Holiday gift giving ideas for middle school age students 2012

We always like to offer some book options for the middle school readers around this time of year. This year our list includes titles by Northwest authors, Charles Dickens as a character, paranormal romances, fast-paced adventures, engaging historical novels, dystopian fiction, and laugh-out-loud realistic fiction.

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.

Bachmann, Stefan. The Peculiar.
Changeling Bartholomew Kettle, having been locked away by his mother to protect him from humans and faeries who would want him dead for being half-human and half-faery, witnesses another changeling being kidnapped by a beautiful and mysterious figure, and, after hearing of the bodies of changelings being found dead and marked with a red tattoo, he realizes he is the next target and must figure out a way to stay alive.

George, Elizabeth. The edge of nowhere.
When her mother abandons her on Whidbey Island, Washington, a fourteen-year-old girl with psychic abilities meets a Ugandan orphan with a secret.

Holm, Jennifer L. Eighth grade is making me sick: Ginny Davis's year in stuff.
Eighth grade turns out to be an eventful year for Ginny and her family, as notes, lists, report cards, doctor bills, and other "stuff" reveal that the family moves to a big new house, Brian starts to be more than just a friend, Ginny's mother has a baby, and her stepfather loses his job.

Korman, Gordon. Ungifted.
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Levy, Joanne. Small medium at large.
After being hit by lightning, twelve-year-old Lilah, who has a crush on classmate Andrew Finkel, discovers that she can communicate with dead people, including her grandmother who wants Lilah to find a new wife for Lilah's divorced father.

Long, Ruth Frances. The treachery of beautiful things.
Seven years after the forest seemingly swallowed her brother whole, seventeen-year-old Jenny, whose story about Tom's disappearance has never been believed, sets out to finally say goodbye, but instead she is pulled into a mysterious world of faeries and other creatures where nothing is what it seems.
Lipsyte, Robert. The twinning project.
Tom and Eddie, identical twins and mirror opposites living on two different Earths some fifty years apart, must switch places and identities to thwart the alien scientists who threaten their planets.

Lorenzi, Natalie Dias. Flying the dragon.
When Skye's cousin Hiroshi and his family move to Virginia from Japan, the cultural differences lead to misunderstandings, and both children are unhappy at the changes in their lives. Will flying the dragon kite finally bring them together?

Lowry, Lois. Son.
Unlike the other Birthmothers in her utopian community, teenaged Claire forms an attachment to her baby, feeling a great loss when he is taken to the Nurturing Center to be adopted by a family unit.

Pratchett, Terry. Dodger.
In an alternative London ruled by a young Queen Victoria, Dodger, a resourceful, homeless boy, unwittingly prevents Sweeney Todd from committing murder.

Preus, Margi. Shadow on the mountain.
In Nazi-occupied Norway, fourteen-year-old Espen joins the resistance movement, graduating from deliverer of illegal newspapers to courier and spy.

Stead, Rebecca. Liar & spy.
Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.