

SCIENCE FICTION TITLES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 8

<p><i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> by Madeleine L'Engle 740L</p>	<p>Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.</p>
<p><i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth HL700L</p>	<p>One choice can transform you. Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Beatrice must choose between staying with her Abnegation family and transferring factions. Her choice will shock her community and herself. But the newly christened Tris also has a secret, one she's determined to keep hidden, because in this world, what makes you different makes you dangerous.</p>
<p><i>Dragonflight</i> by Anne McCaffrey 940L</p>	<p>HOW CAN ONE GIRL SAVE AN ENTIRE WORLD? To the nobles who live in Benden Weyr, Lessa is nothing but a ragged kitchen girl. For most of her life she has survived by serving those who betrayed her father and took over his lands. Now the time has come for Lessa to shed her disguise-and take back her stolen birthright. But everything changes when she meets a queen dragon. The bond they share will be deep and last forever. It will protect them when, for the first time in centuries, Lessa's world is threatened by Thread, an evil substance that falls like rain and destroys everything it touches. Dragons and their Riders once protected the planet from Thread, but there are very few of them left these days. Now brave Lessa must risk her life, and the life of her beloved dragon, to save her beautiful world. . . .</p>
<p><i>Fuzzy Mud</i> by Louis Sachar 700L</p>	<p>Fifth grader Tamaya Dhilwaddi and seventh grader Marshall Walsh have been walking to and from Woodridge Academy together since elementary school. But their routine is disrupted when bully Chad Hilligas challenges Marshall to a fight. To avoid the conflict, Marshall takes a shortcut home through the off-limits woods. Tamaya, unaware of the reason for the detour, reluctantly follows. They soon get lost. And then they find trouble. Bigger trouble than anyone could ever have imagined. In the days and weeks that follow, the authorities and the U.S. Senate become involved, and what they uncover might affect the future of the world.</p>
<p><i>Inhuman</i> by Kat Falls HL700L</p>	<p>Lane McEvoy gets the shock of her life when she learns that someone she loves has crossed into the Feral Zone, the forbidden wilderness east of the Mississippi River. Few have dared set foot in the Zone since the devastating biological disaster that killed millions and left the survivors . . . changed. But now Lane has little choice. She travels east, completely unprepared for what she finds in the ruins of civilization . . . and afraid to learn whether her humanity will prove her greatest strength or a fatal weakness.</p>
<p><i>Masterminds</i> by Gordon Korman 730L</p>	<p>Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world: Serenity, New Mexico. In this idyllic place, every lawn is perfectly manicured and everyone has a pool and a tree house. Honesty and integrity are valued above all else. The thirty kids who live there never lie—they know it's a</p>

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	<p>short leap from that to the awful problems of other, less fortunate places. Eli has never left Serenity . . . Why would he ever want to? Then one day he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate further, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues mount to reveal a shocking discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known. The kids realize they can trust no one—least of all their own parents.</p>
<p><i>Shade's Children</i> by Garth Nix 980L</p>	<p>In the brutal world of <i>Shade's Children</i>, your 14th birthday is your last. Malevolent Overlords rule the earth, directing hideous, humanoid creatures to harvest the brains and muscles of teens for use in engineering foul beasts to fight senseless wars. Young Gold-Eye escapes this horrific fate, fleeing the dormitories before his Sad Birthday. He is rescued from certain doom by other refugees who live in an abandoned submarine and work for Shade, a strange, computer-generated adult. Shade provides food and shelter in exchange for information that the children gather on dangerous forays into Overlord territory. But what does Shade really want? He is a sworn enemy of the Overlords, but his use of the children to gain knowledge and power seems uncaring and ruthless. Finally, Gold-Eye and his new friends set out to destroy the Overlords--with or without the enigmatic, dangerous Shade. Garth Nix, author of <i>Sabriel</i>, blends suspense, action, and high emotion in this excellent, fast-moving science-fiction story. www.Amazon.com</p>
<p><i>Sky Jumpers</i> by Peggy Eddleman 860L</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Hope lives in White Rock, a town of inventors struggling to recover from the green bombs of World War III. But Hope is terrible at inventing and would much rather sneak off to cliff dive into the Bomb's Breath—the deadly band of compressed air that covers the crater left by the bombs—than fail at yet another invention. When bandits discover that White Rock has priceless antibiotics, they invade. With a two-day deadline to finish making this year's batch and no ingredients to make more, the town is left to choose whether to hand over the medicine and die from the disease that's run rampant since the bombs, or die fighting the bandits now. Help lies in a neighboring town, but the bandits count everyone fourteen and older each hour. Hope and her friends Aaren and Brock might be the only ones who can escape to make the dangerous trek through the Bomb's Breath and over the snow-covered mountain. For once, inventing isn't the answer, but the daring and recklessness that usually get Hope into trouble might just save them all.</p>
<p><i>The Dangerous Days of Daniel X</i> by James Patterson</p>	<p>At first glance, Lee might seem like an average fifteen year old, shooting the breeze with his friends around a campfire, crushing on his friend Dana, sassing the assistant principal at school. But Lee has a little bit more responsibility than your average kid: he's the next Alien Hunter, bequeathed with the List of hidden alien outlaws living and lurking on Earth in disguise. All must be destroyed in order to protect the human race from eventual</p>

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	<p>takeover. It's a big job for one teenager. His father had the title of Alien Hunter until #1 on the List, The Prayer, killed him and Lee's mother in cold blood. Lee was just 3. Ever since then, his supreme abilities--like being able to change shape and conjure up his long-dead parents out of thin-air--have gotten him through life, not to mention countless battles with aliens that roam the earth, hunting humans as part of an inter-planetary game.</p> <p>Next on the list is #6, Ergent Seth, alternately a horribly crude, grotesque horse-headed creature and a pretentious Hollywood film director/producer. Lee's quest to search and destroy #6 leads him right into the arms of super-cute Sarah Wilson--and a deadly trap that takes him to Ergent Seth's spacecraft. It's heading for a place beyond Lee's comprehension: His home planet. For Lee is an alien too, after all. And it turns out the earth, his adopted home, isn't the only planet that needs to be saved.</p>
<p><i>The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm</i> by Nancy Farmer 660L</p>	<p>The year is 2194, and Tendai, Rita, and Kuda are the children of Zimbabwe's wealthy and powerful chief of security. They've escaped from their father's estate to explore the dangerous city of Harare--and promptly disappear. Their parents call in the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm, detectives whose exposure to nuclear waste has given them special powers. Together they must save the children from the evils of the past, the technology of the future, and criminals with plans much more sinister than anyone could have imagined.</p> <p>In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.</p>
<p><i>The Fellowship for Alien Detection</i> by Kevin Emerson 760L</p>	<p>Author Kevin Emerson channels Frank Cottrell Boyce in this tween sci-fi adventure about two kids from opposite sides of the country who find themselves on a road trip to save the world from an impending alien attack.</p> <p>Haley and Dodger have nothing in common. But that was before they learned about the strange, unexplainable phenomena in Juliette, Arizona. Before they both received summer research grants from a mysterious foundation and discovered their theories about extraterrestrial life were correct. Now Haley and Dodger do have something in common: they're the only ones who can figure out what's happening in towns across the country . . . and stop it.</p> <p><i>The Fellowship for Alien Detection</i> has it all: an inventive premise, fantastic voice, cinematic tone, and high appeal for both boys and girls.</p>
<p><i>The Fourteenth Goldfish</i> by Jennifer L. Holm 550L</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's</p>

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	<p>always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?</p> <p>With a lighthearted touch and plenty of humor, Jennifer Holm celebrates the wonder of science and explores fascinating questions about life and death, family and friendship, immortality . . . and possibility.</p>
<p><i>The Only Ones</i> by Aaron Starmer 700L</p>	<p>"Call it coincidence, call it fate. This is the place you come. There's no one else. This is the entire world."</p> <p>These words welcome Martin Maple to the village of Xibalba. Like the other children who've journeyed there, he faces an awful truth.</p> <p>He was forgotten.</p> <p>When families and friends all disappeared one afternoon, these were the only ones left behind.</p> <p>There's Darla, who drives a monster truck, Felix, who uses string and wood to rebuild the Internet, Lane, who crafts elaborate contraptions, and nearly 40 others, each equally brilliant and peculiar.</p> <p>Inspired by the prophecies of a mysterious boy who talks to animals, Martin believes he can reunite them with their loved ones. But believing and knowing are two different things, as he soon discovers with the push of a button, flip of a switch, turn of a dial. . . .</p>
<p><i>When You Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead 750L</p>	<p>Miranda (12) is the latchkey kid of a single mother law school dropout in late 1970s Manhattan. After reading <u><i>A Wrinkle in Time</i></u>, Miranda is obsessed with time travel, and receives mysterious notes which accurately predict the future. Over the course of her 6th grade year, Miranda describes the three important themes in her life: her mother's upcoming appearance on <i>The \$20,000 Pyramid</i>, the sudden end of her lifelong friendship with her neighbor Sal, and the appearance of a deranged homeless man. This thought-provoking and realistic science fiction is enthralling. Newberry Medal, 2010</p>