2008-2009 Lone Star Reading List


Even though he seems to have no superhero powers, Chance is accepted into the school of his dreams, the Burlington Academy for the Superhuman, where he uses his skills to help his team and battle the forces of Evil.

**Try These Too:**
*The Awakening,* Michael Owen Carroll  
*Demonkeeper,* Royce Buckingham  
*PS 238,* Aaron Williams  
*True Talents,* David Lubar


In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.

**Try These Too:**
*Runaway,* Wendelin Van Draanen  
*Sand Dollar Summer,* Kimberly Jones  
*Way Down Deep,* Ruth White


Kyle Kingsbury has everything going for him - money, good looks, and charm - until the day he mocks the wrong girl (a witch in disguise) who transforms him into a terrifying beast. Kyle has two years to find true love before he becomes a monster forever in this very modern retelling of the classic *Beauty and the Beast* story.

Almost 8000 people died when a hurricane struck the Galveston coast in 1900. Sixteen-year old Seth survived the storm, found his way home and discovered his talents and strengths while helping to rebuild the island.

**Try These Too:**
*Death Mountain*, Sherry Shahan
*Hurricane force: In the Path of America's Deadliest Storms*, Joseph B. Treaster
*The Killing Sea*, Richard Lewis
*Life as We Knew It*, Susan Beth Pfeffer


Get the scientific facts about Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster, Chupacabra, the Mongolian Death Worm, and 50 other legendary creatures, and find out what is true, what is myth, and what just isn’t known (yet).

**Try These Too:**
*Cryptid Hunters*, Roland Smith
*Death Collector*, Justin Richards
*Oh Rats! The Story of Rats and People*, Albert Marrin
*Unexplained*, Judy Allen

Sparrow is the 7th and most powerful daughter in a family of psychics, but she wants nothing to do with her powers until a persistent ghost convinces her to help him out.

Try These Too:
Ghosts I Have Been, Richard Peck
Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator, Jennifer Allison
Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos, R.L. La Fevers


Attacked by pirates and saved by a mermaid, Ven’s amazing adventures include a talking cat, ghosts, and a quest for the magical waters of the mysterious floating island.

Try These Too:
Airborn, Kenneth Oppel
Changeling, Delia Sherman
Foundling, D.M. Cornish
The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio, Lloyd Alexander


Ginny is ready for seventh grade. If she can just complete the ten items on her to-do list, everything will be perfect. But life gets in the way as she deals with family issues, problems with friends, and mishaps at school. What was supposed to be her greatest year is turning into the worst year ever!

Try These Too:
The Actual Real Reality of Jennifer James, Gillian Shields
Right-Under Club, Christine Hurley Deriso
The Very Ordered Existence of Merilee Marvelous, Suzanne Crowley

Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie, but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

**Try These Too:**
*How Ya Like Me Now*, Brendan Halpin  
*No More Dead Dogs*, Gordon Korman  
*Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli


On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to challenge the system in order to save his father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**Try These Too:**  
*Ender’s Game*, Orson Scott Card  
*The Game of Sunken Places*, M.T. Anderson  
*Head Games*, Mariah Fredericks  
*Heir Apparent*, Vivian Vande Velde  
*Invitation to the Game*, Monica Hughes


April Lundquist’s life has suddenly become very exciting. She lives on a street full of mafia bosses and accidentally becomes employed by Salvatore "Soft Sal" Luciano while her older brother Matt is secretly seeing another mobster’s daughter. April and her friend Brandi do all they can to save the sometimes annoying, yet over-protective Matt from his impending doom amidst their own hilarious boyfriend problems.

**Try These Too:**

Jack is no stranger to death – he’s been close before when his asthma threatened to overpower him. When he and his mother move into an old farmhouse, Jack actually begins to see the spirits of the Ghost Mother and the four ghost children she is terrorizing. As the Ghost Mother decides she wants a real child to love, Jack is drawn into a struggle with the Other World to save not only his life and his mother’s, but also to reunite the ghost children’s souls with their loved ones.

**Try These Too:**
- *Everlost*, Neal Shusterman
- *Jade Green*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- *The Presence*, Eve Bunting
- *Werewolf Rising*, R.L. La Fevers


Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

**Try These Too:**
- *Chasing the Jaguar*, Michele Greene
- *Defining Dulcie*, Paul Acampora
- *Esperanza Rising*, Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Feels Like Home*, e. E. Charlton-Trujillo

Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii in 1975 find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes followed by a tsunami.

**Try These Too:**
*Alabama Moon*, Watt Key
*Touching Spirit Bear*, Ben Mikaelsen
*The Trap*, John E. Smelcer


In a year filled with cream puff disasters, being forced to study Shakespeare, wearing yellow tights and the Vietnam War, Holling also meets the New York Yankees, makes the cross country track team and learns to stand up to his father.

**Try These Too:**
*Edenville Owls*, Robert B. Parker
*The Loud Silence of Francine Green*, Karen Cushman
*One-Handed Catch*, MJ Auch
*The View from Saturday*, E.L. Koningsburg


Nicholas Flamel, the greatest Alchemyst of his day, supposedly died in 1418. In reality, he and his wife are still alive and well today. When the book that holds the secret to eternal life is stolen from Flamel, twins Sophie and Josh find themselves the subject of a prophecy giving them the power to save the world.

**Try These Too:**
The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp, Rick Yancey
Harry Potter (series). J.K. Rowling
Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series), Rick Riordan
Shadow Thieves, Anne Ursu
Skulduggery Pleasant, Derek Landy


Peak was born to be a climber. After getting caught and then arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, 14 year-old Peak is “rescued” by his previously absentee father. Peak’s father has an even grander plan for Peak; he wants Peak to be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest, no matter what it takes to make it happen.

Try These Too:
Everest (series), Gordon Korman
Hatchet, Gary Paulsen
Runner, Carl Deuker
Shackelton’s Stowaway, Victoria McKernan
Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083, Andrea White


When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

Try These Too:
I am the Wallpaper, Mark Peter Hughes
If We Kiss, Rachel Vail
Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time, Lisa Yee

When twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father’s research, he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life and begins an adventure he never imagined possible.

Try These Too:
* City of Ember, Jeanne DuPrau
* Downsiders, Neal Shusterman
* White Darkness, Geraldine McCaughrean


After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Try These Too:
* Chasing Vermeer, Blue Balliett
* Evil Genius, Catherine Jinks
* H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education, Mark Walden
* Shakespeare’s Secret, Elise Broach
* The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin

The Texas Lone Star list is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table. The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source.

The Lone Star Reading Lists are archived at: http://www.txla.org/groups/yart/lonestarlists.html