



2 KID BOOK SUGGESTIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

BOOKS BOYS READ

YA Philbrick - *The Last Book in the Universe*

After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future.

YA Riordan—*The Lightning Thief* (series)

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

YA Sonnenblick—*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* (and others)

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, 13-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

YA Stroud—*The Amulet of Samarkand* (series)

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

YA Wilson—*Black Storm Comin'*

Twelve-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

J Auch—*Wing Nut*

When 12-year-old Grady and his mother relocate yet again, they find work taking care of an elderly man, who teaches Grady about cars, birds, and what it means to have a home.

J Barry—*Peter and the Starcatchers* (series)
Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep a secret safe from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

J Ehrenhaft—*The Last Dog on Earth*

Logan Moore hates everyone except his dog Jack, but when a mysterious disease turns dogs into vicious animals, Logan decides to run away to keep his dog safe.


J Hiaasen—*Flush* and others

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the waters around their Florida home.

All the books on this list have been read, reviewed, and suggested by the middle school-age members of the Eva Perry Mock Newbery Club. 9/2008

J Paulsen—*The Amazing Life of Birds*

As twelve-year-old Duane endures the confusing and humiliating aspects of puberty, he watches a newborn bird in a nest on his windowsill begin to grow and become more independent, all of which he records in his journal.

 **J Salisbury**—*Under the Blood Red Sun* and others
Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

J Turner—*The Thief* (series)

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

YOUNG ADULT

YA Card—*Ender's Game* (series)

Ender may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

YA Green—*Football Genius*

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

YA Hart—*Capt. Hook: the Adventures of a Notorious Youth*

Describes the youthful adventures of J. M. Barrie's classic character, Captain Hook, from his days at Eton to his voyages on the high sea.

 **YA Hinton**—*The Outsiders*

Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the youths involved, a sensitive 14-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

 **YA Horowitz**—*Raven's Gate* and others

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled 14-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and an ancient stone circle.

YA Jordan—*The Hunting of the Last Dragon*

In England in 1356, as a monk records his every word, a young peasant tells of his journey with a young Chinese woman to the lair of a dragon.

YA Melling—*The Hunter's Moon* and others

Two teenage cousins, one Irish, the other from the United States, set out to find a magic doorway to the Faraway Country, where humans must bow to the little people.

YA Morris—*The Squire's Tale* (series)

In medieval England, fourteen-year-old Terence finds his tranquil existence suddenly changed when he becomes the squire of the young Gawain of Orkney and accompanies him on a long quest, proving Gawain's worth as a knight and revealing an important secret about his own true identity.

 **YA Paolini**—*Eragon* (series)

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of magic and power, with dragons, elves, and monsters.

YA Peck—*The Teacher's Funeral*

In rural Indiana in 1904, 15-year-old Russell's dream of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew is disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."