

Recommended Book List for Students Entering 8th Grade



BIBLE/FAITH/INSPIRATIONAL

- *All Creatures Great & Small, All Things Bright & Beautiful, All Things Wise & Wonderful, The Lord God Made Them All, Every Living Thing* series†** / James Herriot (an English veterinarian)
- *Battlefield of the Mind for Teens: Winning the Battle in Your Mind*†** / Joyce Meyer
- *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*† / Eric Metaxas
- *The Book of Virtues* / William J. Bennett
- *The Case for Christ*** : A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus / Lee Strobel
- *The Case for Faith*** : A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity / Lee Strobel
- *Character Driven: Life, Lessons, and Basketball*† / Derek Fisher
- *Chicken Soup for the Christian Teenage Soul: Stories to Open the Hearts of Christian Teens* / Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Kimberly Kirberger, Patty Aubery, Nancy Mitchell-Autio
- *A Daughter's Worth: A Bible Study for Teenaged Girls*† / Ava Sturgeon
- *Do Hard Things*** / Alex & Brett Harris
- *Game Day for the Glory of God: A Guide for Athletes, Fans & Wannabes*† / Stephen Altrogge
- *Girls of Grace*† / Point of Grace
- *God Guy: Becoming the Man You're Meant to Be*†** / Michael DiMarco
- *God's Little Devotional Book for Teens*† / David C. Cook
- *The Heart Reader of Franklin High*† / Thomas Nelson
- *Hugs for Teens: Stories, Sayings, and Scriptures to Encourage & Inspire* / Scott Krippayne
- *An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny* / Laura Schroff & Alex Tresniowski
- *It's Not About Me Teen Edition*†** / Max Lucado
- *Jesus Calling*†** / Sarah Young
- *Jesus Freaks*† / D.C. Talk
- *Jim Elliott: One Great Purpose*† / Janet & Geoff Benge
- *Left Behind: The Young Trib Force* series† / Jerry B. Jenkins & Tim LaHaye
- *The Lost Books* series / Ted Dekker
- *The One Year Devotions for Teens: DEVOS (One Year Books)*† / Susie Shellenberger
- *Nate Saint: On a Wing & a Prayer*† / Geoff & Janet Benge
- *Not a Fan: What Does It Mean to Really Follow Jesus*†** / Kyle Idleman
- *Off My Case for Kids: 12 Stories to Help You Defend Your Faith*† / Lee Strobel
- *Pilgrim's Progress*† / Paul Bunyan
- *The Power of a Praying Teen*†** / Stormie Omartian
- *A Prophecy Forgotten: Book One & Out of the Shadows: Book Two of The Elysian Chronicles* / M.B. Weston
- *Quiet Strength*† / Tony Dungy
- *Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board*†** / Bethany Hamilton & Rick Bundschuh
- *Take Your Best Shot: Do Something Bigger Than Yourself*†** / Austin Gutwein & Todd Hillard

- *A Teen's Guide to Christian Living: Practical Answers to Tough Questions About God and Faith*†** / Bettie B. Youngs, Leigh Youngs Jennifer, Debbie Thurman
- *Through My Eyes*†** / Tim Tebow
- *To Be a Teen after God's Own Heart: Straight Talk and Encouragement for Teenagers*†** / Meriqua Whyte
- *When Teens Pray: Powerful Stories of How God Works*† / Cheri Fuller and Ron Luce
- *A Young Man After God's Own Heart: Turn Your Life into an Extreme Adventure*† / Jim George
- *A Young Man's Guide to Making Right Choices: Your Life God's Way*† / Jim George
- *A Young Woman's Walk with God: Growing More Like Jesus*† / Elizabeth George

SOCIAL STUDIES

FICTION (PRIMARILY HISTORICAL FICTION)

- *Across Five Aprils* / Irene Hunt
- *Across the Wide River*** / Stephanie Reed
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* / Mark Twain
- *Between Shades of Gray* / Ruta Sepetys
- *Fire from the Rock*** / Sharon Draper
- *Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons: The Story of Phillis Wheatley*** / Ann Rinaldi (a fictionalized biography of a young slave girl who became a renowned poet)
- *The Help*** / Kathryn Stockett
- *Hiroshima* / John Hersey
- *Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck* / Margarita Engle
- *Justice Riders* / Chuck Norris, Aaron Norris, & Ken Abraham
- *The Lions of Little Rock*** / Kristin Levine
- *Small Acts of Amazing Courage* / Gloria Whelan
- *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* / Margarita Engle
- *Taking Liberty* / Anne Rinaldi
- *True North: A Novel of the Underground Railroad*** / Kathrine Lasky
- *Uprising* / Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* / Elizabeth George Speare
- *Witness* / Karen Hesse

NON-FICTION

- *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* / James L. Swanson
- *Heroes for My Daughter* / Brad Meltzer
- *Heroes for My Son* / Brad Meltzer
- *Looking for the New Deal: Florida Women's Letters during the Great Depression (Women's Diaries and Letters of the South)* / Elna C. Green (Editor)
- *October Sky* / Homer Hickam
- *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March*** / Cynthia Levinson

BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- *Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex: A Collection of Her Short Stories, Fables, & Lesser-Known Writings*** / Anne Frank
- *Anthony Burns: The Defeat & Triumph of a Fugitive Slave* / Virginia Hamilton
- *A Friend Called Anne* / Jacqueline Van Maarsen (retold by Carol Ann Lee)
- *I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed the World*** / Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.†
- *Night* / Elie Wiesel
- *Killing Lincoln* / Bill O'Reilly
- *She Said Yes (Columbine victim)*†** / Misty Bernal
- *Up from Slavery* / Booker T. Washington

- *The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights* / Russell Freedman

SCIENCE

- *The Amateur Naturalist*** / Nick Baker
- *Animal Tracks and Signs* / Jinny Johnson
- *The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science* / Sean Connolly
- *Bone Detective: The Story of Forensic Anthropologist Diane France* / Lorraine Jean Hopping
- *Case for a Creator for Kids, Updated and Expanded†*** / Lee Strobel
- *The Case for Pluto: How a Little Planet Made a Big Difference* / Alan Boyle
- *Cool Stuff and How It Works*** / Chris Woodford & Luke Collins
- *The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of Elements* / Sam Kean
- *Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication*** / Ann Downer
- *ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room* / Donna M. Jackson
- *Forgery: Crime-Solving Science Experiments* / Kenneth G. Rainis
- *The Frog Scientist* / Pamela S. Turner
- *Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein* / Marfe Ferguson Delano
- *Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes* / Pamela S. Turner
- *Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-experimenters in Science and Medicine* / Leslie Dendy & Mel Boring
- *The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe* / Loree Griffin Burns
- *Insights from Insects: What Bad Bugs Can Teach Us* / Gilbert Waldbauer
- *Invisible Allies: Microbes That Shape Our Lives* / Jeanette Farrell
- *Life on Earth - and Beyond: An Astrobiologist's Quest* / Pamela S. Turner
- *Mission Control, This Is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*** / Andrew Chaikin
- *An Ocean of Air: Why the Wind Blows and Other Mysteries of the Atmosphere* / Gabrielle Walker
- *October Sky* / Homer Hickam
- *Saving God's Green Earth: Rediscovering the Church's Responsibility to Environmental Stewardship†*** / Tri Robinson & Jason Chatraw
- *Science Fair Season: Twelve Kids, a Robot Named Scorch ... & What It Takes to Win* / Judy Dutton
- *The Secret of the Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing*** / Susan Jermain
- *Sound Projects with a Music Lab You Can Build* / Robert Gardner
- *Thomas Edison for Kids: His Life and Ideas: 21 Activities* / Laurie Carlson
- *Tigerland and Other Unintended Destinations* / Eric Dinerstein
- *True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet*** / Kim McKay & Jenny Bonnin
- *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring*** / Richard Preston
- *World Without Fish* / Mark Kurlansky

BIOGRAPHY

- *Christian Men of Science†* / George Mulfinger & Julia Mulfinger Orozco
- *Robert Boyle: Trailblazer of Science†*** (Sowers Series) / John Tiner
- *George Washington Carver: Man's Slave Becomes God's Scientist†*** (Sower Series) / David Collins
- *Johannes Kepler: Giant of Faith and Science* (Sower Series)†** / John Hudson Tiner
- *Men of Science, Men of God: Great Scientists Who Believed the Bible†* / Henry Madison Morris
- *Isaac Newton: Inventor, Scientist, and Teacher* (Sower Series)†** / John Hudson Tiner

OTHER HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TITLES

- *Al Capone Does My Shirts and Al Capone Shines My Shoes* (sequel) / Gennifer Choldenko
- *The Hunger Games series***: *The Hunger Games* Bk. 1, *Catching Fire* Bk. 2, *Mockingjay* Bk. 3 / Suzanne Collins
- *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* / Wendy Mass

- *Life of Pi*** / Yann Martel
- *Lord of the Flies*** / William Golding
- *Lord of the Rings* series** / J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Miracle's Boys* / Jacqueline Woodson
- *Of Mice and Men* / John Steinbeck
- *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*† / Andrew Peterson
- *A Separate Peace* / John Knowles
- *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*† / Madeline L'Engle
- *Tangerine* / Edward Bloor
- *Treasure Island* / Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* / Jules Verne

†Christian title

** Highly recommended title