

Restoration Academy

Summer Reading List

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Rising 1st through 3rd graders

Bread and Jam for Frances

by Russell Hoban, illustrated by Lillian Hoban

Will Frances keep eating just bread and jam forever?

Diary of a Wombat

by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Learn how to train your humans.

The Gingerbread Boy

by Richard Egielski

The beloved quick footed cookie is on the loose in New York City!

A Green, Green Garden

by Mercer Mayer

Plant some seeds and watch them grow with everyone's favorite Little Critter.

Little Mouse Gets Ready

by Jeff Smith

This little guy conquers snaps, buttons, Velcro and other challenges in this simple comic tale.

My Best Friend

by Mary Ann Rodman, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Tamika is Lily's best friend. She just doesn't know it yet.

Pezzettino

by Leo Lionni

Big or small, Pezzettino learns that when it comes to finding your place in the world, size doesn't matter.

Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach

by Mélanie Watt

Everyone's favorite germ fearing rodent plans his perfect vacation getaway.

See Me Run

by Paul Meisel

Digging dogs find a dino in this easy to read caper.

A Splendid Friend, Indeed

by Suzanne Bloom

A persistent goose wins over a grumpy polar bear.

Subway Ride

by Heather Lynn Miller, illustrated by Sue Ramá

Zip through ten of the world's subway stations with kids as your guides.

Yo! Yes?

by Chris Raschka

How to make a new friend in 34 words or less.

Zelda and Ivy: The Big Picture

by Laura Mcgee Kvasnosky

Three foxy friends become stealthy secret agents.

Nonfiction

Ants

by Melissa Stewart

Learn creepy and cool facts about these amazing picnic crashers.

Bats

by Elizabeth Carney

Meet the flying mammals that flock by the hundreds and sleep upside down.

Meet the Dinosaurs

by Dorling Kindersley, Inc.

Say hello to everyone from the armored Ankylosaurus to the tough Triceratops.

Rocks and Minerals

by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

From molten lava to dazzling gemstones find out about your favorite rocks.

Snakes Slither and Hiss

by Dorling Kindersley, Inc.

Scales, forked tongues, and flying tree snakes, oh my!

Series

Biscuit - Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Brownie and Pearl - Cynthia Rylant

Froggy - Jonathan London

Robin Hill School - Margaret McNamara

Mouse & Mole – Wong Herbert Yee

Adderson, Caroline. **Jasper John Dooley: Star of the Week**. Kids Can Press, 2012. Jasper John Dooley's turn to be Star of the Week at school gets ruined when a new baby at Ori's house takes attention away from Jasper's Show and Tell, prompting him to build himself a baby brother out of wood. Series

Adler, David A. **A Picture Book of Sam Houston**. Holiday House, 2012. A brief overview of the life and accomplishments of Texas politician Sam Houston.

Adler, David A. **Young Cam Jansen and the Speedy Car Mystery**. Viking, 2010. At her school's Green Fair, Cam and her friends are learning to keep the earth green when a student's remote controlled car goes missing! Was it stolen? It's up to Cam and her photographic memory to figure it out! Series

Applegate, Katherine. **Never Race a Runaway Pumpkin**. HarperCollins, 2009. Roscoe is determined to guess the weight of a giant pumpkin in order to win books for his school library and candy for himself, but he is overwhelmed by superstitions, especially about a certain black kitten. Series

Archer, Peggy. **Name That Dog! Puppy Poems from A to Z**. Dial Books, 2010. A collection of humorously illustrated poems about dogs, their names and their unique personalities.

Barrows, Annie. **Ivy + Bean**. Chronicle Books, 2006. When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. Series

Beard, Alex. **The Jungle Grapevine**. Abrams Books, 2009. Reminiscent of Chicken Little, this cleverly illustrated book demonstrates how rumors get started and quickly get out of hand.

Bell, Cece. **Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover.** Candlewick, 2012. Rabbit has his best friend Robot coming to spend the night. Rabbit has everything planned out, but Robot has different ideas about his friend's plans which ultimately result in an enjoyable time together.

Brendler, Carol. **Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Zany and whimsical drawings bring this story about Winnie, the worm farmer, to life. Winnie needs a new wagon, so she looks for ways to win first prize at the county fair; however, there are no prizes for worm farmers.

Burleigh, Robert. **One Giant Leap.** Philomel, 2009. An illustrated retelling of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's lunar landing in 1969.

Byars, Betsy. **Boo's Dinosaur.** Holt, 2006. When young Boo is followed home by a dinosaur that only she can see, it causes a bit of trouble for her older brother, Sammy.

Chabon, Michael. **The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man.** Balzer + Bray 2011. A young superhero describes his awesome powers, which he then demonstrates as various foes arrive on the scene.

Chaconas, Dori. **Cork & Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson.** Viking, 2011. Cork the muskrat wants his best friend Fuzz, a possum, to visit his home, but first he must teach Fuzz to swim and not be afraid of the water. Series

Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. **Princess K.I.M. and the Lie That Grew.** Whitman, 2009. In an attempt to impress her new classmates, Kim lies about her name and claims that she comes from a royal family, but she gets herself into real trouble after her classmates beg to meet Kim's grandmother--the Queen.

Collins, Ross. **Dear Vampa.** Katherine Tegen, 2009. A young vampire writes a letter to his grandfather bemoaning his new neighbors.

Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a Fly.** Joanna Cotler, 2007. A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

Davis, Jill. **Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts From an Animal Photographer**. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Provides interesting facts about animals and explores what it takes to photograph them, with animal photographer Steve Grubman sharing some of his favorite, and scariest, encounters.

Deans, Karen. **Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson**. Holiday House, 2007. An illustrated biography of the life and achievements of African American tennis player Althea Gibson.

dePaola, Tomie. **26 Fairmount Avenue**. Putnam's, 1999. Children's author and illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. Newbery Honor 2000. Series

DiCamillo, Kate. **Bink & Gollie, Two for One**. Candlewick, 2012. Best friends and yet complete opposites, Bink and Gollie, attend the State Fair and realize their differences only serve them to unite as friends forever.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig**. Candlewick, 2008. Two sisters move in next door to where Mercy the pig lives and, frustrated when Mercy continues to eat their flowers, they decide to call for the help of an Animal Control Officer, Francine Poulet, to handle the case. Series

DiPucchio, Kelly S. **Grace for President**. Hyperion, 2008. After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.

Dotlich, Rebecca Kai. **Bella & Bean**. Atheneum, 2009. When Bean constantly distracts her while she tries to write, Bella finds her poems taking unexpected and silly twists, until she realizes she has written a lovely, wonderful poem about her best friend.

English, Karen. **Nikki & Deja: Election Madness**. Clarion, 2011. Deja, excited by the announcement that Carver School is going to elect its first ever student body president, is confident she can nab the third grade nomination with her best friend Nikki as her campaign manager; but her tendency to rush

into things and boss people around alienates Nikki when she needs her the most. Series

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. **The Gingerbread Girl**. Dutton, 2006. After their first gingerbread disaster, the lonely old couple decides to bake again and create a gingerbread girl who proves herself to be one smart cookie.

Florian, Douglas. **Shiver Me Timbers! Pirate Poems & Paintings**. Beach Lane Books, 2012. Pirate fans will enjoy this humorous collection of poems about the adventures of some very colorful “scalawags and scoundrels!”

Fucile, Tony. **Let’s Do Nothing!** Candlewick, 2009. Young friends Frankie and Sal, believing they have “done it all,” decide to do nothing for a while; but Frankie has a little trouble with the concept and it is not long before the boys realize there is no way to do nothing.

Geras, Adele. **Little Ballet Star**. Dial Books, 2007. Every little girl dreams of becoming a ballet star and Tilly is no exception. In this story, Tilly visits her Aunt Gina behind-the-scenes of a real ballet. It is Tilly’s birthday, and she unexpectedly finds herself performing in front of a live audience.

Gibbons, Gail. **Ladybugs**. Holiday House, 2012. A colorful, illustrated introduction to ladybugs, describing their physical characteristics, lifecycle, diets and their benefits to the environment.

Gibson, Amy. **Around the World on Eighty Legs**. Scholastic, 2011. An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about animals around the world.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Flying Feet**. Wendy Lamb, 2011. Charlie has always lived in his big brother’s shadow, so when the Zigzag center organizes a “Come as a Character” day, Charlie hopes it will be his chance to shine as he shows off his latest invention. Series

Grogan, John. **Bad Dog, Marley!** HarperCollins, 2007. Marley, a rambunctious puppy, causes lots of trouble in his new home and feels very sad about it. He then proves beyond a doubt that he is a valuable member of the household.

Harper, Jessica. **Uh-Oh, Cleo**. Putnam's, 2008. What starts out as a perfectly ordinary day in the Small house turns into Stitches Saturday when Cleo gets a cut on the head after her twin brother, Jack, accidentally pulls down their toy house. Series

Hayes, Geoffrey. **Benny and Penny in Just Pretend**. Candlewick, 2008. Benny Mouse insists that his little sister, Penny, leave him alone while playing, until he thinks she is in danger. Suddenly he realizes his affection for her and joins her in a game of pretend. Series

Henkes, Kevin. **Penny and Her Song**. Greenwillow, 2012. Penny comes home from school eager to share her very own song, but must wait until the time is right to teach it to her parents and the babies.

Hicks, Betty. **Goof-Off Goalie**. Roaring Brook, 2008. Ten-year-old Goose is best at goofing off; but when he decides to become the goalie for their soccer team, his friend Henry sets up a practice schedule and enlists their other friends to help Goose improve his skills. Series

Holm, Jennifer. **Squish, #1: Super Amoeba**. Random House, 2011. The young amoeba Squish, inspired by his favorite comic book hero, Super Amoeba, tries to navigate his way through school and save his friends and the world from the evils that lurk in the halls. Series

Hort, Lenny. **Did Dinosaurs Eat Pizza? Mysteries Science Hasn't Solved**. Holt, 2006. While much is known about dinosaur anatomy, behavior, and habitat, the author points out the many mysteries that remain to be answered about these extinct creatures.

Howe, James. **Houndsley and Catina: Plink and Plunk**. Candlewick, 2009. Houndsley likes canoeing and his friend Catina likes bicycling, but each has to help the other learn to enjoy these activities in order to do them together. Series

Jacobson, Jennifer. **Andy Shane: Hero at Last!** Candlewick, 2010. Andy wants two things very much . . . to win the contest for the best decorated bicycle in the "Home Sweet Home parade" and to be a hero; but his best friend Dolores stands in the way of at least one goal.

Jeffers, Oliver. **The Incredible Book Eating Boy**. Philomel, 2006. Henry loves to eat books until he begins to feel quite ill and decides that maybe he could do something else with the books he has been devouring.

Johnston, Tony. **Levi Strauss Gets a Bright Idea: A Fairly Fabricated Story of a Pair of Pants**. Harcourt, 2011. Re-tells, in tall-tale fashion, how Levi Strauss went to California during the Gold Rush, saw the need for a sturdier kind of pants, and invented jeans.

Kaczman, James. **Lucky Monkey, Unlucky Monkey**. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. While Ed the monkey has the most wonderful day imaginable, Ted the monkey faces everything from bad weather to being chased by wild animals and an angry troll.

Kaplan, Michael. **Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake**. Dial Books, 2011. From her first bite, young Betty Bunny likes chocolate cake so much that she claims she will marry it one day; and she has trouble learning to wait patiently until she can have her next taste.

Keating, Frank. **Theodore**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. A biography of Theodore Roosevelt that imagines the president looking back on his life, describing his childhood, his youthful journeys throughout the world, his experiences as a leader, and the value he placed on knowledge, adventure, originality, and integrity.

Keller, Laurie. **Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners**. Holt, 2007. Mr. Rabbit is worried that he might not get along with his new neighbors. A wise owl gives him the advice "Do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you" and proceeds to explain what this means.

Kimmel, Eric A. **Anansi's Party Time**. Holiday House, 2008. When Anansi the spider invites Turtle to a party just to play a trick on him, Turtle gets revenge at a party of his own.

Krensky, Stephen. **Milo the Really Big Bunny**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. A misfit bunny finds out that the characteristic that makes him different helps the Easter Bunny save the day.

Labatt, Mary. **Sam Gets Lost.** Kids Can Press, 2004. Sam's fun trip downtown turns scary after he hops out of the car and gets lost in the city. Series

LaMarche, Jim. **Lost and Found: Three Dog Stories.** Chronicle Books, 2009. A compilation of three short stories that indeed prove there is a powerful connection between dogs and children.

Larson, Kirby and Mary Nethery. **Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival.** Walker, 2008. Bobbi the dog and Bob Cat show us how friendship and perseverance kept them together through the rough times of Hurricane Katrina.

Lasky, Kathryn. **Poodle and Hound.** Charlesbridge, 2009. This book contains three stories which follow the adventures of Hound and Poodle as they discover how much they enjoy each other's company in spite of--or possibly because of--their differences. Series

Leedy, Loreen. **Missing Math: A Number Mystery.** Marshall Cavendish, 2008. A numerical mystery ensues when the numbers all over town suddenly disappear, bringing a halt to everyday activities.

Lester, Helen. **Tacky Goes to Camp.** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Tacky the penguin and his friends go to Camp Whoopihaha where they scare each other by telling ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening stories will come true. Series

Lies, Brian. **Bats at the Ballgame.** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Two teams of bats enjoy a nighttime game of baseball. Cheering the home team are the bat fans enjoying the snacks of "mothdogs" and the like.

Lin, Grace. **Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!** Little, Brown, 2010. Ling and Ting are identical twins who people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different.

Lo, Ginnie. **Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic.** Lee & Low, 2012. A Chinese American girl's Auntie Yang discovers soybeans, a favorite Chinese

food, growing in Illinois, leading her family to a soybean picnic tradition that grows into an annual community event.

Lobel, Arnold. **Frog and Toad Are Friends**. First published 1970. Be entertained by the classic, short, delightful tales about best friends Frog and Toad. Series

Lyon, George Ella. **All the Water in the World**. Atheneum, 2011. An illustrated explanation of the water cycle, showing how water rises to the clouds and is rained back down again to be used by plants, people, and every living thing.

Lyons, Kelly Starling. **Ellen's Broom**. Putnam's, 2012. Ellen, a young girl growing up in the Reconstruction Era, learns the significance of love and tradition as she encourages her parents to "Jump the Broom" to finalize their marriage vows.

MacLachlan, Patricia and Emily MacLachlan Charest. **Once I Ate a Pie**. Joanna Cotler, 2006. Fourteen free-verse poems and beautiful oil paintings capture the personality of each dog in these examples of a dog's life from the perspective of the animals.

Marshall, James. **Fox On the Job**. Puffin, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money. Series

McDermott, Gerald. **Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon**. Harcourt, 2001. All the birds enjoy the song-like flute music of Jabuti, the tortoise, except Vulture who, jealous because he cannot sing, tricks Jabuti into riding on his back toward a festival planned by the King of Heaven.

McDonald, Megan. **Daisy Jane, Best-Ever Flower-Girl!** Random House, 2007. Daisy Jane, who is thrilled to be the flower girl at her babysitter's wedding, helps save the day when a storm threatens the festivities.

McDonald, Megan. **Stink and the Ultimate Thumb-Wrestling Smackdown**. Candlewick, 2011. When Stink Moody gets a "U" (for

"Unsatisfactory") in gym, he turns first to thumb-wrestling, then to karate, to give him a sporting edge. Series

McElligott, Matthew. **The Lion's Share.** Walker, 2009. Ant is honored to receive an invitation to lion's annual dinner party, but she is shocked when the other guests behave rudely and then accuse her of thinking only of herself.

McKissack, Patricia and Onawumi Jean Moss. **Precious and the Boo Hag.** Atheneum, 2005. Home alone with a stomach ache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.

McMullan, Kate. Pearl and Wagner: **Five Days Till Summer.** Penguin Press, 2012. Pearl and her friend Wagner, on the verge of moving up to Ms. Bean's first grade class, worry about their new teacher being "mean" until something surprising changes their mind...

McNulty, Faith. **If You Decide to Go to the Moon.** Scholastic, 2005. This book tells you how to get to the moon, what to do after you land, and, most importantly, how to get back home.

Munro, Roxie. **Hatch!** Marshall Cavendish, 2011. Presents illustrations of various eggs with related clues, prompting readers to guess which type of bird laid the eggs.

Negron, Ray. **The Greatest Story Never Told: The Babe and Jackie.** HarperCollins, 2008. Two young boys who are sick in the hospital decide they do not want to be roommates because of their differences; but when they travel back in time and meet Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, they change their minds.

Nevius, Carol. **Baseball Hour.** Marshall Cavendish, 2008. All baseball players will enjoy the rhythmic rhyming of this story and photo-like illustrations of children practicing baseball in an effort to build a winning team and, ultimately, a circle of friends.

Numeroff, Laura and Nate Evans. **The Jellybeans and the Big Camp Kickoff**. Abrams Books, 2011. When four friends with different talents and abilities go to summer camp together, they use their strengths to make camp fun for all. Series

Parish, Herman. **Amelia Bedelia's First Field Trip**. Greenwillow, 2011. Amelia Bedelia goes with her class to visit a farm, where her literal-mindedness causes confusion along with some laughs.

Potter, Alicia. **Mrs. Harkness and the Panda**. Albert A. Knopf, 2012. In 1936 Ruth Harkness completes her husband's difficult mission to bring the first live panda back to the United States.

Raczka, Bob. **Guyku: A Year of Haiku for Boys**. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. A collection of haiku poetry for boys that features poems about tree climbing, kite flying, and other related topics.

Recorvits, Helen. **Yoon and the Jade Bracelet**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Although she really would have liked a jump rope for her birthday, Yoon is happy to receive a Korean picture book and a jade bracelet passed down from her grandmother; and when she wears the bracelet to school it seems as if her wish for a jump rope and a friend is about to come true.

Reynolds, Peter. **The Dot**. Candlewick, 2003. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her teacher, sets the young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success.

Ries, Lori. **Aggie Gets Lost**. Charlesbridge, 2011. Ben is heartbroken when his puppy Aggie goes missing while the two are playing fetch in the park, but he is determined to find his pet. Series

Rylant, Cynthia. **Annie and Snowball and the Book Bugs Club**. Simon Spotlight, 2011. Annie and Henry join the summer reading club at the library, and they vow to be "Book Bugs" for life. Series

Rylant, Cynthia. **Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. Henry and his dog Mudge are invited to a sleepover in

Patrick's attic, where they watch monster movies, eat pizza, and enjoy a contest to determine whose dog is the best popcorn catcher. Series

Rylant, Cynthia. **The High-Rise Private Eyes: The Case of the Desperate Duck.** Greenwillow, 2005. In this case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tea room. Series

Sauer, Tammi. **Chicken Dance.** Sterling, 2009. Marge and Lola set out to get tickets to the Elvis Poultry concert by winning a farmyard talent contest. What transpires is hilarious!

Sayre, April Pulley. **Army Ant Parade.** Holt, 2002. The animals in the forest prepare for the army ants to swarm over the ground in a thick stream, searching for food.

Schneider, Josh. **Tales for Very Picky Eaters.** Clarion, 2011. A father tells outlandish stories while trying to get his young son, who is a very picky eater, to eat foods he thinks he will not like.

Schulman, Janet. **Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. Recounts the true story of Pale Male, a red-tailed hawk living in New York City, who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities as bird watchers, tourists, and residents admire the bird and his nest which is built on a Fifth Avenue apartment building.

Scieszka, Jon. **Robot Zot!** Simon & Schuster, 2009. Big and bright robots advance and defeat their way through a wonderful yet familiar place.

Scotton, Rob. **Splat the Cat.** HarperCollins, 2008. Splat the Cat is nervous about his first day at cat school, but once he arrives he realizes he had nothing to worry about.

Shannon, David. **Too Many Toys.** Blue Sky Press, 2008. After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away; but he realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman and Mitchell Sharmat. **Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club.** Delacorte, 2009. Rosamond, who starts a book club, claims there is a monster on the loose that is ruining pages of her cookbook, which leads Nate the Great and his dog Sludge to investigate as undercover detectives. Series

Silverman, Erica. **Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Spring Babies.** Harcourt, 2010. Cowgirl Kate and her horse Cocoa watch over the new calves, a puppy, and some baby barn owls. Series

Sklansky, Amy E. **Out of This World: Poems and Facts about Space.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. A collection of poems and facts about space, accompanied by color paintings.

Spinelli, Eileen. **The Best Story.** Dial Books, 2008. When a contest at the local library offers a prize for the best story, a girl tries to write one using her family's suggestions, but her story does not seem right until she listens to her heart.

Steig, William. **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble.** First published 1969. In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then he cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again! Caldecott Medal 1970

Stewart, Melissa. **A Place for Bats.** Peachtree, 2012. Bats from different parts of North America, acting as filters in the ecosystem, must now rely on humans to protect them from extinction. This simple, well-illustrated book shows where bats live and how we can help to save them.

Stimpson, Colin. **Jack and the Baked Beanstalk.** Candlewick, 2012. As Jack and his mom struggle to save their burger café, which is overshadowed by a new super-highway, Jack trades their last pennies for some “magic baked beans” which lead him to a lonely, but amiable, giant.

Talbott, Hudson. **United Tweets of America.** Putnam’s, 2008. A collection of detailed illustrations of state birds from all fifty United States.

Tavares, Matt. **Mudball**. Candlewick, 2005. During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, Little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history.

Thomas, Shelley Moore. **A Cold Winter's Good Knight**. Dutton, 2008. The Good Knight must remind three little dragons to mind their manners when they arrive at the castle on the night of a fancy ball. Series

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **Amanda Pig and the Wiggly Tooth**. Dial Books, 2008. When Amanda Pig has her first loose tooth, she is reluctant to pull it. Series

Vernick, Audrey. **Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team**. Clarion, 2012. Colorful and action-filled illustrations add to this non-fiction picture book story of twelve baseball playing brothers -- the Acerra brothers.

Watkins, Angela Farris. **My Uncle Martin's Words for America**. Abrams Books, 2011. Using words and phrases from Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, his niece explains the importance of his message and his contributions to the Civil Rights movement.

Willems, Mo. **Edwina: The Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct**. Hyperion, 2006. Edwina the friendly neighborhood dinosaur, friend to children and grown-ups alike, finds a foe in young Reginald Von Hoobie-Doobie, who insists that she is extinct.

Winter, Jeanette. **The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps**. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. This picture book biography of Jane Goodall traces her life from her childhood passion for observing the natural world to her famous studies of chimpanzees in the wild.

Winter, Jonah. **Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates**. Atheneum, 2005. This is the story of Roberto Clemente, a young Puerto Rican who followed his baseball dream to the big leagues and went on to help the poor in his homeland.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Each Kindness**. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012. It is only after Maya, the new girl, moves away that Chloe regretfully realizes that she and her friends have been unkind by excluding her from their games.

Yee, Wong Herbert. **Mouse and Mole: A Winter Wonderland**. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Best friends Mouse and Mole enjoy playing in the snow with Sno-Mouse and Sno-Mole, two more best friends. Series

Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. **Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and the Food Web in Our Backyard**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Depicts a family of four who make their garden their summer home as they prepare the soil, plant seeds, water the garden, and watch for a harvest of vegetables.

Rising 3rd through 5th graders

Fiction

Bink & Gollie

by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee, illustrated by Tony Fucile
These two girls are best buddies because sometimes opposites attract.

Clementine and the Family Meeting

by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee
. . . and the news is even worse than she feared.

EllRay Jakes Is a Rock Star!

by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper
EllRay hopes to become more popular in school by giving away his geologist father's crystals.

Grandfather's Journey

by Allen Say
The author's grandfather loves his new country but is still homesick for Japan.

Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-Up

by Melissa Thomson, illustrated by Frank Morrison
After she forgets her journal at mean-girl Tiffany's house, Keena's afraid all her secrets will be revealed.

Mal and Chad: The Biggest, Bestest Time Ever!

by Stephen McCranie
Time traveling's easy compared to dealing with school bullies and girls.

Nikki & Deja: Birthday Blues

by Karen English, illustrated by Laura Freeman
What do you do when your archenemy plans a party for the same day as your birthday?

A Poor Excuse for a Dragon

by Geoffrey Hayes
To Do: "Run amok / Eat people / Roar / Breathe fire / Act scary."

Sassy: Little Sister Is Not My Name

by Sharon M. Draper

A pint-sized fourth grader saves the day thanks to her size and her Sassy Sack.

The Trouble With Chickens: A J.J. Tully Mystery

by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Kevin Cornell

A retired search-and-rescue dog turned detective is hired to find some missing chicks.

Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Zooms to the Rescue

by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Miguel Benítez

Using his super-speedy shoes and his new silver goggles Freddie solves the mystery of the strange purple squirrel.

Nonfiction

African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways

by Avis Harley, photographs by Deborah Noyes

Word puzzlers for animal lovers.

Ape Escapes!: And More True Stories of Animals Behaving Badly

by Aline Alexander Newman

Chaos ensues in this collection of crazy animal hijinks.

Archaeologists Dig for Clues

by Kate Duke

These real-life detectives look for secrets about our ancient past.

Digging Up Dinosaurs

by Alik

Where did the dinosaurs in the museum come from? Here's the answer!

Discovery in the Cave

by Mark Dubowski, illustrated by Bryn Barnard

Four boys and a dog make a once in a lifetime discovery.

Knockin' On Wood: Starring Peg Leg Bates

by Lynne Barasch

Despite losing his leg at 12, this African-American went on to become a world famous tap dancer.

The Life and Times of the Ant

by Charles Micucci

Fun facts and funny pictures about one of the world's most ancient insects.

One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin

by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Matthew Trueman

How a bug-loving kid grew up to become the world's most famous scientist.

Wiggling Worms at Work

by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

Learn how worms help plants to grow.

Series

Captain Awesome - Stan Kirby

Julian - Ann Cameron

Mercy Watson - Kate DiCamillo

26 Fairmont Avenue - Tomie DePaola

Stink - Megan McDonald

Fiction

Best of the Best: A Baseball Great Novel

by Tim Green

When the Little League World Series is on the line, Josh has to keep his mind on the game.

Camo Girl

by Kekla Magoon

When Ella meets the only other African-American kid in her school, will she betray her best friend for him?

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading

by Tommy Greenwald, illustrated by J.P. Coover

Charlie Joe resorts to desperate measures to keep from picking up a book.

The City of Ember: The Graphic Novel

by Jeanne DuPrau, adapted by Dallas Middaugh, illustrated by Niklas Asker

Two children seek answers and a way to escape a dying city.

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making

by Catherynne Valente, illustrated by Ana Juan

Leaving behind her safe Omaha home, a young girl sets out on a magical journey.

How Tía Lola Saved the Summer

by Julia Alvarez

Miguel thinks he's going to have the worst summer ever stuck with a bunch of girls, but surprises are in store.

Little White Duck: A Childhood in China

by Na Liu, illustrated by Andrš Vera Mart'nez

Eight stories based on the author's memories of growing up in China.

The Mostly True Story of Jack

by Kelly Barnhill

Summer is never boring when you're being pursued by dark forces.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

by Robert C. O'Brien, illustrated by Zena Bernstein

To save her family a mother mouse seeks the help of supergenius rats.

Ninth Ward

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

12-year-old Lanesha and her adopted grandmother struggle to survive Hurricane Katrina.

Turtle in Paradise

by Jennifer L. Holm

During the Great Depression, 11-year-old Turtle discovers a mysterious treasure map while staying with relatives in Florida.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

by Grace Lin

An adventurous Chinese girl joins a flightless dragon on an epic quest.

Nonfiction

The BP Oil Spill

by Peter Benoit

Describes the causes of the 2010 oil spill and how it affected the Gulf of Mexico's ecosystem.

Digging for Bird-Dinosaurs: An Expedition to Madagascar

by Nic Bishop

Did birds evolve from dinosaurs? To find out, follow a paleontologist from an excavation

The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau

by Dan Yaccarino

Meet the man behind the snorkel - learn about the life of this famous deep sea explorer.

Henry Aaron's Dream

by Matt Tavares

The powerful tale of a kid from the segregated South who became baseball's home run king.

Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali

by Charles R. Smith Jr., illustrated by Bryan Collier

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." The life of the legendary African-American boxer.

Series

Big Nate - Lincoln Peirce

The Borrowers - Mary Norton

The Clubhouse Mysteries - Sharon M. Draper

Magic Tree House Nonfiction Companions – Mary Pope Osborne

Aldrin, Buzz. **Look to the Stars**. Putnam's, 2009. Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin traces the history of air and space exploration from Isaac Newton to the International Space Station and Mars using personal insights and conversational text.

Barber, Tiki and Ronde, with Paul Mantell. **Go Long**. Simon & Schuster, 2008. After Coach Spangler leaves their junior high, thirteen-year-old twins Tiki and Ronde wonder if his replacement, history teacher Mr. Wheeler, can coach the Eagles to another winning football season. Series

Barton, Chris. **The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors.** Charlesbridge, 2009. Brothers Bob and Joe Switzer had different interests and ambitions but worked together on the dazzling creation of fluorescent colors.

Bauer, Marion Dane. **Little Dog, Lost.** Atheneum, 2012. A dog without a boy, a boy without a dog, and an elderly gentleman without a sense of belonging follow their star-crossed paths and find that love, compassion, and charity can cure loneliness and restore balance to their lives.

Beccia, Carlyn. **I Feel Better With A Frog In My Throat: History's Strangest Cures.** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Many of today's most reliable cure-alls have their roots in some very peculiar practices, and so relevant connections can be drawn from what they did then to what we do now.

Becker, Bonny. **The Magical Ms. Plum.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Each of the students in Ms. Plum's third grade classroom receives a visit from a magical creature that comes out of her supply closet just for him or her.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks on Gardam Street.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him Series

Birney, Betty G. **Mysteries According to Humphrey.** Putnam's, 2012. After learning about Sherlock Holmes, Humphrey the classroom hamster follows clues to try and discover why Mrs. Brisbane is gone and Mr. E., a fun but not very educational substitute, is taking her place in Room 26 at Longfellow School. Series

Bishop, Nic. **Nic Bishop Snakes.** Scholastic, 2012. Naturalist Nic Bishop provides an in-depth examination of snakes, including details on the characteristics, habitats, and abilities of various species of reptiles.

Brown, Don. **A Wizard From the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison.** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. This picture book shows that young Thomas Edison was a hard worker who was curious about everything, read a lot of books, studied diligently for years, and was passionate about inventing.

Buckley, Carol. **Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends.** Putnam's, 2009. This photo essay recounts the true story of Tarra, an elephant who befriends a stray dog named Bella at the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

Butler, Dori Hillestad. **The Case of the School Ghost.** Whitman, 2012. When Buddy, a therapy dog, attends the fourth grade sleepover in the school's library, he solves the mystery of the school ghost. Series

Chin-Lee, Cynthia. **Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World.** Charlesbridge, 2005. From Amelia Earhart, pilot and adventurer, to Zora Neal Hurston, writer and anthropologist, readers learn about the hardships and triumphs of twenty-six amazing women and discover what inspired each one to change the world around her.

Cleary, Beverly. **The Mouse and the Motorcycle.** HarperCollins, 1965. A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.

Colburn, Cherie Foster. **Bloomin' Tales: Legends of Seven Favorite Texas Wildflowers.** Bright Sky Press, 2012. Seven tales from Texas reveal the stories behind wildflowers as they were told by Native Americans, Mexicans, or European settlers. Includes fun facts about each flower and notes on the stories.

Collins, Suzanne. **Gregor the Overlander.** Scholastic, 2003. Hurlled into a fantastical realm below New York City, Gregor finds himself wrapped up in a war between these underground worlds where his fate and that of his little sister and missing father are in his hands. Series

Cowell, Cressida. **How to Train Your Dragon.** Little, Brown, 2003. In this silly chapter book, the Viking boy Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, son of the chief, finds himself needing to find and train a dragon as becomes an unlikely hero in the process. Series

Cowley, Joy. **Chicken Feathers.** Philomel, 2008. This is the tale of Josh's summer when his mother is in the hospital awaiting the birth of his baby

sister, and his pet chicken Semolina, who talks only to him, is almost killed by a red fox.

Cronin, Doreen. **The Legend of Diamond Lil: A J.J. Tully Mystery.** Balzer + Bray, 2012. The search and rescue dog named J.J. is ready for a bit of rest and relaxation after solving the mystery of the missing chicks; but there is a new dog next door who is stealing the attention of Moosh and her chicks, and the threat of a roaming possum keeps J.J. on the alert. Series

Dahl, Roald. **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.** Alfred A. Knopf, 1964. Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

Davies, Jacqueline. **The Lemonade Crime.** Houghton Mifflin, 2011. Following The Lemonade War, Scott Spencer, an alleged thief, is put on trial by his classmates who construct an authentic tribunal to determine his fate and end up surprising themselves with their verdict. Series

Dowson, Nick. **North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration.** Candlewick, 2011. This book follows animals such as gray whales, terns, wolves and caribou as they journey north to the Arctic where they will join the polar bear, arctic hare, and fox to feed and breed all summer.

Durand, Hallie. **Dessert First.** Atheneum, 2009. Third grader Dessert's love of treats leads to a change in her large family's dinner routine, then to an awful mistake, and later to a true sacrifice after her teacher, Mrs. Howdy Doody, urges students to march to the beat of their own drums. Series

Edwards, Roberta. **Who Is Jane Goodall?** Grosset & Dunlap, 2012. This chapter book biography covers the exciting life of English primatologist Jane Goodall and her life's work of living with the chimpanzees of Tanzania.

Fleming, Candace. **The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary.** Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Fourth Grade teacher extraordinaire, Mr. Jupiter, takes his energetic students on a wild and woolly ride through the school year.

Fleming, Candace. **Gator Gumbo: A Spicy-Hot Tale.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004. Tired of being tormented by bullies, a hungry old alligator conjures up a way to add some special ingredients to his gumbo.

Foxley, Janet. **Muncle Trogg.** Scholastic, 2012. Bullied and despised for being human-sized, a young giant demonstrates his bravery and cleverness in a series of adventures. Series

Freeman, Martha. **The Case of the Piggy Bank Thief.** Holiday House, 2012. Tessa and her sister Cammie, daughters of the first female U.S. president, explore the mystery of the gold that is found on the White House property and are further perplexed because Tessa's piggy bank has disappeared. Series

Gardiner, John Reynolds. **Stone Fox.** First published 1980. Willy hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.

Gherman, Beverly. **First Mothers.** Clarion, 2012. Discover everything you ever wanted to know about the lives of the mothers of U.S. presidents, including facts about their sons.

Graff, Lisa. **Sophie Simon Solves Them All.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010. Third-grader Sophie Simon ignores her parents' concerns over her lack of friends and continues to focus on getting a graphing calculator so that she can study calculus on the bus to school.

Greene, Stephanie. **Sophie Hartley, On Strike.** Clarion, 2006. When Sophie's mother makes a jobs list for the Hartley children, Sophie and her siblings go on strike, never expecting it to backfire. Series

Gutman, Dan. **Mission Unstoppable.** Harper, 2011. On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files. Series

Gutman, Dan. **Nightmare at the Book Fair.** Simon & Schuster, 2008. Fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the

head by a book fair traveling book case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.

Halls, Kelly Milner. **Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May or May Not Exist**. Darby Creek, 2006. Cryptozoology is the study of animals that may or may not be real: familiar animals like Bigfoot and Loch Ness Monster, and those that are less familiar like the Marozi of Kenya and the Orang-pendek of Sumatra and the Thylacine of Tasmania. Meet these and more in this introduction to cryptozoology.

Harley, Avis. **African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways**. Candlewick, 2009. Entertaining acrostic poems about African animals provide readers information both about the animals as well as the various forms of acrostic poems.

Harper, Charise Mericle. **Just Grace and the Double Surprise**. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. In the seventh book of the series, Grace's best friend, Mimi, is surprised to get an adopted brother instead of a sister; a double surprise is that Grace's parents finally say yes to getting a dog. Series

Hatkoff, Juliana et al. **Leo the Snow Leopard: The True Story of an Amazing Rescue**. Scholastic, 2010. This story of rescue and survival of an orphaned snow leopard begins in the mountains of Pakistan and ends at the Bronx Zoo, allowing readers to learn about the life of these rare cats while documenting the determined cooperation of international animal conservationists.

Helman, Andrea. **Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts**. Walker, 2008. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.

Hopkins, Jackie Mims. **Joe Bright and the Seven Genre Dudes**. Upstart Books, 2010. Stella, the master storyteller of a storybook kingdom, is threatened by Joe Bright's ability to tell stories and sends him deep into the dark forest where Joe meets the Seven Genre Dudes, brothers who care for various types of books at the local library.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Annie and Helen.** Schwartz & Wade, 2012. Expressive and inspired illustrations combine with poetic text in this poignant story of the relationship between Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan, with personal citations by Annie from her letters home.

Kelly, Mark. **Mousetronaut: Based on a (Partially) True Story.** Simon & Schuster, 2012. A small but plucky mouse named Mike is sure that he can help the Space Shuttle astronauts and ends up saving the whole mission.

Klise, Kate. **The Phantom of the Post Office.** Harcourt, 2012. Seymour Hope and his friend Wy Fye must expose the mysterious, troublesome individual who is determined to close the Ghastly post office that will ultimately sever the connection of the mansion's ghostwriters with their fans. Series

Krosoczka, Jarrett. **Lunch Lady and the Field Trip Fiasco.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. Superhero Lunch Lady and the Breakfast Bunch save the day from art thieves in this fun graphic novel set in an art museum. Series

LaFevers, R. L. **Flight of the Phoenix.** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Ten-year-old Nate is sent to live with a family cousin, the world's last beastologist, after his parents are declared lost at sea, but danger mounts when he is brought on an expedition to the Arabian Desert, gets lost, and must protect a newly hatched phoenix egg and rescue his guardian. Series

Lewis, J. Patrick. **Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs.** Charlesbridge, 2012. The pictures and poetry are a little dark; but the droll, tongue-in-cheek humor of these last poems for animals will make you chuckle.

Lin, Grace. **Dumpling Days.** Little, Brown, 2012. Pacy and her family fly to Taiwan to visit family, celebrate her grandmother's 60th birthday, and learn what it means to be Taiwanese even without speaking the language. Series

Low, Alice. **The Fastest Game on Two Feet and Other Poems About How Sports Began.** Holiday House, 2009. This book contains funny poems about various sports as well as a brief paragraph about the origin of each sport.

Lowry, Lois. **The Birthday Ball.** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Princess Patricia Priscilla is not looking forward to her birthday when she has to choose a suitor, so she switches places with her chambermaid so she can attend school with the commoners.

MacLachlan, Patricia. **Sarah, Plain and Tall.** First published 1985. This sweet prairie tale of a family's experiences with Sarah, a mail-order bride from Maine, begins with children Anna and Caleb worried that their new mother might not

Malam, John. **You Wouldn't Want to be a Roman Gladiator! Gory Things You'd Rather Not Know.** Franklin Watts, 2001. Learn what it was like to be a Roman gladiator in this light-hearted introduction to the life and training of a Roman gladiator.

Markle, Sandra. **Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories.** Millbrook, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.

McCully, Emily Arnold. **Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse.** Holt, 2010. Bill "Doc" Key, who was a former slave, trains his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and perform around the country, ultimately teaching others to treat animals humanely.

McMullan, Kate. **Have a Hot Time, Hades!** Stone Arch Books, 2012. In this story with a modern twist, Hades tells his own version of how he became King of the Underworld and Zeus became King of the Gods. Series

Michelson, Richard. **Twice as Good: The Story of William Powell and Clearview, the Only Golf Course Designed, Built and Owned by an African American.** Sleeping Bear Press, 2012. A biography of William J. Powell, an African American golfer, discussing his becoming a caddie and learning to play golf, the discrimination he faced trying to compete, and building his own golf course where anyone was welcome.

Moss, Marissa. **Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero.** Abrams Books, 2011. The author describes the life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, who disguised herself as a man, took the name Frank

Thompson, joined a Michigan army regiment to fight in the Civil War, served as a nurse on the battlefield, and became a spy.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh**. Atheneum, 1991. Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. Series

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. **Bill, the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman**. Charlesbridge, 2012. Although Bob Kane is featured as the creator of Batman, a second, unsung, anonymous architect of the superhero by the name of Bill Finger worked steadfastly as designer, writer, and costumer of the Caped Crusader and was only acknowledged for his contributions through the efforts of his friends after his death.

Nolan, Lucy. **Bad to the Bone**. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Neighboring dogs, Down Girl and Sit, are discovering that their owners are very hard to train. Series

O'Connor, Barbara. **The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010. After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the pond it came from, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola.

O'Malley, Kevin. **Once Upon a Royal Superbaby**. Walker, 2010. A boy and a girl, having created a story for school, must use their talents to come up with a new story of what happens to the Dude, his fair maiden, and their royal superbaby after they are captured by an evil wizard. Series

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Abe Lincoln at Last!** Random House, 2011. The magic tree house whisks Jack and Annie to Washington D.C. in the 1860s where they meet Abraham Lincoln and collect a feather that will help break a magic spell.

Peck, Richard. **Secrets at Sea: A Novel**. Dial Books, 2011. In 1887, the social-climbing Cranstons travel by ship from New York to London, where they hope to find a husband for their awkward older daughter who is secretly accompanied by Helena and her mouse siblings.

Peot, Margaret. **Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish Your Way to Creativity.** Boyds Mills, 2011. In addition to interesting facts about the world of art, step-by-step instructions and examples are provided for using inkblots to spark creativity.

Polacco, Patricia. **The Keeping Quilt.** First published 1988. Follow the author's family's quilt through several generations, from its creation by the first generation immigrant family all the way to the present generation.

Preus, Margi. **Celebritrees: Historic & Famous Trees of the World.** Holt, 2010. Read about fourteen trees from around the world that are significant in history or legend, such as the Bodhi Tree under which Buddha gained enlightenment, reminding us that these fascinating trees bring us pleasure and tell us about history.

Primavera, Elise. **Libby of High Hopes.** Simon & Schuster, 2012. When ten-year-old Libby Thump stumbles upon High Hopes Horse Farm and finds her dream horse, Princess, a prize-winning jumping horse that has been put out to pasture, Libby tries to convince her parents to give her riding lessons.

Raczka, Bob. **Lemonade & Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word.** Roaring Brook, 2011. In this double treat for the brain and eyes, these concrete poems are cleverly formed from the letters of the poem's title.

Raczka, Bob. **The Vermeer Interviews: Conversations with Seven Works of Art.** Millbrook, 2009. Seven of Johannes Vermeer's most famous paintings, such as "The Milkmaid" and "The Geographer," come to life through interviews with the subjects to reveal artistic techniques and subtler aspects of Vermeer's unique photographic-style art.

Raven, Margot Theis. **Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot: A True Story of the Berlin Airlift and the Candy That Dropped From the Sky.** Sleeping Bear Press, 2002. In this true story of a young German girl, Mercedes Simon, Gail Halvorsen and other American pilots shared hope and joy with the children of West Berlin by dropping candy-filled parachutes during the Airlift.

Reifman, Steve. **Chase Against Time.** Brown Books, 2012. Fifth grader Chase Manning is put in charge of finding a missing cello that is supposed to be auctioned at a fund-raising dinner to save the music program.

Root, Phyllis. **Paula Bunyan.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Paula Bunyan is a rough, tough lady with a singing voice that cracks windows, a live bear for a foot warmer, and a heart for the environment in this fun folk tale set in the North Woods.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **The Wonder Book.** Harper, 2010. Silly poems, puns, and jokes are illustrated with happy line drawings in this humorous book full of word play.

Roy, Ron. **Detective Camp.** Random House, 2006. Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose are at Detective Camp and right away discover a crime. Series

Ryder, Joanne. **Panda Kindergarten.** Collins, 2009. Simple text and enticing color photographs follow sixteen giant panda cubs as they eat, play, and nap during the day at the Wolong Nature Preserve in China.

Scieszka, Jon. **Spaceheadz 2.** Simon & Schuster, 2010. The aliens are back in a humorous encounter between aliens, agents, kindergarteners, and 5th graders. Includes an interactive website and a challenge to find a million new Spaceheadz. Series

Shefelman, Janice. **I, Vivaldi.** Eerdmans Books, 2008. This picture book biography describes how Vivaldi grew to be a famous musician, despite his mother's vow for him to become a priest.

Sidman, Joyce. **Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems.** Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Poems about pond life throughout the year and factual annotations are contained in this beautifully illustrated book.

Sidman, Joyce. **Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors.** Houghton Mifflin, 2010. In fourteen poems, this picture book blends poetry, science, and art in celebrating the earth's most resilient and long-lived species.

Silverstein, Shel. **Every Thing On It: Poems and Drawings.** Harper, 2011. Enjoy another remarkable collection of playful poems by the magical Shel Silverstein.

Singer, Marilyn. **A Full Moon is Rising: Poems.** Lee & Low, 2011. A collection of illustrated poems about events and beliefs from around the world involving the full moon. Includes a map and biographical references.

Spielman, Gloria. **Marcel Marceau: Master of Mime.** Kar-Ben, 2011. A picture book biography of Marcel Marceau discusses how Charlie Chaplin influenced his desire to become a silent actor, looks at how he used his talents during World War II to help the Jews, and discusses his development into the world's best-known mime.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Third Grade Angels.** Arthur A. Levine, 2012. George 'Suds' Morton competes with his third-grade classmates to earn the first 'halo' of the year for good behavior, but being good turns out to be more stressful than he anticipated. Series

Tarshis, Lauren. **The San Francisco Earthquake, 1906.** Scholastic, 2012. Ten-year-old Leo loves being a newsboy in San Francisco; but early one spring morning in 1906 Leo's world is shaken when he finds himself stranded in the middle of San Francisco as it crumbles and burns to the ground. Series

Tavares, Matt. **Henry Aaron's Dream.** Candlewick, 2010. In this beautiful picture book biography of Henry "Hank" Aaron, Henry overcomes many obstacles to realize his childhood dream of becoming a major league baseball player.

Taylor, Barbara. **Hidden in the Grass.** QEB, 2011. This book gives examples of how animals in North American and African grasslands use camouflage to help them adapt to their habitats and hide from predators. Series

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. **Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean.** Disney-Hyperion, 2010. In graphic novel format, Amelia Earhart's life is described with a focus on the successful Atlantic crossing in 1928.

Temple, Bob. **The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure.** Capstone, 2008. The reader's choices reveal the historical details of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 from the perspective of a first-class passenger, a third-class passenger, and a crew member.

Trine, Greg. **The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich.** Holt, 2006. After graduating from the Superhero Academy, Melvin Beederman heads for Los Angeles where he unexpectedly teams up with Candace Brinkwater, school play actress, to nab the evil McNasty Brothers. Series

Vail, Rachel. **Justin Case: School, Drool, and Other Daily Disasters.** Feiwel and Friends, 2010. Written in diary form, Justin writes honestly about his worries and observations of life in the third grade. Series

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Queen of the Falls.** Houghton Mifflin, 2011. This biography tells about Annie Edson Taylor, a retired instructor of a charm school, who decided to attempt to go over Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel at the age of sixty-two.

Wallace, Bill. **Upchuck and the Rotten Willy.** Aladdin, 1998. Chuck, the cat, lonesome since his Katie goes to college, ventures out and meets a beast, big and black, named Rotten Willy, who has a heart of gold. Series

Wallace, Rich. **The Ball Hogs.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. In this beginning chapter book, Mark and Ben, both highly competitive, refuse to pass the soccer ball but eventually realize that their best chance of winning is working together. Series

Wheeler, Lisa. **Old Cricket.** Atheneum, 2003. Old Cricket does not feel like helping his wife and neighbors prepare for winter, so he pretends to have all sorts of ailments that require the doctor's care; but hungry Old Crow has other ideas.

Winter, Jonah. **You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!** Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Learn about Sandy Koufax, a powerful left-handed pitcher for the New York Dodgers, a practicing Jew who would not play baseball on High Holy days, and a mystery man who quit baseball after the best season of his career.

Yee, Lisa. **Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)**. Arthur A. Levine, 2010. In this hilarious sequel to *Bobby the Brave (Accidentally)*, Bobby must confront his fears of surviving asthma attacks at the worst possible moments, playing football with his super-dad, avoiding the 27-toed neighbor cat, and taking the stage to dance in the school musical. Series

Yezerki, Thomas F. **Meadowlands: A Wetlands Survival Story**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. New Jersey's Meadowlands, which have been recovering from decades of human destruction, are now mending thanks to community activism.

Young, Ed. **The House Baba Built: An Artist's Childhood in China**. Little, Brown, 2011. Ed Young describes his childhood home, which was built by his father in Shanghai, and reflects on his fond memories of playing in the home while guests moved in to seek safety from the war affecting China.

Rising 6th-8th graders

Amato, Mary. **THE NAKED MOLE-RAT LETTERS.** (Realistic Fiction) When her father begins a long-distance romance with a Washington, D.C. zookeeper, twelve-year-old Frankie sends e-mails advising the zookeeper to end the relationship. Frankie learns much about growing up.

Angleberger, Tom. **DARTH PAPER STRIKES BACK.** (Fiction) Harvey is upset when his Darth Paper finger puppet brings humiliation and gets Dwight suspended. Origami Yoda asks Tommy and Kellan, now in seventh grade, to make a new casefile to persuade the School Board to reinstate Dwight.

Angleberger, Tom. **STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMI YODA.** (Fiction) Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight. They try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

Applegate, Katherine. **HOME OF THE BRAVE.** (Fiction) Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom. He longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

Applegate, Katherine. **THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN.** (Fiction) Ivan is a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall. When he meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Armstrong, Alan. **WHITTINGTON.** (Fiction) This is the Newbery Honor-winning story of a legendary English cat and his extraordinary descendant that is woven through a family's gripping generational story.

Balliet, Blue. **THE WRIGHT 3.** (Fiction) 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.

Barrett, Tracy. **THE 100-YEAR-OLD SECRET.** (Mystery) An American brother and sister living in London for a year, discover that Sherlock Holmes

was their great-great-great grandfather. They are inducted into the Society for the Preservation of Famous Detectives and given his unsolved casebook. They attempt to solve the case of a famous missing painting.

Bauer, Joan. **ALMOST HOME.** (Fiction) Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness.

Beard, Darleen Bailey. **ANNIE GLOVER IS NOT A TREE LOVER.** (Fiction) When her grandmother chains herself to the tree across from the school to save it from being cut down, fourth-grader Annie wants to die of humiliation. When she discovers the town's history, her attitude changes.

Berlin, Eric. **THE PUZZLING WORLD OF WINSTON BREEN: THE POTATO CHIP PUZZLES.** (Fiction) Puzzle-crazy, twelve-year-old Winston and his ten-year-old sister Katie find themselves involved in a dangerous mystery involving a hidden ring. Puzzles for the reader to solve are included throughout the text.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **THE PENDERWICKS.** (Realistic Fiction) This is the lighthearted, old fashioned story of a family of four sisters and a widowed botany professor and their summer adventures.

Birney, Betty G. **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY.** (Fiction) With an engaging, hamster's- eye view of school, a class pet named Humphrey brings laughter and fun to the students and families who host him and gives great gifts in return.

Buyea, Rob, **BECAUSE OF MR. TERUPT.** (Fiction) Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

Clements, Andrew. **ABOUT AVERAGE.** (Fiction) As the end of sixth grade nears, Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence, and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her central Illinois elementary school.

Clements, Andrew. **TROUBLE-MAKER.** (Fiction) When his older brother gets in serious trouble, sixth- grader Clay decides to change his own

mischief-making ways, but he cannot seem to shake his reputation as a troublemaker.

Coman, Carolyn. **THE BIG HOUSE.** (Fiction)

When their parents are convicted of embezzlement, Ray and Ivy are sent to live the life of luxury with Marrieta Noland and her ancient husband, Lionel. Life at the Nolands' big house is not all it's cracked up to be as the book sheds light on family relationships.

Corbett, Sue. **FREE BASEBALL.** (Realistic Fiction) Eleven-year-old Felix is angry with his mother for having too little time for him. The boy from Florida takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder. Glossaries of baseball terms and Spanish words and phrases are included in the book.

Creech, Sharon. **THE GREAT UNEXPECTED.** (Fiction) Traces the parallel stories of estranged Irish sisters, Sybil and Nula, and American orphans, Naomi and Lizzie, whose respective explorations into their identities and struggles with misfortune are told in rotating voices.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **THE MIGHTY MISS MALONE.** (Fiction) With love and determination befitting the "world's greatest family," Deza Malone, her brother Jimmie, and their parents endure tough times in Indiana and later Michigan, during the Great Depression.

DiCamillo, Kate. **THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT.** (Fiction) When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace, she tells him that his sister, who was presumed dead, is alive. He goes on a series of adventures to find her.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. **CHICKEN BOY.** (Fiction) Since the death of his mother, Tobin's family life and school life have been in disarray. After he starts raising chickens with his seventh-grade classmate, Henry, everything starts to fall into place.

Draper, Sharon. **OUT OF MY MIND.** (Fiction) Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Erskine, Katherine. **MOCKINGBIRD.** (Fiction) Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Fitzgerald, Dawn. **VINNIE AND ABRAHAM.** (Biography) Vinnie Ream was a small girl with a giant gift for sculpture. This story chronicles Vinnie's life from her arrival in Washington, D.C., at the start of the Civil War, through her apprenticeship with a famous sculptor, and friendship with Abraham Lincoln.

Fleischman, Sid. **THE WHITE ELEPHANT.** (Fiction) How can a beautiful white elephant be a terrible curse? A young elephant trainer discovers the answer when he incurs the anger of the prince. As the boy's punishment, he is given the gift of a white elephant. From that moment forward, the curse begins to reveal itself.

Fleming, Candace. **AMELIA LOST.** (Biography) Tells the story of Amelia Earhart's life - as a child, a woman, and a pilot - and describes the search for her missing plane.

Freedman, Russell. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS.** (Nonfiction) Freedman tells the story of a friendship between two men who shared many characteristics. Lincoln and Douglass were both self-educated, born into poverty, and through relentless effort and hard work, reached great success.

Freedman, Russell. **FREEDOM WALKERS.** (Nonfiction) The author breathes life into the key personalities and events that contributed to the yearlong civil rights struggle. The struggle became known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Freedman, Russell. **THE BOSTON TEA PARTY.** (Nonfiction) More than any other event, the Boston Tea Party of 1773 has come to stand for the determination of American colonists to control their own destinies. From the arrival of the ships full of tea in Boston Harbor, through the protest meetings at the Old South Church, to the act of dumping 226 chests of tea into the harbor, Freedman captures this exciting story.

Hale, Shannon. **PALACE OF STONE.** (Fiction)

Miri returns to Asland and calls upon all of her knowledge of rhetoric and other useful lessons learned at the Princess Academy when she and the other girls face strong opposition while working for a new, fair charter. This is the sequel to *Princess Academy*.

Hall, Alvin D. **SHOW ME THE MONEY.** (Nonfiction) Filled with games, puzzles, and fun facts, this bright, visual resource exposes young readers to basic concepts of currency and finance. Topics include the barter system, supply and demand, and how money works differently around the world.

Hiaasen, Carl. **CHOMP.** (Fiction) When filming an episode of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" in the Florida Everglades, the difficult star disappears. Wahoo and classmate, Tuna Gordon, set out to solve the mystery.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **ANNIE AND HELEN.** (Biography) This book describes the relationship between Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, and includes excerpts from letters written by Annie about her work with Helen.

Ibbotson, Eva. **THE STAR OF KAZAN.** (Historical Fiction) Twelve-year-old Annika, an orphan living in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry. A woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strange old mansion in Germany.

Kennedy, Marlane. **DOG DAYS OF CHARLOTTE HAYES.** (Realistic Fiction) Eleven-year-old Charlotte is not a dog person but does not like it that the rest of her family neglects their Saint Bernard puppy. With a lot of determination and a little sneakiness, she works on finding a good home for the gentle giant.

Klise, Kate. **DYING TO MEET YOU: 43 OLD CEMETERY ROAD.** (Fiction) In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I.B. Grumply, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer.

Korman, Gordon. **UNGIFTED.** (Fiction)

After pulling a major prank in school and due to an administrative mix-up,

troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction.

LaFaye, A. **WORTH.** (Historical Fiction) After breaking his leg, eleven-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in nineteenth-century Nebraska. When his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse.

Lombard, Jenny. **DRITA, MY HOMEGIRL.** (Realistic Fiction) When ten-year-old Drita and her family move from Kosovo to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well. A popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita and the two girls soon bond. Their developing friendship is revealed through alternating chapters and voices of the two girls.

Lord, Cynthia. **RULES.** (Fiction) Catherine just wants a normal life, which is nearly impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules in order to head off his embarrassing behaviors. The summer Catherine meets Jason and Kristi, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Lourie, Peter. **THE POLAR BEAR SCIENTISTS.** (Nonfiction) Young readers can follow scientists as they scan the Alaskan wilderness for these magnificent creatures. Full color.

Lubar, David. **PUNISHED!** (Fiction) While Logan and his friend Benedict are playing tag in the library, Logan runs into a mysterious man. As punishment, the man causes Logan to speak in puns. To return to normal, Logan must now find examples of oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes.

Lubar, David. **DOG DAYS.** (Fiction) Larry has to work hard to try to earn money to buy food to feed three stray dogs. Now his brother has taken him to an alley where another dog is staying. How can he afford to take care of another dog?

Lupica, Mike. **HEAT.** (Realistic Fiction) Pitching sensation Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little

League baseball. Rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Mass, Wendy. **11 BIRTHDAYS.** (Fiction) After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, had a falling out on their tenth birthday and have not spoken since. Since not speaking to each other for the last year, they prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately. Soon peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

Mass, Wendy. **13 GIFTS.** Shortly before her thirteenth birthday, shy and withdrawn Tara is sent to stay with her aunt, uncle, and cousin in her parents' hometown of Willow Falls. While there, she makes friends and becomes involved with an elderly buyer and seller of collectibles, who seems to be trying to give Tara some kind of mysterious message.

McDonough, Yona Zeldis. **THE DOLL WITH THE YELLOW STAR.** (Historical Fiction) When France falls to Germany at the start of World War II, a nine- year-old Jewish girl named Claudine must leave her parents and friends to stay with relatives in America. There she will be safe. Her doll, Violette, accompanies her on her journey.

Mills, Claudia. **HOW OLIVER OLSON CHANGED THE WORLD.** (Realistic Fiction) Oliver has a problem...his parents are way too protective and to top it off, they won't even let him do school projects by himself. When his teacher proclaims that anyone can change the world with a good idea, Oliver is skeptical but hopeful that it is true.

Morpurgo, Michael. **AN ELEPHANT IN THE GARDEN.** (Fiction) Devastated to learn that an orphan elephant in the Dresden zoo, where their mother works, is to be euthanized in anticipation of an upcoming bombing, Lizzie and Karl persuade the zoo director to let them keep the elephant in their garden.

Nelson, Pete. **LEFT FOR DEAD: A YOUNG MAN'S SEARCH FOR JUSTICE FOR THE USS INDIANAPOLIS.** (Nonfiction) The story recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up, and unfair court martial of the ship's captain. The book tells how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.

Nielsen, Jennifer. **THE FALSE PRINCE.** (Fiction) In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son.

Palacio, R. J. **WONDER.** (Fiction)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan. There he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Park, Linda Sue. **ARCHER'S QUEST.** (Fiction) Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Koh Chu-mong, a Great Archer of ancient Korea, return to his own time.

Pastis, Stephan. **TIMMY FAILURE.** (Fiction) Resolving to earn so much money that his mother will no longer stress out over the bills, eleven-year-old Timmy Failure launches a detective business with a lazy polar bear partner named Total. The partners find their enterprise "Total Failure, Inc." challenged by a college-bound spy and a four-foot-tall girl whom Timmy refuses to acknowledge.

Patent, Dorothy Henshaw. **DOGS ON DUTY.** (Nonfiction) The invaluable contributions of Military Working Dogs are well documented in this book. Patent discusses their special attributes such as the night vision and sense of smell that help these dogs keep their human partners safe. The roles they have played in World Wars I and II, in Vietnam, and in Iraq and Afghanistan are highlighted. Brief histories of individual dogs such as Stubby from World War I and Eli in Afghanistan are told.

Patterson, James and Chris Grabenstein. **I FUNNY.** (Fiction) Wheelchair-bound Jamie Grimm resolves to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian despite less-than-funny challenges in his life. He endures bullying from his mean-spirited cousin and hopes he will be fairly judged when he enters a local comedy contest.

Peck, Richard. **THE SECRETS AT SEA.** (Fiction)

In 1887, the social-climbing Cranston's voyage from New York to London, where they hope to find a husband for their awkward older daughter, is

secretly accompanied by Helena and her mouse siblings. The journey is both terrifying and wondrous as they meet an array of titled humans despite their best efforts at remaining hidden.

Pitchford, Dean. **CAPTAIN NOBODY.** (Realistic Fiction) Newt Newman has always been in his big brother's shadow. When a football injury sends his brother into a coma, Newt is noticed even less by his too-busy parents. Along with some quirky friends, Newt creates a Halloween costume that creates an alter ego for him – Captain Nobody – the defender of the little guy.

Pullman, Philip. **SCARECROW AND HIS SERVANT.** (Fantasy) A scarecrow and his boy servant, Jack, set off on a dangerous adventure. They try to outwit the dishonest Buffaloni family and stake a claim to valuable Spring Valley.

Roy, Jennifer. **YELLOW STAR.** (Fiction) From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

Rinaldi, Ann. **SARAH'S GROUND.** (Historical Fiction) In 1861, eighteen-year-old Sarah Tracy, from New York state, comes to work at Mount Vernon, the historic Virginia home of George Washington. While there she tries to protect the safety and neutrality of the site during the Civil War. She also meets her future husband, Upton Herbert, the plantation superintendent. Historical notes are included

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **BECOMING NAOMI LEON.** (Realistic Fiction) When Naomi's absent mother reappears to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico. Naomi, along with her great-grandmother and younger brother, set out to search for her father.

Sandler, Martin. **THE IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ARCTIC ADVENTURE.** (Nonfiction) In the dead of an Arctic winter, whaling ships full of men are stranded in ice. Follow three rescuers in a race against time in this heart-pounding true adventure.

Schmidt, Gary D. **LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY.** (Historical Fiction) In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of

Phippsburg, Maine. Things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves.

Schmidt, Gary D. **OKAY FOR NOW.** (Fiction) As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, Doug Swieteck has no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an older brother. He finds an ally in Lil Spicer--a fiery young lady. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage.

Selznick, Brian. **THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET.** (Fiction) Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station. There his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. His world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, and Hugo's undercover life is put in jeopardy.

Selznick, Brian. **WONDERSTRUCK.** (Fiction) Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City. There he meets Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

Senzai, N. H. **SHOOTING KABUL.** (Fiction) Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.

Scieszka, Jon. **GUYS READ: FUNNY BUSINESS.** Ten stories guaranteed to delight and amuse, from the following writers: Mac Barnett, Christopher Paul Curtis, Kate DiCamillo & Jon Scieszka, Paul Feig, Jack Gantos, Jeff Kinney, David Lubar, Adam Rex, and David Yoo.

Scieszka, Jon. **GUYS READ: THRILLER**

A series of short stories that are full of mystery, intrigue, and nefarious activity. Featuring some of the best writers around, it is a pulse-pounding collection of brand-new short stories, each one guaranteed to keep you riveted until the final page.

Scott, Elaine. **BURIED ALIVE.** (Nonfiction) This book describes the 2010 mining accident in San José, Chile, in which thirty-three men became trapped underground for over sixty days and details the rescue efforts and the worldwide media coverage of the event.

Silverstein, Shel. **EVERY THING ON IT.** (Poetry) This poetry collection, published since Silverstein's death, includes more than one hundred and thirty never-before-seen poems and drawings completed by the cherished American artist.

Smith, Jeff. **OUT FROM BONEVILLE.** (Fiction – Graphic Novel) The books in the BONE adventure series tell the story of three cousins who are banned from their homeland of Boneville. When the cousins find themselves trapped in a wonderful, but often terrifying, land filled with secrets and danger they are soon caught up in adventures beyond their wildest dreams.

Stanley, Diane. **BELLA AT MIDNIGHT.** (Fantasy) Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight. She finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and the kingdom forever.

Stephens, John. **THE EMERALD ATLAS.** (Fiction) Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them. Now they learn that they have special powers, a quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy.

Stewart, Trenton. **THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY.** (Fiction) Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance are all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society. They embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for their missing benefactor, Mr. Benedict. (The first book in a series.)

Stone, Phoebe. **THE ROMEO AND JULIET CODE.** (Historical Fiction) During World War II, eleven-year-old Felicity is sent from London to Bottlebay, Maine, to live with her grandmother, aunt, uncle, and a reclusive boy. He helps her decode mysterious letters that contain the truth about her missing parents.

Telgemeier, Raina. **DRAMA.** (Fiction – Graphic Novel) Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school

production of Moon over Mississippi as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

Telgemeier, Raina. **SMILE.** (Fiction – Graphic Novel). After an accident at Girl Scouts severely injures her two front teeth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself.

Thimmesh, Catherine and Melissa Sweet. **GIRLS THINK OF EVERYTHING: STORIES OF INGENIOUS INVENTIONS BY WOMEN.** (Biography) This book tells how women throughout the ages have responded to situations confronting them in daily life by inventing such items as correction fluid, space helmets, and disposable diapers.

Turnage, Shelia. **THREE TIMES LUCKY.** (Fiction) Mo LoBeau was washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina. Now eleven, Mo and her best friend turn detective when the co-owner of a café and his cook appear to be implicated in a murder.

Wadsworth, Ginger. **FIRST GIRL SCOUT EVER.** (Nonfiction) Juliette (Daisy) Gordon Low was a remarkable woman with ideas that were ahead of her time. She witnessed important eras in U.S. history, from the Civil War and Reconstruction to westward expansion to post-World War I. She made history by founding the first national organization to bring girls from all backgrounds into the out-of-doors.

Walker, Sally. **SECRETS OF A CIVIL WAR SUBMARINE: SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF THE H. L. HUNLEY.** (Nonfiction) For more than one hundred years, a submarine lay buried beneath the ocean floor near Charleston, South Carolina. The H.L. Hunley made history in 1864 as the first submarine ever to sink an enemy ship. Something went wrong during that daring mission and the Hunley never returned to port.

Weeks, Sarah. **PIE.** (Fiction) Polly Portman's award-winning put the town of Ipswich, Pennsylvania, on the map. After Polly's death, her devoted niece Alice and Alice's friend investigate who is going to extremes to find Aunt Polly's secret pie crust recipe. Includes fourteen pie recipes.

Wiles, Deborah. **EACH LITTLE BIRD THAT SINGS.** (Realistic Fiction) Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the

funeral parlor in their small southern town. Even so the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events that begin on the first day of Easter vacation with the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **ONE CRAZY SUMMER.** (Fiction) In the summer of 1968, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know. They arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel

by Michael Scott

Random House/Delacorte, 2007, ISBN: 9780385733571.

Siblings Josh and Sophie discover that the owner of a bookstore is none other than the famous Nicholas Flamel. First in a series.

American Born Chinese

by Gene Luen Yang

First Second, 2006, ISBN: 9781596431522 (PB).

In this graphic novel, three linked tales blend traditional Chinese lore with contemporary high-school scenes to create a humorous message about acceptance.

Axe Cop

by Malachai Nicolle, illustrated by Ethan Nicolle

Dark Horse Comics, 2011, ISBN: 9781595826817 (PB).

Axe Cop, an axe-wielding police officer, tries to save the world in this humorous graphic novel.

Better Nate than Ever

by Tim Federle

Simon & Schuster, 2013, ISBN: 9781442446892.

Nate has a plan that—with a little luck—will take him from his non-fabulous Pennsylvania town to New York City and into E.T.: The Musical.

Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon

by Steve Sheinkin

Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point, 2012, ISBN: 9781596434875.

A gripping account of the development of nuclear weapons and the global fight for control of their power.

Bone: Out from Boneville

by Jeff Smith

Scholastic, 2005, ISBN: 9780439706230.

When three intrepid adventurers find themselves lost in an unfamiliar wilderness, they discover that it may be up to them to fight a great darkness threatening the land. First in a series.

Close to Famous

by Joan Bauer

Viking, 2011, ISBN: 9780670012824.

Foster's determination and her delicious home-baked cupcakes help her fit into her new home in Culpepper, West Virginia.

Does My Head Look Big in This?

by Randa Abdel-Fattah

Scholastic/Orchard Books, 2007, ISBN: 9780439922333 (PB). Outspoken and funny sixteen-year-old Amal, lover

of shopping and television, decides to wear the hijab full time and perseveres despite resistance from classmates, townspeople, and even relatives.

Ender's Game

by Orson Scott Card

Starscape, 1985, ISBN: 9780765342294 (PB).

Ender Wiggin must fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race if mankind is to survive.

Friends with Boys

by Faith Erin Hicks

First Second, 2012, ISBN: 9781596435568 (PB).

In this graphic novel, new freshman Maggie is determined to make friends (other than her brothers) and to figure out why a ghost keeps following her around.

The Giver

by Lois Lowry

Laurel Leaf, 1993, ISBN: 9780440237686 (PB).

A young boy chosen to be the Receiver of Memories realizes that his utopian society is not as perfect as it appears.

The Grimm Legacy

by Polly Shulman

Putnam, 2010, ISBN: 9780399250965.

When Elizabeth begins working in the New York Circulating Material Repository, she learns that some of the objects (and people) aren't as normal as they seem.

The Hunger Games

by Suzanne Collins

Scholastic, 2008, ISBN: 9780439023481.

Katniss Everdeen is forced by the Capitol to compete in the Hunger Games, a ruthless fight to the death. First book in a trilogy.

Life as We Knew It

by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Graphia, 2006, ISBN: 9780152058265.

When an asteroid hits the moon and knocks it out of orbit, Earth as we know it is devastated. First in a series.

The Lions of Little Rock

by Kristin Levine

Putnam, 2012, ISBN: 9780399256448.

In 1958 in Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration.

Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life

by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts; illustrated by Laura Park

Little, Brown; 2011; ISBN: 9780316101875.

Rafe's plan to break every rule in the school handbook is soon out of his control.

The Mother-Daughter Book Club

by Heather Vogel Frederick

Simon & Schuster, 2007, ISBN: 9781416970798 (PB).

When the mothers of four sixth-grade girls with very different personalities pressure them into forming a book club, they find that they have much more in common than they could have imagined. First in a series.

One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williams-Garcia

Amistad, 2010, ISBN: 9780060760885.

Three girls spend an unforgettable summer in the 1960s with their long-lost mother and learn about Black Power, revolution, and forgiveness.

The Red Pyramid

by Rick Riordan

Hyperion, 2010, ISBN: 9781423113386.

Carter and Sadie find themselves thrust into ancient Egyptian lore when their father unleashes five Egyptian gods. First in a series.

Smile

by Raina Telgemeier

Graphix, 2010, ISBN: 9780545132053.

In this graphic novel, Raina survives middle school after getting her front teeth knocked out in an accident.

Stormbreaker

by Anthony Horowitz

Philomel, 2001, ISBN: 9780399236204. Fourteen-year-old Alex becomes a spy in order to

prove that his uncle's death was not an accident. First book in the Alex Rider series.

Titanic: Voices from the Disaster

by Deborah Hopkinson

Scholastic, 2012, ISBN: 9780545116749.

Survivors' accounts bring the Titanic disaster to life.

When You Reach Me

by Rebecca Stead

Random House/Wendy

Lamb Books, 2009, ISBN: 9780385737425.

Miranda receives a series of mysterious notes, but will she be too late to stop the tragedy the notes predict?

The Wild Book

by Margarita Engle

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012, ISBN: 9780547581316.

In Cuba in 1912, Fefa struggles with dyslexia but learns to love reading as she writes in her diary, *The Wild Book*.

Wonder

by R. J. Palacio

Random House, 2012, ISBN: 9780375869020.

August Pullman, a fifth-grader born with a facial deformity, is about to start mainstream school for the first time in this touching, funny book.

Harry Potter (series in 7 books)

by J.K. Rowling

Follow Harry Potter and his friends through their schoolyears at Hogwarts' School of Witchcraft and Wizardry as they learn how to use their powers for good and fight against the growing dark forces.

Rising 7th-9th graders

(F) = Fiction (NF) = Nonfiction

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. **DOES MY HEAD LOOK BIG IN THIS?** 16-year-old Ama, an Australian-born Muslim Palestinian, decides she is ready to wear the hijab, or head covering, as a sign of her deep faith. Ama copes with misconceptions and discrimination in a humorous way as she defends her decision to herself and others. (F)

Abrahams, Peter. **DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE.** Ingrid lands the starring role in *Alice in Wonderland* while becoming caught up in the murder investigation of an eccentric neighbor. The first book in the series, **An Echo Falls Mystery.** (F)

Alcott, Louisa M. **LITTLE WOMEN.** The March family endures trials and tribulations while their father is involved in the Civil War. (F)

Ambrose, Stephen E. **THE GOOD FIGHT: HOW WORLD WAR II WAS WON.** Ambrose presents a concise, readable chronicle of World War II through amazing photographs and research. (NF)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **FEVER 1793.** Against the 1793 yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia, a teenage Matilda struggles to keep herself and those she loves alive. (F)

Angleberger, Tom. **THE STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMI YODA.** Dwight dons a puppet on his finger— an origami Yoda. His classmates soon realize that the strange advice Origami Yoda provides will help them solve their middle school problems. The first in the **Origami Yoda** series. (F)

Applegate, Katherine. **THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN.** Spectators come to see Ivan, a silverback gorilla, and other animals housed behind the glass walls in the Big Top Mall. He is content until Ruby, a baby elephant from Africa, joins the group. Ivan is now determined to find Ruby a way out of this caged existence. This is loosely based on a true story. (F)

Appelt, Kathi. **THE UNDERNEATH.** Set in the bayou, the Underneath is the place below the front porch where Gar-Face chains up Ranger, a hound dog who befriends a cat and her kittens. It's safe for this family in the Underneath, but when one kitten ventures out, it alters all their fates. (F)

Aronson, Marc. **SUGAR CHANGED THE WORLD: A STORY OF MAGIC, SPICE, SLAVERY, FREEDOM, AND SCIENCE.** This book explores the history and impact of sugar on our world, from slavery to revolution to human rights. (NF)

Austen, Jane. **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE**. In this comedy of manners, Elizabeth Bennet, a spirited heroine, doesn't always agree with her opinionated beau, Mr. Darcy. (F)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **THE BOY WHO DARED**. Awaiting his execution in jail, a German teenager recalls Hitler's rise to power and the courage he found to stand up against the Nazi regime. (F)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **HITLER YOUTH: GROWING UP IN HITLER'S SHADOW**. A look at the youth organizations Hitler founded and used to meet his social and military ends. (NF)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE K.K.K.: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN TERRORIST GROUP**. Examine how the Ku Klux Klan formed and grew out of the ashes of the Civil War. The selected stories of people on all sides of the violent conflicts provide a larger understanding of the conditions that promoted the Klan's terrorism. The story examines how the freed people and their sympathizers suffered and how the legacy of that fear, racism, and brutality runs through our own time. (NF)

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. **ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL**. Jason, an autistic teenager with a talent for creative writing, struggles to find acceptance in his middle school community. (F)

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. **SUMMER BEFORE BOYS**. Julia and Eliza are lifelong friends who have shared everything until one develops her first real crush. The girls find themselves drifting apart until Eliza does something drastic to win back her best friend. (F)

Bausum, Ann. **FREEDOM RIDERS: JOHN LEWIS AND JIM ZWERG ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**. The 1960s saw courageous young people risking great personal danger as they participated in the freedom rides during the Civil Rights Movement. (NF)

Bell, Cathleen Davitt. **LITTLE BLOG ON THE PRAIRIE**. No iPod, no cell phone, no electricity – welcome to Gen Welsh's world when she is forced to spend her entire summer vacation at Camp Frontier, mimicking farm life in the 1890s. Will she survive without the luxuries of modern life, or realize that maybe she doesn't really need them after all? (F)

Bloor, Edward. **LONDON CALLING**. 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. (F)

Blumenthal, Karen. **BOOTLEG: MURDER, MOONSHINE, AND THE LAWLESSNESS OF PROHIBITION.** When Congress passed the 18th Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcohol, supporters were convinced it would create a stronger, more moral nation. Instead, corruption and lawlessness erupted. This is a fast-paced, gripping account with vivid photos from the period. (NF)

Bodeen, S.A. **COMPOUND.** Fifteen-year-old Eli has spent the last six years with his family in a massive underground shelter his father built, knowing that nuclear war has destroyed the world he knows, including his grandmother and twin brother who couldn't reach the compound in time. With nine years to go before the air outside will be safe to breathe, Eli is starting to have doubts about his father's motives, explanations, and sanity. (F)

Bodeen, Stephanie A. **RAFT.** Fifteen-year-old Robie is flying home to a small atoll in Hawaii after visiting her aunt in Honolulu. The plane crashes into the Pacific, and now she must survive in a raft with an unconscious co-pilot, circling sharks, and a bag of *Skittles*. (F)

Booraem, Ellen. **SMALL PERSONS WITH WINGS.** For generations, the Turpin family has been providing sanctuary for Parvi, known in some circles as fairies. In return for this protection, these Small Persons with Wings gave the family a magical moonstone. Trouble begins when the Parvi want their moonstone back, but the Turpins can't find it. As the Parvi become more and more angry, this clever fantasy becomes more hilarious. (F)

Borden, Louise. **THE JOURNEY THAT SAVED CURIOUS GEORGE.** This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the story of Margaret and H.A. Rey and their escape from Paris during World War II. (NF)

Bridges, Ruby. **THROUGH MY EYES.** Ruby Bridges tells the moving story of her year in first grade at the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans in 1960. (NF)

Brontë, Charlotte. **JANE EYRE.** In early 19th century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer, who has a terrible secret. (F)

Bruchac, Joseph. **CODE TALKER: A NOVEL ABOUT THE NAVAJO MARINES OF WORLD WAR TWO.** After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during World War II in his native tongue. (F)

Bunting, Eve. **PIRATE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER.** Following her mother's death, fifteen-year-old Catherine disguises herself as a boy to join her father's pirate crew. After the ship, the Reprisal, sets sail, she finds life on board a pirate ship is not for the faint of heart. If her secret is uncovered, punishment will be swift and brutal for both Catherine and her father. (F)

Burns, Loree Griffin. **THE HIVE DETECTIVES: CHRONICLE OF A HONEY BEE CATASTROPHE.** . In 2006, nearly 40 per cent of the honeybee population in the United States simply vanished. Bee scientists and beekeepers across the country have been working to understand "colony collapse disorder." Photographs and scientific journals help tell the story. (NF)

Burns, Loree Griffin. **TRACKING TRASH: FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND THE SCIENCE OF OCEAN MOTION.** This book describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents. (NF)

Caputo, Philip. **10,000 DAYS OF THUNDER: A HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.** This is a straightforward overview with pictures of the Vietnam War. (NF)

Choat, Beth. **SOCCKERLAND.** The cover says it all! Flora is such a good soccer player that she has been invited to the International Sports Academy to compete for a chance to play for the U.S. Girls' Soccer Team. It's her first time away from home, but she works hard to make new friends as well as trying to become the best soccer player that she can be. (F)

Choldenko, Gennifer. **AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS.** In 1935, Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island where his father has found work in the prison housing such notorious criminals as Al Capone. Moose must balance the responsibilities of caring for his autistic sister while coping with the free-spirited warden's daughter. Also, **Al Capone Shines My Shoes.** (F)

Choldenko, Gennifer. **NO PASSENGERS BEYOND THIS POINT.** Living unexpectedly in a dreamland, India, Finn, and Mouse search for clues to solve the puzzle to find their way back home. (F)

Clements, Andrew. **THINGS NOT SEEN.** Bobby wakes up invisible. His parents and his new blind friend, Alicia, try to reverse his condition. Also, **Things Hoped For** and **Things That Are.** (F)

Cody, Matthew. **POWERLESS.** Moving to a new town, Daniel knows he'll find super friends – but he never imagines he'll have friends with *super* powers! Being around kids

who can fly and become invisible, Daniel feels powerless, until one day when he learns that his friends mysteriously lose their powers when they turn thirteen. Racing against the calendar, Daniel realizes that if he can find a way to help his friends, he may be able to be the town's super *hero* after all! (F)

Collins, Suzanne. **THE HUNGER GAMES**. America, now Panem, requires each of its twelve territories to select two children between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the Hunger Games. On television, these twenty-four kids will fight to the death, and only one will survive. The first book in the **Hunger Games** series. (F)

Condie, Ally. **MATCHED**. Torn between loving her best friend Xander who was chosen by Society as her “match,” or defying the government and opening her heart to Ky Markem, Cassia Reyes is forced to make the hardest decisions of her life – believe in the government's system or follow her heart. The first book in the **Matched Trilogy**. (F)

Connor, Leslie. **WAITING FOR NORMAL**. Wanting a “normal” life, Addie is forced to make it on her own when her mother neglects to live up to her responsibilities. (F)

Cooney, Caroline B. **CODE ORANGE**. While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. (F)

Cummings, Priscilla. **RED KAYAK**. Brady knows that his friends are responsible for a mean prank that results in an accidental tragedy. Plagued by this guilty secret, Brady struggles with the truth and its consequences. (F)

Curtis, Christopher. **WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963**. The Watsons live in Flint, Michigan. They fix up the “brown bomber” and drive to visit Grandmother in Alabama to leave their brother Byron to live with her. (F)

Dasher, James. **THE MAZE RUNNER**. Fighting against a mysterious group named WICKED, Thomas and the other boys in the Glade must crack the secret code and find a way out of the moving maze before it's too late. The first book in the **Maze Runner** trilogy. (F)

Deem, James M. **BODIES FROM THE ICE: MELTING GLACIERS AND THE RECOVERY OF THE PAST**. In 1991, mountain climbers found the body of Otzi, the oldest mummy recovered and thought to be over 5000 years old. (NF)

Detorie, Rick. **ACCIDENTAL GENIUS OF WEASEL HIGH**. In this hybrid novel/graphic novel, Larkin Pace faces many perils his freshman year: his parents, the bossy

older sister, a bully, girl troubles, and a weird best friend. But he faces them with hilarious drawings and a sense of humor. (F)

Deuker, Carl. **PAYBACK TIME**. In pursuit of a killer story, Mitch is determined to find out the truth about a new football player, Angel, at his high school. As he starts asking tough questions, everyone's lips seemed to be sealed about the player's true identity. Mitch will do whatever it takes to find out who Angel is and what he has done. The truth will surprise everyone! (F)

Dionne, Erin. **THE TOTAL TRAGEDY OF A GIRL NAMED HAMLET**. Hamlet Kennedy's eighth grade year is plagued by many things including: a genius seven-year-old sister who will attend Hamlet's middle school this year, geeky Shakespeare scholar parents, and now, a Shakespeare project for school. (F)

DuPrau, Jeanne. **CITY OF EMBER**. The year is 241. Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger and finds part of an ancient message she feels sure will help save her decaying city. The first in **The Books of Ember** series. (F)

Elliott, Laura. **UNDER A WAR-TORN SKY**. Take a look at Nazi-occupied Europe through the eyes and experiences of Henry Forester, a young flier shot down during World War II. Also, **A Troubled Peace**. (F)

Ellis, Deborah. **THE BREADWINNER**. Parvana lives in Kabul, Afghanistan. When conditions grow desperate for her family, she poses as a boy so she can earn money to help them. (F)

Engle, Margarita. **THE FIREFLY LETTERS: A SUFFRAGETTE'S JOURNEY TO CUBA**. Fredrika Bremer is a Swedish suffragist visiting Cuba in 1851. Cecilia is a Black slave serving as Fredrika's translator. Elena is the daughter of a wealthy landowner. Based on a true story and written in alternating narratives, this free verse novel tells the story of three different women, all dreaming of their own form of freedom. (F)

Engle, Margarita. **THE SURRENDER TREE: POEMS OF CUBA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**. Follow Rosa, a healer, who nurses runaway slaves and Cuban deserters in caves and other secret hideaways. As her fame grows, Rosa's enemies relentlessly hunt her down, attempting to break the Cuban spirit of resistance. (NF)

Erskine, Kathryn. **MOCKINGBIRD**. Imagine having to go to the dictionary to understand emotions and always struggling to make friends. Caitlin's confusion and discomfort come from having Asperger's Syndrome and are made even worse when her brother is killed and her father is overwhelmed with grief. (F)

Farmer, Nancy. **HOUSE OF THE SCORPION**. Matt is the young clone of El Patron, the leader of a corrupt drug empire located between Mexico and the United States. El Patron has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones. Gradually, Matt realizes his fate, but can he escape in time? (F)

Feinstein, John. **LAST SHOT: A FINAL FOUR MYSTERY**. Stevie and Susan Carol win a sports writing contest and have a chance to cover the NCAA Final Four games. When these teenage journalists discover a scheme to fix the games, they go undercover to stop the plot. The first in Feinstein's sports mystery series. (F)

Ferguson, Alane. **THE CHRISTOPHER KILLER: A FORENSIC MYSTERY**. Interested in forensic science, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney assists her father in the autopsy of a local murder victim. Cameryn begins to further investigate the murder and becomes dangerously involved in finding the killer. This is the first book in the **Forensic Mystery** series. (F)

Flake, Sharon. **THE SKIN I'M IN**. Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, an excellent student who is choosing the wrong friends, meets a new teacher who helps her discover who she is and what she believes. (F)

Fleischman, John. **PHINEAS GAGE**. This is the gruesome, true account of an accident that happened to a railroad foreman in Vermont in 1848. A 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain. He survived but became a textbook case in brain science. (NF)

Fleming, Candace. **AMELIA LOST: THE LIFE AND DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART**. This fascinating biography alternates between the story of Amelia Earhart's life and the days surrounding her disappearance. Through photos, sidebars, maps, and letters, the author gives readers a compelling glimpse at the life of a legend. (NF)

Fleming, Candace. **THE GREAT AND ONLY BARNUM: THE TREMENDOUS, STUPENDOUS LIFE OF SHOWMAN P.T. BARNUM**. This biography takes a look at the life of the entrepreneur and showman P.T. Barnum, the man behind The Greatest Show on Earth. From jumbo elephants to three-ring circuses, the story follows Barnum from his childhood to his amazing success to financial disaster and back again. (NF)

Freedman, Russell. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND FREDERICK DOUGLAS: THE STORY BEHIND AN AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP**. This book traces the powerful friendship and parallel lives of two men who shaped American history- one man an American president, the other a leading black abolitionist. It is a carefully researched account of how their lives intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history. Though their

meetings were few and brief, their exchange of ideas helped to end the Civil War, reunite the nation, and abolish slavery. (NF)

Freedman, Russell. **THE WAR TO END ALL WARS: WORLD WAR I.** This is a highly-readable account of World War I - from the broad causes and consequences to the heartbreaking personal details of trench warfare. The technology, the battles, the leaders, and the soldiers are all included in a fascinating narrative that is accompanied by arresting photographs and helpful maps. (NF)

Frost, Helen. **HIDDEN.** When Wren and Darra end up at the same summer camp as teenagers they instantly recognize each other, although they have never met. The girls spend the summer searching for answers This novel- in-poems is written in alternating points of view. (F)

Gaiman, Neil. **THE GRAVEYARD BOOK.** After losing his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard, where he will be raised by the groundskeeper and the ghosts that dwell there. As he grows up, he learns that his family's killer is still out there looking for him. (F)

Gantos, Jack. **DEAD END IN NORVELT.** Jack spends his summer grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor, Miss Volker, with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead – writing obituaries. Jack and Miss Volker are alarmingly busy, as residents die in rapid succession. The author combines this unlikely twosome with underage driving, lessons from history, and countless bloody noses to win the 2012 Newbery Medal. (F)

Giblin, James Cross. **GOOD BROTHER, BAD BROTHER: THE STORY OF EDWIN BOOTH AND JOHN WILKES BOOTH.** From early childhood to the years beyond President Lincoln's assassination, this book explains the relationship between John Wilkes Booth and his brother, Edwin Booth. (NF)

Gleitzman, Morris. **ONCE.** Determined to return to his hometown and find his Jewish parents, Felix runs away from the safety of a Catholic orphanage, only to be faced with the brutal violence and cruel truth of the Nazi regime. The first in the trilogy: **Once, Then, Now.** (F)

Goodall, Jane. **THE CHIMPANZEES I LOVE: SAVING THEIR WORLD AND OURS.** Imagine a curiosity and passion that compels you to live in a community of chimpanzees. Dr. Goodall tells of her discoveries about chimpanzees, her love for them, and her campaign for the protection of these amazing animals. (NF)

Greenwald, Tom. **CHARLIE JOE JACKSON'S GUIDE TO NOT READING.** Charlie Joe Jackson hates to read. He hates to read so much he'll do whatever it takes to NOT read. Charlie Joe's perfect record of not reading is at stake as he enters middle school. Will he finally be forced to read a book or will his streak continue? Also, **Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide To Extra Credit.** (F)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **FOUND.** Thirteen years after a plane mysteriously lands in an airport with thirty-six baby passengers and no adults on board, the children from the flight begin to receive strange, unexplained letters. Jonah and Chip must work quickly to uncover the secrets of their past. The first in the series, **The Missing.** (F)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **UPRISING.** The lives of Bella, an Italian immigrant; Yetta, a Russian immigrant; and Jane, daughter of a wealthy American family, become intertwined. All three are caught up in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. (F)

Hale, Shannon. **RAPUNZEL'S REVENGE.** This graphic novel retells the famous fairy tale in a Wild West setting. Rapunzel escapes the home her mother has turned into a prison and vows to destroy the evil empire with the help of her hair! (F)

Han, Jenny. **SHUG.** A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South. (F)

Han, Jenny. **THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY.** Belly spends every summer at her mom's best friend's beach house. Susannah's sons, Conrad and Jeremiah, are always there and have been like brothers to her. But that all changes the summer Belly turns pretty. (F)

Hartman, Rachel. **SERAPHINA.** Fantasy lovers take note! Four decades of peace have done little to ease the mistrust between humans and dragons in the kingdom of Goredd. A treaty is about to be renewed, but rebels are unhappy with the treaty and would love to have it abolished. Seraphina is a half-dragon, half-human music teacher and has good reason to fear both sides. She keeps her identity a secret and struggles to fit in both worlds; she falls in love with the prince, has enlightening memories of her real mother, and communicates with other half-dragons in her dreams. (F)

Heuvel, Eric. **A FAMILY SECRET.** Flashbacks are used to tell of a family living in Amsterdam during the Holocaust. The very serious subject matter is related through the family members; the father was a member of the Dutch Nazi Party, while the mother and son participated in the Dutch resistance. The graphic novel format reveals the family's secrets up to the present day. The companion is **The Search.** (F)

Hiaasen, Carl. **HOOT**. Roy, who is new to his small Florida community and the target of a bully, becomes involved in another's boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. (F)

Hiaasen, Carl. **CHOMP**. The difficult star of a reality television show disappears on location in the Florida Everglades where animals from the Crane family's wildlife refuge are being filmed. Wahoo Crane and his friend Tuna set out to find the missing star, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father. (F)

Hobbs, Will. **CROSSING THE WIRE**. Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores travels north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico. (F)

Holm, Jennifer L. **MIDDLE SCHOOL IS WORSE THAN MEATLOAF: A YEAR TOLD THROUGH STUFF**. Ginny uses "stuff" to share the ups and downs of her seventh grade year. Her stuff includes unique items such as to do lists, email, notes, receipts, diary entries, and much more. (F)

Hoose, Phillip M. **CLAUDETTE COLVIN: TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE**. In 1955, Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama and played an important, but little known, role in the Civil Rights Movement. (NF)

Horowitz, Anthony. **STORMBREAKER**. After the death of his uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, M16. This is the first book in the **Alex Rider** spy thriller series. (F)

Hughes, Susan. **CASE CLOSED? NINE MYSTERIES UNLOCKED BY MODERN SCIENCE**. Was Egypt's first female pharaoh murdered? Did the city of Ubar, located on the Arabian Peninsula, just vanish into thin air? Was Anastasia, a Russian princess, murdered, or is she alive and well? With the help of DNA testing and modern day science, uncover the truth behind these age-old mysteries. (NF)

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **ONE FOR THE MURPHYS**. When she enters the foster care system, Carley Connors never imagines that she'll find a place to call home – that is until she meets the Murphys. Blindsided by their love, Carley finally feels like she has found a place to belong. When her mother comes to take her back, she is forced to make the biggest decision of her life. (F)

Jackson, Donna M. **ER VETS: LIFE IN AN ANIMAL EMERGENCY ROOM**. Pet lovers will enjoy this real-life look into the daily world of veterinarians. (NF)

Jacobson, Jennifer Richard . **SMALL AS AN ELEPHANT**. Jack’s mom has always been unpredictable. Now she has left him all alone in the backwoods of Maine. With only a small souvenir elephant to keep him company, Jack is on his own to find his way home before the authorities realize that he has been abandoned. (F)

Jacques, Brian. **REDWALL**. This medieval fantasy of feisty rodents and high adventure has good battling with evil. The first in the **Redwall** series. (F)

Johnson, Angela. **BIRD**. BIRD is told from three points of view: a runaway, a young heart transplant recipient, and a boy who has just lost a brother. The threesome find one another as they search for love and connections. (F)

Jurmain, Suzanne. **THE SECRET OF THE YELLOW DEATH: A TRUE STORY OF MEDICAL SLEUTHING**. Fever, chills, headaches, vomiting blood, and liver failure—all symptoms of the deadly disease, yellow fever. Follow Walter Reed and his team of doctors as they travel to Cuba in 1900 to run lab reports, use soldiers as test subjects, and experience inevitable challenges and triumphs as they try to unlock the secret of what once was an unsolved medical mystery. (NF)

Kindl, Patrice. **KEEPING THE CASTLE: A TALE OF ROMANCE, RICHES, AND REAL ESTATE**. In the spirit of Jane Austen, Althea must marry a rich man in order to preserve her family’s position in society. Whom will she choose—Lord Boring or Mr. Fredericks? (F)

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. **MYSTERIOUS BONES: THE STORY OF KENNEWICK MAN**. This illustrated book explores the 1996 discovery of the skeletal remains of the Kennewick Man, one of the oldest and most complete skeletons ever recovered in this country. When two young men accidentally uncover a skeleton along a bank of the Columbia River in Kennewick, Washington, they have no idea that their discovery will lead to one of the most important archaeological controversies of modern times and pit scientists against Native American tribes in a nine- year battle for control of the remains. (NF)

Knowles, Johanna. **SEE YOU AT HARRY’S**. Fern feels invisible in her family. She has a grumpy older sister stuck working at the family restaurant; older brother, Holden, is struggling with school bullies and his own identity; and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention. Unexpected tragedy strikes and the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point. (F)

Korman, Gordon. **SCHOOLED.** Capricorn Anderson, homeschooled by his grandmother on their commune, enrolls in the local middle school with unexpected and humorous consequences. (F)

Korman, Gordon. **UNGIFTED.** Donovan Curtis, legendary jokester and average eighth grade student, knows he has gone too far when his latest prank causes thousands of dollars worth of damage to the school gym. When an unexpected turn of events accidentally sends Donovan to the “gifted” school, he knows he’s in way over his head. Told through various points of view, both Donovan and his new genius friends begin to realize that despite their differences, they still have things to learn from one another. (F)

Kurlansky, Mark. **WORLD WITHOUT FISH.** This book reveals an environmental problem that is not easily seen- the problem in the world’s oceans. Find out how climate, biology, economics, and fishing are endangering the world’s waters and what kids can do about it. (NF)

Lai, Thanhla. **INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN.** Ha and her family flee Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

There she struggles with grammar, customs, dress (she wears a flannel nightgown to school, for example), and also cruel rejection from mean classmates. Based on the author’s experiences as a child refugee, this National Book Award and 2012 Newbery Honor winner is both humorous and heartbreaking. (F)

Landon, Kristen. **THE LIMIT.** Matt’s family has just spent their monthly debt limit. In this society, when you hit the limit, the government wants the family to surrender a child to work off that debt. Can Matt do it? (F)

Larson, Hope. **WRINKLE IN TIME: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL.** This is the graphic novel version of the classic story of time travel, adventure, and growing up. *A Wrinkle in Time* introduces us to the wonderful and unforgettable characters of Meg and Charles Wallace Murry and their friend Calvin O’Keefe who along with the three Mrs.-Who, Whatsit, and Which-begin an adventure to fight off a dark force and save their father, along with our universe. (F)

Law, Ingrid. **SAVVY.** When Beaumont family members turn thirteen, they receive their “savvy” or magical gift unique to each one of them. Mibs’ thirteenth birthday arrives when her father is out of town and becomes ill. Mibs, her savvy, and a cast of characters hit the road to save him. Also, the companion novel **Scumble.** (F)

Lester, Julius. **DAY OF TEARS.** This is a fictionalized, heart-wrenching account of the 1859 slave auction on the Georgia plantation of Pierce Butler. (F)

Lopez, Diana. **CONFETTI GIRL.** Lina Flores loves sports and science, has an obsession with socks, and might have a crush on classmate Luis. Lina, with the help of her friend Vanessa, is trying to survive the drama of middle school, as well as help her father cope with the recent loss of her mother. (F)

Lupica, Mike. **HEAT.** Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof. (F)

Lupica, Mike. **HERO.** In this fast-paced adventure story, fourteen year old Zach Harriman races to uncover the mystery behind his dad's death, while also learning to control his new superhero powers. Will he discover the truth and learn to trust himself in time to face his father's fiercest enemies – or will he be too late? (F)

Lupica, Mike. **TRAVEL TEAM.** After he is cut from his travel basketball team – the very same team his father once led to national prominence – Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs who might have a shot at victory. (F)

MacLeod, Elizabeth. **ROYAL MURDER: THE DEADLY INTRIGUE OF TEN SOVEREIGNS.** From Cleopatra to Nikolay Romanov, kings and queens over the ages have been the targets of murderers or have done the targeting themselves. Read about gruesome deeds, deadly poisons, and political mysteries. (NF)

Mah, Adeline Yen. **CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER.** Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah's memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother. (NF)

Malone, Marianne. **THE SIXTY-EIGHT ROOMS.** When Ruthie and her best friend Jack visit the Chicago's Art Institute on a class field trip, they discover the Thorne Room which houses 68 miniature rooms representing different time periods. A found key allows them to shrink and visit these rooms and time periods, and the adventures begin. (F)

Marrin, Albert. **FLESH AND BLOOD SO CHEAP: THE TRIANGLE FIRE AND ITS LEGACY.** Hard- working immigrants looking for a better life, poor working conditions, and greedy factory bosses – this is the story of the unimaginable disaster of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911. (NF)

Martin, Russell. **THE MYSTERIES OF BEETHOVEN'S HAIR.** A lock of the famous composer's hair was saved from 1827, at the time of his death, and handed down to the current owners today. This is the story of how it was preserved and who the safekeepers

were, as well as the results of the forensic tests that were performed to unravel the mystery of Beethoven's ill health. (NF)

Mazer, Harry. **BOY AT WAR: A NOVEL OF PEARL HARBOR.** Fourteen-year-old Adam is caught in the midst of the attack on December 7, 1941. Also, **A Boy No More** and **Heroes Don't Run: A Novel of the Pacific War.** (F)

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. **UNDER THE MESQUITE.** When her mom is diagnosed with cancer, Lupita struggles to maintain her life as a Mexican-American high school student and budding actress, while also caring for her younger siblings. Written in verse, this is an unforgettable story about family bonds, the healing power of words, and the strength it takes to face overwhelming loss. (F)

Meloy, Maile. **THE APOTHECARY.** Janie Scott's family has just moved from Los Angeles to London where she meets Benjamin Burrows, the son of a mysterious apothecary. When Ben's father is kidnapped, Janie and Ben must use the apothecary's magical book, *The Pharmacopoeia*, to find him and save the world. (F)

Middaugh, Dallas. **THE CITY OF EMBER: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL.** This graphic novel reintroduces Ember, the doomed city of darkness that was built to ensure that humans would continue to exist on Earth. On Assignment Day, 12-year-olds leave school and receive their lifetime job assignments. Lina becomes a messenger, and her friend Doon ends up in the Pipeworks beneath the city. They unearth an evil plot from the government to steal away precious resources from people who live in Ember. Using clues left behind by Lina's late grandmother, they travel beneath Ember's tunnels in a desperate attempt to find a way out. (F)

Mikaelson, Ben. **TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR.** Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island. (F)

Montgomery, Sy. **KAKAPO RESCUE: SAVING THE WORLD'S STRANGEST PARROT.** The flightless Kakapo parrots had at one time numbered in the millions. They're most unusual because of their size (not the longest, but the heaviest parrot) and the fact that they bury their nests underground. Now 14 scientists are working to save the remaining 91 parrots, located on a small island off the coast of New Zealand. (NF)

Montgomery, Sy and Temple Grandin. **TEMPLE GRANDIN: HOW THE GIRL WHO LOVED COWS EMBRACED AUTISM AND CHANGED THE WORLD.** This biography explores the life and mind of Temple Grandin, a brilliant autistic woman who revolutionized the livestock industry. (NF)

Moore, Wes. **DISCOVERING WES MOORE.** Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart and within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both ran into trouble with the police. How did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? When Wes Moore wrote to his namesake in prison, they began a remarkable friendship. This story looks at the challenges of growing up and the power of the choices that people make in their lives. (NF)

Moriarty, Chris. **INQUISITOR'S APPRENTICE.** Sacha Kessler lives in New York in 1896, but this New York is filled with magic. When police learn that Sacha can see witches, he's apprenticed to the department's Inquisitor. With their mission to stop magical crime, Sacha and his fellow apprentice Lily Astral must use their wits and powers to stop the murder of Thomas Edison! (F)

Morpurgo, Michael. **AN ELEPHANT IN THE GARDEN.** Based on a true story, a family flees for safety and takes an orphaned zoo elephant with them. The setting is World War II and Dresden, Germany is being bombed. (F)

Morpurgo, Michael. **PRIVATE PEACEFUL.** Two young brothers, Tommo and Charlie Peaceful, are faced with the reality of trench warfare and life as soldiers during World War I. As Tommo reflects back on his childhood, this touching and emotional story intertwines his past family struggles with his current soldier life. (F)

Morpurgo, Michael. **WAR HORSE.** In 1914, Joey, a beautiful stallion with a distinctive cross on his nose, is bought by the British army. He leaves his owners and his life on an English farm and becomes a cavalry horse. He is shipped to France and witnesses horrific battle after battle with the German calvary, always hoping to be reunited with his beloved master, Albert. (F)

Mulligan, Andy. **TRASH.** Three boys live with hundreds of other families beside a city's mountainous garbage dumpsite. Their days are spent picking through trash for something to use, something to sell, or something to eat. One day their lives change forever after one of them finds a bag that contains a wallet, a key, and a map. (F)

Murphy, Jim. **INVINCIBLE MICROBE: TUBERCULOSIS AND THE NEVER-ENDING SEARCH FOR A CURE.** This is the story of a killer that has been striking down people for thousands of years - tuberculosis. This nonfiction mystery looks at the history of the disease and its treatment throughout time, as well as the search to find the cause and cure. The scientific and historical information is filled with human drama as well as photographs that bring the story to life. (NF)

Murphy, Jim. **TRUCE: THE DAY THE SOLDIERS STOPPED FIGHTING.** This is a close-up view of the Great War, World War I, and the extraordinary story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas. (NF)

Myers, Walter Dean and Ross Workman. **KICK.** Walter Dean Myers co-authors this novel with teenage author Ross Workman to tell two sides of the same story. Ross Workman writes from Kevin's point of view. Kevin is an accomplished soccer player, now struggling with problems with the law. Myers writes from the point of view of Sergeant Brown, who has taken a special interest in Kevin, since he's the son of a police officer killed in the line of duty. This is a unique collaboration of authors. (F)

Myers, Walter Dean. **THE CRUISERS.** While attending an academy for the gifted in New York City, eighth grader Zander Scott and his co-workers on the school's underground newspaper must find a creative way to stop the growing racial tensions at their school. (F)

Namioka, Lensey. **TIES THAT BIND, TIES THAT BREAK.** In China in 1911, Ailin resists tradition and pressure from her family by refusing to have her feet bound to make her more attractive for her future husband. Her act of defiance alters her life forever. (F)

Nelson, Kadir. **HEART AND SOUL: THE STORY OF AMERICANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.** Written in the voice of "Everywoman," an unnamed narrator whose ancestors came to this country on slave ships, *Heart and Soul* touches on events from colonial days through the civil rights movement. Readers will find the images as captivating as the stories. (NF)

Nelson, Kadir. **WE ARE THE SHIP: THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL.** The early 1900s Negro League Baseball consisted of players who made great sacrifices and showed tremendous courage in the face of adversity, all for the sake of the game they loved. (NF)

Nelson, Pete. **LEFT FOR DEAD.** Nelson explains how the research of eleven-year-old Hunter Scott, who was inspired by a passing reference in the movie, *Jaws*, uncovered the truth behind a historic World War II naval disaster aboard the USS Indianapolis. (NF)

Ness, Patrick. **A MONSTER CALLS: A NOVEL.** Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill. An ancient, wild creature wants him to face truth and loss. (F)

Nicholls, Sally. **WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER.** Living through the final stages of leukemia, Sam tells his story through a collection of stories, pictures, questions, and facts. Sam makes a list of things he wants to do, which becomes a map to help guide his family and friends toward Sam's final days. (F)

Oliver, Lauren. **LIESLAND PO.** In this fairytale-like adventure, a little girl, a ghost, and an alchemist's apprentice team up on an extraordinary journey through the English countryside while searching for a box that contains the most powerful magic in the world. (F)

Palacio, R. J. **WONDER.** Auggie is a normal boy. He likes Star Wars and video games, and he loves playing with his dog. Auggie was born with a facial deformity that until now has prevented him from going to public school. Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated like an ordinary kid, but it's hard for his classmates to get past his extraordinary face. *Wonder* is Auggie's story, but it also includes chapters from his sister, classmates, and friends. Through these multiple perspectives, we see that Auggie's journey not only changes his life but the lives of everyone around him. (F)

Paolini, Christopher. **ERAGON.** The fate of an Empire rests in the hands of Eragon, a fifteen-year-old boy who finds a mysterious stone that brings a dragon hatchling. With an ancient sword and an old storyteller for guidance, he is thrust into a world of destiny, magic, and power. The first in the **Inheritance Trilogy.** (F)

Park, Linda Sue. **A LONG WALK TO WATER: BASED ON A TRUE STORY.** Told in alternating points of view, follow the stories of Salva, a Lost Boy in 1985 Sudan who spends six years seeking refuge, and Nya, a girl in 2008 Sudan who spends eight hours a day walking to and from a water source. These two stories merge and offer a message of hope. (F)

Patton, Edith. **EAST.** Rose is the youngest of seven children. She was meant as a replacement for her dead sister, but she never felt like she fit in with her other siblings. An enormous white bear shows up one day and asks Rose to come with him in exchange for the health of her sick sister. (F)

Paulsen, Gary. **MY LIFE IN DOG YEARS.** The author describes some of the dogs that were special to him during his life. (NF)

Paulsen, Gary. **LIAR, LIAR: THE THEORY, PRACTICE AND DESTRUCTIVE PROPERTIES OF DECEPTION.** Kevin is assigned a project from his social studies teacher, and his partner is Katie. Since Kevin is a masterful teller of lies, he manufactures

a disease for himself to avoid working with her. The first in **The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Deception** series. (F)

Paulsen, Gary. **WOODS RUNNER**. Samuel's parents have been taken from their home in colonial Pennsylvania by the British and the Iroquois right before the onset of the Revolutionary War. Samuel has been fending for himself in the woods for years and is determined to use his skills to rescue his parents--even if it means he has to track them to New York City and British headquarters. (F)

Pearsall, Shelley. **ALL SHOOK UP**. Josh is mortified when he has to relocate and live with his father who has a new profession--Elvis impersonator. (F)

Peters, Julie Anne. **DEFINE NORMAL**. The outstanding student, Antonia, is matched up with the unusual and mysterious punker, Jazz, for a peer-counseling program. As the counseling sessions progress, the two girls discover that they have many things in common. (F)

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **LIFE AS WE KNEW IT**. When a meteor hits the moon and knocks it off its axis, life on earth is altered forever. High-school student Miranda keeps a diary about how her family copes without electricity, food and gas shortages, and extreme weather changes. (F)

Pratchett, Terry. **NATION**. A tsunami brings two young survivors together to rebuild an island nation. Although the native boy and British girl speak different languages, they're finding a way to overcome their differences as they struggle to survive. (F)

Pullman, Phillip. **THE GOLDEN COMPASS**. This fantasy relates Lyra's adventures while preventing her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming victims of experiments in the Far North. The first in **His Dark Materials Trilogy**. (F)

Preus, Margi. **HEART OF A SAMURAI: BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF NAKAHAMA MANJIRO**. After being stranded on an uninhabited island and then rescued by an American whaling ship in the mid 1800s, Manjiro and his fishermen friends must decide if they will adapt to American life or stay true to their Japanese heritage. Based on a fascinating true story, this is the inspirational and courageous account of one man's journey home. (F)

Rappaport, Doreen. **BEYOND COURAGE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST**. Under the noses of the military, thousands of children are smuggled out of occupied France into Switzerland. In Belgium, three resisters ambush a train, allowing scores of Jews to flee from the cattle cars. In Poland, four brothers lead more than 1,200 ghetto refugees into the forest to build a

guerilla force and self-sufficient village. And a twelve-year-old entertains German officers with his violin moments before setting off a bomb. Through twenty-one meticulously researched accounts, the author illuminates the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews with the weapons of courage, ingenuity, the will to survive, and the resolve to save others or to die trying. (NF)

Reedy, Trent. **WORDS IN THE DUST.** Zulaikha is an Afghan girl who was born with a cleft palate. She suffers merciless teasing from others in her village. She is noticed by a soldier when American forces are traveling through her village, and he offers to arrange the surgery that will repair her birth defect. Zulaikha is caught between opportunity and tradition in her culture that young American readers will find shocking but hopeful. (F)

Riordan, Rick. **THE LIGHTNING THIEF.** After being kicked out of his sixth boarding school, twelve-year-old Percy Jackson travels to Camp Half Blood, where his real adventures finally begin. He discovers his true identity as the son of a Greek god and embarks on a quest in search of Zeus' most prized possession. The first in the **Percy Jackson and the Olympians** series. (F)

Robinson, Sharon. **PROMISES TO KEEP: HOW JACKIE ROBINSON CHANGED AMERICA.** Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball in 1947 when he began playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In this photobiography, his daughter writes a personal account of this famous athlete and civil rights activist and the legacy he has left. (NF)

Rusch, Elizabeth. **THE MIGHTY MARS ROVERS: THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF SPIRIT AND OPPORTUNITY.** What's it like to explore Mars? Did life ever exist on Earth's red neighbor? This book follows the story of two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, sent to seek evidence on Mars of water that could have once supported life. Lasting far past their projected lives of three months, incredibly the rovers carried out their missions for more than six years and sent back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet. (NF)

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **THE DREAMER.** This fictional biography is the story of a shy Chilean boy who grows up feeling and seeing poetry all around him. The story illustrates how the poetry of Pablo Neruda was shaped by his domineering father as well as the beauty of nature. (F)

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **ESPERANZA RISING.** After her father is murdered, Esperanza Ortega is forced to flee her beloved El Rancho de las Rosas in Mexico to a migrant camp in California. (F)

Salisbury, Graham. **EYES OF THE EMPEROR.** Japanese-American Eddy lies about his age and joins the US Army right before Pearl Harbor. He is sent on an experimental mission to train K-9 units to hunt the Japanese. (F)

Sandler, Martin W. **LINCOLN THROUGH THE LENS: HOW PHOTOGRAPHY REVEALED AND SHAPED AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE.** This is a photo-biography which shows how innovative and important media was, especially photography during the presidency and life of Lincoln. This is one of several books in Sandler's *Through the Lens* series. (NF)

Sandler, Martin W. **SECRET SUBWAY: THE FASCINATING TALE OF AN AMAZING FEAT OF ENGINEERING.** It's the 1860s and New York City's streets are swarming with immigrants and made deadly by hundreds of horse-drawn carriages leaving the streets with tons of manure. A brilliant engineer, Alfred Beach, tackles the problem by working secretly at night more

than twenty feet underground, with dim lighting and in claustrophobic conditions, storing the dirt in a basement, and carting it away in the dark. What happens when his secret plan is discovered? (NF)

Say, Allen. **DRAWING FROM MEMORY.** This graphic novel chronicles Allen Say's journey as an artist, from his childhood in World War II Japan to his apprenticeship under Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist. Using watercolor paintings, original cartoons, photographs and maps, the memoir looks at Say's strained relationship with a father who did not understand his son's art and the difficult path that led to Say's success. (NF)

Schanzer, Rosalyn. **WITCHES!: THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE TALE OF DISASTER IN SALEM.** "The doctor tried every remedy, but nothing cured the young Puritans. He grimly announced the dire diagnosis: the girls were bewitched! And then the accusations began." This is the riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people's lives and ruined hundreds more. (NF)

Schmidt, Gary. **OKAY FOR NOW.** Fourteen-year-old Doug Swietek has just moved to a small town. With the help of an unlikely new friend, Lil, and a local librarian, Doug struggles to prove to the town that he is not just another thug. He learns to deal with his abusive father and survive the return of a brother scarred by Vietnam. (F)

Schrefer, Eliot. **ENDANGERED.** This is the story of a girl and an ape in one of the worst wars the modern world has known. Sophie's journey to escape the violence in the Congo while protecting her bonobo charge is certainly exciting, but more than that, it

charts her evolution from an inexperienced and naive girl to a responsible and courageous young woman. (F)

Selznick, Brian. **THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET**. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. This novel in words and pictures is the winner of the 2008 Caldecott Medal. (F)

Selznick, Brian. **WONDERSTRUCK**. Ben is a motherless boy living in 1977. Rose is a young girl searching for her movie star idol in 1927. These two stories, one written and one illustrated, are woven together to create a magical tale that will leave you absolutely *wonderstruck*. (F)

Senzai, N. H. **SHOOTING KABUL**. Fadi is starting school in California, thousands of miles away from his home in Kabul. Fadi can't even think about adjusting to life in America, since his six-year-old sister is still in Kabul after being lost as the family fled Afghanistan. Fadi learns how to maneuver through middle school in America in the midst of September 11th and still hold out hope that his family can be reunited. (F)

Sepetys, Ruta. **BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY**. Set during World War II, Soviet officers force Lina and her family into a labor camp in Siberia. They face great hardship, struggling to survive the horrifying conditions. (F)

Sheinkin, Steve. **BOMB: THE RACE TO BUILD AND STEAL THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON**. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon – the atomic bomb. A simple discovery launched a scientific race across three continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists worked at a remote site in Los Alamos. (NF)

Shusterman, Neal. **DOWNSIDERS**. Talon lives Downside, underneath New York City. When he accidentally meets Lindsay, a Topsider from above ground, their worlds inevitably collide. (F)

Smith, Roland. **ELEPHANT RUN**. In 1941, Nick is sent to live with his father on a plantation in Burma to escape the war in London. Soon after, the Japanese invasion of Burma begins, and his father is imprisoned. Nick and his new friend Mya are used as

slaves. They decide to escape into the jungle with the help of a dangerous elephant, Hannibal. (F)

Smith, Roland. **PEAK**. Trouble with the law forces Peak Marcello to join his estranged father on a climbing adventure to the top of Mount Everest. As the story unfolds, Peak discovers his father's true intentions and begins to realize how much danger awaits him as he climbs to the top of the mountain. (F)

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **AFTER EVER AFTER**. Jeffrey Alper, an eighth grade cancer survivor, has learned a lot about life, but there's a lot that's brand-new, such as how to fight for himself and for the people he loves. This is a hopeful and sometimes funny story about what happens when you stop surviving and start living again. (F)

Spinelli, Jerry. **STARGIRL**. Sixteen-year-old Leo tells the story of Stargirl Caraway, the free spirit who enrolls at Mica High School, not exactly the "hotbed of non-conformity." Also, **Love, Stargirl**. (F)

Stead, Rebecca. **WHEN YOU REACH ME**. Sixth-grader Miranda lives in 1978 New York City with her mother and is never without her favorite book *A Wrinkle in Time*. When she starts to receive a series of notes that claim to want to save her life, Miranda begins to believe they are coming from someone who knows the future. This is the 2010 Newbery Medal winner. (F)

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **TREASURE ISLAND**. An innkeeper and his son find a map on the body of a deceased guest. The map promises a pirate's fortune and many adventures follow. (F)

Stiefvator, Maggie. **SCORPIO RACES**. The Scorpio Races take place every November on the small island of Thisby. This is no usual race. In the Scorpio Races, the riders are mounted on Capaille Uisce, beautiful, bloodthirsty water horses. Sean Kendrick, the returning champion, is a man of few words but has a unique understanding of these creatures. Puck Connolly is the first girl to enter the competition. She has to win or her family loses everything. This unusual pair forges a unique friendship, but only one can win the race. (F)

Stone, Tanya Lee. **ALMOST ASTRONAUTS: 13 WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM**. In the early 1960s, thirteen women, all pilots, sought admission into NASA's first astronaut training program. The efforts of the Mercury 13 were crushed from many angles including the media, male astronauts, and the vice president of the United States. (NF)

Swanson, James L. **CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER.** This is a biographical account of John Wilkes Booth's plot to kill the president and Booth's twelve days on the run following Lincoln's assassination. (NF)

Swanson, James L. **BLOODY TIMES: THE FUNERAL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE MANHUNT FOR JEFFERSON DAVIS.** Alternating chapters of the story of Lincoln's last days as a living and then martyred President with the story of Jefferson Davis' attempt to keep the Confederacy alive make for a fascinating glimpse into history. The details of Lincoln's funeral train, and the throngs of mourners as it travels to Springfield, Illinois, are interspersed with Davis's journey to save the south as well as avoid arrest. (NF)

Taylor, Peter Lane and Christos Nicola. **THE SECRET OF PRIEST'S GROTTTO: A HOLOCAUST SURVIVAL STORY.** Two explorers survey caves and relate the true story of how several Jewish families survived the Holocaust of World War II by hiding in the caves of western Ukraine for over three years. (NF)

Taylor, Theodore. **THE BOMB.** This is the story of Bikini Island, a nuclear test site during World War II, told from the point of view of Sorry, a sixteen-year-old islander. (F)

Telgemeier, Raina. **DRAMA.** In this graphic novel Callie loves musical theater, but she isn't much of a singer, so she works as a set designer for the school drama club. Her second year on stage crew is filled with drama, on and off the set, as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going. (F)

Telgemeier, Raina. **SMILE.** This graphic novel is based on the author's real experience of losing her two front teeth when she was twelve years old. Her painful recovery involves extensive dental work while she survives middle school and finds out what real friends are. (F)

Thomson, Ruth. **TEREZIN: VOICES FROM THE HOLOCAUST.** Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany turned the small town of Terezín, Czechoslovakia, into a ghetto, and then into a transit camp for thousands of Jewish people. It was a "show" camp, where inmates were forced to use their artistic talents to fool the world about the truth of gas chambers and horrific living conditions for imprisoned Jews. Secretly, these artists also created images of what they observed, from the overcrowding to the deplorable, unsanitary living conditions to the plight of the elderly and infirm. Here, in a meticulously researched book, is their story told through the inmates' secret diary entries, artwork, and excerpts from memoirs. (NF)

Tolkien, J. R. R. **THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING.** In this first book of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Frodo, a hobbit, must journey to the barren wasteland of Mordor to destroy the one ring that could rule them all. A fellowship is formed to aid him on this dangerous journey. The first in **The Lord of the Rings** series. (F)

Tolkien, J. R. R. **THE HOBBIT.** In this prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*, Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys his comfortable life. Bilbo is the last person anyone would expect to head off on an adventure, but this is exactly what happens when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep. The dwarves have a plan to return to their ancestral home and reclaim a stolen fortune from the dragon Smaug and soon Bilbo is swept into a dangerous adventure complete with giant spiders, hostile elves, and a creature named Gollum. (F)

Tunnell, Michael. **CANDY BOMBER: THE STORY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT'S "CHOCOLATE PILOT."** This is the true story of Gail Halvorsen, an American pilot and real-life hero who parachuted small bags of candy over the war-torn city of Berlin, giving hope to children and families during the aftermath of World War II. (NF)

Uusma, Bea. **THE MAN WHO WENT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON: THE STORY OF APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUT MICHAEL COLLINS.** This is the story of Michael Collins who maneuvered through space while the first man walked on the moon. It includes scrapbook-style photos, notes, and seldom-mentioned details. (NF)

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **FLIPPED.** In alternating chapters, Bryce and Juli describe how their feelings for each other, themselves, and their families have changed over the years. (F)

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **THE RUNNING DREAM.** Track star Jessica loses a leg in a terrible car accident. Her road to recovery is a long one, but she can't give up her dream of running again. (F)

Walker, Sally M. **BLIZZARD OF GLASS: THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION OF 1917.** On December 6, 1917, two ships collided in Halifax Harbor. With one ship loaded with munitions and one with medical supplies, the resulting blast flattened two towns and killed nearly 2,000 people. With a blizzard hitting the very next day, relief efforts were almost paralyzed. This book contains many illustrations, firsthand accounts, and other primary sources from this unbelievable tragedy. (NF)

Walker, Sally M. **WRITTEN IN BONE: BURIED LIVES OF JAMESTOWN AND COLONIAL MARYLAND.** This book is the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in

the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s. It uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship's captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others. Nearly every page has at least one illustration, a color photo or helpful diagram, a map, or a period document. (NF)

Westerfeld, Scott. **UGLIES**. Tally resists the mandatory operation that every 16-year-old must endure to change all teens into “new pretties.” Adventure is the result in this futuristic novel. The first of the **Uglies Trilogy**. (F)

White, Andrea. **SURVIVING ANTARCTICA: REALITY TV 2083**. It's 2083 and winning a reality TV show is the only way out of poverty for many people. Chosen from thousands, five teenagers will reenact Robert F. Scott's 1910 expedition to the South Pole on the popular show, *Historical Survivor*. Little do they know what is ahead. (F)

Wiles, Deborah. **COUNTDOWN**. In 1962 President Kennedy faced down the Communists, fathers were on active military duty, children became used to air-raid drills, and families had blueprints for bomb shelters. This eye-grabbing documentary novel includes Cold War-era images, lyrics, speeches, and headlines, all interspersed with the life of Franny Chapman, the narrator, an Air Force brat and middle child living in suburban Maryland. (F)

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **ONE CRAZY SUMMER**. It is 1968, and Delphine and her two sisters have been put on a plane from Brooklyn to California to spend a month with their mother, a poet who abandoned the family years ago. During this crazy summer, the girls not only learn about their mother and the politics of this time period, but they each grow individually and come to better understand each other. (F)

Yelchin, Eugene. **BREAKING STALIN'S NOSE**. Sasha dreams of his initiation into the Soviet Young Pioneers to show his loyalty to Stalin and the communist party. Sasha's disillusionment with the regime begins to grow when his father, an officer in the party, is arrested. (F)

Yohalem, Eve. **ESCAPE UNDER THE FOREVER SKY: A NOVEL**. Based on a true story, this novel tells of the kidnapping of the daughter of the ambassador to Ethiopia. Lucy uses her knowledge of African animals, her inventiveness, and her determination to survive as she tries to escape and return home. (F)

Yoo, Paula. **GOOD ENOUGH**. Patti tries to balance schoolwork, band, and boys while trying to please her Korean parents by getting into an Ivy League school. (F)

Rising 10th-12th graders

Archer, Jennifer. **Through Her Eyes**. HarperTeen, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Tansy is used to moving every time her mother starts writing a new book. However, in the small Texas town where her grandfather grew up, she is lured into the world of a troubled young man whose death sixty years earlier is shrouded in mystery.

Auburn, David. **Proof: A Play**. Faber and Faber, 2001. This play explores the unknowability of love and the mysteries of mathematics. Pulitzer Prize, Drama 2001

Bardugo, Leigh. **Shadow and Bone**. Holt, 2012. Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and away from her only friend, Mal, to become the protégé of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she can destroy the monsters of the Fold.

Beard, Jo Ann. **In Zanesville: A Novel**. Little, Brown, 2011. In a small factory town in Illinois during the 1970s, a fourteen-year-old girl navigates life alongside her best friend. From a babysitting disaster in the opening scene through kitten-saving adventures, being noticed by boys, and becoming friends with the popular cheerleaders, the girls survive a test of their friendship in their awkward, often hilarious, transition from childhood to young adulthood. Alex Award 2012

Bracken, Alexandra. **The Darkest Minds**. Hyperion, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run rehabilitation camp for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children.

Bradley, Alan. **A Red Herring Without Mustard**. Delacorte, 2011. Eleven-year-old detective Flavia de Luce sorts through clues trying to solve various mysteries involving a missing child, a fortune-teller, and a dead body found in Flavia's own backyard. Series

Brown, Jennifer. **Hate List**. Little, Brown, 2009. Sixteen-year-old Valerie, whose boyfriend Nick committed a school shooting at the end of their junior

year, struggles to cope with integrating herself back into high school life, unsure herself whether she was a hero or a villain.

Cameron, Sharon. **The Dark Unwinding**. Scholastic, 2012. In 1852, when seventeen-year-old Katharine is sent to her family's estate to prove that her uncle is insane, she finds he is an inventor whose work creating ingenious clockwork figures supports hundreds of families; strange occurrences soon have her doubting her own sanity.

Coben, Harlan. **Shelter: A Mickey Bolitar Novel**. Putnam's, 2011. After witnessing his father's death and sending his mom to rehab, Mickey is forced to live with his estranged uncle and enter a new high school where, after a few weeks, his new girlfriend vanishes without a trace. Mickey enters a world of conspiracy and danger and discovers that nothing is as it seems.

Cohn, Rachel, and David Levithan. **Dash & Lily's Book of Dares**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. While perusing his favorite bookstore, Dash stumbles across a hidden red journal. After accepting the dare written within the journal, he and Lily begin a mysterious, clever scavenger hunt. As they get to know each other only through the journal entries, they both wonder if they should meet.

Condie, Ally. **Matched**. Dutton, 2010. Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but the moment she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen. Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility as she tries to decide which man she truly loves. Series

Crewe, Megan. **The Way We Fall**. Hyperion, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Kaelyn challenges her fears, finds a second chance at love, and fights to keep her family and friends safe as a deadly new virus devastates her island community. Series

Crutcher, Chris. **Deadline**. Greenwillow, 2007. Eighteen-year-old Ben Wolf has been given less than a year to live, but he chooses not to tell anyone so his senior year will be as normal as possible. This surprisingly humorous story tracks that final year as Ben goes out for football, finds romance, and realizes that his secret has a serious impact on others.

Flack, Sophie. **Bunheads**. Little, Brown, 2011. A young dancer must decide if she wants to continue to devote her whole life to ballet when a handsome musician enters the picture. The author danced with the New York City Ballet for nine years and gives the reader an authentic glimpse into the world of ballet.

Garcia, Kami, and Margaret Stohl. **Beautiful Creatures**. Little, Brown 2009. After graduation, Ethan cannot wait to move out of his unexciting small town of Gatlin, South Carolina. When Lena moves into town, he is immediately drawn to her, and his unusual dreams of saving her leads him to believe they have a psychic connection. Series

Garfield, Simon. **Just My Type: A Book About Fonts**. Gotham Books, 2010. The author explores the history of type with sharp wit and charm answering questions you never knew to ask such as Can a font make me cool? or Can a font be Jewish or German?

Gautreaux, Tim. **Welding With Children**. Picador, 2009. Set in the hot days and nights of Louisiana, these eleven short fiction stories will make you laugh, cry, and marvel as ordinary people try to survive what life throws at them, whether it be memory loss, a crazed bull, or a thief with a big blade and bad intentions.

Gregory, Philippa. **Changeling**. Simon Pulse, 2012. In 1453, seventeen-year-old Luca Vero, accused of heresy and expelled from his monastery, is recruited to help investigate evil across Europe.

Grenville, Kate. **The Lieutenant**. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008. This is a story of friendship, self-discovery, and the power of language set along the unspoiled shores of 1788 New South Wales during the early days of Australian colonization.

Harrington, Kim. **Clarity**. Point, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Clare Fern, a member of a family of psychics, helps the mayor and a skeptical detective solve a murder in a Cape Cod town during the height of tourist season . . . and her brother is a prime suspect.

Heiligman, Deborah. **Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith.** Holt, 2009. Heiligman reveals a personal look at the life and love of the man whose ideas have caused a stir in the scientific and religious communities since the 1800s. Michael L. Printz Honor Book 2010

Hemingway, Ernest. **A Farewell to Arms.** First published 1929. A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.

Herbert, Frank. **Dune.** First published 1965. The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained. Series

Johnson, Maureen. **The Name of the Star.** Putnam's, 2011. An American girl, Rory, enrolls in a London boarding school for her senior year of high school and encounters a suspenseful ghost mystery closely tied to the Jack the Ripper murders of old.

Khoury, Jessica. **Origin.** Razorbill, 2012. Set in the lush and dangerous Amazon rain forest, this story follows Pia, an immortal girl bred to create an immortal race, and the team of scientists responsible for her mission. Pia, however, starts to question her destiny when she falls for a boy she meets in the jungle.

Klavan, Andrew. **If We Survive.** Thomas Nelson, 2012. When revolutionaries seize control of a country in Central America where sixteen-year-old Will is serving as a missionary, he and the other volunteers find themselves in a desperate race to escape the violence and return home.

Kooser, Ted. **Delights & Shadows: Poems.** Copper Canyon Press, 2004. This collection of poems by former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life.

Li, Cunxin. **Mao's Last Dancer.** Penguin Press, 2003. The autobiography of Houston Ballet soloist Li Cunxin details his rise from poverty in Communist China to dance stardom and a defection that caused an international incident.

Luttrell, Marcus. **Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10.** Little, Brown, 2007. American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Qaida insurgents.

Lutz, Lisa. **The Spellman Files.** Simon & Schuster, 2007. Izzy Spellman, an irrepressible twenty-eight-year-old sleuth, works for her parents' San Francisco PI firm. The dysfunctional and relentlessly nosy Spellman clan spends as much time spying on one another as they do working their cases. Alex Award 2008. Series

Marchetta, Melina. **Finnikin of the Rock.** Candlewick, 2008. Finnikin was a child when the royal family of Lumatere was brutally murdered and replaced by an imposter. Now on the cusp of manhood, he reluctantly joins forces with an enigmatic young novice and fellow-exile who claims that her dark dreams will lead them to a surviving royal child and a way to regain the throne of Lumatere. Series

Michaelis, Antonia. **Tiger Moon.** Translated from the German by Anthea Bell. Amulet Books, 2008. Sold to be the eighth wife of a rich and cruel merchant, Safia, also called Raka, tries to escape her fate by telling stories of Farhad the thief, his companion Nitish the white tiger, and their travels across India to retrieve a famous jewel that will save a kidnapped princess from becoming the bride of a demon king. Batchelder Award Honors 2009

Morpurgo, Michael. **Private Peaceful.** Scholastic, 2003. Thomas Peaceful was only fifteen when he joined the British Forces in World War I to fight with his older brother. One unexpected horror separates them.

Nash, Ogden. **The Best of Ogden Nash.** Ivan R. Dee, 2007. This delightful book of rhythm and rhyme combines magical word use by the renowned master of light humorous verse. The book is edited by the poet's daughter, Linell Nash Smith.

Ness, Patrick. **The Knife of Never Letting Go.** Candlewick, 2008. Settlers on Todd's planet are infected with a virus that kills all the women and causes survivors to hear the thoughts of men and animals. This coming-of-age

survival story reveals the psychological impact of being unable to shut out other people's thoughts or to hide one's own. Series

Nielsen, Jennifer A. **The False Prince**. Scholastic, 2012. To avoid a civil war, four orphans engage in a brutal competition masterminded by a devious nobleman to determine who will impersonate the king's long-missing son. Series

Ogawa, Yoko. **The Housekeeper and the Professor**. Translated from the Japanese by Stephen Snyder. Picador, 2009. A once brilliant math professor suffers the effects of a head trauma that erases his short term memory every eighty minutes, and he must repeatedly be re-introduced to his housekeeper. However, past equations in the professor's mind enable him to discover surprising connections.

Oliver, Lauren. **Delirium**. Harper, 2011. Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, predictable, and happy life. However, ninety-five days before her eighteenth birthday and her treatment, she falls in love. Series

Oliver, Mary. **Swan: Poems and Prose Poems**. Beacon Press, 2010. Mary Oliver's adoration and awe of nature shines through in this slim collection of beautiful poetry evocative of the beauty, brutality, and mysteries found in the natural world.

Patrick, Cat. **Forgotten**. Little, Brown, 2011. Each night at precisely 4:33 am, while sixteen-year-old London Lane is asleep, her memory of that day is erased. London relies on reminder notes and a trusted friend to get through the day, but things get complicated when a new boy at school enters the picture.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth**. Greenwillow, 2010. In a hilarious story of the ultimate bad day, fifteen-year-old Ry is left behind when he jumps off the stalled train taking him to summer camp. It is downhill from there until he meets Del. Worried about his grandfather and unable to contact his parents, Ry, with Del's help, sets off on the misadventure of a lifetime that will keep you laughing all the way.

Portis, Charles. **True Grit**. First published 1968. With a supersized ration of audacity and her papa's pistol tied to her saddle horn, fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross sets out to avenge her father's murder.

Roth, Veronica. **Divergent**. Katherine Tegen, 2011. In post-apocalyptic Chicago, society is divided into five factions -- Amity, Candor, Dauntless, Erudite, and Abnegation -- in order to avoid future wars and preserve peace. Each year, those who just turned sixteen must select and then devote the rest of their lives to a faction. The day of choosing will change Beatrice's life forever . . . for once you choose, you can never go back. Series

Sedgwick, Marcus. **Revolver**. Roaring Brook, 2009. Set in 1910 just north of the Arctic Circle, the novel opens with fourteen-year-old Sig sitting alone in an isolated cabin with his dead father when a one-thumbed, vengeful man arrives, demanding stolen gold he claims he is owed by Sig's father. Michael L. Printz Honor Award 2011

Shusterman, Neal. **Bruiser**. HarperTeen, 2010. Bruiser was the guy nobody knew – or wanted to know. Then Brontë includes him in her group of friends and unusual things start to happen.

Steinbeck, John. **Cannery Row**. First published 1945. The antics of Steinbeck's down-at-heel misfit characters bring mirth and sensitivity to a rollicking good read.

Stiefvater, Maggie. **The Raven Boys**. Scholastic, 2012. Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger. When she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own and that together their talents are a dangerous mix.

Summerscale, Kate. **The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher: A Shocking Murder and the Undoing of a Great Victorian Detective**. Walker, 2008. Recounts the events surrounding the 1830 murder of three-year-old Saville Kent and explores the police investigation into the crime. Family members became prime suspects and local residents began to doubt the effectiveness of the lead investigator.

Tan, Shaun. **The Arrival**. Arthur A. Levine, 2006. A man leaves his troubled homeland and travels to an unfamiliar place where he makes a new life and sends for his family. This Australian award-winning wordless book's sepia drawings look like surrealistic snapshots, poignantly expressing the timeless and universal courage of immigrants.

Taylor, Laini. **Daughter of Smoke & Bone**. Little, Brown, 2011. Karou, a seventeen-year old art student at a Prague boarding school, seems mysterious to her friends. Her frequent disappearances and her sketch book of terrifying drawings add to the mystery surrounding her. This fast-paced fantasy of mystery, family history, beautiful descriptions of Prague's architecture and country-side is a real page-turner. Series

Tittle, Y. A. with Kristine Setting Clark. **Nothing Comes Easy**. Triumph Books, 2009. Experience the early hard-hitting, blood-spilling days of the NFL before fancy helmets and a lot of protective padding were used. This autobiography of Yelberton Abraham Tittle, who grew up during the Depression in Marshall, Texas, is a history of the NFL and includes game records and statistics.

Vonnegut, Kurt. **Slaughterhouse-Five, or, The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death**. First published 1969. After surviving the bombing of Dresden in World War II, Billy Pilgrim returns to civilian life and has a successful career until he is kidnapped by aliens and displayed in a zoo on the planet of Tralfamadore.

Walker, Sally M. **Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland**. Carolrhoda Books, 2009. Walker provides a detailed and illustrated account of an archaeological dig in Jamestown. The search for human remains and materials from colonial Maryland is revealed layer by fascinating layer.

Wein, Elizabeth. **Code Name Verity**. Hyperion, 2012. In World War II, Maddie, a British transport pilot, attempts to deliver her best friend and Resistance spy, Julie (Code Name Verity), into Nazi-occupied France, but the plane crashes. Love, courage, bravado, and intrigue drive the story to its stunning conclusion.

Wells, Robison. **Variant**. HarperTeen, 2011. Benson Fisher hopes for a brighter future after being accepted to Maxfield Academy. Shortly after arriving, he realizes that the school is more like a prison because it is run by teens of various warring factions. No one ever escapes, but they do disappear.

Wilder, Thornton. **Our Town: A Play in Three Acts**. First published 1938. With the well-earned reputation of an American classic, this play brings themes of growing up, love, marriage, and death to the stage and portrays the dignity of the human spirit through life in Grover's Corner.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **Jumped**. HarperTeen, 2009. Trina has unknowingly insulted the unstable Dominique in the hall, and she is in danger of being jumped after school. Leticia knows what is going on, but she does not want to get involved by telling anyone.

Wilson, Daniel H. **Robocalypse**. Doubleday, 2011. An artificial intelligence program has taken over the world, uniting all the computer programs residing in everything from dolls and toys to domestic service robots, airplanes, and military weapons. Its aim is to destroy all human life . . . and the robots are winning. Alex Award 2012

Wright, Richard. **Native Son**. First published 1940. A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, finding release only in acts of violence.

Young, Moira. **Blood Red Road**. McElderry Books, 2011. Saba has spent her whole life in Silverlake, a dried-up wasteland. When a monster sandstorm arrives along with four cloaked horsemen, Saba's world is shattered. Her beloved twin brother Lugh is captured, and Saba embarks on an epic quest to get him back. Series

Ackerman, Diane. **The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story**. Norton, 2007. Ackerman works from the diary of Antonina Zabinski to present a dramatic true story based on a little-known chapter from Nazi Poland. Not only was Hitler interested in human genetics but also the purity of animal breeds. At the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina and her director husband struggle with wartime shortages, caring for the animals, their own family's needs, and the hundreds of Jews hidden at the zoo.

Albright, Madeleine. **Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948.** Harper, 2012. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shares her childhood experiences in Czechoslovakia amid the horrors of World War II and the discovery of her family's Jewish ancestry.

Allison, Will. **Long Drive Home.** Free Press, 2011. In this emotional psychological thriller, a father is driving his six-year-old daughter home when a young driver provokes him to road rage, and a fatal crash ensues. Will his subsequent lies fix the problems that rapidly accumulate?

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Wintergirls.** Viking, 2009. Anderson takes us into the mind of an anorexic teenager. This is a haunting story about Lia's desire to be the thinnest girl in school, her struggle with anorexia, and her path to recovery.

Archer, Jeffrey. **Only Time Will Tell.** St. Martin's Press, 2011. Harry Clifton, raised by his uncle who was a shipyard laborer, finds the expectations for his life changing after winning a scholarship to a prestigious boys' school, discovering the truth about his father's death, and questioning his lineage.
Series

Austen, Jane. **Pride and Prejudice.** First published 1813. Elizabeth and Jane Bennet overcome obstacles to their happiness with Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley in this comedy of manners set in early nineteenth-century England.

Barbery, Muriel. **The Elegance of the Hedgehog.** Translated from the French by Alison Anderson. Europa, 2008. Laugh out loud at the unlikely friendship among a secretly educated concierge, a precocious twelve-year-old girl with a philosophical bent, and an older Japanese gentleman in a Paris apartment.

Bartlett, Allison Hoover. **The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession.** Riverhead Books, 2009. This true crime story discloses the world of rare book dealers and the mind of a serial book thief as it follows the detective who tracks the mysterious and obsessive culprit.

Beah, Ishmael. **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. Twelve-year-old Ishmael first flees from attacking

rebels with his friends, but later he is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Alex Award 2008

Brooks, Geraldine. **Caleb's Crossing**. Viking, 2011. Bethia Mayfield befriends Caleb, the son of a Wampanoag chieftain, as she grows up near Martha's Vineyard in the mid-seventeenth century, and watches her minister father's attempts to convert the Native Americans. The fates of the children are tied together as Bethia's father encourages the education of Caleb, a privilege Bethia has always wanted.

Brown, Ian. **The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Journey to Understand His Extraordinary Son**. St. Martin's Press, 2009. Ian Brown, a Canadian journalist, chronicles his life as he and his wife care for their son who was born with a rare and severe genetic disorder. Brown candidly shares the extreme challenges and blessings their special son has brought to their lives.

Carey, Peter. **Parrot and Olivier in America**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. An imaginative re-invention of the French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville's 1830 visit to America, with rich description, strong characters and amusing events.

Chandler, Raymond. **The Long Goodbye**. First published 1953. A classic hard-boiled detective story where Philip Marlowe, private eye, deals with a cast of reprehensible characters in a doom-laden city. Edgar Award 1955

Cline, Ernest. **Ready Player One**. Crown, 2011. In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS. When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday, he finds he must compete with thousands of others -- including those willing to commit murder -- in order to claim the prize of a massive fortune. Alex Award 2012

Cronin, Justin. **The Passage**. Ballantine Books, 2010. In a dystopian future, a virus found in a South American jungle was used to create a super soldier with great strength and healing abilities. The virus becomes an epidemic, and infected people become bloodthirsty monsters. Normal humans are hiding in fortresses trying to survive.

Cross, Julie. **Tempest**. Thomas Dunne, 2011. Nineteen-year-old Jackson uses his ability to travel through time after his girlfriend Holly is fatally shot during a violent struggle; but his journey two years into the past leads him to make a startling discovery about his father and the powerful enemies who will stop at nothing to recruit him for their own purposes.

Cruz, Nilo. **Anna in the Tropics**. Theatre Communications Group, 2003. In this play set in 1929 Florida in a Cuban-American cigar factory, a new lector unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners.

DeWoskin, Rachel. **Big Girl Small: A Novel**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Judy Lohden, a girl whose phenomenal singing voice should have made her the star of the local performing arts high school, instead finds herself hiding out from the national media in a seedy hotel room due to a controversy sparked in part by the fact that she is only three feet, nine inches tall. Alex Award 2012

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. **Leaving Yuba City: New and Selected Poems**. Anchor, 1997. Little stories about life in India and the Indian immigrant experience in America told through accessible and enlightening poetry.

Doctorow, E. L. **Homer & Langley**. Random House, 2009. Based on the true lives of the very unusual Collyer brothers of New York City, this novel allows the reader a glimpse into the hoarding existence of anonymity of the two reclusive brothers. Both a commentary of the 1940s and, moreover, a tale of human psychology, the story is beautifully written in the voice of one of the eccentric brothers.

Donoghue, Emma. **Room: A Novel**. Little, Brown, 2010. Five-year-old Jack has lived his whole life entirely within the walls of a small room where he and his mother are held prisoner. The imaginary world that she creates for him makes it bearable . . . for a while. Alex Award 2011

Eggers, Dave. **Zeitoun**. McSweeney's, 2009. A true account of a family caught between America's war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Following the chaos of the storm, Zeitoun travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors until the day armed men suddenly burst into his home.

Ferraris, Zoe. **City of Veils**. Little, Brown 2010. In this fascinating mystery, policeman Osama Ibrahim, forensic scientist Katya Hijazi, and Bedouin guide Nayir Sharqi investigate the murder of a young Muslim woman washed up on the shores of Jeddah beach. Series

Figueras, Marcelo. **Kamchatka**. Translated from the Spanish by Frank Wynne. Black Cat, 2010. After the 1976 coup in Argentina, ten-year-old Harry uses his rich imagination, the fantasy territory of “Kamchatka” from the game RISK, and the boundless, endearing love of his family to deal with the chaos in their lives as his parents must hide from the military junta because of their political activities.

Foer, Jonathan Safran. **Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close**. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Oskar Schell is an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, pacifist. He is nine-years-old and on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Foer, Joshua. **Moonwalking With Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything**. Penguin, 2011. Journalist Joshua Foer’s informative book on human memory is as entertaining as it is educational. He expounds on the history of human memory and chronicles his experience of training to become the 2006 USA Memory Champion.

Follett, Ken. **Fall of Giants**. Dutton, 2010. A historical fiction epic that follows the lives of five interrelated families – American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh – around the time of World War I. Series

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. **Chronicle of a Death Foretold**. Translated from the Spanish by Gregory Rabassa. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. Nearly thirty years later, a man returns to town in an attempt to discover the truth behind the jumbled murder of Santiago Nasar.

Grahame-Smith, Seth. **Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter**. Grand Central, 2010. Many people know about Abe Lincoln’s political successes, but few know that after his mother was killed by a vampire Old Abe became a

ruthless vampire hunter. This “biography,” packed full of historical facts, will not disappoint readers who like a good horror story.

Grann, David. **The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon.** Doubleday, 2009. In 1925, Percy Fawcett, eccentric member of the Royal Geographical Society, sets out to find the treasure of El Dorado deep in the Amazon jungle where he mysteriously disappears. This story contains fascinating facts of Fawcett’s quest as well as the attempts of explorers through the years who have tried to solve the mystery of his disappearance and discover the elusive treasure.

Green, John. **The Fault in Our Stars.** Dutton, 2012. Sixteen-year-old Hazel meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and, as they fall in love, they both wonder how they will be remembered.

Hall, Ron, and Denver Moore, with Lynn Vincent. **Same Kind of Different as Me.** Thomas Nelson, 2006. In this true story, an art dealer and a homeless man are brought together in a soup kitchen and learn life lessons from each other.

Harbach, Chad. **The Art of Fielding.** Little, Brown, 2011. Henry, the star of a small college baseball team located on the shore of Lake Michigan, is overcome with self-doubt which threatens his future; meanwhile, four other teammates also find themselves forced to confront their own secrets.

Hawking, Stephen and Leonard Mlodinow. **The Grand Design.** Bantam, 2010. The authors present a new discussion of the laws of the universe and the nature of reality. The journey includes thoughts of the great philosophers and scientists over the centuries as well as questions such as “Are the laws of nature suspended when miracles occur?” Well-placed, clever cartoons provide balance to the weighty discussions.

Hillenbrand, Laura. **Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption.** Random House, 2010. This biography chronicles the life of World War II bombardier Louis Zamperini from his wild youth to becoming a world-class runner in the 1936 Olympic Games to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force where he must survive for forty-seven days in the Pacific Ocean after his plane goes down.

Hosseini, Khaled. **A Thousand Splendid Suns**. Riverhead Books, 2007. Mariam and Laila, both married to Rasheed, form an uneasy alliance so that they and their children can survive despite horrific circumstances. The story depicts Afghanistan from a woman's point of view during three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war, and Taliban tyranny.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. **Never Let Me Go**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. A dark secret lurks behind the nurturing façade of Hailsham, a private school in the English countryside where Kathy, now thirty-one years old, lived as a child. Alex Award 2006

Ivey, Eowyn. **The Snow Child: A Novel**. Little, Brown, 2012. Homesteaders Jack and Mabel struggle to survive in the harsh Alaskan wilderness, but the couple's quiet life of hard work and routine suddenly changes when a small girl named Faina magically appears on their doorstep.

Kean, Sam. **The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements**. Little, Brown, 2010. Sam Kean presents the rationale behind the organization of the periodic table of the elements as well as many interesting anecdotes about the elements and the scientists who discovered them.

Kent, Kathleen. **The Heretic's Daughter**. Little, Brown, 2008. Amid the painful details of jail and persecution, deep-seated suspicion and familial betrayal, ten-year-old Sarah Carrier's world is turned upside down when her family becomes a target of Salem's witchcraft hysteria.

Kwok, Jean. **Girl in Translation**. Riverhead Books, 2010. When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, Kimberly quickly begins a secret double life -- exceptional schoolgirl by day, Chinatown sweatshop worker by night -- and she learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles. Alex Award 2011

Kyle, Aryn. **The God of Animals**. Scribner, 2007. The death of a classmate haunts teen Alice Winston as she learns about love, life and death, and lost dreams as she helps her father run the family's struggling horse ranch in the midst of recurring family problems.

Lane, Harriet. **Alys, Always: A Novel.** Scribner, 2012. After sitting with a woman dying in a car crash, Frances Thorpe's attempts to comfort the bereaved family have consequences, leading her to become involved in the family and affecting the relationships among all concerned. A psychological thriller in the manner of Du Maurier's classic Rebecca.

Lansdale, Joe. **Edge of Dark Water.** Mulholland Books, 2012. Teenagers Sue Ellen, Terry, and Jinx dig up the body of their friend May Lynn in order to burn her body and spread her ashes in Hollywood; but on their journey they are chased by the sheriff who is after the money they stole for the trip and by a legendary killer who just wants them dead.

Larson, Erik. **In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin.** Crown, 2011. Experience the rise of Hitler in this nonfiction thriller. It is 1933 Berlin and Hitler is in power when a new U.S. Ambassador, William E. Dodd, arrives. Dodd must find ways to deal with the regime, communicate his concerns to the State Department, and keep his family safe.

Levithan, David. **Every Day.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Every morning, A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached. Life goes along smoothly until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.

McCarthy, Cormac. **The Road.** Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. In a post-apocalyptic landscape, a man and a boy struggle toward the unknown. This dark and doomed quest offers a spiritual sense of soul and humanity. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 2007

Moalem, Sharon. **Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease.** William Morrow, 2007. With fascinating insights and cutting-edge research, the author looks at evolutionary history, epigenetics, and modern medical research to try to figure out why we developed as we did.

Moore, Wes. **The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates.** Spiegel & Grau, 2010. This book explores the fate of two African-American men with

the same name living in the same city -- one becomes a Rhodes Scholar and the other a convicted murderer.

Morgenstern, Erin. **The Night Circus**. Doubleday, 2011. The circus arrives without warning, and what looks like clever illusions are actually magic. The two principal illusionists, Celia and Marco, have unknowingly been involved in a deadly contest created by their mentors. When they fall in love, it complicates the circus and their teachers' plans. Alex Award 2012

Morrison, Toni. **Beloved**. First published 1987. The Nobel prize-winning author's lyrical expression of the slave experience is built around Sethe, her memories of Sweet Home, and the ghost of her baby. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1988

Mosley, Walter. **The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey**. Riverhead Books, 2010. Ptolemy Grey, an elderly man, falls further into his solitary existence and dementia, when his grandnephew -- his only real connection to the outside world -- dies in a drive-by shooting. Robyn, his niece's lodger, motivates him and introduces him to a doctor who is touting an experimental drug that may give Ptolemy a temporary burst of clarity and energy, leading Ptolemy to think of a way to leave a memorable legacy.

Mullin, Mike. **Ashfall**. Tanglewood, 2011. When the eruption of the Yellowstone supervolcano destroys his city and its surroundings, fifteen-year-old Alex must journey from Cedar Falls, Iowa, to Illinois to find his parents and sister. He struggles to survive in a transformed landscape and a new society in which all the old rules of living have vanished.

Nicholls, David. **One Day**. Vintage, 2009. The single day that Dexter Mayhew and Emma Morley spend together in 1988, the day after college graduation in Edinburgh, makes a distinct impression on each of them and a relationship forms only after they part ways and are reunited once a year on the same day for twenty years.

Obrecht, Tea. **The Tiger's Wife**. Random House, 2011. The myth of an escaped tiger during the World War II bombing of the Balkans and Natalia's search for details about her beloved grandfather's death are woven together.

Ondaatje, Michael. **The Cat's Table**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. Written with nostalgia for childhood, Michael recalls a long sea voyage he took as a boy in the early 1950s to meet his mother. During the trip across the Indian Ocean, the boy meets many colorful characters.

Patchett, Ann. **State of Wonder**. Harper, 2011. Anders Eckman has mysteriously died while working on a ground-breaking miracle drug in a remote location in the Amazon rainforest, and Dr. Marina Singh, a friend and colleague, is sent to take his place. The investigation of his death leads her on a gripping adventure that will have her questioning what is right and wrong and how far people are willing to go for science and discovery.

Percer, Elizabeth. **An Uncommon Education**. Harper, 2012. In this coming-of-age story, Naomi Feinstein dreams of attending Wellesley College and being a doctor; everything changes in her life when she is introduced to the oldest honor society, the mysterious Shakespeare Society.

Pérez-Reverte, Arturo. **The Fencing Master**. Translated from the Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa. Harcourt, 1998. Nineteenth-century fencing master, Don Jaime, finds himself drawn into a plot that includes seduction, politics, secret documents, and murder when he refuses to teach the beautiful and mysterious Dona Adela de Otero how to perform the “unstoppable thrust.”

Powell, Goran. **Chojun: A Novel**. YMAA, 2012. Kenichi Ota accompanies Chojun Miyagi to China searching for the meaning of karate. Upon their return to Okinawa they learn that the Japanese have just destroyed Pearl Harbor forcing both of them to adapt to a new world order, to rebuild their island, and to preserve Miyagi's brand of karate.

Rock, Peter. **My Abandonment**. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Thirteen-year-old Caroline lives with her father “off the grid” in a makeshift structure in a Pacific Northwest forest. The forest seems to fulfill their basic needs and hides them from the rest of humanity. The world eventually intrudes upon their solitude, and what Caroline thought was real is not. Alex Award 2010

Sides, Hampton. **Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin**. Doubleday, 2010.

The gripping true story of the events leading up to King's assassination and the massive FBI manhunt to find his killer, James Earl Ray.

Simic, Charles. **The Voice at 3:00 A.M.:** Selected Late & New Poems. Harcourt, 2003. These poems convey vivid and quirky imagery. From “Sunday Papers” to “Frightening Toys” to “Blood Orange,” the originality and sly humor of “everydayness” cheers the reader of this award-winning poet’s work.

Simonson, Helen. **Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand.** Random House, 2010. Major Ernest Pettigrew, an honor-bound Englishman, the very embodiment of duty and pride, finds himself drawn into an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Based on their shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, their friendship soon blossoms. Can their relationship survive the risks of pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?

Skloot, Rebecca. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.** Crown, 2010. "HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks’ treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world.

Small, David. **Stitches: A Memoir.** Norton, 2009. David Small grew up in the 1950s in a dysfunctional family with an angry mother and an emotionally distant father. This graphic novel by Small, a Caldecott winning illustrator, about the redemptive value of art, is filled with sadness and dark humor. Alex Award 2010

Stein, Garth. **The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel.** HarperCollins, 2008. Enzo is an old soul who just happens to be a dog. He is devoted to Denny who is a race car driver. The reader will be captivated as Enzo tells his master’s story and prepares for his next life...as a human.

Steinbeck, John. **The Grapes of Wrath.** First published 1939. Forced out of their home in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl by economic desperation, a family of

Oklahoma farmers drives west to California in search of work as migrant fruit pickers. Pulitzer Prize, Fiction 1940

Stedman, M. L. **The Light Between Oceans**. Scribner, 2012. A childless couple quietly runs a lighthouse on a remote Australian island until a boat with a baby washes ashore changing their lives forever.

Stuart, Julia. **The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise**. Doubleday, 2010. Beefeater Balthazar Jones finds his already chaotic life living in the Tower of London with a group of eccentric individuals getting even more complicated when he is assigned to set up housing within the attraction's walls for exotic animals gifted to the queen, his wife leaves him, and his 120-year-old tortoise runs away.

Szyborska, Wislawa. **Monologue of a Dog: New Poems**. Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh and Stanislaw Baranczak. Harcourt, 2006. Crisp, elegant poetry is presented in original Polish alongside its English translation. Clouds, current events, and revolution are just a few of the themes addressed in this marvelous collection of twenty-six thought-provoking poems.

Thoreau, Henry David. **Walden**. First published 1854. Thoreau's observations on nature and life were penned during his solitary stay at Walden Pond, outside Concord, Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847.

Vance, Jack. **The Moon Moth**. Graphic novel adaption by Humayoun Ibrahim. First Second, 2012. Lovers of the science fiction genre and graphic novels will enjoy Vance's classic short story set on planet Sirene where aliens wear masks to indicate their social status and communicate by playing musical instruments. Edwer Thissel is sent to Sirene to solve a murder and find the killer in a world where every face is hidden.

Walls, Jeannette. **The Glass Castle: A Memoir**. Scribner, 2005. A successful gossip columnist, who "made it" against all odds, shares her astonishing memoir of a childhood lived in a seriously dysfunctional, but uniquely vibrant, family. Alex Award 2006

Williams, Carol Lynch. **The Chosen One**. St. Martin's Griffin, 2009. When the Prophet orders thirteen-year-old Kyra to be the seventh wife of her elderly uncle, her family is upset. Kyra knows that running away puts them all at risk.

Wilson, August. **Two Trains Running**. Plume, 1992. This historical African-American drama, part of a ten-part series by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, takes place during the Civil Rights movement in Memphis Lee's diner in Pittsburg, 1969. Characters wrestle with the changing political and social landscape of this American era expressed through everyday conversations as they gather in booths and the lunch counter. They exude strength with dignity and hope for a better future.

Yang, Gene. **Level Up**. First Second, 2011. In this graphic novel, Dennis Ouyang is visited by four angels who prompt him to give up his dream of playing video games professionally and pursue a medical degree as his late father wanted, but a crisis reveals the true nature of the angels and brings Dennis to a crossroads in his path to the future.

Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl, whose book stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family, the Jewish man they are hiding, and her neighbors. National Jewish Book Award 2006