2008 Chapin Summer Reading List for Girls Entering Grade 7

Realistic Fiction

Abdel-Fattah, Randa.  
*Does My Head Look Big in This?*  
Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith—without losing her identity or sense of style.

Alexie, Sherman.  
*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*  
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Anderson, Laurie Halse.  
Speak (*mature*)  
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect of Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Cholodenko, Genifer.  
*If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period.*  
Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at an elite private school, describe how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate.

Cole, Brock.  
*The Goats.* (*mature*)  
Stripped and marooned on a small island by bullies at their summer camp, a boy and a girl form an uneasy bond that grows into a deep friendship when they decide to run away and disappear without a trace.

Cormier, Robert.  
*The Chocolate War* (*violent*)  
A high-school freshman who refuses to participate in the annual fund-raising chocolate sale is forced to defend his convictions.

Murdock, Catherine.  
*Dairy Queen.*  
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Woodson, Jacqueline.  
*Feathers.*  
When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

Yang, Gene Luen.  
*American Born Chinese.*  
Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.

* book summaries courtesy of Follett Library Resources
**Mysterious Stories**

Broach, Elisa. *Shakespeare’s Secret.*
Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

Lawrence, Caroline. *The Thieves of Ostia.*
In Rome in the year 79 A.D., a group of children from very different backgrounds work together to discover who beheaded a pet dog--and why.

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Science Fiction & Fantasy**

Anthony, Piers. *A Spell for Chameleon (Xanth series, Book 1).*
At age 25, Bink was exiled from the magic land of Xanth because he had no magic spell that was observable to his people. But both the good genie and the magic wall chart insisted that he did. How could he prove he had magic?

Bradbury, Ray. *The Illustrated Man.*
A collection of science fiction stories, including Ms. Bartolf’s favorite, “The Veldt.”

Farmer, Nancy. *Sea of Trolls.*
After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren’s years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Princess Thirrin, a teenager, becomes the queen of Icemark after her father is killed and must take over the country’s defense against the Polypontian Empire, relying on help from Oskan, a witch’s son, in order to save her people.

Law, Ingrid. *Savvy.*
Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"—a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

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- 2 -
Pascal, Francine. *My Mother Was Never a Kid.*

Just when Victoria thinks that her mother never experienced what it was like to be a teenager, a strange occurrence has her traveling through time where she meets a girl her age named Cici.

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Golem’s Eye (The Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book 2)*

In their continuing adventures, magician's apprentice Nathaniel, now fourteen years old, and the djinni Bartimaeus travel to Prague to locate the source of a golem's power before it destroys London.

Ursu, Anne. *The Shadow Thieves*

(Calling all Greek myths fans!) After her cousin Zee arrives from England, thirteen-year-old Charlotte and he must set out to save humankind from denizens of the underworld, Nightmares, Death, Pain, and a really nasty guy named Phil.

**Historical Fiction**

Compestine, Ying Chang. *Revolution is Not a Dinner Party.*

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.


In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.


In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he works on a top secret government program, and befriends an aspiring artist who is a misfit just like her.


Anne Hathaway has always dreamed of leaving the small cottage where she and her siblings live with their critical stepmother, and when Will Shakespeare returns home and begins showing a serious interest in her, Anne must decide whether to follow her heart or play by the rules.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars.*

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Rees, Celia. *Pirates! The True and Remarkable Adventures of Minerva Sharpe and Nancy Kington, Female Pirates.*

In 1722, after arriving with her brother at the family's Jamaican plantation where she is to be married off, sixteen-year-old Nancy Kington escapes with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe, and together they become pirates traveling the world in search of treasure.

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Class 6 into 7

Rinaldi, Ann.  
A fictionalized biography of the eighteenth-century African woman who, as a child, was brought to New England to be a slave, and after publishing her first poem when a teenager, gained renown throughout the colonies as an important black American poet.

Poetry

Woodson, Jacqueline.  Locomotion.  
In a series of poems, an African-American fifth grader writes about his life in New York City, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school. Woodson also wrote Miracle’s Boys and Feathers.

Books to Entertain and Inform (Non-Boring Non-Fiction)

Presents a biography of Albert Einstein, in words and photographs, and examines the life of the physicist whose theories revolutionized the way science views the space-time continuum, and integrates Einstein's political, cultural, and social interests with his scientific beliefs. (Newsflash: he was not a bad student, as some might have you believe!)

Krull, Kathleen.  They saw the future: oracles, psychics, scientists, great thinkers, and pretty good guessers  
Discusses the work and predictions of those who have speculated about or claimed to see the future, from the oracles of ancient Greece to such modern figures as Edgar Cayce and Jeane Dixon.

Krull, Kathleen. The Lives series  
Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and what the neighbors thought)  
Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)  
Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)  
Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)  
Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)  
Lives of the Writers: Comedies, Tragedies (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Levine, Karen.  Hana’s Suitcase.  
A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana’s suitcase was sent to her.

Text and numerous detailed illustrations introduce and explain the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines. Includes new material about digital technology.

Satrapi, Marjane.  Persepolis.  
Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime. (Be sure to check Persepolis 2)

Sis, Peter.  The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.  
Annotated illustrations, maps, and dreamscapes explore how the artist-author’s life was shaped while growing up in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War, in a powerful graphic memoir.

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- 4 -