Welcome to the Teen Room!

Middle school can be tough for both students and parents, and the library wants to help! The first thing we want you to know is that we want kids to read whatever books they are interested in reading. So, although our Teen Room is open to all kids in grades 6th-12 graders, if a 6th grader loves books that are shelved in our children’s collection, that’s great! Many authors have books that appeal to a wide range of ages. In some cases, such as Rick Riordan, we keep copies of those books in both the children’s collection and the teen collection. We don’t want new middle schoolers to feel like they suddenly have to stop reading series they love!

However, our Teen Room staff would be happy to help you locate some new books to love.

This book list has some nonfictional advice books for tweens, some realistic fictional stories about kids adjusting to middle school, and even some books for parents!

If you’d like help finding these books, or if you’d like some other suggestions, please talk to any of our Teen Room staff!
Nonfiction for middle schoolers

Surviving middle school: navigating the halls, riding the social roller coaster, and unmasking the real you
by Luke Reynolds
373.18 REYNOLDS / TEEN
A veteran teacher counsels kids on how to survive and thrive in middle school, outlining helpful life lessons about how to find their footing and rise to challenges that may be complicated by peers and home-life issues.

Girls’ life ultimate guide to surviving middle school
by Lauren Brown
373.18 ULT / TEEN
Counsels ‘tween girls entering middle school on how to prepare for typical challenges from managing friendships and networking with teachers to interacting with upper-classmen and handling relationships with the opposite sex.

Asperger’s rules!: how to make sense of school and friends
by Blythe N. Grossberg
618.9289 GRO / TEEN
Offers guidance to young people with Asperger’s syndrome by explaining how to understand and communicate with their peers and teachers, standing up for and taking care of themselves, setting realistic goals, and making friends.

Popular: Vintage wisdom for a modern geek
by Maya van Wagenen
155.533 WAG / TEEN
Documents an 8th grade student’s year-long attempt to change her social status from that of a misfit to a member of the “in” crowd by following advice in a 1950s popularity guide.

Teen Room Fiction for middle schoolers

Harbor me
by Jacqueline Woodson
Teen Woodson
When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they’re together, it’s safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.

Measuring up
by Lily Lamotte
Teen Graphic Lamotte
Having just moved to Seattle from Taiwan, twelve-year-old Cici enters a cooking competition to win the chance to see her grandmother again, but she only knows how to cook Taiwanese food.

Lu
by Jason Reynolds
Teen Reynolds
Track star Lu is confident that he can lead Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and the team to victory at the championships, but it turns out to be more difficult than he thought when there are suddenly hurdles in Lu’s way.

American as paneer pie
by Supriya Kelkar
Teen Kelkar
Feeling like she lives two lives as the only Indian American girl in her school, Lekha Divekar is excited to meet a Desi newcomer only to discover that her proud new friend has just relocated to America and is not content to be quiet about bullying.

Children’s Room Fiction for middle schoolers

Real friends
by Shannon Hale
PB/J Hale
When her best friend Adrienne starts hanging out with the most popular girl in class, Shannon questions whether she and Adrienne will stay friends, and if she is part of the clique.

You go first
by Erin Entrada Kelly
PB/J Kelly
Charlotte, twelve, and Ben, eleven, are highly-skilled competitors at online Scrabble and that connection helps both as they face family issues and the turmoil of middle school.

Restart
by Gordon Korman
PB/J Korman
When Chase returns to middle school after falling off the roof and losing his memory, he learns that the person he was before the amnesia is not someone he likes.

The friendship experiment
by Erin Teagan
J Teagan
Dreading the start of middle school after her grandfather dies and her best friend moves away, aspiring scientist Madeline unexpectedly catches the attention of potential new friends who are curious about what she is writing in her lab notebook.