

**POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL APPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL READING LIST WITH GUIDELINES**

Revised: January 2009

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## **GUIDELINES**

### **PURPOSE for the Approved Instructional Reading List**

The purpose of the “Approved Instructional Reading List” is solely to assist teachers in selecting reading materials that can be used in their classrooms for the purpose of INSTRUCTION.

Books included on this list provide teachers with a variety of CHOICES of classroom reading material which can be matched, most importantly, to their students’ levels of content and maturity, and secondarily, to the lexile range of the written text. No teacher should select books for instruction without considering student diversity.

It is requested that teachers honor the designated levels (middle, 9-12 and AP) to avoid repetition of instruction. However, if your students inform you that they have already read this selection, please view it as an opportunity for a reread without having to emphasize elements of plot.

The Instructional Reading Selection Committee is comprised of an equitable representation of middle, high and advanced placement teachers who are highly knowledgeable and well versed in literature.

### **~ EXPECTATIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM TEACHER ~**

It is the district’s expectation that a book **MUST** be on this list in order to be used for instructional purposes. Teachers are expected to submit, to their Language Arts and/or Reading Department heads, by August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, a list (maximum of ten books) that they are considering teaching during the upcoming year. A copy of each list will then be forwarded from the department head(s) to the school’s Assistant Principal of Curriculum. The books submitted **must be** on the Approved Instructional Reading List.

### **~ CHANGES TO THIS LIST ~**

If teachers wish to suggest changes to this list, they must complete the “REQUEST FOR CHANGE TO APPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL READING LIST” (available by link in Public Folders/Learning) and submit it to the current COMMITTEE CHAIR; that is designated at the bottom of the template. This form can be submitted by email and/or hard copy to the committee chair.

### **~ CRITERIA FOR SELECTION ~**

It is expected that a minimum of five members of the Approved Instructional Reading Selection Committee will read any book recommended for addition, deletion or level change. Their recommendation will then be sent to the Senior Curriculum Coordinators of Secondary Reading and Language Arts. The Senior Curriculum Coordinators will then confer with the appropriate Senior Director (of middle or high school) who will make the final decision. The teacher submitting the request will then be notified of the Senior Director’s decision. All submissions, deletions and level changes will be noted in the district document.

*DISCLAIMER WORDING: No additions or deletions can be made to this list except by the designated district committee with the approval of the Senior Directors of Middle and High Schools.*

## **READING SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Special appreciation to the many language arts and reading teachers/coaches that served on this committee, led by co-chairs, Elvira Randall and Diane Conley.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BOOKS

1. The book is a work of literary merit that represents a common genre, a literary period, and/or a noted author.
2. The book is well written.
3. The book is on reputable lists for recommended reading, such as Newberry, American Library Association, NCTE, ALAN, and state depository.
4. The book deals with contemporary and/or universal problems and issues.
5. The book encourages respect, compassion, and love for one's fellow man.
6. The book celebrates the worth and dignity of the individual.
7. The book shows fundamental truths and conditions of humanity.
8. The book is appropriate for the maturity level of the students.
9. The book is selected for its total effect.
10. The book and recommended grade level(s) are matched by approximate lexile levels.

**APPROVED READING LIST**

**NP = Non-Prose text – at least 50% nonstandard prose**

**GRADES 6–8**

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<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Lexile</u>	<u>Additions/Deletions</u>
	Aesop's Fables	780	
	Arabian Nights	970	
	Arthurian Tales		
	The Bible	1150	
Adler, C.S.	With Westie and the Tin Man	700	
	Footsteps on the Stairs	700	
Alcock, Vivien	Cuckoo Sister	600	
Alcott, Louisa Mae	Eight Cousins	1260	
	Little Men	1200	
	Little Women	1200	
Alexander, Lloyd	*The Kestrel	710	
Andersen, Hans Christian	Andersen's Fairy Tales	860	
Annixter, Paul	Swiftwater		
Appleman-Jurman, Alicia	Alicia: My Story	880	
Armstrong, W. H.	Souder	900	
Asher, Sandy	Just Like Jenny		
Avi	True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	740	
Babbitt, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting	770	11-08
Bach, Richard	Jonathan Livingston Seagull		
Bagnold, Enid	National Velvet	700	
Barrett, William E.	The Lilies of the Field	770	
Barry, Dave & Pearson, Riddley	Peter and the Starcatchers	770	11-08
Bauer, Marion Dane	On My Honor	750	
Beach, Edward L.	Run Silent, Run Deep		
Benary-Isbert, Margot	The Ark		
Blanton, Catherine	Hold Fast to Your Dreams		
Blinn, William	Brian's Song	NP	
Blume, Judy	Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret	590	
	Blubber	660	
	Iggie's House	540	
	Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great	590	
	Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself	700	
	Then Again, Maybe I Won't	590	
	Tiger Eyes	650	
Bonham, Frank	Durango Street	640	
Boyd, James	*Drums	900	
Bradbury, Ray	*Fahrenheit 451	890	
	*Illustrated Man	680	
Bridgers, Sue Ellen	All Together Now	NP	
	Home Before Dark		
Bristow, Gwen	Deep Summer		
	*Jubilee Trail		
Brown, Roy	Find Debbie		

**\*Advanced level reading**

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<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Lexile</u>	<u>Additions/Deletions</u>
Buck, Pearl	*The Good Earth	1530	Moved from high school 8-18-08
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	A Little Princess The Secret Garden	930 970	
Burnford, Sheila	The Incredible Journey	1320	
Byars, Betsy	The Computer Nut The Summer of the Swans	620 830	
Byrd, Richard E.	Alone		
Cavanna, Betty	Accent on April Going on Sixteen		
Cleary, Beverly	Dear Mr. Henshaw	910	
Cleaver, Vera & Bill	Dust of the Earth Grover The Kissimmee Kid Me, Too Where the Lilies Bloom The Whys and Wherefores of Litta Belle Lee	920	
Coerr, Eleanor	Sadako & the Thousand Paper Cranes	630	3-08
Conford, Ellen	Why Me?		
Covington, John P.	Motorcycle Racer		
Craighead-George, Jean	On the Far Side of the Mountain	760	12-07
Craik, Dinah Maria Mulock	The Little Lame Prince		
Crichton, Michael	Jurassic Park	710	
Crothers, Samuel	The Children of Dickens		
Dahl, Roald	Boy–An Autobiography Charley and the Chocolate Factory James and the Giant Peach Charley and the Great Glass Elevator	1090 810 870 720	
Daly, Maureen	Seventeenth Summer	1130	
Danziger, Paula	The Cat Ate My Gym Suit	610	
Daugherty, James	Daniel Boone		
Davies, Valentine	*Miracle on 34th Street		
Davis, Gibbs	Fishman and Charly		
De la Ramee, Louise	A Dog of Flanders and Other Stories		
Dennis, Wesley	Tumble, the Story of a Mustang		
Dickens, Charles	*A Christmas Carol *Great Expectations	1080 1230	
Dodge, Mary Mapes	Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates	1020	
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes *The Hound of the Baskervilles	1080 1090	
Draper, Sharon	Copper Sun	820	3-08
Du Maurier, Daphne	*My Cousin Rachel *Rebecca	880	
DuPrau, Jean	The City of Ember	670	12-07
Eareckson, Joni	Joni		

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<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Lexile</u>	<u>Additions/Deletions</u>
Eareckson, Joni (cont.)	A Step Further		
Edmonds, Walter D.	The Matchlock Gun	860	
Farley, Walter	Black Stallion	680	
Fast, Howard	April Morning	1050	
Felson, Henry G.	Hot Rod		
Finlayson, Ann	Decathlon Men: Greatest Athletes in the World		
Fleischman, Paul	Path of the Pale Horse		
Fleischman, Sid	The Whipping Boy	570	
Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain	840	
Forbes, Kathryn	Mama's Bank Account	820	
Fox, John Jr.	The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Came Trail of the Lonesome Pine		
Fox, Paula	*The Slave Dancer	970	
Frank, Anne	*The Diary of a Young Girl	1080	
Freedman, B. & N.	Mrs. Mike	710	
Fritz, Jean	Homesick	860	
George, Jean Craighead	My Side of the Mountain The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo: An Ecological Mystery Julie of the Wolves (recommended for 8 <sup>th</sup> grade only)	810 740	
Gibson, William	The Miracle Worker	NP	
Gilbreth, Frank B. & Carey, Ernestine G.	Belles on Their Toes Cheaper By the Dozen	890 890	
Gipson, Fred	Old Yeller Savage Sam	910 940	
Grahame, Kenneth	The Wind in the Willows	1140	
Greene, Bette	Phillip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon, Maybe	900	
Gunther, John	*Death Be Not Proud	1060	
Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Shadow Children Series		
Hamilton, Virginia	The Planet of Junior Brown M.C. Higgins the Great House of Dies Drear Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush	730 620 670 550	
Hemingway, Ernest	*The Old Man and the Sea	940	
Henry, Marguerite	Justin Morgan Had a Horse King of the Wind	880 830	
Hentoff, Nat	The Day They Came to Arrest the Book	890	
Herriot, James	All Creatures Great and Small All Things Wise and Wonderful All Things Bright and Beautiful Dog Stories The Lord God Made Them All	990 940 1070 990	
Heyerdahl, Thor	*Kon-Tiki	1310	
Hiaason, Carl	Hoot		

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Hinton, S.E.	*The Outsiders	750	
	That Was Then, This Is Now	780	
	Rumblefish	680	
Houston, Jeanne	Farewell to Manzanar	1040	
Hunt, Irene	Across Five Aprils	1100	
	*The Lottery Rose	1070	
	No Promises in the Wind	930	
Ishmael, Beah	Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	920	12-08
Jackson, Shirley	Raising Demons		
Jacques, Brian	Redwall	800	
Johnston, Norma	The Bridge Between	1000	
	Gabriel's Girl		
	The Keeping Days		
	Myself and I		
	The Swallow's Song		
Jones, Ron	The Wishing Star		
	The Acorn People	720	
Kantor, McKinlay	Voice of Bugle Ann		
Keller, Helen	*The Story of My Life	1150	
Kerr, M. E.	If I Love You, Am I Trapped Forever?		
	Little Little	970	
	Son of Someone Famous	760	
Keyes, Daniel	Flowers for Algernon	910	
Kingsley, Charles	Westward Ho!		
Kipling, Rudyard	*Captain Courageous	1020	
	Just So Stories	1060	
	*Kim	940	
	*The Man Who Would Be King	1100	
Kirst, Hans	*Toast Stop, Camp 7		
Knight, Eric	Lassie Come Home	780	
Konigsburg, E. L.	From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E.	700	
	Frankweiler		
Krents, Harold	To Race the Wind		
Lamb, Charles	*Tales from Shakespeare	1390	
Lane, Rose Wilder	Let the Hurricane Roar	770	
Latham, Jean Lee	Carry On, Mr. Bowditch	570	
Lee, Harper	*To Kill a Mockingbird	870	
L'Engle, Madeline	A Wrinkle in Time	740	
	A Wind in the Door	790	
	A Swiftly Tilting Planet	850	
Lewis, C. S.	*The Chronicles of Narnia	890	
	*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	940	
Lindbergh, Charles	*The Spirit of St. Louis	940	
Lipsyte, Robert	The Contender	760	
London, Jack	The Call of the Wild	1120	

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<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Lexile</u>	<u>Additions/Deletions</u>
London, Jack (cont.)	*The Sea Wolf *White Fang	1020 970	
Lord, Bette	In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson	730	
Lord, Walter	A Night to Remember	950	10-07
Lowry, Lois	Gathering Blue The Giver The Messenger Number the Stars	670	12-07
McCaffrey, Anne	Dragonsong	960	
McCain, John	Character Is Destiny		
Mah, Adline Yen	Chinese Cinderella	960	10-07
MacLachan, Patricia	Sarah, Plain and Tall	560	
MacLean, Alistair	*The Guns of Navarone *Ice Station Zebra		
Mathis, Sharon B.	Teacup Full of Roses	560	
Mazer, Nolma Fox	Taking Terri Mueller	570	
Mitchell, Margaret	Gone With the Wind	1100	
Moeri, Louise	Save Queen of Sheba	1070	
Montgomery, Lucy Maud	Anne of Green Gables	990	5-07
Morley, Walt	Gentle Ben	740	
Myers, Walter Dean	Monster	1070	3-08
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	The Keeper	730	
Nelson, Teresa	The 25¢ Miracle		
Nixon, Joan Lowery	Name of the Game is Murder	890	12-07
Norton, Andre	Octagon Magic		
O'Dell, Scott	Island of the Blue Dolphins Zia	1000 790	
O'Hara, Mary	My Friend Flicka Green Grass of Wyoming	960	
Olivant, Alfred	Bob, Son of Battle		
Orlev, Uri	Island on Bird Street	690	
Paterson, Katherine	Bridge to Terabithia Come Sing, Jimmy Jo The Great Gilly Hopkins Jacob Have I Loved	810 760 800 880	
Paulsen, Gary	*Hatchet	1020	
Peck, Richard	Ghosts I Have Been Something for Joey	830 860	
Peck, Robert Newton	A Day No Pigs Would Die	690	
Philbrick, Rodman	Freak the Mighty	1000	2-09
Platt, Kin	*The Boy Who Could Make Himself Disappear	810	
Poe, Edgar Allan	*Tales and Poems	1200	
Portis, Charles	True Grit	800	
Pyle, Howard	Robin Hood The Story of King Arthur And His Knights	1270 1430	

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Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan	The Yearling	750	
Rawls, Wilson	Where the Red Fern Grows	700	
Richter, Conrad	*Light in the Forest	870	
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanze Rising	750	11-08
Sands, Bill	My Shadow Ran Fast		
Schaefer, Jack	Shane	870	
Sewell, Anna	Black Beauty	900	
Silverstein, Shel	A Light in the Attic	NP	
	Where the Sidewalk Ends	NP	
	The Giving Tree	530	
Sherburne, Zoe	*Almost April *Jennifer *Why Have the Birds Stopped Singing?		
Shura, Mary Francis	The Josie Gambit	740	
Snyder, Zilpha Kentley	The Egypt Game	1010	
Sook, Nyul Choi	Years of Impossible Goodbyes	840	
Speare, Elizabeth	The Sign of the Beaver	770	
	Witch of Black Bird Pond	850	
Sperry, Armstrong	Call It Courage	830	
Spinelli, Jerry	Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key		12-08
	Maniac Magee	820	10-08
Spyri, Johanna	Heidi	550	
Steinbeck, John	The Red Pony	810	
Stevenson, Robert Louis	*Black Arrow	980	
	*Kidnapped	990	
	Treasure Island	1100	
Stewart, M.	Airs Above the Ground	990	
	Moon Spinners		
Stoker, Bram	*Dracula	990	
Stoltz, Mary	The Noonday Friends	790	
Street, James	Goodbye, My Lady	860	
Stuart, Jesse	Hie to the Hunters		
	The Thread That Runs So True	880	
Taylor, Mildred	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	920	
	Let the Circle Be Unbroken	850	
	The Road to Memphis	670	
Taylor, Theodore	The Cay	860	
Ten Boom, Corrie	The Hiding Place	900	
Thomas, Allison	It Must Be Love 'Cause I Feel So Dumb		
Tolkien, J.R.R.	*The Hobbit	1000	
	*Fellowship of the Rings	860	
	*Lord of the Rings		
	*Return of the King	920	
Twain, Mark	*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	990	
	*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	950	

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<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Lexile</u>	<u>Additions/Deletions</u>
Twain, Mark (cont.)	*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court	1080	
	*The Prince and the Pauper	1160	
	Pudd'nhead Wilson	1130	
Ullman, James R.	Banner in the Sky	680	
Verne, Jules	*Around the World in 80 Days	1080	
	*Journey to the Center of the Earth	1000	
	*Mysterious Island		
	*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea	1030	
Voight, Cynthia	Homecoming	630	
	Dacey's Song	710	
	Izzy, Willy-Nilly	790	
	Jackaroo	840	
Wagner, Jane	J.T.	730	
Wells, H. G.	*The Invisible Man	980	
	*Island of Dr. Moreau	990	
	*Time Machine	1070	
	*War of the Worlds	1170	
West, Jessamyn	Cress Delahanty		
	Friendly Persuasion	970	
White, Robb	Deathwatch	990	
	Torpedo Run		
	Up Periscope		
White, T.H.	*The Sword in the Stone	1120	
Wilder, Laura	Little House on the Prairie	760	
Wintrop, Elizabeth	The Castle in the Attic	750	
Wojciechowska, Maia	Shadow of the Bull	740	
Wolkoff, Judie	Happily Ever After . . . Almost	740	
Wyss, Johann	*The Swiss Family Robinson	1260	
Yep, Lawrence	Dragon Wings	870	
Yolen, Jane	Devil's Arithmetic	730	12-07
Zindel, Paul	Confessions of a Teenage Baboon	980	
	I Never Loved Your Mind		
	Pardon Me, You're Stepping on My Eyeball	960	
	*The Pigman	950	
	*The Pigman's Legacy	1010	
	*The Undertaker's Gone Bananas	1050	

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