A Gift for Reading 2014
The Best Books of the Year for Middle Schoolers
Selected by the Children’s Staff of the Newton Free Library

**Adventure/Mystery**
- *Buzz Kill* by Beth Fantaskey
- *Furious Jones and the Assassin’s Secret* by Tim Kehoe
- *Greenglass House* by Kate Milford
- *The Boundless* by Kenneth Oppel
- *The Blood Guard* by Carter Roy
- *Loot: How to Steal a Fortune* by Jude Watson

**Graphic Novels**
- *Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey* by Nick Bertozzi
- *In Real Life* by Cory Doctorow & Jen Wang
- *The Dumbest Idea Ever!* by Jimmy Gownley
- *Cleopatra in Space, Book One: Target Practice* by Mike Maihack
- *The Graveyard Book, Parts 1 and 2* adapted by P. Craig Russell
- *The Shadow Hero* by Gene Luen Yang

**Realistic Fiction**
- *Never Ending* by Martyn Bedford
- *Outside In* by Sarah Ellis
- *Infinite Sky* by C.J. Flood
- *Skink: No Surrender* by Carl Hiaasen
- *Swim That Rock* by John Rocco & Jay Primiano
- *Unfriended* by Rachel Vail

**Humorous**
- *The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place* by Julie Berry
- *The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy* by Kate Hattemer
- *The Great Greene Heist* by Varian Johnson
- *The Chapel Wars* by Lindsey Leavitt
- *Katie Walden Directs: Night of the Zombie Chickens* by Julie Mata
- *Codename: Zero* by Chris Rylander

**Historical Fiction**
- *Stay Where You Are & Then Leave* by John Boyne
- *The Children of the King* by Sonya Hartnett
- *Willow* by Tonya Cherie Hegamin
- *The Paper Cowboy* by Kristin Levine
- *Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina* by Rodman Philbrick
- *Revolution* by Deborah Wiles

**Science Fiction**
- *The Foundry's Edge* by Cam Baity & Benny Zelkowicz
- *Replica* by Jenna Black
- *Parched* by Georgia Clark
- *The Inventor's Secret* by Andrea Cremer
- *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf* by Ambelin Kwaymullina
- *Whisper* by Chris Struyk-Bonn
Fantasy
Bloodwitch by Amelia Awater-Rhodes
The Iron Trial by Holly Black & Cassandra Clare
A Creature of Moonlight by Rebecca Hahn
The Castle Behind Thorns by Merrie Haskell
Kiss of Deception by Mary E. Pearson
The Forbidden Library by Django Wexler

Horror/Supernatural
Vanishing Season by Jodi Lynn Anderson
The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier
Into the Grey by Celine Kiernan
Dreamwood by Heather Mackey
Jackaby by William Ritter
In the Shadows by Kiersten White

Biographies & Non-Fiction
Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I’s Bravest Dog by Ann Bausum
How They Choked: Failures, Flops, and Flaws of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg
The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids by Patrick Dillon
How to Make a Universe with 92 Ingredients: An Electrifying Guide by Adrian Dingle
Sticky Fingers: DIY Duct Tape Projects by Sophie Maletsky
Guys Read: True Stories edited by Jon Scieszka

Poetry
Caminar by Skila Brown
Rhyme Scheme by K.A. Holt
The Sound of Letting Go by Stasia Ward Kehoe
Dust of Eden by Mariko Nagai
A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman

Challenging Reads (8th Grade)
The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson (Realistic fiction)
Zac & Mia by A.J. Betts (Realistic fiction)
The Taking by Kimberly Derting (Science fiction)
Loud Awake and Lost by Adele Griffin (Realistic fiction)
Dangerous by Shannon Hale (Science fiction)
Conversion by Katherine Howe (Adventure/mystery)
And We Stay by Jenny Hubbard (Realistic fiction)
Minders by Michele Jaffe (Science fiction)
Torn by David Massey (Realistic)
Free To Fall by Lauren Miller (Science Fiction)
Asylum by Madeleine Roux (Horror/supernatural)
The Winner’s Curse by Marie Rutkoski (Fantasy)
The Scar Boys by Len Vlahos (Realistic fiction)
Afterworlds by Scott Westerfeld (Horror/supernatural)
Noggin by John Corey Whaley (Realistic)