Eighth grade science geek, Theo Rollins, grows 8 inches over the summer and encounters new challenges during the school year.
Try these too:
*Travel Team* by Mike Lupica
*Last Shot* by John Feinstein

Malencia hopes to be chosen for *The Testing*, a program for the brightest graduates and a great honor for her family. When chosen, her father hints that the honor may be more of a nightmare, than a dream come true.
Try these too:
*Legend* by Marie Lu
*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

A teen-aged FBI agent (in disgrace) and a young orphan trained as an assassin travel back and forth between Victorian and contemporary London via a wormhole. They become family as they battle evil through time.
Try these too:
*The Name of the Star* by Maureen Johnson
*Ripper* by Stefan Petrucha

Jaxter Grimjinx comes from a long line of thieves, but his first solo heist gets him and his family thrown in jail. Luckily, a tapestry depicting his family as heroes protecting their town from various disasters appears. Unluckily, it was made from fateskein, which means the fates depicted on the tapestry will come true.
Try these too:
*The Thief* by Megan Whalen Turner
*Plain Kate* by Erin Bow

A foundling girl, a quarkbeast, a little bit of old magic, two nations at war, a pinch of political intrigue, a whole lot of greed, and one last dragon equals a recipe for some really big magic.
Try these too:
*Iron Hearted Violet* by Kelly Barnhill
*Slayers* by C. J. Hill

Five sisters, abandoned by their father and left to run wild by their mother, who’s trying to keep the family together, find a dead body and decide to return it to Mexico which takes them on an adventure that brings Latin myths and legends to life.
Try these too:
*The Odyssey* by Homer
*The Unfortunate Son* by Constance Leeds
ISBN: 978-0547868523
An exciting and inspiring memoir of a Navy Seal, the author tells his stories of harrowing training and wartime experiences in multiple, fairly recent conflicts. He occasionally addresses the reader, asking them to consider their own decisions and actions in light of compassion and courage.
Try these too:
*Ghosts of War* by Ryan Smithson
*Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War* by Deborah Ellis

ISBN: 978-1423148494
Isolde Brannick comes from a long line of monster hunters. She is finally ready to solve a case on her own, a haunting at a local high school. With the help of her new friends, a cute boy, and a 400 year old warlock trapped in the mirror, Izzy will finally prove to herself and her mother that she has what it takes to be a true Brannick.
Try these too:
*Hex Hall* by Rachel Hawkins
*Every other Day* by Jennifer Barnes

ISBN: 978-0061742668
Middle school troublemaker and all around average student, Donovan Curtis, is accidentally sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (a school for gifted students) where he hides out after causing the destruction of the school gym.
Try these too:
*33 Minutes* by Todd Hasak-Lowy
*The Fourth Stall* by Chris Rylander

ISBN: 978-0385739733
A worldwide pandemic kills almost every person on the planet. Scavenging, relying on wits, meeting creeps and good folks along the way, surviving siblings Nadia and Rabbit travel cross country, hoping their uncle and hermit grandfather survived.
Try these too:
*Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer
*The Eleventh Plague* by Jeff Hirsch

ISBN: 978-1442497818
Leon Leyson describes growing up in Poland, being forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler.
Try these too:
*Odette's Secrets* by Maryann Macdonal
*Shadow on the Mountain* by Margi Preus

ISBN: 978-0316209960
After 13th year old Chia finds out her mother has breast cancer, she visits a church and makes a promise in exchange for her mother's recovery.
Try these too:
*Second Chance Summer* by Morgan Matson
*Under the Mesquite* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Colin Fischer has Asperger's Syndrome. Because of his robotic mannerisms, he is the target of bullying by many of his classmates. When a gun is shot in the school cafeteria during a birthday party, Colin makes it his mission to find the culprit and clear the name of the school bully who has tormented him since preschool.

Try these too:

*Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan  
*The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin* by Josh Berk


In this post-apocalyptic retelling of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Elliott North, one of the elite Luddites, is in love with Kai, a servant on her family's estate. Four years ago, Kai left to explore the world, but now he has returned as a dashing explorer. Elliott must struggle with her feelings for Kai as she fights to save the estate and all who work on it.

Try these too:

*Persuasion* by Jane Austen  
*Keeping the Castle* by Patrice Kindl


Wild Chalklings threaten the American Isles and Rithmatists are humanity’s only defense. Joel can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice.

Try these too:

*Midnighters: The Secret Hour* by Scott Westerfeld  
*Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel


In 1876, a group of counterfeiters attempt to get their prized engraver out of jail by hatching an outrageous plan to steal President Abraham Lincoln’s body from his tomb and holding the body for ransom.

Try these too:

*Chasing Lincoln’s Killer* by James Swanson  
*An Acquaintance with Darkness* by Ann Rinaldi


The Problem (a plague of ghosts) has given rise to plenty of work for children who can see ghosts. Unfortunately, it’s a risky business, and Lockwood & Co. will face many perils as they attempt to rid homes of Visitors including physical damage, death, and property destruction.

Try these too:

*House of Secrets* by Chris Columbus and Ned Vizzini  
*Breathe: A Ghost Story* by Cliff McNish


Not convinced that the girl her family buried is her sister, 13 year old Georgie sets out on a dangerous journey to discover the truth behind her sister’s mysterious disappearance.

Try these too:

*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly  
*A Soldier’s Secret: The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmonds* by Marissa Moss
ISBN: 978-0385742092
An exciting and sometimes humorous tale of adventure and survival set in the mountains of Maine. One boy is the very picture of Nebraska normal; the other is a Pi (the number) obsessed storyteller. Misfits at their boarding school, they find strength and friendship in each other as they cope with grief and abandonment.
Try these too:
*Zebra Forest* by Adina Rishe Gewirtz
*A Tangle of Knots* by Lisa Graff

ISBN: 978-1423139935
Kyra's failed attempt to kill the princess (her best friend) has her on the run. She must use her skills as a Potions Master to stay alive long enough to finish the job and save the entire kingdom.
Try these too:
*Princess Ben* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
*Graceling* by Kristin Cashore

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. The annotated 2013 Lone Star Reading List, past Lone Star Reading selections, and additional resources are available at: http://www.txla.org/groups/lone-star.