

## EIGHTH GRADE

**Airman by Eoin Colfer (Historical Fiction, Adventure)**

AR: 5.8 In the late nineteenth century, when Conor discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while planning a daring escape by way of a flying machine.

**Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (Historical Fiction)**

AR: 3.5 A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

**The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel (series) by Michael Scott (Fantasy)**

AR: 6.4 While working at summer jobs, 15-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in a deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book containing secret formulas.

**The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud (Fantasy)**

AR: 5.9 Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Barfimaëus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

**The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation (series) by M.T. Anderson (Historical Fiction)**

AR: 8.0 Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

**Beyond Courage: the Untold story of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust Doreen Rappaport (nonfiction)**

AR: 7.4 In a stirring chronicle, Doreen Rappaport brings to light the courage of countless Jews who organized to sabotage the Nazis and help other Jews during the Holocaust.

**The Big Field by Mike Lupica (realistic fiction)**

AR: 5.3 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.

**Bloody Jack (series) by L.A. Meyer (Historical Fiction)**

AR: 5.6 Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

**Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction)**

AR: 5.1 Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

**The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John H. Ritter (realistic fiction)**

AR: 4.4 The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

**The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart (Realistic Fiction)**

**AR: 5.5** Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

**Does My Head Look Big in This? By Randa Abdel-Fattah (Realistic Fiction)**

**AR: 4.9** Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith.

**Downriver by Will Hobbs (realistic fiction)**

**AR: 4.9** Jessie and the other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival school team abandon their adult leader and try to run the dangerous white water of the Grand Canyon.

**An Elephant In the Garden by Michael Murporgo (Fiction)**

**AR: 5.2 Lexile 750** Lizzie and Karl's mother is a zoo keeper; the family has become attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene, who will be destroyed as a precautionary measure so she and the other animals don't run wild should the zoo be hit by bombs. The family persuades the zoo director to let Marlene stay in their garden instead. When the city is bombed, the family flees with thousands of others, but how can they walk the same route when they have an elephant in tow, and keep themselves safe? Along the way, they meet Peter, a Canadian navigator who risks his own capture to save the family.

**Fake ID by Walter Sorrells (series) (mystery)**

**AR: 4.0** After a lifetime of moving and assuming new identities, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together the disturbing past that haunts her and her mother and which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and the secrets of several people in a small Alabama town.

**Farming and the Environment by Richard Spilsbury (Non-Fiction)**

**AR: 7.6** Explains the relationship between farming and the environment, the impact of global warming, and environmentally-friendly ways of producing food.

**Feed by M.T. Anderson (Science Fiction)**

**AR: 4.4** In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

**Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)**

**AR: 4.4** In 1793 Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

**Fire (James Patterson) (Fiction)**

**AR: 5.7** Whit and Wisty Allgood have sacrificed everything to lead the resistance against the merciless totalitarian regime that governs their world. Its supreme leader, The One Who Is The One, has banned everything they hold dear: books, music, art, and imagination. But the growing strength of the siblings' magic hasn't been enough to stop the One's evil rampage, and now he's executed the only family they had left.

**Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen (realistic fiction)**

**AR: 4.8** In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

**Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream by H. G. Bissinger (nonfiction)**

**AR: 8.0** Follows the 1988 season of the Permian Panthers, a high school football team in Odessa, Texas, exploring the lives of the players and the impact of the championship team on the small town.

**Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (Adventure)**

AR: 5.9 Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on San Francisco, 17-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

**Little Women (unabridged) by Louisa May Alcott (historical fiction)**

AR: 7.9 Chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth—as they grow into young ladies and marry in nineteenth-century New England.

**The Lost Stories John Flanagan (Fiction)**

AR: 6.0 Unconfirmed accounts of a group of Araluen warriors -tales of adventure, battle, and triumph over evil -have spread for centuries throughout the known world. Most notable is a clan shrouded in mystery, phantom warriors known as the Rangers.

**The Many Faces of George Washington: Remaking a Presidential Icon Carla Killough McClafferty (Non-Fiction)**

AR: 8.2 Veteran children's author McClafferty takes a look at the life of George Washington by chronicling the fascinating process of creating life-sized statues of Washington using the latest modeling techniques.

**My Family For the War Anne C. Voorhoeve (Fiction)**

AR: 6.2 Lexile 900 Escaping Nazi Germany on the kindertransport changes one girl's life forever At the start of World War II, ten-year-old Franziska Mangold is torn from her family when she boards the kindertransport in Berlin, the train that secretly took nearly 10,000 children out of Nazi territory to safety in England. Taken in by strangers who soon become more like family than her real parents, Frances (as she is now known) courageously pieces together a new life for herself because she doesn't know when or if she'll see her true family again.

**The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy by Diane Stanley (Mystery)**

AR: 5.6 Eighth-grader Franny and her friends investigate why most of the students at their exclusive boarding school are brilliant, beautiful, and perfectly behaved.

**Never Fall Down: A Novel by Patricia McCormick (Fiction based on a true story)**

AR: 4.5 When soldiers arrive in his hometown in Cambodia, Arn Chorn Pond is separated from his family and sent to a labor camp, where he works in the rice paddies until he volunteers to learn to play an instrument- a decision that both saves his life and lands him in battle.

**Nothing but the Truth by Avi (realistic fiction)**

AR: 3.6 A ninth-grader's suspension for humming "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story, and leads to him and his teacher both leaving the school.

**Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You Hanna Jensen (Fiction)**

AR: 5.2 Jeanne and her family, who are Tutsis living in Rwanda during a time of civil war, flee their home in hopes of evading Hutu soldiers as political events threaten to overtake them.

**Paper Towns by John Green (mystery)**

AR: 5.4 One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

**Salt by Maurice Gee (Fantasy)**

AR: 4.4 Hari, a downtrodden underclass boy, and Pearl, a privileged girl, both develop a talent to speak to animals and humans through mind control and find themselves thrown together on a quest to save mankind from a terrible weapon.

**Ranger's Apprentice Series by: John Flanagan (Fantasy)**

**The Burning Bridge**

**AR: 6.3**

Will is forced to overcome his fear of Wargals, the foot soldiers of rebel warlord Morgarath, as Araluen's army prepares to battle Morgarath's forces.

**Battle of Hackham Heath**

**AR: 6.3**

"As Morgarath recruits an army of Wargals, Halt ventures into enemy territory to uncover the extent of Morgarath's plan of attack."

**The Emperor of Nihon-Ja**

**AR: 6.3**

In a faraway land, a young warrior must protect an emperor from an uprising and train an inexperienced army, with assistance from his Ranger friends.