Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 8: Action & Adventure

Spill Zone
by Scott Westerfeld
When a disaster destroys her city, ends her parents’ lives and leaves her sister badly scarred, Addison earns money by taking photographs of the devastation for high-paying art collectors, including an eccentric patron who offers a million dollars for a life-risking image.

The Empire of Dreams
by Rae Carson
The award-winning author of The Girl of Fire and Thorns presents a standalone tale in which a foundling orphan with a veiled past is barred from being adopted into the royal family before she becomes a first woman recruit into the legendary Royal Guard.

Contagion
by Erin Bowman
Responding to a distress call on the distant planet of Achlys, Thea Sadik and her search-and-rescue crew are confronted by a zombie-like outbreak that forces them to uncover a monstrous enemy.

Not If I Save You First
by Ally Carter
After six years of no word from her best friend, Logan, he shows up on the doorstep of the remote Alaskan cabin Maddie and her father live in with an assailant in pursuit.

Aurora Rising: Aurora Cycle_01
by Amie Kaufman
After rescuing a girl who was trapped in cryo-sleep for two centuries from interdimensional space, eighteen-year-old Aurora Academy graduate Tyler Jones is swept up in an interstellar war millions of years in the making.

Wolf by Wolf
by Ryan Graudin
The first book in a duology about an alternate version of 1956 where the Axis powers won WWII, and hold an annual motorcycle race across their conjoined continents to commemorate their victory.

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Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 8: Compelling Stories

Sadie
by Courtney Summers
Told from the alternating perspectives of nineteen-year-old Sadie who runs away from her isolated small Colorado town to find her younger sister’s killer, and a true crime podcast exploring Sadie’s disappearance.

Long Way Down
by Jason Reynolds
As fifteen-year-old Will sets out to avenge his brother Shawn’s fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

I Am Still Alive
by Kate Alice Marshall
Stranded in the woods after her cabin burns down and her father is killed, a disabled girl and her dog fervently prepare for the coming winter while plotting revenge on the person who murdered her father.

Salt to the Sea
by Ruta Sepetys
Racing to freedom with thousands of other refugees as Russian forces close in on their homes in East Prussia, Joana, Emilia, and Florian meet aboard the doomed Wilhelm Gustloff and are forced to trust each other in order to survive.

Pet
by Akwaeke Emezi
A girl and her best friend confront difficult choices in the face of a home city in denial when they meet a being who exposes the community’s willful disbelief about the existence of monsters.

One of Us is Lying
by Karen M. McManus
When one of five students in detention is found dead, his high-profile classmates—including a brainy intellectual, a popular beauty, a drug dealer on probation and an all-star athlete—are investigated and revealed to be the subjects of the victim’s latest gossip postings.

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Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 8: Stories of Friendship & Love

With the Fire on High
by Elizabeth Acevedo
Navigating the challenges of finishing high school while caring for a daughter, talented cook Emoni Santiago struggles with a lack of time and money that complicate her dream of working in a professional kitchen.

When Dimple Met Rishi
by Sandhya Menon
When Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents' obsession with 'marriage prospects' but Rishi hopes to woo her into accepting arranged marriage with him.

Bloom
by Kevin Panetta
After graduation, Ari is desperate to move to the big city with his band, but he has to find someone who can replace him at his parent's struggling bakery, so when he meets Hector he thinks his prayers have been answered.

Pumpkinheads
by Rainbow Rowell
Working at a pumpkin patch every autumn, two seasonal best friends organize ultimate Halloween plans to celebrate their last working year together.

100 Days of Sunlight
by Abbie Emmons
When Tessa temporarily loses her eyesight after a car accident, she feels depressed and angry until she meets Weston. Weston is cute, optimistic, always smiling and, unknown to Tessa, missing both legs. Over the course of 100 days, Weston teaches Tessa to 'look' for the good in her life.

The Prince and the Dressmaker
by Jen Wang
The best-selling cartoonist of In Real Life presents a graphically illustrated fairy-tale set in Paris at the dawn of the modern age, where a cross-dressing prince hides his identity as a popular fashion icon and falls for a brilliant dressmaker who knows his secret at the same time his royal parents begin searching for a traditional bride for him to marry. Simultaneous.

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Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 8: Biographies

Soul surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board
by Bethany Hamilton
The teenage surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack in 2003 describes how she has coped with this life-altering event, how her faith has inspired her to keep going, how her life has changed, and how her own dreams of surfing success has led her to return to the sport she loves.

How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child
by Sandra Uwiringiyimana
A memoir by the co-creator of the Foundation of Hope Ministries shares the remarkable story of her survival during the Gatumba massacre and how after moving to America she found healing through art and activism. Simultaneous eBook. 50,000 first printing.

No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of The Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits
by Jordan Romero
A record-setting teen mountaineer recounts the story of how he successfully climbed Mount Everest at the age of 13 and completed all seven summits two years later, describing the inspiration, training and challenging work that enabled his achievements.

Grace, Gold & Glory: My Leap of Faith
by Gabrielle Douglas
Gold Medal-winning U.S. gymnast and Olympic All-Around champion Gabrielle Douglas tells her personal story of faith, perseverance and determination, demonstrating how kids can reach their dreams if they let themselves soar.

They Called Us Enemy
by George Takei
The iconic actor and activist presents a graphic memoir detailing his experiences as a child prisoner in the Japanese-American internment camps of World War II, reflecting on the hard choices his family made in the face of legalized racism.

LeBron James: The Rise of a Star
by David Lee Morgan
An up-close look at young LeBron James when he was basketball’s hottest prospect, poised at the brink of superstardom.