



7th into 8th Grade 2023 Summer Reading List

=====

Prepared by SFWS Grade School Librarian Liz Perry for Class Teacher Ganga Sivasankaran

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Adamson, Joy | <i>Born Free: A Lioness of Two Worlds</i> | Joy Adamson brings to the world the story of her life alongside Elsa the lioness, whom she rescued as an orphaned cub, and raised at her home in Kenya. But as Elsa had been born free, Joy made the heartbreaking decision that she must be returned to the wild when she was old enough to fend for herself. |
| Alcott, Louisa May | <i>Double Life: Newly Discovered Thrillers of Louisa May Alcott</i> | The five stories in this collection, published in serial form in the 1860s, were recently found to have been written anonymously by Alcott. Set against florid, romantic Victorian backdrops are plots that mine popular themes of the day: mesmerism, Indian cults, death vows, doomed love. Written to hold the attention of a newspaper audience, the tales move along briskly. Readers will be immediately drawn into "A Pair of Eyes," about a painter spellbound by his model for Lady Macbeth. "The Fate of the Forrests," which hinges on a family curse, and "A Double Tragedy: An Actor's Story," a story of jealousy and revenge set in a theatrical company. Based on <i>The Tempest</i> , "Ariel, A Legend of the Lighthouse" has an evocative, stormy coastal setting, and a familiar plot of love lost and then refound on the brink of death. "Taming the Tartar" has lively characters and an offbeat ending, where its irrepressible heroine gets the last word. |
| Alcott, Louisa May | <i>Little Women</i> | Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?
[JFIC ALC] |
| Alexander, Kwame | <i>The Crossover</i> | Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. [FIC ALE] |
| Allende, Isabel | <i>City of the Beasts</i> | Equal parts magical realism and deft political commentary, <i>City of the Beasts</i> , the first novel of Isabel Allende's page-turning adventure trilogy, takes young Alexander Cold on an adventure in the Amazon to find the legendary Beast and its home, El Dorado. This exciting adventure is packed with daring feats, monster-like beings, intrigue, and mystery. |

Almond, David	<i>Skellig</i>	<p>Ten-year-old Michael was looking forward to moving into a new house. But now his baby sister is ill, his parents are frantic, and Doctor Death has come to call. Michael feels helpless. Then he steps into the crumbling garage. . . . What is this thing beneath the spiders' webs and dead flies? A human being, or a strange kind of beast never before seen? The only person Michael can confide in is his new friend, Mina. Together, they carry the creature out into the light, and Michael's world changes forever.</p> <p>[FIC ALM]</p>
Applegate, Katherine	<i>Home of the Brave</i>	<p>Kek comes from Africa where he lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived. Now she's missing, and Kek has been sent to a new home. In America, he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter -- cold and unkind. But slowly he makes friends: a girl in foster care, an old woman with a rundown farm, and a sweet, sad cow that reminds Kek of home. As he waits for word of his mother's fate, Kek weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country.</p>
Beagle, Peter S.	<i>Last Unicorn, The</i>	<p>She was magical, beautiful beyond belief -- and completely alone... The unicorn had lived since before memory in a forest where death could touch nothing. Maidens who caught a glimpse of her glory were blessed by enchantment they would never forget. But outside her wondrous realm, dark whispers and rumors carried a message she could not ignore: "Unicorns are gone from the world." Aided by a bumbling magician and an indomitable spinster, she set out to learn the truth. but she feared even her immortal wisdom meant nothing in a world where a mad king's curse and terror incarnate lived only to stalk the last unicorn to her doom.</p>
Bell, Juliet	<i>Kepler's Dream</i>	<p>While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library. [F BEL]</p>
Bois, William Penedu	<i>Twenty-One Balloons, The</i>	<p>Professor William Waterman Sherman intends to fly across the Pacific Ocean. But through a twist of fate, he lands on Krakatoa, and discovers a world of unimaginable wealth, eccentric inhabitants, and incredible balloon inventions. [J DUB]</p>
Bradbury, Ray	<i>Dandelion Wine</i>	<p>The summer of '28 was a vintage season for a growing boy. A summer of green apple trees, mowed lawns, and new sneakers. Of half-burnt firecrackers, of gathering dandelions, of Grandma's belly-busting dinner. It was a summer of sorrows and marvels and gold-fuzzed bees. A magical, timeless summer in the life of a twelve-year-old boy named Douglas Spaulding, remembered forever by the incomparable Ray Bradbury.</p>

Bradbury, Ray	<i>Martian Chronicles, The</i>	In <i>The Martian Chronicles</i> , Ray Bradbury, imagines a place of hope, dreams, and metaphor; of crystal pillars and fossil seas, where a fine dust settles on the great empty cities of a vanished, devastated civilization. Earthmen conquer Mars and then are conquered by it, lulled by dangerous lies of comfort and familiarity, and enchanted by the lingering glamor of an ancient, mysterious native race. In this classic work of fiction, Bradbury exposes our ambitions, weaknesses, and ignorance in a strange and breathtaking world where man does not belong.
Buck, Pearl S.	<i>Big Wave and Other Stories, The</i>	Jiya lived in a fishing village on a strip of seashore in Japan. High above, on the side of a mountain, was the farm where Kino lived. When the huge tidal wave came and swept the tiny fishing village away, Jiya was the only one of his family to escape the tragedy. He came to live with Kino and worked with him on the farm. But when he had grown older - and was ready to marry Kino's sister - he decided to return to the old beach, build a home there and be a fisherman. Now he knew how to be ready if the big wave ever came again; he knew how to face it and not be afraid. [Fic]
Bullard, Lisa	<i>Turn Left at the Cow</i>	Thirteen-year-old Trav has always wondered about his dead-before-he-was-born dad. But when he heads from California to his grandmother's house in rural Minnesota, hoping to learn about his past, he gets more than he bargained for. It turns out his dad was involved in a bank robbery right before he mysteriously disappeared, and the loot from the take is still missing. Along with Kenny and Iz, the kids next door, Trav embarks on a search for the cash. But the trio's adventure quickly turns dangerous when it becomes clear that someone else is looking for the money, someone who won't give up without a fight!
Byars, Betsy	<i>Summer of the Swans, The</i>	All summer Sara Godfrey has fretted over herself, her impossible body, her terrible new haircut. One moment she's elated, the next, she's in tears. And she can't figure out why. Maybe her wildly changing moods are tied to the sudden and unaccountable appearance of the swans, which hold the rapt attention of Charlie, Sara's mentally handicapped brother, who she loves far more than herself these days. In fact, it will be the sudden disappearance of Charlie that will compel Sara to abandon her own small, annoying miseries, and lose herself in searching for him. In her anguish, Sara turns to Joe Melby, whom she has long despised, and together they search through the dense woods and rough fields to find him. Sara knows that she will never be the same again.
Byars, Betsy Cromer	<i>Burning Questions of Bingo Brown, The</i>	When Bingo has to keep a notebook for school, all he can come up with are questions. Like how could I fall in love with three girls in three minutes? But not even his teacher, Mr. Mark, has the answers. In fact, Mr. Mark has been acting pretty weird lately, and he's getting weirder. Is there more wrong with Mr. Mark than Bingo can handle?
Christopher, John	<i>Tripods Trilogy, The</i>	Long ago the Tripods, gigantic three-legged machines, descended upon Earth and took control. They used "Caps," administered ceremoniously near each child's 14th birthday, to control humans' brains and keep them docile. Now there is pleasant life in villages, little technology, and no war--but there is no freedom either. In this powerful and suspenseful series, 13-year-old Will Parker and his

friends deal with hunger, humanity, envy, and pride as they struggle to find out all they can about the Tripods and overthrow their rule. Written by John Christopher, author of many juvenile science fiction and fantasy books, The Tripods Trilogy is sure to make a science fiction fan out of any reader--young or old. The White Mountains, The City of Gold and Lead, and The Pool of Fire, the chilling conclusion to the series that poses the question: Who would rule the world if it were freed from the aliens? **[FIC CHR]**

Coatsworth,
Elizabeth

Golden Horseshoe, The

In 1360 AD, King Magnus Eirikson rules over a united Sweden and Norway, a Christian Scandinavia. Dark rumor has reached the king that the colonies in Greenland have fallen back into pagan ritual, along with an alarming report that the inhabitants of the Western Settlement have mysteriously disappeared, with farmsteads and churches left deserted. Magnus entrusts Paul Knutson with a ship and forty strong men to make contact with Greenland and to verify the truth of these stories. Among these men are Olav Sigurdsson, a young man sailing to prove his bravery to the king and to reclaim his father's lost honor, and Eirik the Laplander, deeply loyal to Olav's family, but a pagan viewed with suspicion by the other Christian Scandinavians. Upon confirming the disappearance of a whole settlement, Paul and his party follow a sparse trail of clues south across the seas toward Vinland, convinced that some of the colonists may still be alive. As the valiant band perseveres in the pursuit of answers for its king, going ever deeper south and westward into an unknown continent, Olav's desire for justice for his father finally merges with the desire for success in their difficult quest.

Connor, Leslie

***Anybody here seen
Frenchie?***

When her best friend Frenchie, who is autistic and doesn't speak, disappears after they encounter a rare piebald deer in the Maine woods, Aurora feels that she's to blame and does everything she can to find him. **[J CON]**

Creech, Sharon

Walk Two Moons

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle's mother has disappeared. While tracing her steps on a car trip from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents, Salamanca tells a story to pass the time about a friend named Phoebe Winterbottom whose mother vanished and who received secret messages after her disappearance. One of them read, "Don't judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins." Despite her father's warning that she is "fishing in the air," Salamanca hopes to bring her home. By drawing strength from her Native American ancestry, she is able to face the truth about her mother. **[FIC CRE]**

Cross, Gillian

Wolf

He came in the early morning, at about half past two. His feet padded along the balcony, slinking silently past the closed doors of the other flats. No one glimpsed his shadow flickering across the curtain or noticed the uneven rhythm of his steps. But he woke Cassy. And in the morning, Cassy is sent away. She lives with her nan, but whenever the mysterious stranger comes she is packed off to stay with her mother. It has happened before, over and over again, and there's never any explanation. But this time it's different. This time she is being followed. And the wolf who stalks her through the streets of London disturbs her waking mind and intrudes into her dreams.

Cujec, Carol / Goddard, Peyton	<i>Real</i>	Sometimes Charity cannot control her body and because she has low-functioning autism, Charity cannot communicate her thoughts to anyone else, even though she feels all of the frustrations, fears, and doubts of a typical thirteen-year-old. [F CUJ]
Cushman, Karen	<i>Matilda Bone</i>	Karen Cushman assembles a cast of unforgettable characters in a fascinating and pungent setting: the medical quarter of a medieval English Village. To Blood and Bone Alley, home of leech, barber-surgeon, and apothecary, comes Matilda, raised by a priest to be pious and learned, and now destined to assist Red Peg the Bonesetter. To Matilda's dismay, her work will not involve Latin or writing, but lighting the fire, going to market, mixing plasters and poultices, and helping Peg treat patients. Appalled by her new surroundings, Matilda yearns for the days at the manor when all she did was study and pray. Lonely and misunderstood, she seems destined for a fate as tragic as that of any of the sharp-tongued saints she turns to for advice. Filled with witty dialogue, Matilda Bone is a compelling comic novel about a girl who learns to see herself and others clearly, to laugh, and to live contentedly in this world. [JFIC CUS]
de Angeli, Marguerite	<i>Door in the Wall, The</i>	The bells clang above plague-ridden London as Robin lies helpless, cold, and hungry. The great house is empty, his father is fighting the Scots in the north, his mother is traveling with the Queen, and the servants have fled. He calls for help but only the stones hear his cries. Suddenly someone else is in the house, coming towards Robin. It is Brother Luke, a wandering friar, who takes Robin to St. Mark's Monastery, where he will be cared for until his father sends for him. At last, a message comes--Robin is to meet his father at Castle Lindsay. The journey is dangerous, and the castle is located near the hostile Welsh border. Perched high in the hills, the castle appears invincible. But it is not. Under the cover of a thick fog the Welsh attack the castle. And Robin is the only one who can save it..[Fic]
Dionne, Erin	<i>Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet, The</i>	All Hamlet Kennedy wants is to be a normal eighth grader. But with parents like hers - Shakespearean scholars, who, actually dress in Elizabethan regalia . . . in public! - it's not that easy. As if they weren't strange enough, her genius seven-year-old sister will be attending her middle school, and is named the new math tutor. Then, when the Shakespeare Project is announced, Hamlet reveals herself to be an amazing actress. Even though she wants to be average, Hamlet can no longer hide from the fact that she- like her family - is anything but ordinary.
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>Boys' Sherlock Holmes</i>	Not just for boys, this collection of Sherlock Holmes stories includes: A Study in Scarlet; The Sign of Four; and Selected Short Stories: The Adventure of the Speckled Band; The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor; The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet; The Adventure of the Copper Beeches; The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>White Company, The</i>	"Now order the ranks, and fling wide the banners, for our souls are God's and our bodies the king's, and our swords for Saint George and for England!" With

that rousing proclamation, twelve hundred knights ride into battle, accompanied by the stalwart archers known as the White Company. Fueled by their appetite for glory, this motley crew of freebooters stands united in their unwavering devotion to the company commander, Sir Nigel Loring. Short, bald, and extremely nearsighted, Sir Nigel's unprepossessing appearance belies his warrior's heart and his chivalrous nature. The rollicking adventures of his company during the Hundred Years War center around Sir Nigel's loyal squire, Alleyne Edricson. Raised in the sheltered confines of a monastery, young Alleyne comes of age amid the rough-and-tumble of armed conflict and the bewildering ways of courtly love. Best known as the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was also a passionate historian. *The White Company* was his favorite among his own works.

Doyle, Arthur Conan *Sir Nigel*

The background story to Doyle's earlier novel *The White Company*, describes the early life of that book's hero Nigel Loring, a knight in the service of King Edward III in the first phase of the Hundred Years' War. The character is loosely based on the historical knight Neil Loring. Plot: The tale, at its outset, traces the fortunes of the family of Loring of the Manor of Tilford in Surrey, many of whose scions had been prominent in the service of the Norman and Angevin Kings of England, against the backdrop of the Black Death. The tale starts with the problems the family and its last scion, Nigel Loring, face at the hands of the monks of Waverley Abbey, up to the coming of Sir John Chandos. Playing the host to King Edward III of England, Nigel asks to be taken into his service, a request that is complied with by his being made squire to Sir John Chandos. In order to make himself worthy of the hand of the Lady Mary, daughter of Sir John Buttethorn, he vows to perform three deeds of honor to her.

Dumas, Alexandre *Three Musketeers, The*

Just arrived in Paris and looking for adventure, D'Artagnan finds more than he bargains for. Within hours he has offended three of the King's musketeers - and has to duel with all of them! Within days he's in love...and embroiled with spies, politicians, English noblemen, and being seduced by the most beautiful - and deadly - woman in France: Milady de Winter! Filled with intrigue, mystery, passion, comedy and deadly peril, "The Three Musketeers" is the original swashbuckling adventure! **[843/.7]**

Fforde, Jasper *Last Dragonslayer, The*

In the good old days, magic was indispensable. But now magic is fading: Drain cleaner is cheaper than a spell, and magic carpets are used for pizza delivery. Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Strange runs Kazam, an employment agency for magicians, but it's hard to stay in business when magic is drying up. And then the visions start, predicting the death of the world's last dragon at the hands of an unnamed Dragonslayer. If the visions are true, everything will change for Kazam, and for Jennifer. **[F FFO]**

Garner, Alan *Owl Service, The*

Something is scratching around in the attic above Alison's room. Yet the only thing up there is a stack of grimy old plates. Alison and her stepbrother, Roger, discover that the flowery patterns on the plates, when traced onto paper, can be fitted together to create owls-owls that disappear when no one is watching. With each vanished owl, strange events begin to happen around Alison, Roger,

and the caretaker's son, Gwyn. As the kids uncover the mystery of the owl service, they become trapped within a local legend, playing out roles in a tragic love story that has repeated itself for generations... a love story that has always ended in disaster. **[FIC GAR]**

Garner, Alan

*Weirdstone of
Brisingamen, The*

When Colin and Susan are pursued by eerie creatures across Alderley Edge, they are saved by the Wizard. He takes them into the caves of Fundindelve, where he watches over the enchanted sleep of one hundred and forty knights. But the heart of the magic that binds them "Firefrost", also known as the Weirdstone of Brisngamen has been lost. The Wizard has been searching for the stone for more than 100 years, but the forces of evil are closing in, determined to possess and destroy its special power. Colin and Susan realize at last that they are the key to the Weirdstone's return. But how can two children defeat the Morrigan and her deadly brood?

George, Jean
Craighead

Julie of the Wolves

Miyax, like many adolescents, is torn. But unlike most, her choices may determine whether she lives or dies. At 13, an orphan, and unhappily married, Miyax runs away from her husband's parents' home, hoping to reach San Francisco and her pen pal. But she becomes lost in the vast Alaskan tundra, with no food, no shelter, and no idea which is the way to safety. Now, more than ever, she must look hard at who she really is. Is she Miyax, Eskimo girl of the old ways? Or is she Julie (her "gussak"-white people-name), the modernized teenager who must mock the traditional customs? And when a pack of wolves begins to accept her into their community, Miyax must learn to think like a wolf as well. If she trusts her Eskimo instincts, will she stand a chance of surviving? **[F GEO]**

George, Jean
Craighead

Shark Beneath the Reef

Like his father and grandfather before him, 14-year-old Tomás Torres dreams of catching a great shark in the Sea of Cortez -- and he will catch it, although there are other things he should be thinking about. With an education, he could someday become a marine biologist. Tomás's family want him to stay in school. But Tomás knows he will be more help to them if he leaves school now to become a fisherman. Should he drop out? The choice is Tomás alone -- a difficult one for a boy just becoming a man. It is only underwater, in a confrontation with the fisherman's greatest prize and worst enemy, that Tomás finds the strength to make his decision.

George, Jean
Craighead

Water Sky

"Nukik! Lincoln gasped, his skin tingling. Could this be happening! Had he just seen a whale with a white tail? Was it now going to give itself to him, as Vincent had said? Lincoln still could not believe it. He had had only one thing in mind when he made the long trip from Massachusetts to Barrow, Alaska, and that was to find his Uncle Jack. He thought Vincent Ologak, an Eskimo whaling captain, could tell him where to find him, for Vincent was the man Uncle Jack had planned to see when he went to Alaska to help save the bowhead whale from extinction. But Vincent Ologak cannot or will not give Lincoln a straight answer. As far as he is concerned, Lincoln is there for a very different purpose from the one he himself imagines: A whale is coming to Lincoln, a whale that will end two years of waiting and suffering for Vincent's people. **[FIC GEO]**

Gidwitz, Adam	<i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i>	Beloved bestselling author Adam Gidwitz makes his long awaited return with his first new world since his hilarious and critically acclaimed Grimm series. Featuring manuscript illuminations throughout by illustrator Hatem Aly and filled with Adam's trademark style and humor, <i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i> is bold storytelling that's richly researched and adventure-packed. [FIC GID]
Golden, Christopher and Lebbon, Tim	<i>Sea Wolves, The</i>	The world knows Jack London as a writer who lived his own real-life adventures. But there are some parts of his life that have remained hidden for many years, things even he couldn't set down in writing. Terrifying, mysterious, bizarre, and magical--these are the Secret Journeys of Jack London. Clinging to life after he is captured in an attack by savage pirates, Jack is unprepared for what he faces at the hands of the crew and their charismatic, murderous captain, Ghost. For these mariners are not mortal men but hungry beasts chasing gold and death across the North Pacific. The second installment in the adventures of the young Jack London is a masterpiece of tension and emotion.
Gordon, Sheila	<i>Waiting for the Rain</i>	Frikkie and Tengo have been friends since childhood. Frikkie is a white, landowner's nephew. Tengo is black and works on Frikkie's uncle's farm. Tengo has dreams of freedom, and soon the two friends are torn by the dictates of South African apartheid.
Goudge, Elizabeth	<i>Little White Horse, The</i>	When orphaned young Maria Merryweather arrives at Moonacre Manor, she feels as if she's entered Paradise. Her new guardian, her uncle Sir Benjamin, is kind and funny; the Manor itself feels like home right away; and every person and animal she meets is like an old friend. But there is something incredibly sad beneath all this beauty and comfort, a tragedy that happened years ago, shadowing Moonacre Manor and the town around it, and Maria is determined to learn about it, change it, and give her own life story a happy ending. But what can one solitary girl do? [FIC GOU]
Grove, S.E.	<i>Glass Sentence, The</i>	She has only seen the world through maps. She had no idea they were so dangerous. Boston, 1891. Sophia Tims comes from a family of explorers and cartographers who, for generations, have been traveling and mapping the New World, a world changed by the Great Disruption of 1799, when all the continents were flung into different time periods. Eight years ago, her parents left her with her uncle Shadrack, the foremost cartographer in Boston, and went on an urgent mission. They never returned. Life with her brilliant, absent-minded, adored uncle has taught Sophia to take care of herself. Then Shadrack is kidnapped. And Sophia, who has rarely been outside of Boston, is the only one who can search for him. Together with Theo, a refugee from the West, she travels over rough terrain and uncharted ocean, encounters pirates and traders, and relies on a combination of Shadrack's maps, common sense, and her own slantwise powers of observation. But even as Sophia and Theo try to save Shadrack's life, they are in danger of losing their own. <i>The Glass Sentence</i> plunges readers into a time and place they will not want to leave, and introduces them to a heroine and hero they will take to their hearts. [FIC GRO]

Haggard, H. Rider	<i>King Solomon's Mines</i>	King Solomon's Mines tells of a search of an unexplored region of Africa by a group of adventurers led by Allan Quatermain for the missing brother of one of the party. It is the first English adventure novel set in Africa, and considered to be the genesis of the Lost World literary genre.
Haggard, H. Rider	<i>Morning Star</i>	First published in 1910, this novel by best-selling author Sir H. Rider Haggard tells the story of the Egypt's queen Neter-Tua, daughter of the God Amen-Ra, The Morning Star. The Novel follows the queen from her birth to her eventual maturation.
Haggard, H. Rider	<i>World's Desire, The</i>	<i>The World's Desire</i> is the story of the hero Odysseus, mainly referred to as "the Wanderer" for the bulk of the novel. Odysseus returns home to Ithaca after his second, unsung journey. He is hoping to find a "home at peace, wife dear and true, and his son worthy of him". Unfortunately, he does not find any of the three, instead his home is ravaged by a plague and his wife, Penelope, has been slain. As he grieves, he is visited by an old flame, Helen of Troy, for whom the novel is named. Helen leads him to equip himself with the Bow of Eurytus and embark on his last journey. This is an exhausting journey in which he encounters a Pharaoh who is wed to a murderess beauty, a holy and helpful priest, and his own fate.
Hall, Lynn	<i>Danza!</i>	Hall's love of horses is evident in this story of a Puerto Rican boy and a magnificent Paso Fino stallion . The characterization of Paulo and his relationships with Danza, his grandfather, and Major Kessler are beautifully depicted.
Hamilton, Virginia	<i>M.C. Higgins, the Great</i>	Mayo Cornelius Higgins sits on his gleaming, forty-foot steel pole, towering over his home on Sarah's Mountain. Stretched before him are rolling hills and shady valleys. But behind him lie the wounds of strip mining, including a mountain of rubble that may one day fall and bury his home. M.C. dreams of escape for himself and his family. And, one day, atop his pole, he thinks he sees it -- two strangers are making their way toward Sarah's Mountain. One has the ability to make M.C.'s mother famous. And the other has the kind of freedom that M.C. has never even considered.
Hawes, Charles Boardman	<i>Dark Frigate, The</i>	In seventeenth century England, a terrible accident forces orphaned Philip Marsham to flee London in fear for his life. Bred to the sea, he signs on with the "Rose of Devon," a dark frigate bound for the quiet shores of Newfoundland. Philip's bold spirit and knowledge of the sea soon win him his captain's regard. But when the "Rose of Devon" is seized in midocean by a devious group of men plucked from a floating wreck, Philip is forced to accompany these "gentlemen of fortune" on their murderous expeditions. Like it or not, Philip Marsham is now a pirate--with only the hangman awaiting his return to England. With its bloody battles, brutal buccaneers, and bold, spirited hero, this rousing tale will enthrall young listeners in search of seafaring adventure.
Hesse, Karen	<i>Stowaway</i>	It is known that in the summer of 1768, Captain James Cook sailed from England on H.M.S Endeavour, beginning a three-year voyage around the world on a

secret mission to discover an unknown continent at the bottom of the globe. What is less known is that a boy by the name of Nicholas Young was a stowaway on that ship. Karen Hesse re-creates Cook's momentous voyage through the eyes of this remarkable boy, creating a fictional journal filled with fierce hurricanes, warring natives, and disease, as Nick discovers new lands, incredible creatures, and lifelong friends.

Hilton, James	<i>Goodbye Mr. Chips</i>	<i>Goodbye, Mr. Chips</i> is a short novel about the life of a schoolteacher, Mr. Chipping, at a second-rate, boys' boarding school in England. He overcomes his initial shyness and inability to connect with his students. Over the course of 43 years, he becomes an inspiring educator and strict disciplinarian, while gradually developing a sense of humor.
Hobbs, Will	<i>Downriver</i>	Will Hobbs's classic tale of whitewater adventure. No adults, no permit, no river map. After fifteen-year-old Jessie gets sent to Discovery Unlimited, an outdoor education program, she and six companions borrow the company's rafting gear and take off down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon on their own. Floating beneath sheer red walls, camping on white sand beaches, and exploring caves and waterfalls, Jessie and the others are having the time of their lives, at first. But when they're pursued by helicopters, they boldly push on into the black-walled inner gorge, the heart of the Grand Canyon, only to encounter huge rapids, bone-chilling rain, injuries, and conflict within the group. What will be the consequences of their reckless adventure? This riveting novel includes an author's note about his own rafting experiences and has been ranked by the American Library Association as a 100 Best of the Best for twenty-five years, a testament to the enduring popularity of the action and adventure that await in <i>Downriver</i> .
Hobbs, Will	<i>Far North</i>	From the window of the small floatplane, fifteen-year-old Gabe Rogers is getting his first look at Canada's magnificent Northwest Territories with Raymond Providence, his roommate from boarding school. Below is the spectacular Nahanni River -- wall-to-wall whitewater racing between sheer cliffs and plunging over Virginia Falls. The pilot sets the plane down on the lake-like surface of the upper river for a closer look at the thundering falls. Suddenly the engine quits. The only sound is a dull roar downstream, as the Cessna drifts helplessly toward the falls. With the brutal subarctic winter fast approaching, Gabe and Raymond soon find themselves stranded in Deadmen Valley. Trapped in a frozen world of moose, wolves, and bears, two boys from vastly different cultures come to depend on each other for their very survival.
Holm, Jennifer L.	<i>Boston Jane: An Adventure</i>	1855. The unknown wilds of the Pacific Northwest, a land not yet tamed, and certainly not fitting for a proper young lady! Yet that's just where Miss Jane Peck finds herself. After a tumultuous childhood on the wrong side of Philadelphia high society, Jane is trying to put aside her reckless ways and be accepted as a proper young lady. And so, when handsome William Baldt proposes, she joyfully accepts and prepares to join him in a world away from her home in Washington Territory. But Miss Hepplewhite's straitlaced finishing school was hardly preparation for the treacherous months at sea it takes to get there, the haunting

loss she'll face on the way, or the colorful characters and crude life that await her on the frontier.

Holt, K.A.	<i>Rhyme Schemer</i>	Kevin has a bad attitude. He has a real knack for rubbing people the wrong way. And he's even figured out a secret way to do it with poems. But what happens when the tables are turned and he is the one getting picked on? Using elements of subversive found poetry, <i>Rhyme Schemer</i> is an accessible novel in verse that is both touching and hilarious, and will inspire voracious and reluctant readers alike. It is a celebration of the power of words and their ability to transform lives.
Holt, Kimberly Willis	<i>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</i>	The red words painted on the trailer caused quite a buzz around town and before an hour was up, half of Antler was standing in line with two dollars clutched in hand to see the fattest boy in the world. Toby Wilson is having the toughest summer of his life. It's the summer his mother leaves for good; the summer his best friend's brother returns from Vietnam in a coffin. And the summer that Zachary Beaver, the fattest boy in the world, arrives in their sleepy Texas town. While it's a summer filled with heartache of every kind, it's also a summer of new friendships gained and old friendships renewed. And it's Zachary Beaver who turns the town of Antler upside down and leaves everyone, especially Toby, changed forever.
Hunt, Irene	<i>Up a Road Slowly</i>	Julie would remember her happy days at Aunt Cordelia's forever. Running through the spacious rooms, singing on rainy nights in front of the fireplace. There were the rides in the woods on Peter the Great and the races with Danny Trevort. There were the precious moments alone in her room at night, gazing at the sea of stars. But there were sad times too, the painful jealousy Julie felt after her sister married, the tragic death of a schoolmate and the bitter disappointment of her first love. Julie was having a hard time believing life was fair. But Julie would have to be fair to herself before she could even think about new beginnings.
Jacobson, Jennifer Richard	<i>Paper Things</i>	When forced to choose between staying with her guardian and being with her big brother, Ari chose her big brother. There's just one problem--Gage doesn't actually have a place to live. When Ari's mother died four years ago, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. So, when nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it's been two months, and Gage still hasn't found them an apartment. This nuanced story of hiding in plain sight may have readers thinking about homelessness in a whole new way.
Johnson, Varian	<i>The Parker Inheritance</i>	Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure--but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her

grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert. **[F JOH]**

Jones, Traci L.

Standing Against the Wind

Patrice Williams was happy living in Georgia with her grandmother, who called her "cocoa grandbaby." Then her mother lured her to Chicago and ended up in jail. Now Patrice lives with her Auntie Mae, and her new nickname is "Puffy" - thanks to her giant poof of hair. But Patrice's hair isn't the only reason she sticks out: she cares about her grades and strives for the best. That's why Monty Freeman, another eighth grader who lives in the building, asks Patrice to tutor his little brother. Even though Monty's friends make Patrice uneasy, Monty himself is friendly, confident, and surprisingly smart. When he becomes her guardian angel, Patrice begins to think something stronger than friendship might be growing between them. Still, nothing will stop her from applying for a scholarship at prestigious Dogwood Academy - her ticket out of the project and a school populated by gangs and drug runners. Traci L. Jones presents a girl with grit she never knew she had, and a boy so inspired by her that he begins to take pride in his own abilities. **[FIC JON]**

Kelly, Eric Philbrook

Trumpeter of Krakow, The

Set in fifteenth-century Poland, the action centers on young Joseph Charnetski, a boy born into a noble family in the Ukraine. As the story begins, political strife along the border has cost the Charnetski family their home. They flee to Krakow with the only thing that they managed to salvage —a priceless family heirloom called the Great Tarnov Crystal. Reputed to have strange magical powers that will guarantee victory to anyone who possesses it, the Crystal must be delivered to the king before it falls into the wrong hands. Only the inspiring example of the young trumpeter of Krakow, who met his death when he alerted the city to an invasion by the Tartars, gives Joseph the courage he needs to complete his mission.

Kipling, Rudyard

Captains Courageous

At the start of *Captains Courageous*, one of literature's most beloved stories of the sea, a spoiled rich boy is literally swept away, dashed overboard from an ocean liner. Luckily, young Harvey Cheyne is rescued by a passing fishing vessel. As it turns out, Harvey's apparent misfortune in tumbling from a life of pampered luxury into the humble company of a fishing schooner becomes a blessing in disguise. Compelled by the captain to earn his keep, Harvey loses his affectations as he learns the rewards of an honest day's labor amid the gruff and hearty companionship of the crewmen, who teach him to be worth his salt as they fish the waters off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

Korman, Gordon

Masterminds: Payback

The thrilling finale to the New York Times-bestselling Masterminds series from middle grade star author Gordon Korman. Perfect for fans of Rick Riordan and James Patterson. After a serious betrayal from one of their former friends, the clones of Project Osiris are on the run again. Now separated into pairs, Eli and Tori and Amber and Malik are fighting to survive in the real world. Amber and Malik track down the one person they think can help them prove the existence of Project Osiris, notorious mob boss Gus Alabaster, also known as Malik's DNA donor. But as Malik gets pulled into the criminal world, tantalized by hints of a real family, his actions put him and Amber into greater danger. Eli and Tori get

sucked into even bigger conspiracies as they hunt down Project Osiris's most closely guarded secrets, who does Eli's DNA come from? With a surprising new ally and another cross-country adventure, the four will have to work together to overcome the worst parts of themselves if they are going to end Project Osiris once and for all. **[jFIC KOR]**

Krumgold, Joseph	<i>...And Now Miguel</i>	He wanted to be treated like a man, not a child. Every summer the men of the Chavez family go on a long and difficult sheep drive to the mountains. All the men, that is, except for Miguel. All year long, twelve-year-old Miguel tries to prove that he, too, is up to the challenge, that he, too is ready to take the sheep into his beloved Sangre de Cristo Mountains. When his deeds go unnoticed, he prays to San Ysidro, the saint for farmers everywhere. And his prayer is answered . . . but with devastating consequences.
Kuzki, Shaw	<i>Soul Lanterns</i>	This is a moving, somber look at the 1945 Hiroshima nuclear bombing, seen mostly through the eyes of Hiroshima junior high school students -- "second-generation atomic-bomb survivors" -- as they attend the 1970 Peace Memorial ceremony and prepare for a cultural festival. Friends Nozomi, Shun, and Kozo have a vague idea of what happened during World War II, but they become more curious when Nozomi has an unsettling encounter with an elderly woman who seems to mistake her for someone else [F KUZ]
Latham, Jean Lee	<i>Carry On, Mr. Bowditch</i>	A fictionalized biography of the mathematician and astronomer who realized his childhood desire to become a ship's captain and authored <i>The American Practical Navigator</i> . [BIO LAT]
Le Guin, Ursula K.	<i>Wizard of Earthsea, A</i>	The first of the six <i>Earthsea</i> titles. Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but in his youth he was the reckless Sparrowhawk. In his hunger for power and knowledge, he tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance. [Fic]
L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>Meet the Austins</i>	For a family with four kids, two dogs, assorted cats, and a constant stream of family and friends dropping by, life in the Austin family home has always been remarkably steady and contented. When a family friend suddenly dies in a plane crash, the Austins open their home to an orphaned girl, Maggy Hamilton. The Austin children, Vicky, John, Suzy, and Rob, do their best to be generous and welcoming to Maggy. Vicky knows she should feel sorry for Maggy, but having sympathy for Maggy is no easy thing. Maggy is moody and spoiled; she breaks toys, wakes people in the middle of the night screaming, discourages homework, and generally causes chaos in the Austin household. How can one small child disrupt a family of six? Will life ever return to normal?
L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>Wrinkle in Time, A</i>	Thirteen-year-old Meg Murry's family includes her beautiful scientist mother, her absent scientist father, her athletic 10-year-old twin brothers, Sandy and Dennys; and her five-year-old brother Charles Wallace Murry, a child prodigy genius who can sometimes read Meg's mind. Unable to sleep during a thunderstorm, Meg

descends from her attic room to find Charles Wallace sitting at the table drinking milk and eating bread and jam. They are then joined by their mother, and are visited by their new eccentric neighbor, Mrs. Whatsit. In the course of conversation, Mrs Whatsit casually mentions there is such a thing as a tesseract, which causes Meg’s mother to almost faint. Could this have something to do with her father’s disappearance?

Lenski, Lois	<i>Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison</i>	In this classic frontier adventure, Lois Lenski reconstructs the real life story of Mary Jemison, who was captured in a raid as young girl and raised amongst the Seneca Indians. Meticulously researched, this novel offers an exceptionally vivid portrait of Native American life . [FIC LEN]
LeZotte, Ann Clare	<i>Show me a Sign</i>	It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but recent events have shattered her life; her brother George has died, land disputes between English settlers and the Wampanoag people are becoming increasingly bitter, and a 'scientist' determined to discover the origins of the islands' widespread deafness has decided she makes the perfect 'live specimen'--and kidnapped her. [F LEZ]
Luqman-Dawson, Amina	<i>Freewater</i>	After fleeing the plantation where they were enslaved, siblings Ada and Homer discover the secret community of Freewater, and work with freeborn Sanzi to protect their new home from the encroaching dangers of the outside world.Set in a fictional community but based on real stories of those who fled slavery and lived secretly in Southern swamps, this is detailed and well-researched historical fiction. The page-turning action will engage readers as the story reaches a satisfying conclusion. An exceptional addition to the resistance stories of enslaved people. [F LUQ]
Maguire, Gregory	<i>Egg and Spoon</i>	Elena Rudina lives in the impoverished Russian countryside, and there is no food. But then a train arrives in the village, a train carrying a cornucopia of food, untold wealth, and a noble family destined to visit the Tsar in Saint Petersburg, a family that includes Ekaterina, a girl of Elena’s age. When the two girls’ lives collide, an adventure is set in motion, an escapade that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and, in a starring role only Gregory Maguire could have conjured, Baba Yaga, witch of Russian folklore, in her ambulatory house perched on chicken legs.
Mahy, Margaret	<i>Changeover, The</i>	Carnegie medal-winning supernatural romance from Margaret Mahy. The face in the mirror. From the moment she saw it, Laura Chant knew that something dreadful was going to happen. It wasn’t the first time she’d been forewarned. But never before had anything so terrible happened. The horrifyingly evil Carmody Braque touched and branded her little brother and now Jacko was very ill, getting steadily worse. There was only one way to save him. Laura had to change over: had to release her supernatural powers. And that meant joining forces with the extraordinary and enigmatic Sorenson Carlisle.

Mandela, Nelson	<i>Conversations with Myself</i>	<i>Conversations with Myself</i> draws on Mandela's personal archive of never-before-seen materials to offer unique access to the private world of an incomparable world leader and illuminating a heroic life forged on the front lines of the struggle for freedom and justice.
Mandela, Nelson	<i>Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales</i>	<i>Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales</i> gathers in one volume many of Africa's most cherished folktales. Mandela, a Nobel Laureate for Peace, has selected these thirty-two tales with the specific hope that Africa's oldest stories, as well as a few new ones, be perpetuated by future generations and appreciated by children throughout the world. In these "beloved stories, morsels rich with the gritty essence of Africa," we meet, among many others, a Kenyan lion named Simba, a snake with seven heads and a trickster from Zulu folklore; we hear the voices of the scheming hyena and learn from a Khoi fable how animals acquired their tails and horns. Several creation myths tell us how the land, its animals, and its people all came into existence under a punishing sun or against the backdrop of a spectacularly beautiful mountain landscape. These stories, through their depiction of wise animals as well as evil monsters, are "universal in their portrayal of humanity, beasts, and the mystical." [FAC 398.2 MAN]
Mandela, Nelson	<i>Long Walk to Freedom</i>	Nelson Mandela is one of the great moral and political leaders of our time: an international hero whose lifelong dedication to the fight against racial oppression in South Africa won him the Nobel Peace Prize and the presidency of his country. His moving and exhilarating autobiography is destined to take its place among the finest memoirs of history's greatest figures.
Mckinley, Robin	<i>Hero and the Crown, The</i>	Although she is the daughter of Damar's king, Aerin has never been accepted as full royalty. Both in and out of the royal court, people whisper the story of her mother, the witchwoman, who was said to have enspelled the king into marrying her to get an heir to rule Damar - then died of despair when she found she had borne a daughter instead of a son. But none of them, not even Aerin herself, can predict her future - for she is to be the true hero who will wield the power of the Blue Sword.
McQuerry, Maureen Doyle	<i>Time out of Time: Book One: Beyond the Door</i>	With his love of learning and the game of Scrabble, Timothy James feels like the only person who understands him is his older sister, Sarah, and he's fairly certain nothing interesting will ever happen to him. But one night, while his parents and sister are away, the door opens, and mythical creatures appear in his own living room! Soon, a mystery of unparalleled proportions begins to unfold, revealing an age-old battle of Light against Dark, and Timothy must embark on a quest to prevent the Dark from controlling the future and changing the past. But he can't complete the quest alone. Timothy has to team up with his sister and the school bully, Jessica, to face an ancient evil, and in the process, this unlikely trio discover they are each more than meets the eye.
Meyer, Carolyn	<i>Duchessina: A Novel of Catherine de' Medici</i>	Young Catherine de' Medici is the sole heiress to the entire fortune of the wealthy Medici family. But her life is far from luxurious. After a childhood spent locked away behind the walls of a convent, she joins the household of the pope,

where at last she can be united with her true love. But, all too soon, that love is replaced with an engagement to a boy who is cold and aloof. It soon becomes clear that Catherine will need all the cunning she can muster to command the respect she deserves as one of France's most powerful queens. **[FIC MEY]**

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*

When red-headed orphan Anne arrives at the Cuthberts' home, Green Gables, she feels sure she's found the home she has longed for. They, however, are less certain; their request to the orphanage had been for a boy. But before long Anne's irrepressibly optimistic, loving nature has charmed them. While her temper is unpredictable and her extravagant imagination makes her dreamily whimsical and prone to comic mishap, the Cuthberts come to love Anne as if she were their own child. **[FIC MON]**

Moore, David
Barclay ***Stars Beneath our Feet, The***

Lolly deals with the grief of losing his older brother by escaping into the world of LEGOs in this thought-provoking coming-of-age story set in Harlem. [FIC MOR]

Moore, Robin *Bread Sister of Sinking Creek, The*

Maggie Callahan can hardly wait to see her beloved Aunt Franny again. But when she finally arrives at the cabin in the wilds of western Pennsylvania, it's completely deserted. Aunt Franny and Uncle Thomas have pulled up stakes and headed for the Ohio Valley. Maggie's two hundred miles and fourteen days of hard travel have been all for nothing. Faced with surviving the fierce frontier winter alone, Maggie is forced to hire herself out to the grim, bitter Mrs. McGrew. But Maggie's a Callahan, and that means she possesses a precious family secret. Kept in the pouch she wears around her neck is spook yeast for making the finest bread ever baked in the valley surrounding Sinking Creek. And her aunt's wise words, "Bring your troubles to the bread, Maggie, " help her begin to see that there's more magic in the yeast and more strength within herself than Maggie ever dreamed.

Morey, Walt *Angry Waters*

After getting involved with a gang and getting arrested for robbery, 15 year old Dan Malloy is paroled to a dairy farm. More used to street life than to animals and their responsibilities, Dan hates the place until he becomes involved in calving and logging operations. His life finally seems to be getting straight when he's tested by events beyond his control. A natural disaster puts him face-to-face with his old gang loyalties.

About The Author: The author of *Gentle Ben*, Walt Morey was not only a gentle giant of a man, but a storyteller of tremendous talent. But his early years wouldn't have suggested to anyone that Walt would become a famous writer. At the age of twelve, he was barely able to read, but a couple of exciting books about the West got him started, and he read everything in sight after that.

Mowat, Farley *Never Cry Wolf*

More than a half-century ago the naturalist Farley Mowat was sent to investigate why wolves were killing arctic caribou. Mowat's account of the summer he lived in the frozen tundra alone -- studying the wolf population and developing a deep affection for the wolves (who were of no threat to caribou or man) -- is today celebrated as a classic of nature writing, at once a tale of remarkable adventures and indelible record of myths and magic of wolves.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert	<i>Book of Boy</i>	In 1350, a boy with a large hump on his back becomes the servant of a shadowy pilgrim on his way to Rome, who pulls the boy into a dangerous expedition across Europe to gather the seven precious relics of Saint Peter. [Fic]
Napoli, Donna Jo	<i>Crazy Jack</i>	Once there was a boy named Jack who traded away a cow for a handful of beans. But Jack was no fool, he was haunted since the day his father climbed up into the clouds and vanished. When the beans provide a way for Jack to pursue his father, he enters the Giant's world, where he discovers the terrifying ends of greed and desire.
Napoli, Donna Jo	<i>North</i>	Tired of his mother's overprotectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year-old Alvin travels north and spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.
Neville, Emily Cheney	<i>It's Like This, Cat</i>	After another fight with Pop, 14-year-old Dave storms out of their apartment and nearly gets hit by a car. Kate, the local cat lady, comes to the rescue, and Dave returns home with an ally: Cat, the stray tom that becomes Dave's confidante and his key to new friendships and experiences. Cat inadvertently leads Dave to Tom, a troubled 19-year-old who needs help, and Mary, a shy girl who opens Dave's eyes and ears to music and theater. Even the Cat-related confrontations with Pop take on a new spirit, with less shouting and more understanding. <i>It's Like This, Cat</i> offers a vivid tour of New York City in the 1960s. From the genteel environs of Gramercy Park to a bohemian corner of Coney Island, the atmospheric journey is punctuated by stickball games, pastrami sandwiches, and a ride on the Staten Island Ferry. Captures the excitement and challenges of growing up in the big city.
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>	Jess Aarons' greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in his grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to see his classmates' faces when he beats them all. But on the first day of school, a new girl boldly crosses over to the boys' side and outruns everyone. That's not a very promising beginning for a friendship, but Jess and Leslie Burke become inseparable. Together they create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods where the two of them reign as king and queen, and their imaginations set the only limits. Then one morning a terrible tragedy occurs. Only when Jess is able to come to grips with this tragedy does he finally understand the strength and courage Leslie has given him. [Fic]
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>	Sara Louise Bradshaw is sick and tired of her beautiful twin Caroline. Ever since they were born, Caroline has been the pretty one, the talented one, the better sister. Even now, Caroline seems to take everything: Louise's friends, their parents' love, her dreams for the future. For once in her life, Louise wants to be the special one. But, in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is, and find a way to make a place for herself outside her sister's shadow.
Patterson, Peter	<i>Fal The Dragon Harper</i>	Fal, master harper of the Delming, becomes compelled to know the secret of the North, and, against all advice, sets out on a journey of exploration. Along the

way, he encounters the full force of natural and supernatural elements and overcomes pain and fear as well as experiencing triumph and joy.

Paulsen, Gary	<i>Hatchet</i>	Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present -- and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair -- it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive. For twenty years Gary Paulsen's award-winning contemporary classic has been the survival story with which all others are compared.
Shelley Pearsall.	<i>The Seventh Most Important Thing</i>	In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects. Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton. [FIC PEA]
Pullman, Philip	<i>Golden Compass, The</i>	Lyra Belacqua is content to run wild among the scholars of Jordan College, with her daemon familiar always by her side. But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle, a struggle born of Gobblers and stolen children, witch clans and armored bears. And as she hurtles toward danger in the cold far North, Lyra never suspects the shocking truth: she alone is destined to win, or to lose, this more-than-mortal battle. [FIC PUL]
Rinaldi, Ann	<i>Red-headed Princess</i>	Growing up, Elizabeth fears she can never be Queen. Although she is the King's daughter, no woman can ever hope to rule over men in England, especially when her mother has been executed for treason. For all her royal blood, Elizabeth's life is fraught with danger and uncertainty. Sometimes she is welcome in the royal court; other times she is cast out into the countryside. With her position constantly changing, the Princess must navigate a sea of shifting loyalties and dangerous affections. At stake is her life—for beheading is not uncommon among the factions that war for the Crown.
Rinaldi, Ann	<i>Wolf by the Ears</i>	Harriet Hemings has always been happy in the comfortable, protected world that is Monticello. She's been well treated there; no one has ever called her a slave. But that is what she is, a slave of a man who wrote the Declaration of Independence. And there are rumors that she might be more than Thomas Jefferson's slave - she might be his daughter. Now Harriet has to make a choice - to run to freedom or to stay. If she stays, she'll remain a slave. But how can she choose freedom, if it means leaving behind her family, her race, and the only home she's ever known?
Roberts, Willo Davis	<i>Megan's Island</i>	Pack up and leave? "Tonight," when Megan has just one week of school to go until vacation? Megan is used to moving. After all, she's moved a dozen times in her twelve years. But this time is different. They are leaving in the middle of the night, and Megan won't even have a chance to say good-bye to her best friend.

What's worse, Megan senses that her mother is frightened. It's almost as if they are running away - but from what?

Rylant, Cynthia	<i>Missing May</i>	When May dies suddenly while gardening, Summer assumes she'll never see her beloved aunt again. But then Summer's Uncle Ob claims that May is on her way back--she has sent a sign from the spirit world. Summer isn't sure she believes in the spirit world, but her quirky classmate Cletus Underwood--who befriends Ob during this time of mourning--does. So, at Cletus' suggestion, Ob and Summer (with Cletus in tow) set off in search of Miriam B. Young, Small Medium at Large, whom they hope will explain May's departure and confirm her possible return.
Sachar, Louis	<i>Holes</i>	Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment, and redemption. [FIC SAC]
Saeed, Aisha	<i>Omar Rising</i>	Seventh-grader Omar must contend with being treated like a second-class citizen when he gets a scholarship to an elite boarding school in PakistanA richly woven tale with characters all will root for; readers will be outraged at life's unfairness, and cheer for Omar's success. A stellar novel which may open eyes to the inequities many young people face in their lives. [F SAE]
Saeed, Aisha	<i>Amal Unbound</i>	Amal doesn't think she is brave. She's just a girl in a Pakistani village who loves to read and teach reading. As a 12-year-old girl, she is expected to stop focusing on her education and start learning her role as a woman in her village. Sulking after a trip to the market, she is justifiably rude the son of Khan Sahib, ruler of her village. To repay her "debt," her father allows her to become a servant to the Khans for an undetermined amount of time. As a servant, Amal begins to learn secrets of the Khan family; secrets that could possibly be her chance at freedom. [F SAE]
Sandler, Martin W.	<i>They Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked & Found</i>	The story of an eighteenth-century slave ship, its capture by pirates, sinking, and eventual discovery off Cape Cod make for a fresh and thrilling adventure.
Sass, A.J.	<i>Ellen Outside the Lines</i>	Ellen, an autistic thirteen-year-old, navigates a new city, shifting friendships, a growing crush, and her queer and Jewish identities while on a class trip to Barcelona, Spain" [F SAS]
Say, Allen	<i>Silent Days, Silent Dreams</i>	The fictionalized biography of self-taught artist James Castle, who grew up deaf, mute, and autistic, and used art to express himself, is as beautiful as it is affecting. [BIO PIC CAS]
Schmidt, Gary D.	<i>Trouble</i>	

Henry Smith's father told him that if you build your house far enough away from Trouble, then Trouble will never find you. But Trouble comes careening down the road one night in the form of a pickup truck that strikes Henry's older brother, Franklin. In the truck is Chay Chouan, a young Cambodian from Franklin's preparatory school. The tragedy sparks racial tensions in the school and in the town where Henry's family has lived for generations. Caught between anger and grief, Henry does the only thing he feels he can: he sets off for Mt. Katahdin, which he and Franklin had planned to climb together. One July morning, he leaves for Maine with his best friend and the loveable stray, Black Dog, in tow. But when they encounter Chay Chouan on the road, fleeing demons of his own, Henry learns that turning a blind eye to Trouble only brings Trouble closer. With moments of humor and remarkable strength, Henry and Chay travel a path to the mountain that neither of them expects.

Slote, Alfred

Hang Tough, Paul Mather

This is the story of a young pitcher who, thrown a curve by life, fires back. But living is more than a game for Paul, who has been diagnosed with leukemia, a cancer of the blood. With the help of a young doctor, a ballplayer himself, and his own grit and courage, Paul Mather fights back. Paul Mather hangs tough.

Smith, Tamara Ellis

Another Kind of Hurricane

Two boys, Zavion and Henry, live 1600 miles apart in New Orleans and in Vermont; facing separate tragedies, they become connected by a treasured marble and by the power of their grief. After Zavion loses his home to Hurricane Katrina, he and his father move to a temporary home in Baton Rouge. Meanwhile, Henry's best friend Wayne has a fatal accident while hiking on a mountain trail. Henry loses a marble that he and Wayne shared when his mother donates his jeans to a New Orleans charity; Henry hitches a ride to the city with a volunteer in an attempt to find the marble. Meanwhile, Zavion stows away in a bird rescue van back to New Orleans. **[FIC SMI]**

Snedeker, Caroline Dale

Downright Dency

Historical novel set among the seafaring Quakers of Nantucket Island shortly after the War of 1812, spanning several years in the life of a young Quaker girl, Dencey Coffyn, schoolgirl daughter of a sea captain, Thomas Coffyn.

Soontornvat, Christina

The Last Mapmaker

As assistant to Mangkon's most celebrated mapmaker, Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady with a glittering future. In reality, her father is a conman--and in a kingdom where the status of one's ancestors dictates their social position, the truth could ruin her. Sai seizes the chance to join an expedition to chart the southern seas, but she isn't the only one aboard with secrets. **[F SOO]**

Speare, Elizabeth George

Calico Captive

In the year 1754, the stillness of Charlestown, New Hampshire, is shattered by the terrifying cries of an Indian raid. Young Miriam Willard, on a day that had promised new happiness, finds herself instead a captive on a forest trail, caught up in the ebb and flow of the French and Indian War. It is a harrowing march north. Miriam can only force herself to the next stopping place, the next small portion of food, the next icy stream to be crossed. At the end of the trail waits a life of hard work and, perhaps, even a life of slavery. Mingled with her thoughts

of Phineas Whitney, her sweetheart on his way to Harvard, is the crying of her sister's baby, Captive, born on the trail. Miriam and her companions finally reach Montreal, a city of shifting loyalties filled with the intrigue of war, and here, by a sudden twist of fortune, Miriam meets the prominent Du Quesne family, who introduce her to a life she has never imagined. Based on an actual narrative diary published in 1807, *Calico Captive* skillfully reenacts an absorbing facet of history. **[FIC SPE]**

Speare, Elizabeth
George

Sign of the Beaver, The

Twelve-year-old Matt is left on his own in the Maine wilderness while his father leaves to bring the rest of the family to their new settlement. When he befriends Attean, an Indian chief's grandson, he is invited to join the Beaver tribe and move north. Should Matt abandon his hopes of ever seeing his family again and go on to a new life?

Specht, Robert

*Tisha: The Wonderful
True Love Story of a
Young Teacher in the
Alaskan Wilderness*

Alaska was as remote as the moon, as roistering and lawless as the Gold Rush. And a pretty young school teacher from Colorado like Anne Hobbs was even rarer than nuggets. "So appealing are the people here, even the villainous ones; so dramatic is the landscape in which they act out their adventure; so pure is the moral conflict that forms the story's backbone, and so honest is its sentimentality - that I managed to suspend all my disbelief as I read it. And it was with pleasure that I raced through this good old-fashioned yarn, hissing the villains, holding my breath at each succeeding catastrophe, and above all adoring 'plain old Anne Hobbs.' as she calls herself, the pretty slip of a nineteen-year-old who in 1927 had the courage not only to brave the Alaska wilderness as a teacher in the tiny gold-mining community called Chicken, but also to face down the community's violent disapproval when she dared to treat the local Indians as human beings."

Sperry, Armstrong

Call It Courage

Mafatu has been afraid of the sea for as long as he can remember. Though his father is the Great Chief of Hikuero - an island whose seafaring people worship courage - Mafatu feels like an outsider. All his life he has been teased, taunted, and even blamed for storms on the sea. Then at age fifteen, no longer willing to put up with the ridicule and jibes, Mafatu decides to take his fate into his own hands. With his dog, Uri, as his companion, Mafatu paddles out to sea, ready to face his fears. What he learns on his lonesome adventure will change him forever and make him a hero in the eyes of his people.

[398.2 SPE]

Spinelli, Jerry

Stargirl

In a moving and highly engaging tale about the vagaries of adolescent peer pressure, Newbery Medal winner Jerry Spinelli tells the story of Stargirl, a high school student who is startlingly different from everyone else. The need to conform -- and unabashed curiosity about those who don't -- are at the heart of this tale, which aptly demonstrates the peaks and pitfalls of popularity. Sixteen-year-old high school student Leo Borlock knows how to fit in at Mica High School. He plays the game like everyone else but is more enthralled than most when a new girl comes to school. Stargirl Caraway is her name, or at least the name she is using for now. And after 15 years of homeschooling, she is

decidedly different from even the oddest high school students at Mica High. **[F SPI]**

Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Black Arrow, The</i>	From the beloved author of <i>Treasure Island</i> Originally serialized in a periodical of boys' adventure fiction, <i>The Black Arrow</i> is a swashbuckling portrait of a young man's journey to discover the heroism within himself. Young Dick Shelton, caught in the midst of England's War of the Roses, finds his loyalties torn between the guardian who will ultimately betray him and the leader of a secret fellowship, The Black Arrow. As Shelton is drawn deeper into this conspiracy, he must distinguish friend from foe and confront war, shipwreck, revenge, murder, and forbidden love, as England's crown threatens to topple around him.
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Kidnapped</i>	Kidnapped is a fast-moving historical fiction adventure story. Written as a "boys novel" and first published in the magazine <i>Young Folks</i> in 1886. The full title of the book is <i>Kidnapped: Being Memoirs of the Adventures of David Balfour in the Year 1751: How he was Kidnapped and Cast away; his Sufferings in a Desert Isle; his Journey in the Wild Highlands; his acquaintance with Alan Breck Stewart and other notorious Highland Jacobites; with all that he Suffered at the hands of his Uncle, Ebenezer Balfour of Shaws, falsely so-called: Written by Himself and now set forth by Robert Louis Stevenson.</i>
Stockum, Hilda van	<i>Winged Watchman, The</i>	This acclaimed story of World War II is rich in suspense, characterization, plot and spiritual truth. Every element of occupied Holland is united in a story of courage and hope: a hidden Jewish child, an "underdiver," a downed RAF pilot, an imaginative, daring underground hero, and the small things of family life which surprisingly carry on in the midst of oppression. The Verhagen family, who live in the old windmill called the Winged Watchman, are a memorable set of individuals whose lives powerfully demonstrate the resilience of those who suffer but do not lose faith. [FIC VAN]
Streit, Jakob	<i>Geron and Virtus</i>	Master storyteller, Jakob Streit, here tells the story of two boys from different backgrounds who meet during the Roman campaign to conquer Germanic tribes. Set 2000 years ago, it is the story of the birth of Europe as north and south came together. It's also a story about friendship, slavery, honor and adventure. The text is rich with insights provided by druid priests and their stories of Nordic mythology. [fic]
Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>High Deeds of Finn Mac Cool, The</i>	The Irish and Scottish legends of Finn MacCool, drawn together in the form of a continuous narrative.
Svetcov, Danielle	<i>Parked</i>	Svetcov's debut novel is alternately narrated by two introspective 12-year-olds living radically different lives in San Francisco .Newly homeless Jeanne Ann and

Cal form a vital friendship as they both search for stability and community, finding it through love of books, art, and food.(2020). [F SVE]

Taylor-Chiarelo,
Robin

***Limbo, from African
Slave to Honored Grave***

"In *Limbo, From African Slave to Honored Grave*, Robin Taylor-Chiarelo's poetry combines with the artistry of Steven Lester to create a book that elegantly illustrates one man's journey from slave to freed man. Sharing the horrors of slavery through this man's story lends grace to a book which focuses on the importance of individual and group human interactions on society, and on the value of all human life.

Ullman, James
Ramsey

Banner in the Sky

The Citadel -- It stands unconquered, the last great summit of the Alps. Only one man has ever dared to approach the top, and that man died in his pursuit. He was Josef Matt, Rudi Matt's father. At sixteen, Rudi is determined to pay tribute to the man he never knew, and complete the quest that claimed his father's life. And so, taking his father's red shirt as a flag, he heads off to face the earth's most challenging peak. But before Rudi can reach the top, he must pass through the forbidden Fortress, the gaping chasm in the high reaches of the Citadel where his father met his end. Rudi has followed Josef's footsteps as far as they will take him. Now he must search deep within himself to find the strength for the final ascent to the summit -- to plant his banner in the sky. His father died while trying to climb Switzerland's greatest mountain -- the Citadel -- and young Rudi knows he must make the assault himself.

Verne, Jules

*Around The World In 80
Days*

Phileas Fogg of London and his newly employed French valet Passepartout attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days on a wager set by his friends at the Reform Club.

Verne, Jules

*Journey to the Center of
the Earth*

An adventurous geology professor chances upon a manuscript in which a 16th-century explorer claims to have found a route to the earth's core. Professor Lidenbrock can't resist the opportunity to investigate, and with his nephew Axel, he sets off across Iceland in the company of Hans Bjelke, a native guide. The expedition descends into an extinct volcano toward a sunless sea, where they encounter a subterranean world of luminous rocks, antediluvian forests, and fantastic marine life, a living past that holds the secrets to the origins of human existence. Originally published in 1864, Jules Verne's classic remains critically acclaimed for its style and imaginative visions. Verne wrote many fantasy stories that later proved remarkably prescient.

Verne, Jules

*Twenty Thousand
Leagues Under the Sea*

An American frigate, tracking down a ship-sinking monster, faces not a living creature but an incredible invention -- a fantastic submarine commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo. Suddenly a devastating explosion leaves just three survivors who find themselves prisoners in Nemo's death ship on an underwater odyssey around the world, as Captain Nemo -- one of the most horrible villains ever created -- takes his revenge out on society. This novel, written in 1870, foretells with uncanny accuracy the inventions and advanced technology of the 20th century, and has become a literary stepping-stone for generations of science-fiction writers. [FIC VER]

Voigt, Cynthia	<i>Homecoming</i>	It's still true. That's the first thing James Tillerman says to his older sister, Dicey, every morning. It's still true that their mother has abandoned the four Tillermans in a mall parking lot somewhere in the middle of Connecticut. It's still true that they have to find their own way to Great-aunt Cilla's house in Bridgeport. It's still true that they need to spend as little as possible on food and seek shelter anywhere that is out of view of the authorities. It's still true that the only way they can hope to all stay together is to just keep moving forward. Deep down, Dicey hopes they can find someone to trust, someone who will take them in and love them. But she's afraid it's just too much to hope for...
Wagner, Laura Rose	<i>Hold Tight, Don't Let Go</i>	<i>Hold Tight, Don't Let Go</i> follows the vivid story of two teenage cousins, raised as sisters, who survive the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. After losing the woman who raised them in the tragedy, Magdalie and Nadine must fend for themselves in the aftermath of the quake. The girls are inseparable, making the best of their new circumstances in a refugee camp with an affectionate, lively camaraderie, until Nadine, whose father lives in Miami, sends for her but not Magdalie. As she leaves, Nadine makes a promise she cannot keep: to bring Magdalie to Miami, too. Resourceful Magdalie focuses her efforts on a reunion with Nadine until she realizes her life is in Haiti, and that she must embrace its possibilities for love and friendship.
Watson, Renee	<i>Piecing me Together</i>	Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference. [FIC WAT]
White, T.H.	<i>Mistress Masham's Repose</i>	"She saw: first, a square opening, about eight inches wide, in the lowest step...finally she saw that there was a walnut shell, or half one, outside the nearest door...she went to look at the shell, but looked with the greatest astonishment. There was a baby in it." So ten-year-old Maria, orphaned mistress of Malplaquet, discovers the secret of her deteriorating estate: on a deserted island at its far corner, in the temple long ago nicknamed Mistress Masham's Repose, live an entire community of people, "The People," as they call themselves, all only inches tall. With the help of her only friend, the absurdly erudite Professor, Maria soon learns that this settlement is no less than the kingdom of Lilliput (first seen in Gulliver's Travels) in exile. Safely hidden for centuries, the Lilliputians are at first endangered by Maria's well-meaning but clumsy attempts to make their lives easier, but their situation grows truly ominous when they are discovered by Maria's greedy guardians, who look at The People and see only a bundle of money. [J HAR]
Woods, Brenda	<i>When Winter Robeson Came</i>	In August 1965, Eden's older cousin from Mississippi comes to visit her in Los Angeles, and while the Watts Riots erupt around them, they continue their investigation of the disappearance of Winter's father ten years ago. [F WOO]

Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. [BIO WOO]
Wolf, Lauren	<i>Wolf Hollow</i>	A young girl's kindness, compassion, and honesty overcome bullying.
Wyss, Johann David	<i>Swiss Family Robinson, The</i>	Following a wild and raging storm, the Swiss family Robinson are stranded at sea. But the thundering waves have swept them off to a tropical island, where a new life awaits them. Their ship is laden with supplies and the island is packed with treasures, so they soon adapt and discover new dangers and delights every day.
Yates, Elizabeth	<i>With Pipe, Paddle, and Song: A Story of the French-Canadian Voyageurs</i>	Son of a French nobleman and a Chippewa Indian woman, Guillaume has spent half of his life in his father's Montreal chateau, half in his mother's village. When his father returns to France the 16-year-old is determined to make his own way in the world. He signs up with a rough and ready crew of voyageurs, who yearly make their journey into the wilds of Canada to bring back the rich furs that have made New France prosperous. Elizabeth Yates skillfully weaves history and the theme of a young man coming to grips with two worlds' conflicting demands. Included in the book is an extensive collection of voyageur songs, with music and lyrics.
Yolen, Jane and Harris, Robert	<i>Queen's Own Fool: A Novel of Mary Queen of Scots</i>	A fictionalized account of the life of Mary Queen of Scots, told through the perspective of Mary's personal jester, Nicola Ambruzzi. Through Nicola's eyes we see the young Queen as she struggles with the death of her husband, King Francis of France; moves north to take over as ruling Queen of Scotland; marries Lord Darnley against the advice of her friends; and is later imprisoned and tried for his murder. The religious tumult that characterizes the time becomes the backdrop for an engrossing novel that weaves together the stories of the Queen's fool (as she rises from poverty into court life), and Mary, who eventually descends into public scorn.

To Access the Summer Booklists, visit the Grade School Library section of Resources on MySFWS.
All rights reserved. Please credit SFWS and the Grade School Librarian if any or all of this list is used, reproduced, distributed, or posted.