

## IMC Recommended List 6-12 March 2009

These titles have been recommended for purchase by San Diego Unified School District book reviewers. Use this list to purchase titles for your school or classroom library. Many of these titles are also available for teacher check out at the IMC. Questions may be directed to Deborah B. Ford, IMC Resource Librarian at (858) 496-8442 or [dford@sandi.net](mailto:dford@sandi.net).

Title - Author - {Interest Level, Dewey} --Publisher : Year, Reading Level, Number of Pages

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Ain't Nothing But a Man : My Quest to Find the Real John Henry -- Nelson, Scott Reynolds. {IL 5-8, 973} -- National Geographic, 2008., RL 6.4, 64p

Historian Scott Nelson introduces children to the life of the real John Henry, drawing on songs, poems, and stories to describe the man behind the legendary African-American hero.

The Battle of the Labyrinth -- Riordan, Rick. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, 2008., RL 5.1, 361p

When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near.

The Bone Magician -- Higgins, F. E. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Feiwel and Friends, 2008., 272p

With his father, a fugitive, falsely accused of multiple murders and the real serial killer stalking the wretched streets of Urbs Umida, Pin Carpue, a young undertaker's assistant, investigates and finds that all of the victims may have attended the performance of a stage magician who claims to be able to raise corpses and make the dead speak.

The Boy Who Dared -- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 3.8, 202p

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Chains -- Anderson, Laurie Halse {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 6.3, 316p

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

A Curse Dark as Gold -- Bunce, Elizabeth C. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008., 395p

Upon the death of her father, seventeen-year-old Charlotte struggles to keep the family's woolen mill running in the face of an overwhelming mortgage and what the local villagers believe is a curse, but when a man capable of spinning straw into gold appears on the scene she must decide if his help is worth the price.

The Diamond of Darkhold -- DuPrau, Jeanne. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Random House, 2008., RL 5.3, 285p

After obtaining an ancient book with only a few pages remaining, Lina and Doon return to Ember seeking the machine described in the book that might be able to aid their new community, Sparks, through the winter.

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks : a Novel -- Lockhart, E. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Hyperion, 2008., 345p

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

Found -- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 4.8, 314p

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Ghost of Spirit Bear -- Mikaelson, Ben, 1952- {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- HarperCollinsPublishers, 2008., RL 6.5, 154p

Cole Matthews returns to civilization after his year of exile in the Alaskan wilderness and is ready to face high school, but when the school bullies begin to target his friend, Peter, Cole feels his rage once again coming to the surface and worries high school may prove harder to survive than the wilderness.

Gods of Manhattan -- Mebus, Scott. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Dutton Children's Books, 2008., RL 6.1, 340p

Thirteen-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world that thrives alongside his contemporary New York City, filled with fantastical creatures and people from the city's colorful past who have become gods and goddesses and who have chosen Rory to perform a dangerous mission.

The Gollywhopper Games -- Feldman, Jody. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2008., RL 4, 308p

Twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling money from Golly Toy and Game Company.

Graceling -- Cashore, Kristin. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Harcourt, 2008., 471p

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

The Graveyard Book -- Gaiman, Neil. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 6.7, 312p

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

The House of Djinn -- Staples, Suzanne Fisher. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008., 207p

An unexpected death brings Shabanu's daughter, Mumtaz, and nephew, Jameel, both aged fifteen, to the forefront of an attempt to modernize Pakistan, but the teens must both sacrifice their own dreams if they are to meet family and tribal expectations.

The Hunger Games -- Collins, Suzanne. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., 374p  
Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

Kingdom Keepers II. Disney at Dawn -- Pearson, Ridley. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Disney Editions, 2008., RL 4.8, 377p

When the evil Overtakers gain control of a computer server at the Magic Kingdom, allowing them to put the holographic hosts into permanent comas if they should fall asleep, Finn and the others race against time to find the missing Jez and foil the plan.

Masterpiece -- Broach, Elise. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Holt/Christy Ottaviano Books, 2008., RL 5.4, 292p

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Nation -- Pratchett, Terry {IL YA, -Fic-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., 367p

A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives.

Outcast -- Paver, Michelle. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Katherine Tegen Books, 2008., RL 6.7, 319p  
Cast out of the Raven clan, Torak heads to the reedbeds at Lake Axehead, where he is hunted by the hidden people and he must do battle with an ancient evil.

Outside Beauty -- Kadohata, Cynthia. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008., 265p

Thirteen-year-old Shelby and her three sisters must go to live with their respective fathers while their mother, who has trained them to rely on their looks, recovers from a car accident that scarred her face.

Six Innings : a Game in the Life -- Preller, James. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Feiwel and Friends, 2008., RL 6.3, 147p

Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game.

Skulduggery Pleasant : Playing With Fire -- Landy, Derek. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- HarperCollins, 2008., RL 6.2, 389p

When the evil Baron Vengeous escapes from prison, Detective Skulduggery Pleasant and his apprentice, Valkyrie Cain, have just two days to recapture him or the Baron's creature, the Grotosquery, may summon the Faceless Ones back to their world.

Steel Trapp : the Challenge -- Pearson, Ridley. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Disney Editions, 2008., RL 8.1, 324p

On a two-day train trip to enter his invention in the National Science Competition in Washington, D.C., fourteen-year-old Steven "Steel" Trapp, possessor of a remarkable photographic memory, becomes embroiled in an international plot of kidnapping and bribery that may have links to terrorists.

Stella Stands Alone -- LaFaye, A. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008., RL 6.3, 245p

Fourteen-year-old Stella, orphaned just after the Civil War, fights to keep her family's plantation and fulfill her father's desire to turn land over to the people who have worked on it for generations, but first she must find her father's hidden deed and will.

Sunrise Over Fallujah -- Myers, Walter Dean, 1937- {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., 290p

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Trouble -- Schmidt, Gary D. {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Clarion Books, 2008., RL 5.8, 297p

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog, but fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

What I Saw and How I Lied -- Blundell, Judy. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2008., RL 5.5, 284p

In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenage Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome change her life and that of her family forever.