

## **MANJ Upper Elementary Summer Reading List**

The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan

A novel based on the childhood of Nobel Laureate poet Pablo Neruda. Poetic illustrations by Peter Sís complete this beautiful story of an artistic young man whose father does not appreciate his dreams and talent.

Drawing from Memory by Allen Say

Using watercolor paintings, original cartoons, vintage photographs, and maps, Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

The author says, “My new book, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, is a 550 page novel in words and pictures. But unlike most novels, the images in my new book don't just illustrate the story; they help tell it...Paris in the 1930's, a thief, a broken machine, a strange girl, a mean old man, and the secrets that tie them all together... Welcome to *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.” (Caldecott Medal)

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

Welcome to the magical underworld of Venice, Italy. Here, hidden canals and crumbling rooftops shelter runaways and children with incredible secrets...

Darth Paper Strikes Back: An Origami Yoda Book

by Tom Angleberger

Harvey, upset when his Darth Paper finger puppet brings humiliation, gets Dwight suspended – but Origami Yoda asks Tommy and Kellan, now in seventh grade, to make a new case file to persuade the School Board to reinstate Dwight. Check out the entire series.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul

Curtis A 10-year-old boy in Depression-era Michigan set out to find the man he believes to be his father. (Newbery Medal)

The Star of Kazan by Eva Ibbotson

Abandoned as a baby, Annika is found and adopted by two maids. Growing up in early-20th-century Vienna, she is perfectly content until a beautiful aristocrat appears and claims to be her mother, sweeping her off to a new life in a crumbling castle in northern Germany. Then the adventure and mystery begin.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada. When Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of a thief, he discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled—a life from which he'll always be free, if he can find the courage to get back home. (Newbery Honor)

Rules by Cynthia Lord

12 year old Cynthia develops a set of rules to help her autistic brother David cope with life. Set in coastal Maine, this sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

The exciting adventure of a young woman's sailing trip from England to Providence RI in 1832. (Newbery Honor)

Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry

This story has captured generations of children both with its thrilling descriptions of true incidents from the tiny island of Chincoteague, and its realistic, yet wonderfully magical atmosphere. It is the story of a wild horse brought into captivity, and it poignantly reveals the powerful opposing forces of humans and nature.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

A funny, mysterious, and touching story about a thirteen-year-old who travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. (Newbery Medal)

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

by E. L. Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. (Newbery Medal)

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

In this tale of courage and devotion, a single shard from a celadon vase changes the life of a young boy and his master. This book not only gives readers insight into ancient Korea, but it is also a wonderful tale of strength of character. (Newbery Medal)

Redwall by Brian Jacques

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior, which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. A roller-coaster adventure that barely draws breath from the first page to the very last.

Good Masters, Sweet Ladies: Voices From A Medieval Village

by Laura Amy Schlitz

Using a series of interconnected monologues and dialogues featuring young people living in and around an English manor in 1255, Schlitz offers first-person character sketches that build upon each other to create a finer understanding of medieval life. The book was inspired by the necessity of creating a play suitable for a classroom where "no one wanted a small part." (Newbery Medal).

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís

Sís' latest, a powerful combination of graphic novel and picture book, is an account of his growing up in Czechoslovakia under Soviet rule. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen

This is a short and hilarious tale of a boy who receives a riding lawn mower from his grandmother as a birthday gift. Almost accidentally, he speeds up the ladder of financial success.

Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures by Brian Selznick

Relates the story of 12 year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words, Rose's in pictures.

Chu Ju's House by Gloria Whelan

In Chu Ju's village in China families are only allowed two children, and tradition states one should be a boy. When Chu Ju's mother gives birth to a second girl, Chu Ju leaves home and must live on her own to spare her sister's life.

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

12-year-old Abilene is sent to Manifest, Kansas, in 1936 to stay with Pastor Shady Howard. She doesn't understand why, and spends the summer piecing together the story of her father. (2011 Newberry Medal)

Guys Write For Guys Read Edited by Jon Scieszka

Contains a collection of short stories, drawings, poems, and memoirs from well-known writers of "guy" fiction, written by boys, for boys. Includes pieces by Daniel Pinkwater, Neil Gaiman, Will Hobbs, Stephen King, Gary Paulsen, among others.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

10 year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering 5th grade at a private school in Manhattan. He is forced to endure the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as "normal".

The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom by Chris Healy

Liam, Frederic, Duncan, and Gustav—all former princes who had been rejected by their princesses and cast out of their castles—

encounter trolls, witches, and dragons during their quest to become heroes.

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975 when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam to resettle in Alabama. (Newberry Honor Book)

Many of the authors of the books listed above have written other great books, as well.

**Other Recommended Authors:** Sharon Creech, Karen Cushman, Scott O'Dell, E. B. White, Lois Lowry, J. K. Rowling, Russell Freedman, Karen Hesse