

Middle Grade Novels

Prepared by: Haviva Donin Peters, Head Librarian

This list is for the more advanced reader and is geared to children between the ages of eight and twelve.

Avi. **City of orphans.** New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2011.

Summary: Maks Geless's sister Emma is in The Tombs, a juvenile jail of 1893 New York, for allegedly stealing a watch from the Waldorf Hotel. After fleeing the Plug Ugly Gang on his paper route, Maks finds himself in the company of an orphan girl named Willa and an eccentric lawyer named Bartleby, who both say they will help him prove his sister's innocence.

Babbitt, Natalie. **Jack Plank tells tales.** New York: Michael di Capua Books/Scholastic, 2007.

Summary: After he is forced off of a pirate ship because of his inability to plunder, Jack Plank tries to find work on land and shares his stories at dinner with the residents of the boarding house he's staying at.

Banks, Lynne Reid. **The Indian in the cupboard.** Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1980. Summary: A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Note: *Series*

Baratz-Logsted, Lauren. **Annie's adventures.** Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

Summary: On New Year's Eve, the octuplets Huit--Annie, Durinda, Georgia, Jackie, Marcia, Petal, Rebecca, and Zinnia--discover that their parents are missing, and then uncover a mysterious note instructing them that each must find her power and her gift if they want to know what happened to their parents. Note: *Series*

Barry, Dave. **Peter and the Starcatchers.** New York: Disney Editions/Hyperion Books for Children, 2004. Summary: Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island. Note: *Series*

Barnett, Mac. **The terrible two.** New York: Amulet Books, 2015. Summary: When master prankster Miles Murphy moves to sleepy Yawnee Valley, he challenges the local, mystery prankster in an epic battle of tricks but soon the two join forces to pull off the biggest prank ever seen. Note: *Series*

Beasley, Cassie. **Circus Mirandus.** New York, New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015. Summary: Inspired by his dying grandfather Ephraim's stories about the magical members of the Circus Mirandus and their special abilities, Micah Tuttle sets off in search of Lightbender, the owner of the circus, in hopes that he can persuade him to save his grandfather.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks: a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy,** 2005. New York: Knopf Distributed by Random House. Summary: While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Note: *Series*

Birney, Betty G. **The seven wonders of Sassafras Springs,** 2005. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Summary: Eben McAllister searches his small town to see if he can find anything comparable to the real Seven Wonders of the World.

Bosch, Pseudonymous. **The name of this book is secret.** New York: Little, Brown, 2007. Summary: Two young friends, Cass and Max-Ernest, are drawn into an adventure involving a magician who has vanished under strange circumstances. The two children solve ancient riddles and uncover a mysterious society bent on immortality.

Note: *Series*

Bowling, Dusti. **Insignificant events in the life of a cactus.** Sterling Children's Books, 2017. Summary: When thirteen-year-old Aven and her family take over a Western theme park in Arizona, she is forced into a new school. Being born with no arms, life is difficult enough, but with so many changes, Aven is desperate to connect. She then meets Connor, a boy with his own disability, and after finding a mysterious storage shed, Aven and Conner learn about the importance of friendship.

Clements, Andrew. **Lunch money.** New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005. Summary: Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a *Series* of comic books to sell at school.

Creech, Sharon. **Saving Winslow.** New York, NY, Joanna Cotler Books, 2018. Summary: Young Louie takes care of a sick newborn donkey despite reservations from his quirky friend, Nora. But Louie persists, names the animal Winslow, and nurses him back to health, proving the donkey is stronger than anyone imagined.

Creech, Sharon. **Ruby Holler.** New York: Joanna Cotler Books/Harper Trophy, 2004. Summary: Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

Davies, Jacqueline. **The lemonade war.** Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 2007. Summary: Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.

Note: *Series*

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn-Dixie.** Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2009. Summary: Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

DiCamillo, Kate. **The tale of Despereaux: being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread.** Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2003. Summary: The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Dowd, Siobhan. **The London Eye mystery.** New York: David Fickling Books, 2008. Summary: When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Edwards, Julie. **The last of the really great Whangdoodles.** New York: HarperCollins, 1974.
Summary: With help from an eccentric professor who gives their imaginations special intensive training, three children succeed in locating the last of the great Whangdoodles and granting his heart's desire.

Fitzhugh, Louise. **Harriet the spy.** New York: Delacorte Press, 2000.
Summary: When Harriet's classmates find her secret notebook and read what she has written about them, they decide to make life miserable for her.

Fleming, Ian. (2013). **Chitty Bang: the magical car.** Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press.
Summary: Two children persuade their inventor father to purchase and restore an old car which turns out to have magical powers.

Ford, Martyn. **The Imagination Box.** New York, Delacorte Press, 2016.
Summary: Everything starts with Professor Eisenstone's invention of a box that is said to turn whatever you imagine into reality. The problem is, he can't get it to work--until Tim, an orphan with a keen imagination, shows up and brings the finger monkey Phil to life. Then Eisenstone and the box are kidnapped, leaving it up to Tim, Phil, and Dee, the professor's granddaughter, to save the day.

Freeman, Martha. **The Secret Cookie Club.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016.
Summary: Four very different girls meet at Moonlight Ranch camp and decide to remain friends all year by exchanging letters and home-made cookies, using recipes their counselor's grandfather passed along.

Glaser, Karina Yan. **The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street.** Boston New York, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017.
Summary: Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.

Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's library.** New York: Random House, 2013.
Summary: A group of kids are excited to spend a fun night at a lock-in at Mr. Lemoncello's newly opened library. However, the event is quite literal--now they will have to band together to find a way out before it is too late. Note: *Series*

Gratz, Alan. **The Brooklyn nine: a novel in nine innings.** New York: Dial Books, 2009. Summary: Follows the fortunes of a German immigrant family through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball.

Green, Tim. **Baseball great.** New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2009.
Summary: All twelve-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences. Note: and other sports fiction by this author.

Griffiths, Andy. **The 26-story treehouse. New York,** Feiwel and Friends, 2014.
Summary: It used to be the Thirteen-Story Treehouse, but now Andy and Terry, two creative boys who write books together, have added on and it is Twenty-Six Stories now, complete with a skate ramp, the Maze of Doom, an ice cream parlor, and even an antigravity chamber--plenty of space to have adventures in. Note: *Series*

Gutman, Dan. **The homework machine**. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks. 2007, 2006. Summary: Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

Harris, Neil Patrick. **The magic misfits**. New York, Little, Brown and Company, 2017. Summary: Carter Locke is a runaway street magician who partners with a group of five other illusionists to save their town from the no-good B. B. Bosso and his team of carnies intent of stealing whatever they can.

Holm, Jennifer L. **The fourteenth goldfish**. New York: Random House, 2014. Summary: Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Turtle in paradise**. New York, Random House, 2010. Summary: In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in faraway Key West, Florida.

Hunter, Erin. **Into the wild**. New York: HarperCollins, 2003. Summary: Four clans of cats in the woods, who used to get along, are now disagreeing about hunting rights and the Thunderclan adopts an orange tomcat into their group as an apprentice. Note: *Series*

Ibbotson, Eva. **Island of the aunts**. New York: Puffin Books, 2001. Summary: As they get older, several sisters decide that they must kidnap children and bring them to their secluded island home to help with the work of caring for an assortment of unusual sea creatures.

Ibbotson, Eva. **The secret of platform 13**. New York: Puffin Books, 1999. Summary: Ode Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their Island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son who had been stolen as an infant.

Johnson, Varian. **The Parker inheritance**. New York, NY, Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018. Summary: When Candice finds the letter addressed to her grandmother inside a box in the attic, she's not sure she should read it. But curiosity pulls Candice into a mystery, generations before her time. And with the help of her neighbor, Brandon, she is determined to find the truth even if it means revealing her own deep secrets in the process.

Kelly, Katy. **Melonhead**. New York, Delacorte Press, 2009. Summary: In the Washington, D.C. neighborhood of Capitol Hill, Lucy Rose's friend Adam "Melonhead" Melon, a budding inventor with a knack for getting into trouble, enters a science contest that challenges students to recycle an older invention into a new invention. Note: *Series*

Kline, Christina Baker. **Orphan train girl**. Harper, 2017. Summary: As a child in early twentieth century America, Vivian Daly is sent to the Midwest toward an uncertain future. Decades later, Vivian has a life of her own on the East Coast, and when teenager Molly Ayer arrives to help her clean out her attic in order to fulfill her community service requirement, the two locate mementos and keepsakes from Vivian's past that reveal the two are not so different.

Law, Ingrid. **Savvy**. New York Boston, Mass.: Dial Books for Young Readers Walton Media, 2008. Summary: Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. Note: *Sequel: Scrumble*

Lawson, Jessica. **Nooks & crannies**. New York, New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015. Summary: Eleven-year-old Tabitha Crum, whose parents were just about to abandon her, is invited to the country estate of a wealthy countess along with five other children and told that one of them will become her heir.

Levine, Gail Carson. **A tale of Two Castles**. New York: Harper, 2011. Summary: Twelve-year-old Elodie journeys to Two Castles in hopes of studying acting but instead becomes apprentice to a dragon, who teaches her to be observant and use reasoning, thus helping her to uncover who is poisoning the king.

Lupica, Mike. **Point guard**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017. Summary: Gus is excited for basketball this year, but he is disappointed to find that his team's center, Steve Kerrigan, likes poking fun at him for his Dominican heritage, telling him to go play baseball instead. Then, when the team gets a new player--a girl and one of Gus' best friends--things get more complicated. Gus starts questioning if he belongs in this town and school at all.

Mass, Wendy. (2009). **11 birthdays**. New York: Scholastic Press. Summary: After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

Mass, Wendy. **The candymakers and the great chocolate chase**. New York, Little, Brown and Company, 2016. Summary: Logan, Miles, Philip, and Daisy are excited to see their new candy bar arrive--until they realize that something is wrong. When they learn that the Candymaker is conducting a tour to introduce the new candy bar, the kids see this as their chance to set things right. But on the road trip, an old secret is revealed, and the friends will have to trust each other to make it through the crisis. Note: *New book in Candymaker series*.

Meriano, Anna. **A dash of trouble**. New York, NY, Walden Pond Press, 2018. Summary: Leonora's family owns a popular bakery in Rose Hill, Texas, and they are busy preparing sweets for the annual Dia de los Muertos festival. Leo wants to help but she's told she's too young. Then Leo discovers that her mother, aunt, and four older sisters are brujas, Mexican witches, and they are putting magic into their baked goods. Leo is determined to follow their example, and when her best friend Caroline has a problem, Leo tries to help with a little spell of her own.

Messner, Kate. **Capture the flag**. New York: Scholastic Press, 2012. Summary: When the original Star Spangled Banner is stolen, seventh-graders Anne, José, and Henry, all descendants of the Silver Jaguar Society, pursue suspects on airport carts and through baggage handling tunnels while stranded at a Washington, D.C., airport during a snowstorm.

Morgen, A. M. **The inventors at no. 8**. New York, Little, Brown and Company, 2018. Summary: Twelve-year-olds George, the very unlucky third Lord of Devonshire, and his neighbor, scientist Ada Byron, join forces against a nefarious group of criminals who steal the map to a priceless family heirloom.

Mull, Brandon. **Fablehaven**. Salt Lake City, Utah: Shadow Mountain, 2006.

Summary: When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and that a battle between good and evil is looming. Note: *Series*

Pastis, Stephan. **Mistakes were made**. Somerville, Mass, Candlewick Press, 2013.

Summary: Timmy Failure, founded and head detective of his own detective agency, recounts his efforts to conduct investigations throughout his hometown, often with humorous results.

Note: *Series*

Peers, Bobbie. **William Wenton and the impossible puzzle**. Aladdin, 2017. Summary: William is a genius at solving puzzles, but he can't figure out why his family changed their name and moved from England to Norway eight years ago after his grandfather disappeared. In the new town, his parents told him to keep his puzzle-solving talent a secret. But when an exhibit called the Impossible Puzzle comes to the local museum, William can't resist trying to solve it, unknowingly risking much more than he could have imagined.

Pogue, David. **Abby Carnelia's one & only magical power**. New York, Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

Summary: After eleven-year-old Abby discovers that she has a completely useless magical power, she finds herself at a magic camp where her hope of finding others like herself is realized, but when a select group is taken to a different camp, a sinister plot comes to light.

Riley, James. **Half upon a time**. New York, Aladdin, 2010. Summary: In the village of Giant's Hand Jack's grandfather has been pushing him to find a princess and get married, so when a young lady falls out of the sky wearing a shirt that says "Punk Princess," and she tells Jack that her grandmother, who looks suspiciously like the long-missing Snow White, has been kidnapped, Jack decides to help her. Note: *Series*

Rowling, J. K. **Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone**. New York: A.A. Levine Books, 1998.

Summary: Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. Note: *Series*

Sanders, Ted. **The box and the dragonfly**. New York, NY: Harper, 2015. Summary: Twelve-year-old Horace F. Andrews and his new friend Chloe rely on a magical time-traveling box and a dragonfly talisman to fulfill their roles as Keepers of the Tan'ji, a collection of powerful ancient artifacts sought after by malevolent enemies.

Selznick, Brian. **The invention of Hugo Cabret: a novel in words and pictures**. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007. Summary: 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.

Sheinmel, Courtney. **Chloe on the bright side**. New York, Bloomsbury, 2016.

Summary: Rejected by the cool girls' club, fifth-grader Chloe Silver, new in town after her parents' divorce, forms a different type of club, with offbeat Lucy Tanaka and brainy Theo Barnes, that tests out different acts of kindness on classmates. Note: *The Kindness Club series*

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The mysterious Benedict Society**. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2007.

Summary: After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. Note: *Series*