

# Berkeley Public Library

## Books for 8th Grade



Ebooks, eaudiobooks, and books on CD are often available, [check the catalog](#).

**Fiction** All titles are arranged by the author's last name.

### J Fiction

- Choldenko, G. **Chasing Secrets** *San Francisco, 1900, Lizzie discovers a hidden city—one full of secrets, rats, and rumors of plague*  
Gidwitz, A. **The Inquisitor's Tale** *France, 1200's, travelers swap stories about 3 miraculous children and their dog (once dead)*

### J Young Teen & Teen

- Alexie, S. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** *Art and humor keep Junior going when he transfers schools*  
Anderson, L. **Chains** *After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War*  
Cormier, R. **I am the Cheese** *To remember can be deadly*  
Emezi, A. **Pet** *There are no more monsters, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. But Jam knows differently*  
Farmer, N. **The House of the Scorpion** *What if you could live forever? What if living forever meant other people had to die?*  
Gaiman, N. **The Sleeper and the Spindle** *A creepier, funnier fairytale than the ones you are used to (author of **Coraline**)*  
Gansworth, E. **If I Ever Get Out of Here** *Music can save your life, give perspective and provide the words you need: just ask Lewis*  
Gephart, D. **Lily and Dunkin** *Being in 8<sup>th</sup> grade would be a lot easier if you were just allowed to be who you actually are*  
Ifueko, J. **Raybearer** *Tarisai must protect the Prince but didn't count on falling in love with him or that she must kill him*  
Lee, S. **The Downstairs Girl** *1890, Atlanta. By day, Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid to a cruel boss but at night, Jo secretly authors the advice column for the local newspaper*
- Little Badger, D. **Elatsoe** *Ellie must use her gifts to solve a murder. Luckily her gifts include waking and training the dead*  
Lowry, L. **The Giver** *Jonas did not know what he was to become or what would become of him*  
Manzano, S. **The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano** *Things get crazy, complicated, downright dangerous in Spanish Harlem, 1969*  
Namioka, L. **Ties that Bind, Ties that Break** *Ailin defies tradition and refuses to have her feet bound. Life takes a different turn*  
Nayeri, D. **Everything Sad Is Untrue** *Some people tell stories to entertain but Daniel (real name Khosrou) tells stories to stay alive*  
Park, L. **A Long Walk to Water** *An incredible true story of survival. Could you follow in Salva's footsteps?*  
Paulsen, G. **Woods Runner** *13 year-old Samuel must rescue his family in Pennsylvania, 1776*  
Peck, R. **A Long Way from Chicago** *What happens when Joey visits Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town?*  
Pfeffer, S. **Life As We Knew It** *You will never look at the moon the same way after reading this book*  
Reeve, P. **Mortal Engines** *Giant moving cities grind over what's left of the Earth's surface. Tom must stop more destruction*
- Reynolds, J. **Long Way Down** *His brother gone, Will has one elevator ride to decide what comes next-- revenge or peace?*  
Schlitz, L. **Amber & Clay** *In ancient Greece, the line between life and death is so thin that even friendship can cross it*  
Smith, R. **Peak** *Peak started climbing as a little boy but is he ready for Mount Everest?*  
Smith, S. **Flygirl** *Ida must fly from everyone who's holding her back but passing for white can be as risky as flight school*  
Spinelli, J. **Stargirl** *The perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love are revealed*  
Stead, R. **Goodbye Stranger** *Middle school, togetherness, aloneness, friendship, betrayal, and cat ears*  
Stroud, J. **The Amulet of Samarkand** *Bartimaeus is a helpful demon. He might do what you command but maybe he won't*  
Thomas, A. **The Hate U Give** *The uneasy balance Starr had found in her life crumbles when her friend is killed by police*  
Uehashi, N. **Beast Player** *Elin can communicate with magical beasts and must save the warring kingdom that is her home*

### Graphic Novels (more graphic novels in the nonfiction recommendations on the next page)

- J GN Jamieson, V **When Stars Are Scattered**  
Teen GN Ostertag, M **The Girl from the Sea**  
Teen GN Stevenson, N **Nimona**  
Teen GN Squirrel **The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl beats up the Marvel Universe!**  
Teen GN Trung, L **The Magic Fish**  
J GN Yang, G **American Born Chinese** and/or! Teen GN Yang, G **Superman Smashes the Klan**

## Non-Fiction

### Social Studies

- J 155.42 Newman [How to Be a Person](#)
- J GN 292.211 Oc55z O'Connor [Zeus: King of the Gods](#)
- J 304.8 Butler Butler [Drawn Across Borders: True Stories of Human Migration](#)
- J 322.42 B285t Bartoletti [They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group](#)
- J 361.2084 Alexander [Generation Brave: the Gen Z Kids Who Are Changing the World](#)
- J 362.19748 F6284p Fleischman [Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science](#)
- J 363.11 Ar67t Aronson [Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert](#)
- J 398.2 H18h Hamilton [Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, and True Tales](#)

### Science and Technology

- J GN 599.88 Ot8p Ottavianni [Primates: the Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas](#)
- J 629.45 Rocco [How We Got to the Moon](#)
- J 633.6 Ar67s Aronson [Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science](#)
- J 636.7 Frydenborg [A Dog in the Cave: the Wolves Who Made Us Human](#)

### Arts, Design, and Sports

- J 720.9 D587s Dillon [The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond](#)
- J 741.51 H251m Hart [Manga for the Beginner: Everything you need to know to get started right away!](#)
- J 741.6 K537g Kidd [Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design](#)
- J GN 741.64 Sa99ad Say [Drawing from Memory](#)
- J 759.1 Ok2r3 Rubin [Wideness and Wonder: The Life and Art of Georgia O'Keeffe](#)
- J 796.357 R566r3 Robinson [Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America](#)
- J 797.52 Sheinkin [Born to Fly: the First Women's Air Race across America](#)

### Poetry and Writing

- J 808.1 Herrera [Jabberwalking](#)
- J 808.3 Stern [Brave the Page: a Young Writer's Guide to Telling Epic Stories](#)
- J 811 M992h2 Myers [Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices](#)
- J 811.54 Nye [Cast Away: Poems for Our Time](#)

### History and Biography

- J GN 919.89 Sh11b Bertozzi [Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey](#)
- J BIO Bryan, A Bryan [Infinite Hope: a Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace](#)
- J BIO Colvin, C Hoose [Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice](#)
- J BIO Engle, M Engle [Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir](#)
- Teen GN BIO Lewis, J Lewis [March](#)
- J BIO K1285ab2 Kamkwamba [The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#)
- Teen GN BIO Takei, G Takei [They Called Us Enemy](#)
- Teen GN BIO Yang, G Yang [Dragon Hoops](#)
- J 940.3 F875w Freedman [The War to End All Wars: World War I](#)
- J 940.545 Sh42p Sheinkin [Port Chicago 50](#)
- J 947.083 F629f Fleming [The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia](#)
- Teen 973.0496 Gates [Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow](#)
- J 973.91 Sandler Sandler [1919: the Year that Changed America](#)
- J 974.71 M349f Marrin [Flesh & Blood So Cheap: the Triangle Fire and Its Legacy](#)
- J GN 976.335 B812d Brown [Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans](#)