

The Chapin Middle School Reading List 2016
Class 3 into 4

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All descriptions for the books on this list were either created by the LS Librarian, the Follett Company (Chapin's OPAC), or excerpts from amazon.com.

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Fiction and Chapter Books



Appelt, Kathi

Maybe a Fox

A heartbreaking, yet hopeful story about love, loss and the natural world.

Applegate, Katherine

Crenshaw

Crenshaw is an imaginary seven-foot, talking cat with a very distinct personality that shows up in Jackson's life when times are hard. Crenshaw has shown up!

Anderson, Jodi

My Diary from the Edge of the World

Gracie and her family must try to escape the alternate Earth where they live and into our world in order to save her little brother.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

The War that Saved My Life

Set during World War II, ten-year-old Ada, who was born with a clubfoot and never allowed outside of her mother's one-room-apartment, manages to escape and get on the train with children being evacuated from London. And so this is how she and her brother end up living with Susan, a woman who has no idea what to do with two children.

Brown, Peter

Wild Robot

Roz, a robot, washes ashore on a remote, wild island and realizes that her only hope for survival is to try to learn to appreciate her new environment. Which works - until more robots arrive on the island.

Courtauld, Sarah

The Perilous Princess Plot

A very funny fractured fairy tale about two sisters, an ill-advised adventure, a goat, and a bit of magic.

Dhariwal, Radhika R.

Tale of a No-Name Squirrel

An adventure tale about an enslaved orphaned Squirrel who has only ever known the life of working for his master, Mongoose. And everything changes when he is mysteriously invited to a wedding and discovers that he is not whom he thinks he is and there are some very rather malevolent crows looking for him.

Del Rio, Tania

Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye

Warren works in his family's very old and creepy hotel that is full of mystery, strange creatures, ghostly visitors and possibly a magical treasure. But if Warren is to discover the magical All-Seeing Eye, he must first solve quite a few puzzles, secret codes and mysterious riddles that are everywhere in the dark mansion.

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- DiCamillo, Kate Raymie Nightingale
Three girls with very different personalities and with very different agendas are working on being in the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition. They are the unlikeliest of friends, but with each facing heartbreaking challenges and loss in their lives, they each turn out to be exactly the friend that the others need.
- Eager, Lindsay Hour of the Bees
Upon meeting him for the first time, Carolina does not know what to make of the grandfather. But while on a mission with her parents to put him in a home for people suffering from dementia, she finds herself drawn to him and fascinated by his magical stories.
- Fisher, Annabelle Secret Destiny of Pixie Piper-Fisher
Fifth-grader, Pixie Piper discovers that she is direct descendant of Mother Goose.
- Gay, Marie-Louise Traveling Circus
A young boy named Charlie describes the memorable and often humorous experiences that he has while traveling to Croatia with his family.
- Gayton, Sam The Adventures of Lettie Peppercorn
Right before disappearing, Lettie Peppercorn's Ma warns her not to leave the family home that happens to be an inn on stilts. But when a mysterious alchemist comes to the inn selling snow and hints that he knows the whereabouts of her mother, Lettie sets out to find her.
- Gino, Alex George
George wants to be Charlotte in the class play, *Charlotte's Web*. But he has been told that he cannot even try out because he is a boy. The thing is, George does not feel like a boy, but rather, a girl, and wants everyone else to see her that way too.
- Hilton, Marilyn Full Cicada Moon
Written in verse, this historical fiction novel is set in Vermont in 1969 and is about seventh-grader, Mimi, who faces many challenges as a mixed race child and a girl interested in science at a time and in a place where neither of those things were considered acceptable.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis Dear Hank Williams
In Rippling Creek, Louisiana in 1948, Tate's teacher has asked all the students to find a pen pal. Tate wants to write to a new singing star, Hank Williams, whom she has heard on the radio. Through these letters we learn about Tate's neighbors, loving family, dreams, heartache, and the strength and insight of a child who does her best to handle it all.
- Hunt, Lynda Mullaly Fish in a Tree
Ally has been able to fool people into thinking she is troublemaker. She would rather they think this than to know her real secret – she cannot read. However, when a new teacher is placed in her class, he is the first person to give Ally the word for her problem and the first hope that she has had that one day she will be able to read.
- Jung, Mike Unidentified Suburban Object
Chloe Cho, the only Asian American student in her school, cannot figure out why her parents never speak about growing up in Korea. When Chloe does finally learn the family secret, the information is nothing short of surprising.

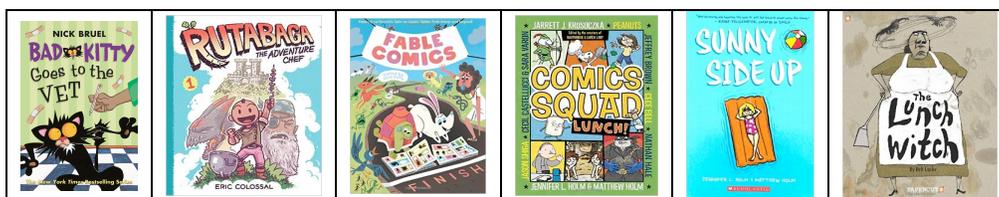
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- Marshall III, Joseph In the Footsteps of Crazyhorse
When Jimmy, who is part Lakota, goes on a journey with his grandfather, he learns about his Lakota heritage and the story of Crazy Horse, an important figure in American history.
- Maschari, Jennifer The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price
A moving story about a boy who, while coping with the loss of his mother, must deal with the newly discovered knowledge that she exists in a parallel world.
- Mlynowski, Sarah Upside Down Magic
Nory can do magic, but unfortunately it tends to go a bit wonky. So instead of turning into a dragon or a kitten she turns into both at the same time. She becomes a dritten.
- Nannestad, Katerina When Mischief Came to Town
Inge Maria must go to a remote island in Denmark to live with a grandmother she does not know. There is much to adjust to for an energetic, imaginative child in this somber, quiet community. But she does adjust, and so does everyone else. A touching, often humorous, story with a lot of heart and spirit.
- Nesbet, Anne The Wrinkled Crown
Linny breaks an ancient law that forbids girls to touch a Lourka, a musical instrument, before their twelfth birthday. But when the punishment strikes her best friend, she must leave home to set things right.
- Pennypacker, Sara Pax
The powerful story of a boy and his fox that have been separated and the journey they each find themselves on as they try to reunite. An unforgettable story about war and loss, courage and love.
- Rhodes, Jewell Parker Bayou Magic
It is Maddy's first summer in the bayou with her grandmother, and she is not only overjoyed to discover the beauty of the place, but she is amazed to learn that she may be the only sibling to have inherited the family's magical legacy. And so when there is an oil spill in the bayou, Maddy also realizes she may be the only one who can help.
- Ryan, Pam Muñoz Echo
Magic realism and historical fiction come together in this story that takes place before, during and after WW II about three very different children. Their one connection is that they all come into contact with the same harmonica.
- Shovan, Laura The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary
At the end of the school year, Emerson Elementary School will be torn down so that a mall can be built. Fifth-grade teacher, Ms. Hill, asks her students to keep poetry journals in order to capture their experiences, feelings, and growing social awareness over the course of their last year together.
- Singleton, Linda Joy The Curious Cat Spy Club
Kelsey is all set to be a detective but needs a case. And so when Kelsey, Becca and Leo discover some newborn kittens stuffed in a trashcan, she know she has a found exactly the mystery that she was looking for.

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- Towell, Katy Charlie and the Grandmothers
For those who like something dark and scary, this is the story of Charlie and his sister who are being sent to visit their grandmother. Charlie, who is nervous by nature, does not want to go. First of all, many of the children who are sent to visit their grandmothers never seem to come back, and second, Charlie knows that he does not have a grandmother.
- Weeks, Sarah Save Me a Seat
Joe's best friend has just moved away and Ravi has just arrived from India. The only thing both of these boys seem to have in common is that they both have to survive school.
- Weston, Carol Ava and Taco Cat
Ava wants a pet for her eleventh birthday, but when she adopts a rescue cat, Ava is not sure how to take care of the scared cat or how to fix some of the other messy situations that are making life complicated.
- Wetzel, JoAnne Stewart Playing Juliet
Beth loves acting and dreams of playing the part of Juliet one day. The local children's theater will be doing one more production before it closes and it is *Romeo and Juliet*. How will Beth make it to the auditions when she has been grounded?
- Yardi, Robin The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez
Mateo is an honorable ten-year-old boy, and so when his parents think that he is to blame for some of the strange things that have been happening in his neighborhood, Mateo needs to figure out what is going on in order to save his honor.

Graphic Novels

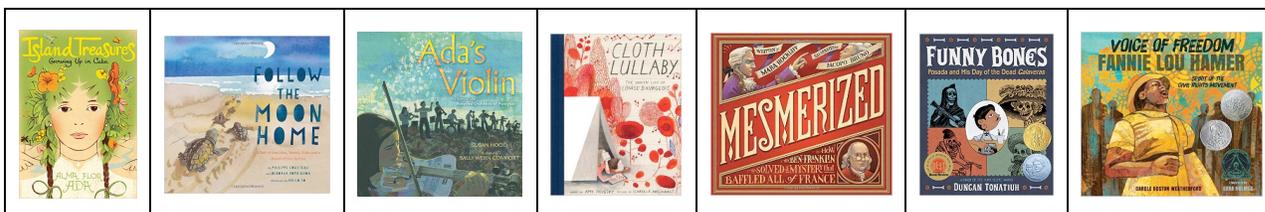


- Bruel, Nick Bad Kitty Goes to the Vet
Bad kitty does not look good and she is not eating. It is time for her to take a trip to the vet. And what a trip it is.
- Colossal, Eric Rutabaga: The Adventure Chef
Rutabaga, along with his walking kettle, explore magical lands looking for rare and exotic things to cook such as dragons, giants, and ghosts.
- Duffy, Chris ed. Fable Comics
Twenty-six cartoonists adapted 28 fables from different cultures and traditions for this book.
- Holm, Jennifer Comics Squad: Lunch
Eight comic stories about lunch.

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- Holm, Jennifer Sunny Side Up
While her parents deal with a family secret at home, Sunny has been sent to stay with her grandfather in Florida. Unfortunately, her grandfather lives in an old age home. Fortunately Sunny meets Buzz and they have quiet a few adventures together.
- Lendler, Ian The Stratford Zoo Midnight Revue Presents Romeo and Juliet
At this zoo the animals come out at night and perform Shakespeare.
- Lucke, Deb The Lunch Witch
Because it is hard to make a living off of magic these days. Grunhilda, a witch, gets a job as an elementary school lunch lady. But when a girl discovers her secret, Grunhilda has to make a choice about how to use her magic.
- Sturm, James Birdsong: A Story in Pictures
Inspired by Kamishibai story telling, this deceptively simple story has a lot to say about the choices that we make and how those choices affect others.
- Yang, Gene Luen Secret Coders
Hopper and her friend Eni want to solve the Mystery of Stately Academy but must use their smarts and coding skills to solve the many puzzles that have been left around the school.

Nonfiction



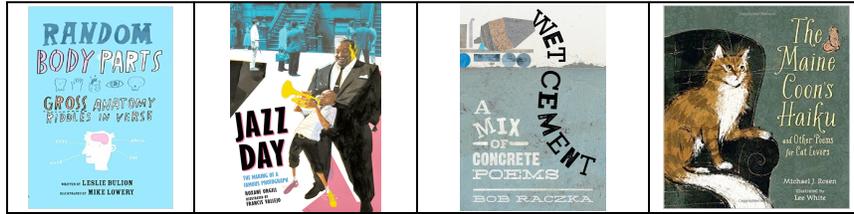
- Ada, Alma Flor Island Treasures: Growing Up in Cuba
Autobiographical tales about the author's childhood in Cuba,
- Burleigh, Robert Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor
The story of how, despite many challenges, Marie Tharp was the first person to chart the ocean floor
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey
Despite wearing leg braces as a boy and not starting dancing until he was a teenager, Robert Battle went on to be an extraordinary dancer and the artistic director for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.
- Cousteau, Philippe Follow the Moon Home
How a group of children helped to bring together a community in South Carolina to save the sea turtles.
- Coy, John Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game
A secret game of basketball in 1944 made history and changed the sport forever.

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Hagar, Erin	<u>Julia Child: An Extraordinary Life in Words and Pictures</u> A wonderful look at the life of the famous cook and TV personality.
Hood, Susan	<u>Ada's Violin</u> The true story about how members of a very poor community took recycled trash and created the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay.
Lynch,	<u>The Boy who Fell Off the Mayflower</u> A first person account of John Howland's trip across the Atlantic on the Mayflower.
Montgomery, Sy	<u>The Octopus Scientists</u> Learn about these very intelligent, funny, and unbelievably skilled mollusks.
Murphy, Jim	<u>Breakthrough! How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever</u> A fascinating and moving account of how three researchers developed a life saving procedure.
Novesky, Amy	<u>Cloth Lullaby: The Woven Life of Louise Bourgeois</u> A beautifully illustrated account of the people and experiences that would have influenced and inspired the work of this artist.
Riordan, Rick	<u>Percy Jackson's Greek Gods</u> In this book, the Greek myths are retold by Percy Jackson, the main character from the author's series, <i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians</i> .
Rockliff,	<u>Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled all of France</u> How the King of France asked Benjamin Franklin to solve a mystery about a very influential doctor who claimed that he could cure people by just waving a wand and how the scientific method was born.
Rosenstock, Barb	<u>Dorothea's Eyes</u> A bout of polio left Dorothea Lange with a limp that made her want to disappear. But it also gave her the ability to blend in and quietly observe others which helped her to become one of the founders of documentary photography during the Great Depression.
Sutcliffe, Jane	<u>Will's Words: How William Shakespeare Changed the Way You Talk</u> A book that introduces us to Elizabethan theater, Shakespeare, and the words and phrases that he introduced to the English language that are still used today.
Tonatiuh, Duncan	<u>Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras</u> An inspired and creative biography about Jose Guadalupe Posada, the Mexican artist and social commentator who was best know for his renderings of calaveras
Weatherford, Carole Boston	<u>Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement</u> Written in first person, this biography brings to light the extraordinary life and fight of a truly heroic leader

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Poetry



Bulion, Leslie

Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse

Sometimes gross, but always informative, poems and poetry riddles about the human body.

Derby, Sally

Jump Back, Paul: The Life and Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar

A wonderful introduction to the life and work of the African-American poet.

Orgill, Roxane

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph

A collection of poems that highlight many aspects of the day when the iconic photograph of the American jazz legends was taken on a stoop in Harlem in 1958.

Rackza, Bob

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems

Twenty-one playful and clever concrete poems