The following books are recommended for teens in 8th grade. The list contains new books which the Ferguson librarians have especially enjoyed, as well as old favorites, which have proven popular over the years.

We hope you find this list a good place to start your reading. Remember to ask your librarian for additional suggestions by these and other authors.

**FICTION**

**Airborn** by Kenneth Oppel
Matt just wants to be an airship captain, until Kate recruits him to help find the mysterious flying creatures her grandfather saw from his hot-air balloon. (Sequel: *Skybreaker*) TEEN, TEEN PBK

**Athletic Shorts** by Chris Crutcher
A collection of short stories about life and sports, featuring characters from Crutcher’s novels. JFIC, TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CAS

**Define Normal** by Julie Ann Peters
Nerdy Antonia is a peer counselor who thinks she is the normal one, and Jazz, the punk girl she counsels is the odd one, but is that really true? TEEN, TEEN PBK

**Elsewhere** by Gabrielle Zevin
After 15-year-old Liz dies in a bicycle accident, she goes to Elsewhere, where you age backwards. TEEN, TEEN CD

**Ender’s Game** by Orson Scott Card
After aliens attack the world twice, a young boy is chosen to be among those trained to stop the next invasion. TEEN PBK, READING LIST, TEEN CD

**Esperanza Rising** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Esperanza and her family must flee Mexico, where they live in luxury, and make a new life for themselves as agricultural workers in California. JPBK, TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CAS

**Fever, 1793** by Laurie Halse Anderson
In 1793, 16-year-old Mattie’s comfortable life is changed forever when a yellow fever epidemic hits Philadelphia. TEEN, TEEN CAS

**The First Part Last** by Angela Johnson
The story of a teenage father who has to raise his baby daughter on his own. TEEN, TEEN CD

**For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
To help the French fight the Nazis, a teenage girl puts her life at risk when she joins the Resistance. TEEN, TEEN PBK

**The Golden Compass** by Philip Pullman
Lyra, from an England in a world that is different from ours, travels to the far North after she learns of a plot against children and a mysterious substance called “dust”. (Sequel: *The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass*) JFIC, TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CD, JCAS

**The Gospel According to Larry** by Janet Tashjian
Josh likes Beth, and Beth idolizes Larry who writes a wildly popular anti-consumerism and anti-celebrity website. The problem is “Larry” is really Josh. (Sequel: *Vote For Larry*) TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CD, TEEN CAS

**Hope Was Here** by Joan Bauer
In the way she approaches waitressing and her involvement in the local mayoral election, Hope lives up to her self-chosen name. TEEN, TEEN CD, TEEN CAS

**The House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer
In a place called Opium, located between the United States and Mexico, Matt is the clone of a powerful drug lord called El Patron. JFIC, TEEN TEEN PBK, TEEN CAS

**The Killer’s Cousin** by Nancy Werlin
After David is acquitted of murder, he goes to live with his relatives. While there, he discovers something disturbing about his strange cousin Lily. TEEN, TEEN PBK

**A Mango-Shaped Space** by Wendy Mass
Mia hides the fact that she has synesthesia, an unusual condition that causes the senses to combine in strange ways. JFIC, TEEN

**The Minister’s Daughter** by Julie Hearl
Because she seems so sweet and innocent, everyone believes Grace, the minister’s daughter, when she accuses Nell and her grandmother of witchcraft. TEEN

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers
To help him cope with the horror of the experience, Steve writes a screenplay documenting his trial for murder. TEEN

**Night Hoops** by Carl Deuker
Late night one-on-one practices help Nick learn about choices and relationships, as well as about basketball. TEEN

**Saving Francesca** by Melina Marchetta
Francesca finds that it isn’t easy being one of only 30 girls in a school with 750 boys. TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CD

**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** by Ann Brashares
Four best friends share a magical pair of jeans as they go their separate ways over the summer. (Sequels: *Second Summer of the Sisterhood, Girls in Pants, Forever in Pants*) TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CD, TEEN CAS

**Son of the Mob** by Gordon Korman
Vince wants nothing to do with the business run by his dad, who is a mob boss. But, things get really complicated when he falls for the daughter of an informant. (Sequel: *Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle*) TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CAS

**Stuck in Neutral** by Terry Trueman
Because of cerebral palsy, Shawn has a brilliant mind trapped in a body that can’t communicate. He is now afraid that his father is planning to kill him. TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CAS

(continued)
True Believer
by Virginia Euwer Wolff
LaVaughn and Jody, her neighbor and crush, are both determined to rise above their poor neighborhood and go to college. (Prequel: Make Lemonade) TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CAS

The Truth About Forever
by Sarah Dessen
While spending the summer working for an oddball catering company, Macy falls in love and learns how to cope with her dad's death. TEEN, TEEN PBK, TEEN CD

Vampire High
by Douglas Rees
Cody finds out that most of the students at his strange new school are vampires. TEEN, TEEN PBK

What My Mother Doesn’t Know
by Sonya Sones
Ninth-grader Sophie is very interested in relationships with boys, but she is also very confused. TEEN, TEEN PBK

When I Was Older
by Garret Freymann-Weyr
15-year-old Sophie wants nothing to do with dating, but when she meets Francis she begins to reconsider. TEEN, TEEN PBK

The Will of the Empress
by Tamora Pierce
Four young mages (from Pierce's Circle of Magic series) are brought back together, and the need to outsmart the strong-willed Empress reestablishes their close relationships with each other. TEEN

The Wish List
by Eoin Colfer
In order to get into Heaven, newly-dead Meg has to go back to Earth to help an old man's wishes come true. JFJC, JPBK, TEEN PBK

The Wreckers
by Iain Lawrence
It’s 1799, and 14-year-old Spencer, with the help of 13-year-old Mary, tries to find his father and stop the people who caused his father's ship to crash on the rocks. (Sequels: The Smugglers, The Buccaneers) JFJC, TEEN, TEEN PBK, JCAS

NONFICTION

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793
by Jim Murphy
In 1793 when yellow fever swept through Philadelphia, the new nation's capital, many were killed, and many others, including members of the government, were forced to flee for their lives. J614.5 M

Babe Didrikson Zaharias:
The Making of A Champion
by Russell Freedman
Babe Didrikson broke records in golf, track and field, and other sports, at a time when there were few opportunities for female athletes. J796.352 Z

The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls
by Joan Jacobs Brumberg
In this memoir, Santiago tells the story of her poor childhood in rural Puerto Rico and her difficult move to New York at the age of 13. (Sequel: Almost a Woman) TEEN 974.7100468 5235 wv

Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem
by Marilyn Nelson
A series of poems, honoring a slave whose skeleton was used for anatomy studies by the doctor who owned him. J 821 N

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow
by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
What was it like to grow up in Hitler's Germany and hear from all the adults around you that Hitler's ideas were the truth? J 943.086 B

Hole in My Life
by Jack Gantos
Well-known author Gantos tells the story of a major mistake he made in his youth, and the price he had to pay for it. TEEN, TEEN PBK

Hoop Dreams: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph
by Ben Joravsky
Two poor boys from Chicago dream of becoming NBA stars. TEEN 796.323 382 H, TEEN PBK, READING LIST

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party
by Marian Calabro
The true and horrifying story of a group of pioneers who ran out of food while crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountains. J979.403 D

When I Was Puerto Rican
by Esmeralda Santiago
In this memoir, Santiago tells the story of her poor childhood in rural Puerto Rico and her difficult move to New York at the age of 13. (Sequel: Almost a Woman) TEEN 974.7100468 5235 wv

EIGHTH GRADE BOOK LIST

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