

Teens & Tweens

Gift Books 2008

List compiled by Everett Public Library staff – ask us for more great recommendations!

1. *Blue Bloods* by Melissa De la Cruz

Older teens (grades 9 and up) will savor this vampire thriller. 15-year-old Schuyler and her friends suddenly notice odd changes in their bodies, and learn that they are part of a clan of secretive vampires with historic ties to the first colonists in the United States. Another powerful and deadly vampire group is a constant threat as the teens struggle to fulfill their destinies.

2. *Cool Stuff Exploded* by Chris Woodford

An amazing visual trip inside everyday technology and high-tech objects. Computer-generated images allow kids to examine the inner workings of such futuristic objects as holographic television, robotics, nanotechnology, and virtual reality gaming. There's even a CD-ROM that lets interested readers zero in on greater detail. A great gift for teen gamers.

3. *The Dangerous Days of Daniel X* by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

Fifteen-year-old Daniel has immense powers—he can move objects with his mind, shape-shift, and has the strength to stand up to any enemy on Earth. But the intergalactic criminals who outwitted and killed his father are back, and it will take all of his powers to contend with them.

4. *Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best Kept Secrets* by John Farndon

This playful, mysterious book has a shiny hard cover that looks like the door of a jail cell, and features the warning: “DO NOT OPEN.” A book guaranteed to capture the attention of restless kids and teens as they discover unexplained mysteries, bizarre facts, hoaxes, optical illusions, oddball events, and “secret” systems.

5. *Dragon's Keep* by Janet Lee Carey

This Seattle author weaves a fascinating fantasy in the Arthurian tradition. Princess Rosalind, born with a finger that is a twisted leathery claw, always wears gloves to cover her secret. Rosalind endures captivity and trial for witchcraft, as she struggles to fulfill an ancient prophecy

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and stand up to a young man who is ready to do battle with a dragon. Eventually her curse leads to her triumph: she learns to be true to herself, and claims her rightful place as queen.

6. *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites* by Heather Brewer

Vladimir juggles all the usual troubles of an 8th grader—annoying bullies, loads of homework, and a crush on a girl who prefers his best friend. But he’s also carrying a dark secret—his father was a vampire, his mother a human, and both parents died years ago leaving him with many questions about himself and who he will become. Teens who enjoy Vladimir will be happy to know that there is a second book in the series entitled *Ninth Grade Slays*.

7. *Everlost* by Neal Shusterman

When their parents’ vans collide head-on, Allie and Nick die at almost the same instant and wake up in an alternate reality called Everlost where they can see the real world and watch events passing before them like a television show. They are soon bored by this phantom world—until they discover that it has a dark and dangerous side...and find a clue to why their souls are trapped in Everlost.

8. *The Faerie Path* by Frewin Jones

Just before her 16th birthday, Anita receives a strange package in the mail. It’s a magical book that leads her into the world of Faerie where she discovers that she is the lost daughter of the king. Anita is caught in a web of danger and fear as opposing forces battle for power in this strange new world—and she struggles to decide which world she belongs to. Book 1 of a series by the same name.

9. *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke

Meggie has always lived alone with her father, and she has no idea that he is keeping secrets from her. He has the power to actually “read” characters out of a book into reality. However he has made some terrible mistakes and one of these characters killed her own mother years before. As Meggie realizes she too has powers, she explores the idea of magic as a force for both good and evil. Book 1 of a series.

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10. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson, who has never known his father, suddenly finds out that he is actually the son of the Greek god Poseidon. Now he is caught up in a world of angry gods and feuding half-human creatures, as he tries to understand what kind of power his heritage gives him. This is the first book in a series entitled *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, and a boxed set of the series might be a cherished gift for older kids and teens, who relish the adventure and mythology in Percy's quest.

11. *Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf* by Jennifer Holm

In this hilarious book of colorful visuals, the reader examines pages from Ginny's diary, her IM screen messages, notes to and from her friends, greeting cards, post-it notes and all the "stuff" from her year in 7th grade. Girls will identify with her problems with friends, boys, clothes, and even a "hair color disaster."

12. *Tunnels* by Roderick Gordon

Will's father is an archaeologist, and his favorite activity is digging. He can find and identify fascinating things. Will sometimes digs with him, and together they begin to unearth the tunnels of an abandoned subway train. When his father fails to return home one night, Will and his friend begin a desperate search. They find a colony of weird people who have been hiding underground since the 1700s, a colony filled with secrets and horror.

13. *Wicked Lovely* by Melissa Marr

Seventeen-year-old Aislinn has the rare ability to see the faerie folk that move like shadows among us. But her visions are often frightening, and she is drawn into the evil side of the faerie world as the Summer King battles the powerful Winter Queen. A dark and compelling story that will thrill older teens.