

Reading list for 6th-8th grade

The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe. C.S. Lewis

During World War II, siblings Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie are evacuated from London to live in the countryside with Professor Digby Kirke. While exploring his house, Lucy climbs inside a wardrobe and finds herself in a snowy wood. At an incongruous lamppost, Lucy meets Tumnus the Faun, who tells her that she is in a land called Narnia. Tumnus invites Lucy to his house, where he reveals that Narnia is ruled by the evil White Witch, who has cast a spell over the land so that it is always winter and never Christmas. The Faun confesses that the Witch has ordered him to capture any humans he sees, but he feels terrible guilt at the prospect, and allows Lucy to return to her own world.

<http://www.supersummary.com/the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe/summary/>

Let the circle be unbroken by Mildred D. Taylor

It is a frightening and turbulent time for the Logan family. First, their friend T.J. must go on trial for murder—and confront an all-white jury. Then, Cousin Suzella tries to pass for white, with humiliating consequences. And when Cassie's neighbor, Mrs. Lee Annie, stands up for her right to vote, she and her family are driven from their home. Other neighbors are destroyed and shattered by the greed of landowners. But through it all, Cassie and the Logans stand together and stand proud—proving that courage, love, and understanding can defy even the deepest prejudice.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/320398/let-the-circle-be-unbroken-by-mildred-d-taylor/9781101997543/>

Gifted Hands by Ben Carson

In 1987, Dr. Benjamin Carson gained worldwide recognition for his part in the first successful separation of Siamese twins joined at the back of the head. The extremely complex and delicate operation, five months in the planning and twenty-two hours in the execution, involved a surgical plan that Carson helped initiate. Carson pioneered again in a rare procedure known as hemispherectomy, giving children without hope a second chance at life through a daring operation in which he literally removed one half of their brain. But such breakthroughs aren't unusual for Ben Carson. He's been beating the odds since he was a child. Raised in inner-city Detroit by a mother with a third grade education, Ben lacked motivation. He had terrible grades. And a pathological temper threatened to put him in jail. But Sonya Carson convinced her son that he could make something of his life, even though everything around him said otherwise. Trust in God, a relentless belief in his own capabilities, and sheer determination catapulted Ben from failing grades to the top of his class — and beyond to a Yale scholarship . . . the University of Michigan Medical School . . . and finally, at age 33, the directorship of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

<https://www.zondervan.com/gifted-hands>

In His Steps by Charles Sheldon

While preparing a sermon based on 1 Peter 2:21, the Reverend Henry Maxwell is interrupted by a woman knocking at his door, requesting assistance in finding employment. The minister apologetically turns him away. Two days later, Maxwell delivers his sermon to the First Church of Raymond, and at its conclusion, the same tramp unexpectedly appears and addresses the congregation. This man, Jack Manning, relates how he lost his job as a printer and that his wife has recently died. He boldly questions Maxwell's sermon on Christian discipleship by asking what it means to follow in the steps of Christ. Manning's speech concludes when he faints and collapses in the aisle. Maxwell takes the tramp to his home to convalesce, but Manning dies a week later.

<https://www.enotes.com/topics/his-steps>