

Hot New Fiction for Middle School

LOL

Girl 15, Charming but Insane by Sue Limb

Fifteen-year-old Jess, living with her mum, separated from her father in Cornwall, and with a best friend who seems to do everything perfectly, finds her own assets through humor. (Gr. 7+)

Schooled by Gordon Korman

Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school. (Gr. 6-8)

Chick Lit

Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others. (Gr. 8+)

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac by Gabrielle Zevin

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life. (Gr. 8+)

Mysteries and Thrillers

Dead Connection by Charlie Price

A loner who communes with the **dead** in the town cemetery hears the voice of a murdered cheerleader and tries to convince the adults that he knows what happened to her. Gr. 7+)

First Shot by Walter Sorrells

During his sophomore year, high school senior David Crandall's mother was murdered; and now, after learning about a family embezzlement secret and witnessing his father burying a **shot** gun, he starts to suspect his dad was the murderer. (Gr. 8+)

Deep, Dark and Dangerous by Mary Downing Hahn

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years. (Gr. 6-8)

Adventure

Peak by Roland Smith

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest. (Gr. 7+)

The Trap by John Smelcer

In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Green finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football. (Gr. 6-8)

Play Ball

Knights of Hill Country by Tim Tharp

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Open Court by Carol Clippinger

A thirteen-year-old tennis prodigy grapples with her seemingly incompatible desires to be an exceptional athlete and a normal teenager. (Gr. 7-8)

All In by Pete Hautman

Having won thousands of dollars playing high-stakes poker in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Denn Doyle hits a losing streak after falling in love with a young casino card dealer named Cattie Hart. (Gr. 8+)

Other Places Other Times

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him. (Gr. 8+)

My Mother the Cheerleader by Robert Sharenow

Thirteen-year-old Louise uncovers secrets about her family and her neighborhood during the violent protests over school desegregation in 1960 New Orleans. (Gr. 8+)

Tasting the Sky by Ibtisam Barakat

A memoir in which the author describes her childhood as a Palestinian refugee, discussing her family's experiences during and after the Six-Day War, and the freedom she felt at learning to read and write. (Gr. 7-8)

Novels in Verse

I Heart You, You Haunt Me by Lisa Schroeder

A verse novel in which fifteen-year-old Ava, feeling guilty over the role she believes she played in her boyfriend Jackson's death, experiences a whole new range of emotions when she realizes he is back from the dead. (Gr. 8+)

Sci Fi

H.I.V.E Higher Institute of Villainous Education by Mark Walden

Thirteen-year-old orphan Otto Malpense, identified as a boy with a special talent for villainy, is kidnapped and taken to the remote Higher Institute of Villainous Education, or H.I.V.E., where he is enrolled in a six-year training program and immediately begins formulating a plan to escape. (Gr. 6-8)

Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. (Gr. 6-8)

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. (Gr. 7-8)

Graphic/Pictorial Novels

The Plain Janes by Cecil Castellucci and Jim Rugg

After a bombing in the city, Jane's parents move to a suburb where she befriends a three outcasts--all named Jane--and starts a group called People

Loving Art in Neighborhoods which tries to enrich their community with art but instead is viewed as a threat. (Gr. 7+)

Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: a Year Told Through Stuff by Jennifer Holm

The first year of **middle school** can be exciting, or scary, just ask Ginny.
(Gr. 6)

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