

**Nashua School District**  
**SUMMER READING LIST 2010**  
***Grades 6-8***

**Appelt, Kathi**

**The Underneath**

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

**Armstrong, Alan W.**

**Raleigh's Page**

Fifteen-year-old Andrew leaves school in late sixteenth-century England and must prove himself as a page to Sir Walter Raleigh before heading to Virginia to help establish relations with the native peoples.

**Blos, Joan W.**

**Letters from the corrugated castle : a novel of Gold Rush California, 1850-1852**

An epistolary novel set in the 1850s, in which thirteen-year-old Eldora, who was raised in Massachusetts as an orphan, moves with her guardians to San Francisco, where she begins teaching two "Mexicano" children English, befriends a boy searching for gold, and finds herself face-to-face with her influential mother.

**Cody, Matthew**

**Powerless**

Soon after moving to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Daniel learns that his new friends have super powers that they will lose when they turn thirteen, unless he can use his brain power to protect them.

**Cummings, Priscilla**

**Red Kayak**

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

**DuPrau, Jeanne**

**The Prophet of Yonwood**

While visiting the small town of Yonwood, North Carolina, eleven-year-old Nickie makes some decisions about how to identify both good and evil when she witnesses the townspeople's reactions to the apocalyptic visions of one of their neighbors.

**Fleischman, Sid**

**The Entertainer and the Dybbuk**

A struggling American ventriloquist in post-World War II Europe is possessed by the mischievous spirit of a young Jewish boy killed in the Holocaust. Includes author's note which details the murder of over one million children by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s.

**Frost, Helen**

**Diamond Willow**

In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

**Golding, Julia**

**The Diamond of Drury Lane**

Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.

**Hahn, Mary Downing**

**All the Lovely Bad Ones : a Ghost Story**

Travis and his sister Corey decide to boost business at their grandmother's Vermont inn by staging a few "hauntings" that soon draw tourists from across the country, but when their antics awaken a dark force, they must find a way to put to rest the ghosts they have disturbed.

**Henkes, Kevin**

**Bird Lake Moon**

Twelve-year-old Mitch, spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents' separation, becomes friends with ten-year-old Spencer, who has returned with his family to the lake where his little brother drowned years earlier, and as the boys spend time together and their friendship grows, each of them begins to heal.

**Hesse, Karen**

**Brooklyn Bridge : a Novel**

Fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom's life takes a dramatic turn when, in 1903 Brooklyn, his parents turn their apartment into a factory for making teddy bears; and Joseph wonders whether he will ever see the glitter of Coney Island.

**Higgins, F. E.**

**The Bone Magician**

With his fugitive father falsely accused of multiple murders and the real serial killer stalking the wretched streets of Urbs Umida, Pin Carpue, a young undertaker's assistant, investigates and finds that all of the victims may have attended the performance of a stage magician who claims to be able to raise corpses and make the dead speak.

**Jones, Diana Wynne**

**House of Many Ways**

When Charmain is asked to housesit for Great Uncle William, the Royal Wizard of Norland, she is ecstatic to get away from her parents, but finds that his house is much more than it seems.

**Lupica, Mike**

**The Big Field**

When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

**Mebus, Scott**

**Gods of Manhattan**

When thirteen-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world alongside his contemporary New York City that is filled with fantastical creatures, people from the city's colorful past--who have become gods and goddesses--choose Rory to perform a dangerous mission.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds**

**Faith, Hope, and Ivy June**

During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes, and communities, and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites they have a lot in common.

**Papademetriou, Lisa**

**Chasing Normal**

When her mean, grouchy grandmother in Texas has a heart attack and she and father go to help, twelve-year-old Mieka meets her cousins' family and wishes for their "normal" type of life.

**Peck, Richard**

**A Season of Gifts**

Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel.

**Philbrick, W. R.**

**The Fire Pony**

Roy and his arsonist adult brother Joe find refuge at the Bar None Ranch, where Roy befriends Lady Luck, a wild pony that wins over Roy's heart, but when Joe's past catches up with the brothers, they must choose between fleeing and finally facing the truth.

**Porter, Tracey**

**Billy Creekmore**

One day a stranger comes to claim Billy Creekmore from the Guardian Angels Home for Boys; and he embarks on a cross-country journey in search of his past, his future, and his own true self.

**Rollins, James**

**Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow**

Jack Ransom and his sister, Kady, are sent on a wild hunt for answers when a mysterious letter arrives on the doorstep and leads them to a strange world inhabited by a mix of long-lost civilizations, where they hope to learn the truth about their parents' disappearance.

**Stead, Rebecca**

**When you Reach Me**

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

**Wilkinson, Carole**

**Dragon Moon**

In China during the Han Dynasty, young Ping must take Kai, the dragon she rescued, on a long and perilous journey to the ancient haven of the dragons following cryptic clues left by the wise dragon, Danzi, and aided by old friends.

**Woodson, Jacqueline**

**After Tupac & D Foster**

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

**DeVillers, Julia**

**Trading Faces**

Seventh-grade twins Payton and Emma decide to shake things up at their new middle school by switching places and taking on each other's lives, and their antics teach them that no one is exactly who the world thinks they are.

**Baseball Crazy : Ten Stories that Cover all the Bases**

The great Gus Zernial and me / Jerry Spinelli -- Mark Pang and the impossible square / Frank Portman -- Fall ball / Sue Corbett -- Great moments in baseball / Paul Acampora -- Riding the pine : a play / Ron Koertge -- Tomboy forgiveness / David Rice -- Smile like Jeter / Maria Testa -- Baseball crazy / John H. Ritter -- Just like Grampy / Charles R. Smith, Jr. -- Ball hawk / by Joseph Bruchac. A collection of ten short stories from popular, contemporary authors that celebrate the joys of America's favorite pastime and the wonder, frustration, and delight of its fans.