

Washington Township Public Schools Middle School Summer Reading 2018

"Choose Your Own Reading Adventure!"



# Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick



The protagonist Steven, an avid drummer, narrates the story during the month of September, discussing in the novel the previous ten months about his struggles of his little brother's cancer. Steven has had a crush on a girl named Renee Albert since the third grade. Over the course of the novel, Steven's brother Jeffrey has been acting strange. Finally, Steven finds out that his brother Jeffrey has cancer.

## Wishtree by Katherine Applegate



Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree" - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend, Bongo, and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood.

You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.



### Eleven by Tom Rogers

Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. Radar, his new dog, pretty much feels the same way. But this day has bigger things in store for both of them.

This is a story about bullies and heroes. About tragedy and hope. About enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza. This is *Eleven*: the journey of a boy turning eleven on 9/11.

## Playing Atari With Saddam Hussein by Jennifer Roy



It is in January of 1991 when Iraq goes to war against 34 other countries, including the United States. Eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil and his family must survive in their Basra neighborhood, finding food, suffering through bombings, and hoping Ali's medic father will return from the war. Based on a true story, Roy's book shows how a kid's ordinary life, once filled with video games, soccer, and American TV, can change instantly.



#### Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz

As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner - his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. - From the publisher



#### Dairy Queen by Catherine Murdock

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. - *From Follett* 



# Chew On This by Eric Schlosser

This book, adapted from Eric Schlosser's adult book, Fast Food Nation, will change your eating habits! In a fascinating and readable manner, the author takes younger readers through what is in those strawberry shakes they love so well. They also apprise readers of what happens in the slaughterhouses that those little chicken nuggets and hamburger patties come from. The author of Fast Food Nation partners with Wilson to serve up a stinging, often startling expose on this country's pervasive, lucrative fast-food industry, for young people. - *Library Media Connection* 



### Michael Vey (series) by Richard Evans

Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them and, after Michael's mother is kidnapped, he will need to rely on his powers and his friends to rescue his mom, protect himself, and save the others. - *From Follett* 



### Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Considered by many to be mentally disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. - *From Follett*