

Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary by Elizabeth Partridge (J323.1196 P258m)
This book recounts the three months of protest before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

Mission Control, This Is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon by Andrew Chaikin (Jf629.454 C348m)

Recounts space history from the Mercury missions through Apollo 17 and beyond and is illustrated with stunning full-color paintings by astronaut Alan Bean.



Mr. Lincoln's High Tech War by Thomas Allen (J973.73 AL 545m)

Reveals how President Lincoln's appreciation for the power of technology played a critical role in the North's Civil War victory over the less developed South.

Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat by Michael Pollan (J394.12 C427o)

Serves up a bold message to young people: it is time to take charge of our national eating habits - and it starts with you!

The Rise and Fall of Senator Joe McCarthy by James Cross Giblin (JB M126g)

Documents the life of the politician whose name has become synonymous with modern day witch-hunting tactics.

Snow Leopards in Mongolia by Sy Montgomery (J599.755 M767s)

A pale, spotted, almost cloud-like coat makes the snow leopard uncannily invisible in its rocky mountain habitat. The author and his team travel to Mongolia to gather data about this endangered species.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting by Jim Murphy (J940.4 M954t)

Describes the Christmas truce that occurred along Western Front trenches in 1914 and features quotations from young men on both sides, a timeline, and additional source material.



Under Siege!: Three Children at the Civil War Battle for Vicksburg by Andrea Warren (J973.73 W251u)

This book looks at the 1862-63 battle for Vicksburg through the eyes of three children: ten-year-old Lucy, the daughter of a Vicksburg merchant; eleven-year-old Willie, the son of a minister; and twelve-year old Frederick, the son of Ulysses S. Grant.

Years of Dust: the Story of the Dust Bowl by Albert Marrin (J978.032 M349y)

In riveting, accessible prose, an acclaimed historian explains the causes behind the disaster and explores the Dust Bowl's impact on this nation.

Summer 2010 list
compiled by Burlingame Public Library librarians.

Burlingame Public Library
SUMMER READING
Recommendations 2010
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fiction

All the Broken Pieces by Ann Burg (J)

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.

The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had by Kristin Levine (J)

In Alabama, 1917, twelve-year-old Dit hopes the new postmaster will have a son his age, but instead he meets Emma, who is black, and their friendship leads them to save the life of a condemned man.



Boys Are Dogs by Leslie Margolis (J)

When her mother gets a new boyfriend, sixth-grader Annabelle gets to cope with a new town, a new school, and a new puppy and, while training her puppy, she decides to apply some of the same techniques to tame the unruly boys that are making her middle-school life miserable.

Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series by John Feinstein (YA)

While covering baseball's World Series between the Washington Nationals and the Boston Red Sox, teenage sports reporters Stevie and Susan Carol investigate a rookie pitcher whose evasive answers during an interview reveal more than a few contradictions in his life story.

Dancing Through the Snow by Jean Little (J)

After several foster placements, Min is back at Children's Aid a week before Christmas with no family and no idea of where she came from. A former Children's Aid doctor who sees past Min's hardened shell, takes Min home for the holidays.

The Devil's Paintbox by Victoria McKernan (YA)

In 1865, fifteen-year-old Aiden and his thirteen-year-old sister Maddy, penniless orphans, leave drought-stricken Kansas on a wagon train hoping for a better life in Seattle, but find there are still many hardships to be faced.

The Eternal Smile: Three Stories by Gene Luen Yang (YA Graphic Novels)

Presents three short stories in graphic novel format involving the blurred line between fantasy and reality including an e-mail scam and a young knight.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly (J)

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from her older brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter leading to an important discovery.



The Kind of Friends We Used to Be

by *Frances O'Roark Dowell* (J)

Twelve-year-olds Kate and Marilyn, friends since preschool, draw apart as Marilyn becomes involved in student government and cheerleading, while Kate plays guitar and writes songs, and both develop friendships with others.

Leo and the Lesser Lion by *Sandra Forrester* (J)

In Depression-era Alabama, twelve-year-old Mary Bayliss Pettigrew struggles to understand why her beloved older brother, Leo, died and if she survived for some special purpose.



The Lost Island of Tamarind by *Nadia Aguiar* (J)

Thirteen-year-old Maya has spent her life at sea with her marine biologist parents, but when a storm washes her parents overboard, Maya, her younger brother and baby sister land at a mysterious, uncharted island filled with danger.

Mudville by *Kurtis Scaletta* (J)

For twenty-two years, since a fateful baseball game against their rival town, it has rained in Moundville. So when the rain finally stops, twelve-year-old Roy, his friends, and foster brother Sturgis dare to face the curse and form a team.

Murder at Midnight by *Avi* (J)

Falsely accused of plotting to overthrow King Claudio, scholarly Mangus the magician, along with his street-smart servant boy, Fabrizio, face deadly consequences unless they can track down the real traitor by the stroke of midnight.

My Life in Pink and Green by *Lisa Greenwald* (J)

When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem solving talents to come up with a solution that might resuscitate the business, along with helping the environment.

Operation Yes by *Sara Holmes* (J)

In her first ever teaching job, Miss Loupe uses improvisational acting exercises with her sixth-grade students at an Air Force base school, and when she experiences a family tragedy, her previously skeptical class members use what they have learned to help her, her brother, and other wounded soldiers.



Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party: a novel

by *Ying Chang Compestine* (J)

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

(Meet this author when she visits the Burlingame Public Library on September 26th.)

Runaway by *Wendelin Van Draanen* (YA)

After running away from her fifth foster home, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country keeping a journal of her experiences and struggles to survive.

Scat by *Carl Hiaasen* (J)

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.



Shakespeare's Secret by *Elise Broach* (J)

Named after a Shakespearean character, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house.



Tales from Outer Suburbia by *Shaun Tan*

(YA Graphic Novels)

Fifteen illustrated stories, some humorous and some haunting, set in the Australian suburbs. A follow-up to *The Arrival*.

The Tomorrow Code by *Brian Falkner* (J)

Two New Zealand teenagers receive a desperate SOS from their future selves and set out on a quest to stop an impending ecological disaster that could mean the end of humanity.

Viola in Reel Life: a novel by *Adriana Trigiani* (YA)

When fourteen-year-old Viola is sent from her beloved Brooklyn to boarding school in Indiana, she overcomes her reservations as she makes friends, goes on a date, and uses the ghost she keeps seeing as the subject of a short film.

When You Reach Me by *Rebecca Stead* (J)

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s TV game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of mysterious notes from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

Z. Rex by *Steve Cole* (YA)

From Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Edinburgh, Scotland, thirteen-year-old Adam 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.

Non-Fiction

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream

by *Tanya Stone* (J629.45 St72a)

This is the story of thirteen true pioneers of the space age. They were women and because of prejudice and politics, they never made it into space, but they empowered a new generation of women to take their place in the sky.

Angkor Wat by *Alison Behnke* (J915.96 B395a)

Introduces the ancient city of Angkor Wat and explains the archaeological process behind its discovery.

Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures

by *Menno Metselaar* (JB F851m)

Photos of the famous diary, school pictures, and the rooms in which she lived with her family while hiding from the Nazis for two years are compiled in this moving biography about the short life and enduring spirit of this young girl and talented writer.



Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice by *Phillip Hoose* (JB C726h)

Presents the life of the Alabama teenager who played an integral but little known role in the Montgomery bus strike of 1955-1956.