



Kaufman Silverberg Library Grade 7-8 Suggested Reading List 2015

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Books with Judaic Content

The choice, by Kathy Clark. Thirteen-year-old Jakob's family has hidden their true identity as Jews and are living as Catholics in Budapest during World War II. One day, in a burst of loyalty, Jakob decides to reveal that he is Jewish, putting his whole family in danger. Jakob hopes his best friend Ivan, a Christian, will help his family but comes to believe that Ivan has abandoned them. Sent as a prisoner to Auschwitz, Jakob is kept alive by his passion for revenge against Ivan. When Jakob is finally freed, he discovers that Ivan, too, made a choice that day, a choice that changes everything Jakob thought was true. Based on true events.

Call number: M FIC CLA

Playing with matches, by Suri Rosen. When 16-year-old Raina Resnick is expelled from her Manhattan private school, she's sent to live with her strict aunt, but Raina feels like she's persona non grata no matter where she goes. Her sister Leah blames her for her broken engagement, and she's a social pariah at her new school. In the tight-knit Jewish community, Raina finds she is good at one thing: matchmaking. As the anonymous 'MatchMaven,' Raina sets up hopeless singles desperate to find the One.

Call number: M FIC ROS

The whole story of half a girl, by Veera Hiranandani. When Sonia's father loses his job and she must move from her small, supportive private school to a public middle school, the half-Jewish half-Indian sixth-grader experiences culture shock as she tries to navigate the school's unfamiliar social scene, and after her father is diagnosed with clinical depression, she finds herself becoming even more confused about herself and her family.

Call number: M FIC HIR

Non Fiction

Ballet spectacular: a young ballet lover's guide and an insight into a magical world, by Lisa Miles. An introduction to ballet features facts on the dance discipline's history, basic steps, costumes, and famous dancers, and includes details of iconic performances from the Royal Ballet.

Call number: J 792.8 MIL

Bomb: race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon, by Steve Sheinkin. Recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos.

Call number: J 623.4 SHE

Breath of bones: a tale of the Golem, by Steve Niles. A British plane crashes on the outskirts of a small Jewish town, drawing the attention of Nazi forces. To protect their homes and families, one man gives his life to create a creature of legend - the golem. Following the orders of the man's

grandson, the golem fights for the town and becomes a friend no one expected.

Call number: J 398.2089 NIL

Chicken soup for the soul: think positive for kids, by Kevin Sorbo and Amy Newmark. A collection of 101 personal stories about children making good decisions, doing the right thing, thinking positively, overcoming obstacles, and being grateful.

Call number: J 158 SOR

The Chinese head tax: and anti-Chinese immigration policies in the twentieth century, by Arlene Chan. Through historical photographs, documents, and first-person narratives from Chinese Canadians who experienced the Head Tax or who were children of Head Tax payers, this book offers a full account of the injustice of this period in Canadian history. It documents how this official racism was confronted and finally acknowledged.

Call number: J 971.004 CHA

Ghostly evidence: exploring the paranormal, by Kelly Milner Halls. Explore what ghosts are, where they're found, and meet some famous ghost busters. Check out the high-tech equipment modern ghost hunters use.

Call number: J 133.1 HAL

Japanese Canadian internment during the Second World War, by Pamela Hickman and Masako Fukawa. An illustrated history of the wartime internment of Japanese Canadian residents of British Columbia. Uses a wide range of historical photographs, documents, and images of museum artefacts to tell the story of the internment. Eventually, after years of pressure, the Canadian government admitted that the internment was wrong and apologized for it.

Call number: J 971.004 HIC

The Komagata Maru: and Canada's anti-Indian immigration policies in the twentieth century, by Pamela Hickman. Explains Canadian anti-Asian immigration policy and how it was challenged by Gurdit Singh, a Sikh businessman, who chartered a ship, the Komagata Maru, and sailed to Vancouver with over 300 fellow Indians wishing to immigrate to Canada. **Call number:** J 971.004 HIC

Quiz whiz 4: 1,000 super fun mind-bending totally awesome trivia questions, by National Geographic Kids. Presents one thousand trivia questions and answers on various subjects, from history and pets - to sports, food, and popular culture.

Call number: J 031.02 QUI

Residential schools: with the words and images of survivors, by Larry Loyie with Wayne K. Spear and Constance Brissenden. Presents a story of residential schools as told through survivors' eyes.

Call number: J 371.829 LOY

Space encyclopedia: a tour of our solar system and beyond, by David A. Aguilar. A tour of outer space explores the solar system as well as stars, galaxies, and the birth of planets, and speculates on whether other intelligent beings exist in the universe.

Call number: J 520.3 AGU

Treasury of Greek mythology: classic stories of gods, goddesses, heroes & monsters, by Donna Jo Napoli. An introduction to some of the most prominent beings in the ancient Greek pantheon.

Call number: J 292 NAP

Fiction

A wrinkle in time, by Madeleine L'Engle. Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe adventure through time and space as they search for Meg's father, a scientist.

Call number: M FIC LEN

Between heaven and earth, by Eric Walters. DJ is David McLean's eldest grandson, so he will be the one to scatter his beloved grandfather's ashes. He's always been the best at everything - sports, school, looking after his fatherless family - so climbing Kilimanjaro is just another thing he'll accomplish almost effortlessly. Or so he thinks, until he arrives in Tanzania and everything starts to go wrong...

Call number: M FIC WAL

Can you say catastrophe? The mostly miserable life of April Sinclair, bk. 1, by Laurie Friedman. Life is hard when you're 13, and no one knows this better than April Sinclair. Humiliated by her younger sisters in front of a hot new guy, unclear about the status of her friendship with best buds Billy and Brynn, and devastated that she has to take a road trip with her family in lieu of attending summer camp, she feels like things couldn't get much worse.

Call number: M FIC FRI

The Crossover, by Kwame Alexander. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Call number: M FIC ALE

The grave robber's apprentice, by Allan Stratton. Hans, a foundling raised by a grave robber, helps Countess Angela Gabriela, nearly thirteen, when she is torn away from her dream of being a professional puppeteer by an evil archduke out to destroy her and her parents.

Call number: M FIC STR

Home ice advantage, by Tom Earle. Jake dreams of becoming a hockey star, but an abusive father gets in the way of this dream. He leaves his suburban home and seeks refuge in the bustling streets of downtown Toronto, where he hides out in the long-empty building that was once Maple Leaf Gardens. But he discovers that he is not alone, and his experiences while there will determine whether he will realize his dream or throw it all away.

Call number: M FIC EAR

I funny: a middle school story, by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein. Resolving to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian despite less-than-funny challenges in his life, wheelchair-bound middle school student Jamie Grimm endures bullying from his mean-spirited cousin and hopes he will be fairly judged when he enters a local comedy contest.

Call number: M FIC PAT

Loki's wolves: the Blackwell pages, bk. 1, by K. L. Armstrong and M. A. Marr. When the apocalypse threatens, the human descendants of the gods must fight monsters to stop the end of the world.

Call number: M FIC ARM

Making bombs for Hitler, by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch. In this companion book to the award-winning book, *Stolen Child*, a young girl is forced into slave labour in a munitions factory in Nazi Germany. In *Stolen Child*, Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch introduced readers to Larissa, a victim of Hitler's largely unknown Lebensborn program. In this companion novel, readers will learn the fate of Lida, her sister, who was also kidnapped by the Germans and forced into slave labour - an Osterbeiter. In addition to her other tasks, Lida's small hands make her the perfect candidate

to handle delicate munitions work, so she is sent to a factory that makes bombs, where Lida and her friends conspire to sabotage the bombs to help block the Nazis' war effort. When her work camp is finally liberated, she is able to begin her search to learn the fate of her sister.

Call number: M FIC SKR

My name is Parvana: Breadwinner series, bk. 3, by Deborah Ellis. In this stunning sequel to the Breadwinner series, Parvana, now fifteen, is found in a bombed-out school. She is held as a suspected terrorist by American troops in Afghanistan. As Parvana waits for foreign military forces to determine her fate, she remembers the past four years of her life.

Call number: M FIC ELL

Odin's ravens: the Blackwell pages, bk. 2, by K. L. Armstrong and M. A. Marr. When Ragnarok - the apocalypse - threatens, the human descendants of the gods band together to fight monsters, and Matt Thorsen and his friends must journey to the underworld to save a descendant.

Call number: M FIC ARM

Paperboy, by Vince Vawter. When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

Call number: M FIC VAW

The reluctant journal of Henry K. Larsen, by Susin Nielsen. When thirteen-year-old Henry and his family move to the city to leave behind a secret tragedy, Henry finds a journal is his best friend.

Call number: M FIC NIE

Scare Scape, by Sam Fisher. Morton, James, Melissa, and their father have just moved into an old house in a new town, and when Morton finds a creepy gargoyle buried in the yard, he and his siblings each make a wish - and find out that they have unleashed chaos.

Call number: M FIC FIS

Seraphina, by Rachel Hartman. In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

Call number: M FIC HAR

Small medium at large, by Joanne Levy. After she's hit by lightning, twelve-year-old Lilah, who has a crush on classmate, Andrew, discovers that she can communicate with dead people, including her grandmother, who wants Lilah to find a new wife for Lilah's divorced father.

Call number: M FIC LEV

Spiked, by Steven Barwin. Eighth-grader Emma is the tallest person in her class. She used to be into sports in a big way, but now that she's hanging out with her new best friend, other things have become more important - like clothes and makeup and fitting in. When Emma gets roped into volunteering for the girls' volleyball team, she feels the urge to play again. First, though, she'll have to overcome her fear of what her new friends will say if she does.

Call number: M FIC BAR

Stealing time: a Jonah Wiley adventure, by Anne Dublin. When Jonah Wiley steals an antique pocket watch, he and his stepbrother Toby are hurled back in time, and they must work together and overcome their personal issues to solve the tough problems they encounter.

Call number: M FIC DUB

The spotted dog last seen, by Jessica Scott Kerrin. Derek isn't happy about having to spend time at the old cemetery for his community service project. But when he and his friends begin to track clues from secret codes penciled in the margins of mystery novels at the public library, they discover a time capsule that may finally help put his haunting past to rest.

Call number: M FIC KER

Three times lucky, by Sheila Turnage. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

Call number: M FIC TUR

The time fetch, by Amy Herrick. Edward picks up what he thinks is a rock. He doesn't know it is a sleeping Time Fetch, and touching it will alter the entire fabric of time and space... A remarkable testament to the power of true friendship and a thrilling fantasy adventure about the unseen world all around us.

Call number: M FIC FRI

Too good to be true: The mostly miserable life of April Sinclair, bk. 2, by Laurie Friedman. Eighth grade is off to a surprisingly promising start for April, although it's not hard to improve on last year. But with one unexpected move from her hot neighbor, Matt, April's life spins out of control.

Call number: M FIC FRI

Truth and kisses: The mostly miserable life of April Sinclair, bk. 3, by Laurie Friedman. Diary entries reveal thirteen-year-old April Sinclair's complicated best-friend/love triangle, her new friendship, a busy dance team schedule, and a closer relationship with Matt Parker that surprises her and everyone else.

Call number: M FIC FRI

Ungifted, by Gordon Korman. Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Call number: M FIC KOR