative picture of the Holocaust as a whole."--Afterword. Based on the life of Jack Gruener, this book relates his story of survival from the Nazi occupation of Krakow, when he was eleven, through a succession of concentration camps, to the final liberation of Dachau.

**All the broken pieces: a novel in verse** by Burg, Ann. LEX 800. Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

**Why Vietnamese immigrants came to America** by Parker, Lewis K. Explores Vietnamese immigration to the United States since the 1960s, and looks at the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the culture of the United States.

**Plessy v. Ferguson: Separate But Equal** by McNeese, Tim. Discusses the historic Supreme Court case involving a Black man who boarded a "whites-only" car in New Orleans in 1892.

**Kizzy Ann Stamps** by Watts, Jeri Hanel. LEX 920. Kizzie Ann Stamps is nervous about starting at a new school that was just integrated, and wonders if she and her dog Shag will be allowed to compete in a herding competition because she is African-American.

**The Everlasting Now** by Banks, Sara H. LEX 690. "Brother" Longstreet Sayre, living with his mother and sister in their run-down boardinghouse in Snow Hill, Alabama, in 1937, learns a lot about himself as well as the ways of the world when he meets Champion Always Luckey, an African-American boy his age who has been sent from Detroit to stay with his aunt.

**What the World Eats** by Menzel, PeterA collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Equador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a week's worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country.

Double Cheeseburgers, Quiche, and Vegetarian Burritos: American cooking from the 1920s through today by Ichord, Loretta Frances. An illustrated guide to the foods that have been popular in America over the last one hundred years that explores how the kitchen has evolved over time and how food and its consumption have been influenced by things such as television, fast food chains, and entertainment.

Please use the Lexile Levels to help your child chose books that they will be most successful in comprehending.

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<th>Grade Band</th>
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<td>11-CCR</td>
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Award Winning Books

The following books are suggestions of new award winning high interest titles for Middle School readers.

Better Nate Than Ever. Federle, Tim. Simon & Schuster Lexile 930
Having run away from home, exuberant Nate experiences a variety of catastrophes and revelations on his way to becoming a Broadway star. Fresh, funny, and hopeful. (A 2014 Stonewall Honor Book)

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List. Leyson, Leon. illus. Atheneum Lexile 1000
Leon Leyson, the youngest person saved by Oskar Schindler, memorably describes the Krakow ghetto, the Nazi factory where he worked, and his life in the U.S. after the war.

Doll Bones. Black, Holly. Margaret K. McElderry Lexile 840
In a distinctive coming-of-age tale, three friends set out on a life-altering quest driven by the presence of a sinister chin doll that haunts their dreams and waking hours. (A 2014 Newbery Honor Book)

Compelling writing and informative photographs and maps explore the inner workings of volcanoes and highlights the work of a group of scientists dedicated to preventing the human tragedy caused by eruptions around the world.

Employing graphic novel format, Don Brown paints a vivid and startling picture of the 10-year span of dust storms that devastated the Midwest, and explores the human causes of this environmental disaster.

Lincoln's Grave Robbers. Sheinkin, Steve. Scholastic Lexile 930
A thrilling account of a brazen plan by desperate counterfeiters to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln and use it as ransom for the release of a fellow felon.

Soldier Dog. Angus, Sam. Feiwel and Friends Lexile 870
During World War I, 14-year old Stanley becomes one of the first "keepers" of Britain’s Messenger Dog Service, training two beloved dogs with whom he endures the horrors of trench warfare.