

Middle School Summer Required Reading Program

Summer reading provides a wonderful opportunity for students to indulge their love of reading and maintain the gains that they have made over the course of the school year.

Students should aim to read *at least* six books this summer, including the titles for required reading. All classes are assigned one novel as an extension of the language arts curriculum. Classes VI and VII further supplement the social studies curriculum with an additional title.

As part of the school day on May 4, students will visit the book fair, where we urge them to purchase the required reading books as well as browse the selection of titles from our Recommended Reading List, which is available on the school website. This year, we are lucky to welcome visiting author Adam Gidwitz, who has written a witty and spell-binding novel, *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, that is sure to appeal to Middle School readers.

The required reading for each rising class is as follows:

Class IV

The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden

Class V

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Class VI

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

And ONE of the following:

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

Class VII:

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

And ONE of the following:

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Blood on the River by Elisa Carbone

Middle School Recommended Reading List 2011

This list is a compilation of notable books for Middle School readers. Students are not limited to the titles or authors on this list and should read books that engage them, challenge them, and suit their level of maturity and ability. Many, though not all, of the books listed will be available for purchase at the Marymount Book Fair on Wednesday, May 4th.

Key to Reading Levels

- I: Intermediate (Ages 9-12)
- I-A: Intermediate/Advanced (Ages 11-13)
- A: Advanced (Age 13+)

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2011 AWARD WINNERS*

NEWBERY AWARD WINNER

Honoring the year's most distinguished contribution to children's literature.

Clare Vanderpool

MOON OVER MANIFEST

History and fiction marry beautifully in this lively debut novel. It's as if readers jump off the train in Manifest, KS, in 1936 with Abilene Tucker, 12, the feisty, likable, and perceptive narrator. She is there to live with Pastor Shady Howard, her father's friend, while her father works on the railroad back in Iowa. An equally important story set during World War I is artfully intertwined. [I]

NEWBERY HONOR BOOKS

Jennifer L. Holm

TURTLE IN PARADISE

Sassy eleven-year-old Turtle finds her life turned on end when she is sent to live with her aunt in Depression-era Key West. With vivid details, witty dialogue, and outrageous escapades, Jennifer Holm successfully explores the meaning of family and home and lost treasures found. [I]

Margi Preus

HEART OF A SAMURAI

Shipwrecks, whaling, a search for home and a delightful exploration of cultures create a swashbuckling adventure. This historical novel is based on the true story of Manjiro (later John Mung), the young fisherman believed to be the first Japanese person to visit America, who against all odds, becomes a samurai. [I-A]

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

For Young People's Literature

Erskine, Katherine

MOCKINGBIRD

In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. [I]

* Book summaries are adapted from various sources including School Library Journal, Booklist, and Publishers Weekly.

SCOTT O'DELL AWARD

For excellence in historical fiction for young adults

Rita Williams-Garcia

ONE CRAZY SUMMER

The voices of sisters Delphine, Vonetta and Fern sing in three-part harmony in this wonderfully nuanced, humorous novel set in 1968 Oakland, Calif. One crazy summer, the three girls find adventure when they are sent to meet their estranged poet-mother Cecile, who prints flyers for the Black Panthers. [I]

MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD

For excellence in young adult literature

Paolo Bacigalupi

SHIP BREAKER

In Ship Breaker, near a drowned New Orleans ravaged by hurricanes and global warming, Nailer and his young crew eke out a meager existence by scavenging materials on the ship-littered coast. "This taut, suspenseful novel is a relentless adventure story featuring nuanced characters in thought-provoking conflicts. Bacigalupi artfully intertwines themes of loyalty, family, friendship, trust and love," said Printz Award Committee Chair Erin Downey Howerton. [A]

BATCHELDER AWARD

For an outstanding novel originally published in a foreign language

Anne-Laure Bondoux, translated by Y. Maudet

A TIME OF MIRACLES

Originally published in French in 2009 as "*Le Temps des Miracles*," this sweeping novel tells about a young refugee as he searches for identity, safe haven, and truth, from the war-torn Caucasus to the freedom of France, over five arduous years. Both people and places are rendered fully with telling detail. Love and hope run deep through this layered examination of the human spirit. [A]

PURA BELPRÉ MEDAL

For an outstanding novel that best celebrates the Latino cultural experience

Pam Muñoz Ryan

THE DREAMER

The Dreamer masterfully imagines the magic-filled youth of Chilean Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda. Through her skillful use of language inspired by Neruda's work, Muñoz Ryan weaves this stunning tale of a young boy's discovery of self and the development of his ideologies and artistic voice. [I]

Science Fiction and Fantasy

Barry, Dave

PETER AND THE SHADOW THIEVES and PETER AND THE SECRET OF
RUNDOON 2006

Two books in a series about Peter Pan, Captain Hook, and the adventures of the lost boys.
[I-A]

Bode, N.E.

THE SOMEBODIES 2006

Sequel to: THE ANYBODIES AND THE NOBODIES.

Continuing her magical adventures, Fern travels with Howard to an underground city to
save the Anybodies from the horrible Blue Queen, who sucks the souls out of books. [I-
A]

Bray, Libba

THE GEMMA DOYLE TRILOGY 2007

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, 16-year-old Gemma returns to England,
after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her
magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world. [A]

Berkeley, Jon

THE PALACE OF LAUGHTER 2006

Orphaned 11-year-old Miles Wednesday and his companion, a Song Angel named Little,
are helped by a talking tiger as they set off to find a missing Storm Angel and Miles's
beloved stuffed bear, ending up in a peculiar circus where the audience cannot stop
laughing. [I]

Carey, Janet Lee

DRAGON'S KEEP 2007

In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, 14-year-old Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first
Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, all while
hiding a dark secret. [A]

Codell, Esme

DIARY OF A FAIRY GODMOTHER 2005

Hunky Dory is an unconventional witch who would rather grant wishes than cast spells,
which gets her kicked out of charm school; so Hunky sets out to become the best fairy
godmother she can be. [I]

Cooper, Susan

THE DARK IS RISING 1973

This is the second book in THE DARK IS RISING series but is often read first. On his
eleventh birthday, Will Stanton learns that he's actually one of the "Old Ones" -- a
seventh son of a seventh son who is destined to free the world from evil. [I-A]

Creech, Sharon
THE CASTLE CORONA 2007
Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever. [I]

Farmer, Nancy
THE EAR, THE EYE AND THE ARM 1994
In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. [A]

Funke, Cornelia
DRAGON RIDER 2004
After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy. [I-A]

Funke, Cornelia
INKSPELL 2005
Sequel to: INKHEART. When Dustfinger finds a crooked storyteller who can read him back to Inkscape, he leaves his apprentice Farid behind; but Farid seeks out Maggie and the two follow him back into the enchanted book. [I-A]

Gaiman, Neil
CORALINE 2006
After her parents are kidnapped and taken to an alternative world, Coraline sets off on a dangerous mission to rescue them. [I-A]

Hardinge, Frances
WELL WITCHED 2008
When three children take coins from a wishing well, the old hag who lives in it forces them to fulfill all of the wishes made on them – no matter how evil or hateful. This is a creepy, sinister fantasy that's as riveting as it is clever and thoughtful. [I]

Jacques, Brian
REDWALL 1986
The first book in a series of twenty-two (and counting). The peace of Mossflower is threatened by the rat Cluny the Scourge, and it's up to young mouse Matthias to save the Abbey. [A]

- Law, Ingrid
SAVVY 2010
Mississippi Beaumont ("Mibs" for short) simply cannot wait for her 13th birthday. There's the allure of finally becoming a teenager, of course, but in the Beaumont family, 13 is when family members get their "savvy," or unworldly power.
- Levine, Gail Carson
FAIREST 2006
In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent; meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself. [I-A]
- Mass, Wendy
THE CANDYMAKERS 2010
Four 12-year-olds gather at a candy factory to participate in the local segment of a nationwide contest to create a new and delectable piece of candy. A multitude of mysteries await readers, along with all the clues about misunderstandings, spies, and sabotage that Mass has dropped along the way. Attentive, candy-loving readers will be richly rewarded. [I]
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert
PRINCESS BEN: BEING A WHOLLY TRUTHFUL ACCOUNT OF HER VARIOUS DISCOVERIES AND MISADVENTURES, RECOUNTED TO THE BEST OF HER RECOLLECTION, IN FOUR PARTS 2008
When her parents and uncle are attacked and presumed dead, 15-year-old Princess Benevolence is rudely and reluctantly groomed to rule. Her chance discovery of magic within the castle's walls helps to boost her confidence and allows her to prove her mettle as a strong and capable leader. [I-A]
- Paolini, Christopher
ELDEST 2005
Prequel is: ERAGON. After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire. [I-A]
- Rowling, J.K.
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS 2007
The Last book in the HARRY POTTER series. "Year 7" follows the journey of the series' protagonist Harry Potter as he attempts to bring an end to his archenemy, Lord Voldemort. [I-A]

- Scott, Michael
 THE ALCHEMYST: SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL NICK FLAMEL 2010
 The well-worn theme of saving the world from the forces of evil gets a fresh look here with ancient myth and legend, set in present-day California. At the emotional center of the tale are contemporary 15-year-old twins, Josh and Sophie, who, it turns out, are potentially powerful magicians. [I-A]
- Tomlinson, Heather
 TOADS AND DIAMONDS 2010
 An impressive reimagining of Perrault's classic tale set in precolonial India. Stepsisters Diribani and Tana are on the edge of poverty when they are blessed and cursed by the goddess Naghali-ji. Tomlinson creates a rich story with opulent visuals that make the teens' world come to life. [A]
- Turner, Megan Whalen
 A CONSPIRACY OF KINGS 2010
 Despite being heir to his uncle's throne, Sophos has no interest in affairs of state—that is until he is captured by the king's enemies and sold into slavery. [A]
- Westerfeld, Scott
 UGLIES 2005
 Part of a series with PRETTIES, SPECIALS
 Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns 16-year-old girls into gorgeous beauties and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like. [A]
- Wrede, Patricia
 DEALING WITH DRAGONS 1990
 Princess Cimorene's boring and confined life changes dramatically when she decides to move into the cave of the dragon Kazul. There she's called upon to protect her dragon from the threat of the bumblingly evil Society of Wizards. The first book of THE ENCHANTED FOREST CHRONICLES. [I-A]
- Zuckerman, Linda
 A TASTE FOR RABBIT 2007
 Quentin, a rabbit who lives in a walled compound run by a militaristic government, must join forces with Harry, a fox, to stop the sinister disappearances of outspoken and rebellious rabbit citizens. [I]

Historical Fiction

Audrey Couloumbis
WAR GAMES: A NOVEL BASED ON A TRUE STORY 2009
What were once just boys' games become matters of life and death as Petros and his older brother Zola each wonder if, like their resistance-fighter cousin, they too can make a difference in a Nazi-occupied Greece. [I-A]

Anderson, Laurie Halse
CHAINS 2008
First in a series with FORGE. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. [I-A]

Anderson, Laurie Halse
FEVER 1793 2000
Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. [A]

Armstrong, William
SOUNDER 1970
A sharecropper steals to feed his family and is forcibly arrested—dividing the family and injuring Sounder, a coon dog. Set in the 19th-century south, the story chronicles the search by the sharecropper's young son for his missing father. [I-A]

Avi
CRISPIN: AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD 2006
Sequel to: CRISPIN, THE CROSS OF LEAD. Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl. [I-A]

Avi
TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE 1990
Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger on a voyage from England to America in 1832, must take serious matters into her own hands when she learns that the captain is murderous. [I-A]

Blackwood, Gary
AROUND THE WORLD IN 100 DAYS 2010
Phileas Fogg made the voyage in 80 days, and in this imaginative historical adventure his son, Harry Fogg, has made a wager of his own. In 1891, the exuberant young man has bet that he can circle the globe in a steam-powered automobile—the Flash—in 100 days. There's much more at stake in this challenge than just the 6,000 pound prize. [I-A]

- Bloor, Edward
LONDON CALLING 2006
Seventh-grader Martin Conway believes that his life is monotonous and dull until the night the antique radio he uses as a night-light transports him to the bombing of London in 1940. [A]
- Blume, Lesley M. M.
CORNELIA AND THE AUDACIOUS ESCAPADES
OF THE SOMERSET SISTERS 2008
A taciturn, unhappy 11-year-old, Cornelia lives in Greenwich Village, where she's cared for chiefly by household servants. When she makes friends with Virginia Somerset, the elderly woman who moves in next door, her life changes. [I]
- Collier, James and Christopher
MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD 1974
A Connecticut family is divided when the father tries to maintain good relations with the Tories while his eldest son joins the patriots, and is later killed in the Revolutionary War. [A]
- Curtis, Christopher Paul
ELIJAH OF BUXTON 2007
11-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada—haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859—uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was used to buy a family's freedom. [A]
- Cushman, Karen 2010
ALCHEMY AND MEGGY SWANN
Just as her alchemist father pursues his Great Work of transforming base metal into gold, Meggy finds herself pursuing her own transformation. Earthy and colorful, Elizabethan London has its dark side, but it also has gifts in store for Meggy Swann. [I-A]
- Flores-Gallis
90 MILES TO HAVANA 2010
During Operation Pedro Pan in 1961, Julian, a young Cuban boy, experiences the violent revolution and watches mobs throw out his family's furniture and move into their home. For his safety, his parents send him to a refugee camp in Miami, but life there is no sweet haven. [I-A]
- Johnston, Tony
BONE BY BONE BY BONE 2007
In 1950s Tennessee, 10-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy. [A]

- Giff, Patricia R.
 WILLOW RUN 2005
 11-year-old Maggie Dillon shares her feelings and experiences on the home front during World War II after her family moves from Rockaway, New York to Willow Run, Michigan. [I-A]
- Goodman, Joan Elizabeth
 PEREGRINE 2000
Companion to THE WINTER HARE. Fifteen-year-old Lady Edith lost a husband and a baby and is on the run from an odious suitor. In the twelfth century, one of the few ways a woman could get away was to go on a pilgrimage, and so Edith decides to take her loyal woman servant to Jerusalem. [I]
- Ibbotson, Eva
 A COUNTESS BELOW STAIRS 1981
 Anna, a young Russian countess, is forced to flee to England with her governess during the Russian Revolution. She conceals her past but finds it increasingly difficult to keep her secret. [I-A]
- Ibbotson, Eva
 THE DRAGONFLY POOL 2008
 It's 1939 London, and Tally, a spirited 11-year-old, reluctantly leaves home for a progressive boarding school where she makes a cadre of loyal friends and initiates a daring plan to help the 12-year-old prince of nearby Bergania escape the Nazis. [I-A]
- Kadotha, Cynthia
 WEEDFLOWER 2006
 After 12-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop. [A]
- Kelly, Jacqueline
 THE EVOLUTION OF CALPURNIA TATE 2009
 Bemoaning her lack of formal knowledge, Callie's grandfather surreptitiously gives her a copy of *The Origin of Species* and Callie begins her exploration of the scientific method and evolution, eventually happening upon the possible discovery of a new plant species. [I-A]
- Kidd, Ronald
 MONKEY TOWN: THE SUMMER OF THE SCOPES TRIAL 2006
 When her father hatches a plan to bring publicity to their small Tennessee town by arresting a local high school teacher for teaching about evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes trial prompts 15-year-old Frances to rethink many of her beliefs about religion and truth, as well as her relationship with her father. [I-A]

- Lowry, Lois
 NUMBER THE STARS 1989
 Annemarie and her family help their Jewish neighbors escape from Denmark during World War II. Best known for the moment when the Nazis visit and almost identify Ellen, Annemarie's friend, as a Jew by her Star of David pendant. [I]
- Paterson, Katherine
 BREAD AND ROSES TOO 2006
 12-year-old Rosa and thirteen-year-old Jake form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts. [I-A]
- Shelley Pearsall
 TROUBLE DON'T LAST 2010
 In this story of the Underground Railroad in 1859, Samuel, the 11-year-old slave who narrates the story, is awakened by 70-year-old Harrison, who has decided to flee their tyrannical Kentucky master. [I]
- Rinaldi, Ann
 THE EVER-AFTER BIRD 2007
 In 1851, thirteen-year-old Cecilia has her eyes opened to the horrors of slavery when she accompanies her ornithologist uncle on an expedition in search of the rare "Scarlet Ibis," and watches as he shows slaves the way to the Underground Railroad. [I-A]
- Schlitz, Laura Amy
 GOOD MASTERS! SWEET LADIES! VOICES FROM A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE
 2007
 A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters between ten and fifteen years old who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor. [I-A]
- Schmidt, Gary
 LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY 2004
 In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot. [I-A]
- Schwabach, Karen
 A PICKPOCKET'S TALE 2006
 When Molly, a 10-year-old orphan, is arrested for picking pockets in London in 1731, she is banished to America and serves as an indentured servant for a New York City family that expects her to follow their Jewish traditions. [I]

Whelan, Gloria
LISTENING FOR LIONS 2005
Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, 13-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital. [I-A]

Realistic Fiction

Alvarez, Julia
RETURN TO SENDER 2009
After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

Alexie, Sherman
THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN 2007
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm-town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot. [A]

Anderson, Laurie Halse
SPEAK 1999
No one will speak to Melanie after she calls the police to a high school party and she refuses to tell share her secret. [A]

Kathi Appelt
KEEPER 2010
Ten-year-old Keeper lives on the Texas coast with her guardian and a small, close community of people and animals. The community experiences a string of disappointing events, and Keeper, feeling responsible, sails away to find her birth mother, whom she believes is a mermaid capable of making everything right. [I]

Baldacci, David
FRIES ALIVE 2005
While competing with a rival restaurant for the winning float in the Founder's Day parade, 9-year-old Freddy Funkhouser constructs a batch of animated French fries in his secret laboratory that come to life after receiving an enormous jolt of electricity. [I]

Baskin, Nora Raleigh
ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL 2010
Baskin writes in the voice of a high-functioning boy who identifies himself as having numerous disorders. In the third grade, after yet another battery of tests, Jason receives the diagnosis of autism. Now in sixth grade, he relates how he does not fit in, even though he tries to follow the instructions of his therapists and helpers. [I-A]

Bloor, Edward
TAKEN 2007
In 2036 kidnapping rich children has become an industry, but when 13-year-old Charity Meyers is taken and held for ransom, she soon discovers that this particular kidnapping is not what it seems. [A]

Boyce, Frank Cottrell
COSMIC 2010
Liam is a big lad. So big that strangers mistake the 12-year-old for an adult. Even his teachers seem to conflate tall with old. So heaven forbid he should ever make a mistake. [I-A]

Budhos, Marina
ASK ME NO QUESTIONS: A NOVEL 2006
Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family. [A]

Connor, Leslie
WAITING FOR NORMAL 2008
When her kindly stepfather leaves and takes her half-sisters with him, Addie is left alone to cope with her mother's increasingly erratic behavior. This tough yet tender story stars a caring father figure and a resilient protagonist who is ultimately able to embrace a new life. [I-A]

Couloumbis, Audrey
GETTING NEAR TO BABY 1999
Unhappily living with their aunt while their mother recovers from the death of their little sister, Willa Jo and JoAnn move onto the roof and refuse to come down. [I-A]

Creech, Sharon
HEARTBEAT 2004
12-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant. [I-A]

Cummings, Priscilla
RED KAYAK 2004
Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, 13-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong. [A]

- D'Adamo, Francesco
 IQBAL 2003
 A fictionalized account of the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory and went on to help liberate other children like him before being gunned down at the age of thirteen. [I-A]
- Dowell, Francis
 THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF GIRLS 2004
 Marilyn and Kate have been friends since nursery school, but when Marilyn becomes a middle school cheerleader and Kate begins to develop other interests, their relationship is put to the test. [I]
- Flake, Sharon G.
 THE SKIN I'M IN 1998
 Maleeka Madison endures the ridicule of her fellow classmates until she agrees to do the homework of a popular girl in exchange for the chance to wear Charlese's more fashionable clothes. But when Charlese expects her to do something that will get her into serious trouble, Maleeka has to make a decision. [I-A]
- Fletcher, Ralph
 FIG PUDDING 1996
 An 11-year-old boy, the oldest of six children, chronicles a tumultuous year; this story neatly blends the humor and frustrations of growing up in a large family. [I]
- Frederick, Heather Vogel
 THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB 2007
 The mothers of four very different sixth-grade girls pressure them into forming a book club, and find, as they read the classic novel "Little Women," that they have more in common than they thought. [I-A]
- Han, Jenny
 SHUG 2006
 Tall, gawky seventh-grader Annemarie, a.k.a. Shug, has a beautiful, popular older sister; an alcoholic mother, and a father who's always away. As the school year starts, Shug must deal with the changes in her friends and family. [A]
- Hautman, Pete
 INVISIBLE 2005
 Doug and Andy are unlikely best friends—one a loner obsessed by his model trains, the other a popular student involved in football and theater—who grew up together and share a bond that nothing can sever. [A]
- Hesse, Karen
 LETTERS FROM RIFKA 1992
 In letters to her cousin back in Russia, Rifka tells of her journey to American in 1919. [I-A]

- Hesse, Karen
 PHOENIX RISING 1994
 Thirteen-year-old Nyle learns about relationships and death when 15-year-old Ezra, who was exposed to radiation leaked from a nearby nuclear plant, comes to stay at her grandmother's Vermont farmhouse. [A]
- Hiaasen, Carl
 FLUSH 2005
 With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of a floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. [I]
- Hiaasen, Carl
 HOOT 2002
 New to Florida and his community, Roy becomes intrigued by a mysterious, barefooted boy he sees running past his bus and decides to follow him. [I]
- Kadohata, Cynthia
 KIRA - KIRA 2005
 Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill. [A]
- Konigsburg, E.L.
 THE OUTCASTS OF 19 SCHUYLER PLACE 2004
 Margaret Rose, a 12-year-old girl, is rescued from a summer camp by her two great uncles, who are creating a controversy with three giant towers built from scrap metal and glass in their back yard. [I]
- Korman, Gordon
 SCHOOLED 2007
 Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school. [I-A]
- Mass, Wendy
 A MANGO-SHAPED SPACE 2005
 Mia, 13, has always seen colors in sounds, numbers, and letters, a fact she has always kept secret. When she discovers that she has a rare condition called synesthesia, she leads a kind of double life. [I-A]
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert
 DAIRY QUEEN: A NOVEL 2006
 After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, 16-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. [A]

- Nolan, Han
CRAZY 2010
 Fifteen-year-old Jason is hesitant to share his family tragedies with friends, but when his father goes missing, turning to others is his only way out. When his father is committed and Jason is taken in by a foster family, he truly discovers that he cannot do everything on his own. [A]
- Nuzum, K.A.
THE LEANIN' DOG 2008
 Traumatized by the death of her mother in a snowstorm, a lonely 11-year-old who is afraid to venture beyond the porch of her Colorado cabin befriends a stray dog that is wary of being indoors. A tender, quiet story of a transcendent, healing relationship. [I]
- Patterson, James
SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS 2007
 In the series **MAXIMUM RIDE**. The time has come for Max, Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman, and Angel to face their ultimate enemy and, despite many obstacles, try to save the world from a sinister plan to re-engineer a select population into a scientifically superior master race. [A]
- Paterson, Katherine
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA 1978
 The life of a 10-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he shares a secret hideaway with new friend. [I-A]
- Paulsen, Gary
THE AMAZING LIFE OF BIRDS: (THE TWENTY-DAY PUBERTY JOURNAL OF DUANE HOMER LEECH) 2006
 As 12-year-old Duane endures the confusing and humiliating aspects of puberty, he watches a newborn bird in a nest on his windowsill begin to grow and become more independent, all of which he records in his journal. [A]
- Rosenbloom, Fiona
YOU ARE SO NOT INVITED TO MY BAT MITZVAH! 2005
 As her bat mitzvah approaches, Stacy Adelaide Friedman of White Plains, New York, has a lot on her mind—her parents have separated, her mother dresses her like an American Girl doll, her younger brother is embarrassing, and she is totally in love with Andy Goldfarb. [A]
- Rosoff, Meg
HOW I LIVE NOW 2004
 To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, 15-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land. [A]

Ryan, Pam
ESPERANZA RISING 2000
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. [I-A]

Schmidt, Gary
THE WEDNESDAY WARS 2007
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in. [A]

Sedita, Francesco
MISS POPULARITY 2007
Cassie Knight, very popular at her Texas school, is shocked when her family moves to cold, snowy Maine where the prim and proper students at her new school do not seem to care about her or her fashion sense. [I]

Smith, Anita Hope
KEEPING THE NIGHT WATCH 2008
When their absent father returns home, C.J.'s younger siblings are ecstatic, but the 13-year-old seethes with anger and resentment as the man tries to regain the family's trust. Told in free verse and complemented by distinguished watercolor-and-ink paintings, C.J.'s road to forgiveness is hard and heartrending. [I-A]

Spinelli, Jerry
MANIAC MAGEE: A NOVEL 1991
After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. [I]

Spinelli, Jerry
MILKWEED 2003
A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in the Warsaw ghetto, which helps him weather the horrors of the Nazi regime. [A]

Staples, Suzanne F
UNDER THE PERSIMMON TREE 2005
A young Afghan girl, Najmah, befriends an American woman, Nusrat in Peshawar, Pakistan, after Najmah flees her native Afghanistan during the 2001 war; together they begin a long journey to locate their missing loved ones after the war ends. [A]

- Taylor, Mildred
 LET THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN 1981
 Sequel to: ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY. Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive. Followed by THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS and THE LAND. [I-A]
- VanDraanen, Wendelin
 FLIPPED 2001
 Told in alternating chapters, two teen-aged neighbors describe their changing opinions of each other. [A]
- Vogel Frederick, Heather
 MUCH ADO ABOUT ANNE 2008
 Entering seventh grade at Walden Middle School, four girls continue their mother-daughter book club, reading Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* while dealing with a mean, troublemaking classmate. [I]
- Whelan, Gloria
 HOMELESS BIRD 2000
 Forced into an arranged marriage and widowed by the age 13, Koly struggles to create her own life in a culture that places little value on unmarried women. [I-A]
- Wilson, Jacqueline
 CANDYFLOSS 2006
 When her mother plans to move to Australia with her new husband and baby, Floss must decide whether her loyalties lie with her mother or her father, while at the same time, her best friend begins to make fun of her and reject her. [A]
- Winerip, Michael
 ADAM CANFIELD: WATCH YOUR BACK! 2007
 A much-welcomed snow day turns into an embarrassing nightmare for middle-grader Adam Canfield when, after being mugged by high school bullies for his snow-shoveling money, he becomes the focus of major media attention just as his co-editors at The Slash are launching a contest to oust bullies at their school. [I-A]
- Woodson, Jacqueline
 FEATHERS 2007
 When a new, white student nicknamed “The Jesus Boy” joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie’s growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. [I-A]
- Woodson, Jacqueline
 IF YOU COME SOFTLY 1998
 After meeting at their private school in New York, 15-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and try to cope with peoples' reactions. [A]

Yang, Gene Luen
AMERICAN BORN CHINESE 2006
Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. [A]

Mystery and Adventure

Allison, Jennifer
GILDA JOYCE: THE GHOST SONATA 2007
Part of a Series. The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. [I]

Balliett, Blue
THE WRIGHT 3 2006
In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth-graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished. [I-A]

Bryant, Jen
KALEIDOSCOPE EYES 2010
While cleaning out her recently deceased, thrill-seeking grandfather's house, Lyza finds a plain envelope with her name on it. Inside are maps and vague clues about one last adventure that he saved for her. The summer of 1968 provides a fertile backdrop for this verse novel. [A]

Carter, Ally
CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO SPY 2007
Sequel to I'D TELL YOU I LOVE YOU, BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU.
Genius Cammie Morgan begins the spring semester of her sophomore year with many questions and intends to use her spying abilities to have them answered. [A]

Christie, Agatha
MYSTERY OF THE BLUE TRAIN: A HERCULE POIROT MYSTERY 1955
Although he is semi retired, Belgian detective Hercule Poirot solves a baffling murder on a night train to the Mediterranean. [A]

Collins, Suzanne
THE HUNGER GAMES 2010
The first in a series. A gripping story set in a post-apocalyptic world where a replacement for the United States demands a tribute from each of its territories: two children to be used as gladiators in a televised fight to the death. [I-A]

- DiCamillo, Kate
 THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT 2009
 When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune-teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her. [I]
- Dowd, Siobhan
 THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY 2008
 Two siblings, one who is an ace at deduction and the other who is a whiz at reading emotion, pool their talents after their cousin disappears. A thrilling mystery with well-delineated characters and an exciting clue-laden plot. [I-A]
- Donnelly, Jennifer
 A NORTHERN LIGHT 2003
 Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life. [A]
- Harrison, Michelle
 13 TREASURES 2010
 Tanya, 13, is being tormented by bullying fairies no one else can see. Fed up with her odd behavior, her mother sends her to her unwelcoming grandmother at her dark manor house surrounded by a forest that Tanya is forbidden to enter. [I]
- Horvath, Polly
 MY ONE HUNDRED ADVENTURES 2008
 Twelve-year-old Jane longs for adventure, but gets more than she bargained for when she is tricked into babysitting for five messy, incorrigible children. [I]
- McCaughrean, Geraldine
 THE WHITE DARKNESS 2007
 Taken to Antarctica by the man she think of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone—a troubled 14-year-old—discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth. [A]
- Meyer, L. A
 BLOODY JACK: BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF MARY "JACKY" FABER, SHIP'S BOY 2002
 Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates. [I-A]

- Mull, Brandon
THE CANDY SHOP WAR 2007
 Four young friends--Nate, Summer, Trevor, and Pigeon--meet the grandmotherly Mrs. White, owner of the Sweet Tooth, and soon learn about the magical side effects of her candies. [I]
- Pierce, Tamora
ALANNA: THE FIRST ADVENTURE 1983
 The first in a series. Eleven-year-old Alanna exchanges places with her twin brother so that she can secretly train as a knight with the young men of her kingdom. Will anyone ever discover that she's actually a girl? [I]
- Pullman, Philip
THE RUBY IN THE SMOKE 1985
 The first in a series. In Victorian England, Sally is left to the mercy of her unfeeling relatives after the death of her father. Then a note arrives hinting that Sally's father was actually murdered. Can Sally discover the truth? [I-A]
- Raskin, Ellen
THE WESTING GAME 1978
 The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance. [I-A]
- Riordan, Rick
PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS #4: THE LAST OLYMPIAN 2009
 The long-awaited prophecy surrounding Percy Jackson's sixteenth birthday unfolds as he leads an army of young demigods to stop Kronos in his advance on New York City, while the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster, Typhon. [I-A]
- Riordan, Rick
THE RED PYRAMID 2010
 Carter, 14, and Sadie, 12, discover the secrets of their family heritage and their ability to work magic as they realize that their task will be to save humanity from Set, who is building a destructive red pyramid inside Camelback Mountain in Phoenix. [I]
- Rumford, James
BEOWULF: A HERO'S TALE RETOLD 2007
 A simplified and illustrated retelling of the exploits of the Anglo-Saxon warrior, Beowulf, and how he came to defeat the monster Grendel, Grendel's mother, and a dragon that threatened the kingdom. [I-A]
- Said, S. F.
THE OUTLAW VARJAK PAW 2006
 During a harsh winter, Varjak Paw, a cat with great powers, leads his companions as they search for food, elude dangerous gangs, and hope to locate a hidden city where they can all be safe. [I]

Shulman, Polly
THE GRIMM LEGACY 2010
Feeling left out from her stepfamily at home and from her classmates at her new school, Elizabeth is delighted when she gets a job at a library that loans objects of historical value. However, when the items start to disappear, she and her fellow pages embark on a dangerous quest to catch the thief, only to find themselves among the suspects. [I-A]

Stewart, Trenton Lee
THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY 2007
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. [A]

Van Draanen, Wendelin
SAMMY KEYES AND THE PSYCHO KITTY QUEEN 2004
When cats begin to mysteriously disappear in Santa Martina, 13-year-old friends Sammy and Holly start snooping around town to find out what is happening. [I]

Williams, Marcia
CHAUCER'S CANTERBURY TALES 2007
A retelling of Geoffrey Chaucer's famous work in which a group of pilgrims in fourteenth-century England tell each other stories as they travel on a pilgrimage to the cathedral at Canterbury. [I-A]

Chillers and Thrillers

Hahn, Mary Downing
WAIT TILL HELEN COMES 1986
12-year-old Molly dislikes her whiny new stepsister Heather but realizes that she must try to save her when Heather seems ready to follow a ghost to her doom. [I]

Kingston, Maxine Hong
THE WOMAN WARRIOR: MEMOIRS OF A GIRLHOOD AMONG GHOSTS 1976
A memoir of the American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants who lived within the traditions and fears of the Chinese past as well as the realities of the alien modern American culture. [A]

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
JADE GREEN 1999
Judith disobeys her uncle's strange request that she not bring anything colored green when she comes to live with him. Is that why strange and mysterious things begin to occur soon after her arrival? [I-A]

Schlitz, Laura
A DROWNED MAIDEN'S HAIR 2006
In the early twentieth century, young orphan Maud Flynn hopes to finally be loved when she is adopted by the elderly Hawthorne sisters, but she is instead roped into the family's crooked séance business. [I-A]

Classics

Adams, Richard
WATERSHIP DOWN 1972
The story follows a warren of Berkshire rabbits fleeing the destruction of their home by a land developer. As they search for a safe haven, skirting danger at every turn, we become acquainted with the band and its compelling culture and mythos. [A]

Alcott, Louisa May
LITTLE WOMEN 1868
Set during the Civil War, this is the story of four very different sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. The March sisters struggle to supplement their family's meager income and realize their own dreams. [A]

Bronte, Charlotte
JANE EYRE 1847
Jane was seen as something of a renegade in nineteenth-century England, it is because her story is that of a woman who struggles for self-definition and determination in a society that too often denies her that right. Jane Eyre is full of drama: fires, storms, attempted murder, and a mad wife conveniently stashed away in the attic. [A]

Carroll, Lewis
ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND 1865
Falling into a rabbit hole, Alice finds herself in a magical kingdom filled with fantastic creatures. [I-A]

Dickens, Charles
GREAT EXPECTATIONS 1860
Pip is given an inheritance by a mysterious benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous. [A]

Du Maurier, Daphne
REBECCA 1938
Rebecca is a novel of mystery and passion, a dark psychological tale of secrets and betrayal, dead loves and an estate called Manderley that is as much a presence as the humans who inhabit it. [A]

- George, Jean Craighead
 JULIE OF THE WOLVES 1973
 Lost in the Alaskan wilderness, 13-year-old Miyax, an Eskimo girl who has been given the English name Julie, survives a long journey through the arctic tundra by gaining the acceptance of a pack of wolves. [I-A]
- Juster, Norton
 THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH 1961
 Milo receives the surprise gift of a tollbooth and goes on a tour of an imaginary country. [I]
- L'Engle, Madeleine
 A WRINKLE IN TIME 1962
 The first book in the "Time Quartet," the Murrays, together with their mysterious new friends Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which, go in search of their scientist father who was lost while engaged in a secret government operation. They soon discover that their father is trapped on a forbidden planet. [A]
- London, Jack
 CALL OF THE WILD 1931
 The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike goldfields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack. [I-A]
- Montgomery, L.M.
 ANNE OF GREEN GABLES 1935
 Anne, an orphan, is mistakenly sent to a surly farm family and has to prove her worth before they decide to keep her. The first in a series of novels set on Prince Edward Island. [I-A]
- Nesbit, Edith
 FIVE CHILDREN AND IT 1902
 Originally published in 1902, The "It" of the title is actually a psammead, or sand fairy, who is very capricious when granting wishes: none of them ever comes out exactly as the wishers expect! [I-A]
- O'Dell, Scott
 ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS 1962
 Karana learns to fend for herself after she is accidentally left behind when her tribe migrates to a new island. A sequel to this book is ZIA. [I-A]
Newbery Award Winner 1962

Rawls, Wilson
WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS 1961
A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. [I-A]

Steinbeck, John
THE PEARL 1947
A poor fisherman dreams of wealth and happiness for his family when he finds a priceless pearl. [I-A]

Twain, Mark
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN 1900
Huck, escaping from his father, who had imprisoned him in a lonely cabin, meets Jim, a runaway slave, on Jackson's Island on the Mississippi River. Together they float down the Mississippi. [A]

Non-fiction

Allen, Thomas B.
GEORGE WASHINGTON, SPYMASTER: HOW THE AMERICANS OUTSPIED
THE BRITISH AND WON THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR 2004
A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focuses on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war. [I-A]

Bitton-Jackson, Livia
I HAVE LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS 1999
Recounts the Hungarian author's experience in concentration camps during the Second World War. [A]

Bowers, Rick
SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI: THE TRUE STORY OF THE SPY NETWORK THAT TRIED
TO DESTROY THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT 2010
In 1956, the state of Mississippi began a spy network, with a goal of stopping integration and crushing the civil rights movement in the state. [A]

Cleary, Beverly
A GIRL FROM YAMHILL 1988
The author of the RAMONA series writes her own story of growing up as a girl in a small town in Oregon. [I-A]

Coerr, Eleanor
SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES 1977
Sadako, a Japanese child dying of leukemia resulting from the bombing of Hiroshima, attempts to make a thousand origami cranes in the hopes of being cured. [I]

- Barnard, Bryn
OUTBREAK! PLAGUES THAT CHANGED HISTORY 2005
 Did the Black Death destroy the feudal system? Did cholera pave the way for modern Manhattan? Did yellow fever help end the slave trade? Remarkably, the answer to all of these questions is yes. [I-A]
- Bledsoe, Lucy Jane
HOW TO SURVIVE IN ANTARTICA 2006
 The author describes her experiences visiting Antarctica and shares information on how to get there, what to bring, what to wear, what to eat, how to build a snow shelter, how to avoid crevasses, how to study Antarctic seals, and other survival strategies. [A]
- Cherry, Lynne (and Gary Braasch)
HOW WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OUR CHANGING CLIMATE: SCIENTISTS AND KIDS EXPLORE GLOBAL WARMING 2008
 Dynamic text describes how data is gathered across the globe, interpreted by researchers, and used to understand climate change. Blending clearly presented concepts with you-are-there photos, this inviting volume emphasizes efforts made by young “citizen scientists” and empowers kids to take positive action. [I]
- Dahl, Roald
BOY: TALES OF CHILDHOOD 1984
 The author of *JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH* and *CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY* writes his autobiography. [I]
- D’Aluisio, Faith
WHAT THE WORLD EATS 2008
 This adaptation of the adult book *Hungry Planet* takes readers on an intimate, cross-cultural journey that focuses on the typical food choices of families in twenty-one countries. Splendidly illustrated with crisp color photographs of proudly displayed fare and filled with thought-provoking facts, this work is an eye-opener to savor. [I-A]
- Frank, Anne
DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL 1952
 The diary of Anne Frank, a young woman who hid with her family in an Amsterdam attic during the Holocaust. [A]
- Freedman, Russell
WHO WAS FIRST? DISCOVERING THE AMERICAS 2007
 Examines the evidence that indicates others may have traveled to the Americas before Columbus in 1492 including Viking ruins, Mayan stonework, and other mysterious objects found in New England that date before Columbus. [I-A]

- Gore, Al
 AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL WARMING 2007
 Former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously. [I-A]
- Heiligman, Deborah
 CHARLES AND EMMA: THE DARWINS' LEAP OF FAITH 2009
 When the book opens, Charles Darwin is trying to make a decision; as much as Darwin is interested in wedded life, he is afraid that family life will take him away from the revolutionary work he is doing on the evolution of species. [A]
- Hoose, Phillip
 CLAUDETTE COLVIN: TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE 2009
 Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama, high-school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. Hoose draws from numerous personal interviews with Colvin in this exceptional title that is part historical account, part memoir. [A]
- Jiang, Ji-Li
 RED SCARF GIRL: MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION 1997
 An engrossing account of one girl's life in Communist China during the Cultural Revolution. [I-A]
- Kirkpatrick, Katherine
 SNOW BABY: THE ARCTIC CHILDHOOD OF ROBER E. PEARY'S DARING DAUGHTER 2007
 Chronicles the childhood of Marie Ahnighito, the daughter of Admiral Robert E. Peary, who was born in an Intuit village in northern Greenland and spent the next few years making friends with Intuit children, playing on the region's glacial cliffs, and living a life unlike other Victorian children. [I-A]
- Laidlaw, Rob
 WILD ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY 2008
 The confinement and treatment of animals in public, private, and roadside zoos all too rarely show respect for creatures' lives. Through measured prose and clear color images, the author considers the educational value of zoos, the challenges of caring for certain species, and the sale of exotic animals around the globe. [I-A]
- Morrison, Toni
 REMEMBER: THE JOURNEY TO SCHOOL INTEGRATION 2004
 Presents a selection of archival photographs that document events surrounding the integration of U.S. schools following the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and includes captions in which Toni Morrison imagines what the people in the pictures must have been thinking and feeling. [I-A]

Noyes, Deborah

ONE KINGDOM: OUR LIVES WITH ANIMALS, THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND IN MYTH, HISTORY, SCIENCE, AND STORY 2006

Explores how myth, history, and culture have influenced the lives of the people who live with and around them. [A]

Oppenheim, Joanne

DEAR MISS BREED: TRUE STORIES OF THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN INCARCERATION DURING WORLD WAR II, AND A LIBRARIAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE 2006

The true-life story of Clara Breed, a librarian whose outreach efforts helped a group of Japanese-American children survive the persecutions of the American government during World War II. [I-A]

Pollan, Michael

THE OMNIVORES DILEMMA FOR KIDS: THE SECRETS BEHIND WHAT YOU EAT 2009

Based on Pollan's best-selling adult book of the same title, this (slightly) shortened version will appeal to thoughtful, socially responsible teens. His own research includes slaughtering a chicken himself and eating a fast-food meal in a moving car with his family. [I-A]

Schlosser, Eric

CHEW ON THIS: EVERYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FAST FOOD 2006

A look at fast food, what's in it, how it's made, and what it does to our bodies. [I-A]

Sheinkin, Steve

THE NOTORIOUS BENEDICT ARNOLD: A TRUE STORY OF ADVENTURE, HEROISM, AND TREACHERY 2010

Sheinkin recounts the tale of a larger-than-life persona, from his uncertain boyhood to his immense popularity as an unpredictable, yet brilliant, commander in the American army, and finally, to his end days, living in London, despised and disgraced. [A]

Sis, Peter

THE WALL: GROWING UP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN 2007

Artist Sis Peter describes what it was like growing up in a Communist country and discusses how Western culture influenced his life. [I]

Stone, Tanya Lee

ALMOST ASTRONAUTS: 13 WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM 2009

Nearly 20 years before the U.S. officially admitted women into the astronaut program, 13 women, known as the Mercury 13, fought for the right to soar into space. [I-A]

Stone, Tanya Lee
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BARBIE: A DOLL'S HISTORY AND HER
IMPACT ON US 2010

Was she a destructive role model or just a toy? Experts disagree. In this balanced overview, both sides of the quandary are addressed. Barbie's different roles, graduating from nurse to surgeon, stewardess to pilot, and always a woman of her own means, reflect societal changes over the past 50 years as well. [I-A]

Swanson, James L.
CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER 2009

Much more than just Lincoln's killing went on that night of the Ford Theater assassination, this book will inform and entertain you with the gory details. [I-A]

Walker, Sally M.
WRITTEN IN BONE:
BURIED LIVES OF JAMESTOWN AND COLONIAL MARYLAND 2009

Join author Sally M. Walker as she works alongside scientists investigating colonial-era graves near Jamestown, Virginia: a teenage boy, a ship's captain, an indentured servant, a colonial official and his family, and an enslaved African girl. All are reaching beyond the grave to tell us their stories, which are written in bone. [I-A]

Humor

Anderson, M. T.
THE CLUE OF THE LINOLEUM LEDERHOSEN 2006

Sequel to WHALES ON STILTS. Katie, Lily, and Jasper attach their flying Gyroscopic Sky Suite to the Moose Tongue Lodge and Resort, where they mingle with other child heroes found in books, and where they become embroiled in a mystery involving lederhosen-clothed quintuplets and a screaming ventriloquist. [I]

Choldenko, Gennifer
AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS 2004

A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. [I-A]

Clements, Andrew
FRINDLE 1996

Nick Allen's attempt to challenge his teacher's love of the dictionary creates a hilarious series of school-wide consequences. [I]

Curtis, Christopher Paul
BUCKING THE SARGE 2004
Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, 14-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher. [A]

Dahl, Roald
MATILDA 1988
Young Matilda is a genius at driving her parents crazy, but can she outwit the child-hating headmistress of her boarding school? [I]

Holt, Kimberly Willis
WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN 1999
Zachary Beaver, "The World's Fattest Boy," visits the small town of Antler, Texas as a part of a traveling sideshow, convincing 13-year-old Toby that his life might not be so bad after all. [I-A]

Horvath, Polly
EVERYTHING ON A WAFFLE 2001
Eleven-year-old Primrose, who lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea. [I-A]

Sachar, Louis
SMALL STEPS 2006
Sequel to: HOLES. Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. [I-A]

Weston, Carol
THE DIARY OF MELANIE MARTIN 2000
Fourth-grader Melanie Martin writes in her diary, describing her family's trip to Italy and all that she learned. Latest installment: MELANIE IN MANHATTAN. [I]

Short Stories

Howe, James
13: THIRTEEN STORIES THAT CAPTURE THE AGONY AND ECSTASY OF BEING THIRTEEN 2006
Remember being 13? Ann Martin, Bruce Coville, Todd Strasser, Rachel Vail, Stephen Roos, Ron Koertge, and several other popular authors join Howe in writing about that awkward year. The stories are a mixture of humor, pathos, and poignancy, and most are based on personal experiences. [I-A]

Howe, James
THE COLOR OF ABSENCE: 12 STORIES ABOUT LOSS AND HOPE 2001
Virginia Euwer Wolff sums up the essence of the 12 stories in The Color of Absence:
"One of the things that interests me most about loss is that often, while we are being
swept away by losing something, we are gaining something else that totally surprises us."
[A]

Paulsen, Gary
SHELF LIFE: STORIES BY THE BOOK 2003
To benefit ProLiteracy Worldwide, Paulsen has assembled a stellar lineup of children's
and young adult authors to contribute original short stories in which books change lives.
[I-A]

Soto, Gary
BASEBALL IN APRIL AND OTHER STORIES 2000
Insightful about the characteristics of early adolescents, Soto tells 11 short stories about
everyday problems of growing up. Latinos in central California are the focus of the
stories, but the events are typical of young teens anywhere in the United States. [I]

Poetry

Dickinson, Emily
I'M NOBODY, WHO ARE YOU? 1978
A satisfying sampling of Dickinson's most popular poems. [I-A]

Fleischman, Sid
JOYFUL NOISE: POEMS FOR TWO VOICES 1988
A series of nature poems that are meant to be read by two people. [I-A]

Hollyer, Belinda
SHE'S ALL THAT: POEMS ABOUT GIRLS 2006
Eighty poems from writers such as Maya Angelou, Aileen Fisher, Eloise Greenfield, Jack
Prelutsky, and Janet S. Wong tackle the themes that matter to girls, from family and best
friends to boys, body image, having fun, and dreaming about the future. [A]

Hughes, Langston
DREAM KEEPER AND OTHER POEMS 1932
A collection of sixty-six poems, selected by the author for young readers, including
lyrical poems, songs, and blues, many exploring the black experience. [I-A]

Myers, Walter Dean
HERE IN HARLEM: POEMS IN MANY VOICES 2004
Presents fifty-four poems by Walter Dean Myers, written in the voices of people living
and working in Harlem, the author's beloved hometown. [I-A]

Prelutsky, Jack

MY DOG MAY BE A GENIUS

2007

A collection of poems by children's poet laureate James Stevenson that celebrate the joys of childhood and the wackier side of life. [I-A]

Worth, Valerie

ANIMAL POEMS

2007

An illustrated collection of twenty-three poems about snails, whales, bats, camels, and other animals. [I]