

Grade 5 - Grade 6 Booklist

Biography	Fantasy, Folklore, Mythology		Graphic Novels/Non-Fiction	Historical Fiction
Non-Fiction	Mystery	Poetry	Realistic Fiction	Science Fiction

Biography

Bolden, Tonya	Searching for Sarah Rector	Recounts the story of the 1914 disappearance of eleven-year-old Sarah Rector, an African American who was part of the Creek Indian people and whose land had made her wealthy, and what it reveals about race, money and American society.
Carlson, Laurie	Harry Houdini for Kids	A biography of magician and escape artist Harry Houdini. Explains how Houdini performed some famous stunts and includes twenty-one magic tricks for readers to try for themselves.
Fleming, Candace	Amelia Lost	This book traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane, and includes photographs, maps, handwritten notes by Amelia, and sidebars.
Fleming, Candace	The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia	Details the history of Russia's last royal family, the Romanovs.
Freedman, Russell	The Adventures of Marco Polo (and other books by this author)	An illustrated chronicle of the travels of thirteenth-century explorer Marco Polo: includes a discussion of the controversy over whether he indeed went to China.
Kostyal, K. M.	Trial by Ice: A Photobiography of Sir Ernest Shackleton	This book traces the adventurous life of the South Pole explorer whose ship, the Endurance, was frozen in ice and crushed, leaving the captain and crew to fight for survival.
Krull, Kathleen	Marie Curie (and other titles by this author)	A biography of Polish-French physicist and chemist Marie Curie, who was a pioneer in the field of radioactivity and won a Noble prize in both physics and in chemistry.
Lee, Tonya	Almost Astronauts: 13 Women who Dared to Dream	A look at the unsuccessful effort to get women into NASA's Mercury astronaut training program.

Macy, Sue	<u>Bylines: A Photobiography of Nellie Bly</u> (National Geographic Biography series)	Discusses Nelly Bly's childhood, journalistic endeavors, 72-day adventure around the world, setbacks, marriage and opinions about civil rights issues of the period.
Montgomery, Sy	<u>Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World</u>	This book examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, an autistic woman whose love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry.
Say, Allen	<u>Drawing from Memory</u>	The author's own story of his path to becoming the renowned artist he is today. Shunned by his father, who didn't understand his son's artistic leanings, Allen was embraced by Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist and the man he came to love as his "spiritual father."
Woodson, Jacqueline	<u>Brown Girl Dreaming</u>	The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

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Fantasy, Folklore and Mythology

Auxier, Jonathan	<u>Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes</u>	Raised to be a thief, blind orphan Peter Nimble, age ten, steals three pairs of magical eyes from a mysterious stranger that lead him to a hidden island where he must decide to become a hero or resume his life of crime.
Baptiste, Tracy	<u>The Jumbies</u>	Eleven-year-old Corrine must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.
Chadda, Sarwat	<u>The Savage Fortress</u> (series)	When British schoolboy, Ash Mistry, goes to India for a vacation, he quickly falls into a world of rakshasas, or demons, overseen by the evil Lord Alexander Savage.
Chokshi, Rashani	<u>Aru Shah and the End of Time</u>	Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.
Cooper, Susan	<u>The Dark is Rising</u> (series)	In the first book, <u>Over Sea, Under Stone</u> , Will Stanton discovers on his eleventh birthday that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

D'Lacey, Chris	<u>The Fire Within</u> (part of the Dragon Chronicles series)	College student David Rain rents a room in an unusual boarding house full of clay dragons, not realizing that they, along with some lively squirrels, will help jumpstart his writing career.
Flanagan, John	<u>Halt's Peril: The Ranger's Apprentice</u> (series)	Tennyson, the false prophet of the Outsider cult, has escaped and Halt is determined to stop him before he crosses the border into Araluen, but Genovesan assassins put Will and Halt's extraordinary archery skills to the test.
Hunter, Erin	<u>Into the Wild</u> Warriors (series)	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.
LeGuin, Ursula	<u>A Wizard of Earthsea</u>	A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the master wizard.
Mull, Brandon	<u>A World Without Heroes</u>	Fourteen-year-old Jason Walker is transported to a strange world called Lyrian, where he joins Rachel and a few rebels to piece together the Word that can destroy the malicious wizard emperor, Surroth.
Napoli, Donna Jo	<u>A Treasury of Greek Mythology</u>	This book presents illustrated retellings of classic Greek myths, sharing the stories of Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, Athena, Helen of Troy, Perseus, and Medusa, with sidebars for each god, goddess, hero, and monster that link the tales to constellations, history, geography, culture and other resources.
Nielsen, Jennifer	<u>Mark of the Thief</u> (series)	When Nic, a slave in the mines outside of Rome, is forced to enter a sealed cavern containing lost treasures of Julius Caesar, he finds himself in possession of an ancient amulet filled with magic once reserved for the Gods.
Paver, Michelle	<u>Wolf Brother</u> Book One of the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series	6,000 years ago, twelve-year-old Torak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to fulfill an oath the boy made to his dying father - to travel to the Mountain of the World Spirit to destroy a demon possessed bear that threatens all the clans.
Riordan, Rick	<u>The Sword of Summer</u> The Magnus Chase series	Magnus Chase has always been a troubled kid. Since his mother's mysterious death, he's lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, keeping one step ahead of the police and the truant officers.

Scott, Michael	<u>The Alchemyst</u> the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series	Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.
Selznick, Brian	<u>Wonderstruck</u>	Ben, loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City. A second story involves Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.
Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	<u>The Bronze Pen</u>	With her father's failing health and the family's shaky finances, twelve-year-old Audrey's dreams of becoming a writer seem very impractical until she is given a peculiar bronze pen that appears to have unusual powers.
Ursu, Anne	<u>Breadcrumbs</u>	Hazel and Jack are best friends until an accident with a magical mirror and a run-in with a villainous queen find Hazel on her own, entering an enchanted wood in the hopes of saving Jack's life.

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Graphic Novels/Non-Fiction

Bell, Cece	<u>El Deafo</u>	A graphic novel memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired.
Craft, Jerry	<u>New Kid</u>	a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.
Guibert, Emmanuel	<u>Sardine in Outer Space 4</u> (series)	Young space pirate Sardine foils the plans of Supermuscleman, a tyrant who wants all the galaxy's children to behave as she fights monsters under the bed, diseased tattoos and boredom.

Hergé	<u>Adventures of Tin Tin (series)</u>	This classic graphic novel follows the unquenchably curious young reporter Tin tin and his fiercely loyal dog Snowy as they discover a model ship carrying an explosive secret.
Kazu Kibuishi	<u>Amulet: Book One The Stonekeeper (series)</u>	After moving to their ancestral home, Emily and Navin's mother is kidnapped by a tentacled creature in the basement. This leads the children on a deadly chase into the magical world below their home.
Phelan, Matt	<u>Storm in the Barn</u>	In 1937, 11-year old Jack Clark faces many challenges on his family's Kansas farm, including bullies, a pesky younger sister and the effects of the Dust Bowl.
Telgemeier, Raina	<u>Smile</u>	The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.
Watterson, Sam	<u>Calvin and Hobbes</u>	This book is a collection of comic strips following the adventures of Calvin and his stuffed tiger Hobbes.
Yeh, Phil	<u>Dinosaurs Across America</u>	A collection of comics that teaches interesting facts about each of the states, their history, people, and cities.

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Historical Fiction

Avi	<u>Iron Thunder</u>	Tom gets work building the iron ship called the Monitor.
Axelrod, Amy	<u>Your Friend in Fashion, Abby Shapiro</u>	Beginning in 1959, Abby, nearly eleven, writes a series of letters to Jackie Kennedy, each with sketches of outfits she has designed, as she faces family problems, concerns about neighbors, and her own desperate desire for both her first bra and a Barbie doll.
Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker	<u>The War That Saved My Life</u>	A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Brandeis, Gayle	<u>My Life With the Lincolns</u>	In 1966 Illinois, twelve-year-old Wilhelmina is convinced that she, her parents and her sisters are Abraham Lincoln's family reincarnated. She is determined to keep them from suffering the same fates, and this becomes complicated when she and her father become involved in the Civil Rights Movement.
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<u>The Mighty Miss Malone</u>	Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit.
Draper, Sharon M.	<u>Stella by Starlight</u>	A burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, and fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.
Howard, Ellen	<u>The Crimson Cap</u>	11-year-old Pierre Talon sets out in 1684 on the last ill-fated expedition of the great French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier. The quest soon falls apart and Pierre finds himself captured by local Hasinai Indians. As he lives among them and learns more about their ways of life, he must decide whether to stay with them or risk everything to return home.
Lai, Thanhha	<u>Inside Out and Back Again</u>	Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.
Levine, Kristin	<u>The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had</u>	Harry "Dit" Sims and his newest friend Emma Walker work together to come up with a plan that could save the town barber, an African-American, who is put on trial and faces a horrible end.
Lisle, Janet Taylor	<u>Black Duck</u>	Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.

Morpurgo, Michael	<u>An Elephant in the Garden</u>	Lizzie and Karl's mother is working at a local zoo in Dresden, Germany, during World War II while their father is away fighting in France. She brings home a baby elephant that is slated to be destroyed as the Allied bombing grows closer. When they are forced to flee, Mutti feels they must take the elephant with them, adding even more danger to their journey.
Morpurgo, Michael	<u>Kaspar the Titanic Cat</u>	Fourteen-year-old Johnny Trott, a bell-boy at London's Savoy Hotel in 1912, becomes caregiver to Kaspar Kandinsky, the Prince of Cats, and soon the two are stowing away on the Titanic, where they are befriended by the Stanton family of New York.
Park, Linda Sue	<u>When My Name Was Keoko</u> (Read other books by this author)	In alternating chapters, ten-year-old Sun-Hee and her thirteen-year-old brother, Tae-yul, describe the changes their family undergoes starting in 1940, when the Japanese who rule Korea decree all Koreans must forsake their Korean names for Japanese ones.
Paterson, Katherine	<u>Bread and Roses, Too</u>	This tale is about two children caught up in the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Jake labors in the textile mills, and Rosa goes to school while her mother and sister toil. Both Jake and Rosa are unwilling participants in the labor action.
Peck, Richard	<u>On the Wings of Heroes</u> (Read other books by this author)	Davy's small-town life reflects joy and sorrow just before and after World War II.
Philbrick, W.R.	<u>The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg</u>	Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army.
Ryan, Pam Munoz	<u>Echo</u>	Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives.
Senzai, N.H.	<u>Escape from Aleppo</u>	After Nadia is separated from her family while fleeing the civil war, she spends the next four days with a mysterious old man who helps her navigate the checkpoints and snipers of the rebel, ISIS, and Syrian armies that are littering Aleppo

		on her way to meeting her father at the Turkish border.
Slate, Joseph	<u>I Want to Be Free</u>	An escaped slave rescues a baby from slave traders.
Slayton, Fran Cannon	<u>When the Whistle Blows</u>	Jimmy Cannon is growing up in a railroad town in 1940s West Virginia and is determined to jump a steam train as it chugs its way through town. He knows it is dangerous and he is breaking rules, but the exhilaration is worth it. Besides, he's not like his dad, who is afraid to take a chance.
Tarshis, Lauren	<u>I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005</u>	Barry's family prepares to evacuate before Hurricane Katrina hits, but when his little sister gets very sick, they are forced to stay home and face the floodwater that sweeps Barry away.
Thor, Annika	<u>The Lily Pond</u>	Having left Nazi-occupied Vienna a year ago, thirteen-year-old Jewish refugee Stephie Steiner adapts to life in the cultured Swedish city of Gothenburg, where she attends school, falls in love, and worries about her parents who were not allowed to emigrate.
Williams-Garcia, Rita	<u>One Crazy Summer</u>	In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome.

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Non-Fiction

Aronson, Marc	<u>Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 feet Below the Chilean Desert</u>	A detailed account of rescue efforts to save thirty-three miners, who got trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile, examining the psychological, physical, and environmental factors influencing the course of the rescue, and describing the efforts of how experts from around the world came together in response to the crisis.
Bonner, Hannah	<u>When Bugs Were Big, Plants Were Strange, and Tetrapods Stalked the Earth: A Cartoon Prehistory of Life Before</u>	This book takes a tour of the earth three hundred and twenty million years ago, during the Paleozoic Era, and investigates the plants and animals found there.

Borden, Louise	<u>His name was Raoul Wallenberg: Courage, Rescue, and Mystery During World War II</u>	This book chronicles the life of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swede, who at the end of World War II was able to save thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazi concentration camps.
Cummins, Julie	<u>Women Daredevils: Thrills, Chills, and Frills</u>	Fourteen women who flouted convention to work as entertainers in the years between 1880 and 1929 are profiled in this book. They performed thrilling feats in the water, in the air, and in the circus.
Freedman, Russell	<u>Who Was First? Discovering the Americas</u>	Who really discovered America? This book examines the evidence that indicates others may have traveled to the Americas before Columbus in 1492 including Viking ruins, Mayan stonework, and other mysterious objects found in New England that date before Columbus.
Hopkinson, Deborah	<u>Titanic: Voices From the Disaster</u>	This book draws on stories from survivors and archival photographs to describe the history of the "Titanic" from its launch to its sinking.
Jenkins, Steve	<u>Down, Down, Down</u>	Caldecott Honor winning Steve Jenkins provides a top-to-bottom look at the ocean, from birds and waves to thermal vents and ooze. Half the earth's surface is covered by water more than a mile deep, but most of this watery world is a mystery to us. In fact, more people have stood on the surface of the moon than have visited the deepest spot in the ocean
Kops, Deborah	<u>The Great Molasses Flood: Boston, 1919</u>	January 15, 1919, started off as a normal day in Boston's North End. But all of a sudden a large tank of molasses exploded, sending shards of metal hundreds of feet away, collapsing buildings, and coating the harbor front community with a thick layer of sticky-sweet sludge. Many people died or were injured in the accident—the book reveals who was to blame.
Kurlansky, Mark	<u>The Story of Salt</u>	This handsome picture book explores every aspect of salt: The many ways it's gathered from the earth and sea; how ancient emperors used it to keep their subjects happy; why salt was key to the Age of Exploration; what salt meant to the American Revolution; and even how the search for salt eventually led to oil.
MacCaulay, David	<u>Built to Last</u>	This book has colorful, detailed illustrations and explanations of how castles, mosques, and cathedrals were built.

Mann, Elizabeth	<u>Statue of Liberty (series)</u>	Photographs and text trace the history of the Statue of Liberty, describing what the various symbols found on the statue mean, how it was built, what it means to the American people, and how it has been restored over the years.
Pringle, Laurence P.	<u>Billions of Years, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution</u>	A captivating view of evolution that brings together research from a variety of scientific disciplines to create a compelling argument that supports what is now called evolution by natural selection.
Rusch, Elizabeth	<u>Eruption!: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives</u>	Follows volcanologists Andy Lockhart and John Pallister as they helicopter onto active volcanoes to install equipment, climb into blast zones to collect ash samples, and endure suspense as they wait to find out if their predictions are accurate.
Stone, Tanya Lee	<u>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</u>	Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional astronauts.
Wecchsler, Doug	<u>Bizarre Bugs</u>	A visit to the fascinating world of some very unusual creatures, both in appearance and behavior. Most of the insects live in tropical habitats, but the text does relate similarities in behavior to those found in North America.

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Mystery

Barnett, Mac	<u>It Happened on a Train (series)</u>	Seventh-grader Steve Brixton finds himself pulled back into sleuthing when, during a train trip down the California coast, he uncovers a mystery involving a fleet of priceless automobiles, an assassin, and a private rail car.
Bosch, Pseudonymous	<u>You Have to Stop This</u>	When a mummy disappears from the local history museum while Cass and her friends Max-Ernest and Yo-Yoji are there, they try to solve the case in order to clear their names and, they hope, discover the Secret they have been seeking.
Clements, Andrew	<u>Room One: A Mystery or Two</u>	Sixth-grader Ted Hammond, who loves a good mystery, finds one in real life when he sees a face in the window of an abandoned farmhouse while on his paper route.

Dowd, Siobhan	<u>The London Eye Mystery</u>	When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris Wheel, the two siblings must work together to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.
Gibbs, Stuart	<u>Belly Up</u> (Read other books by this author)	Twelve-year-old Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt Fitzroy believes that Henry, the hippopotamus at the brand-new FunJungle, has been murdered. The zoo's top brass claim the hippo went belly up the natural way, but Teddy and his feisty friend Summer McCracken have other ideas.
Hahn, Mary Downing	<u>Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story</u>	When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.
Konigsburg, E.L.	<u>Silent to the Bone</u>	When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.
Raskin, Ellen	<u>The Westing Game</u>	The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.
Turnage, Sheila	<u>The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing</u> (series)	In this charming Southern story, Miss Lana accidentally buys a haunted inn at the Tupelo Landing town auction. So the Desperado Detectives—aka Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale—open up a paranormal division to solve the ghosts' identity before the town's big 250 th anniversary.

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Poetry

Alexander, Kwame	<u>The Crossover</u>	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.
Cheng, Andrea	<u>Etched in Clay</u>	A biography, written in verse, that explores the life of a South Carolina slave named Dave, who became skilled at turning pots and jars on a pottery wheel, reading, and writing, and went on to use these skills to speak out against slavery.
Grandits, John		

	<u>Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems</u>	A collection of poems in which words and art combine to make pictures of the life of an eleven-year old boy.
Janeczko, Paul	<u>A Foot in the Mouth Poems to speak, sing and shout</u> (And other books by this author)	Playfully enticing ode to the pleasures of reading poetry aloud. One voice, two voice, three voice, free voice! Whether rhyming, tongue tying, or defying structure, here are more than three dozen poems that simply beg to be read aloud.
Kennedy, Caroline	<u>A Family of Poems</u>	Presents a collection of over one hundred poems from around the world drawn from the author's family memories.
Lai, Thanhha	<u>Inside Out and Back Again</u>	Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.
Latham, Irene	<u>Can I Touch Your Hair?</u>	How can Irene and Charles work together on their fifth grade poetry project? They don't know each other. . . and they're not sure they want to. Irene Latham, who is white, and Charles Waters, who is black, use this fictional setup to delve into different experiences of race in a relatable way.
Lewis, J. Patrick	<u>National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems With Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!</u>	No further explanation necessary!
	<u>L is for Lolly Gag Quirky words for a Clever Tongue</u>	Packed with oodles of tongue-tickling words and a hodgepodge of curious illustration for fun trivia.
Schlitz, Amy	<u>Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village</u>	A collection of one-person plays and poems featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor.

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Realistic Fiction

Baskin, Nora Raleigh	<u>Anything but Typical</u>	Jason Blake is an autistic 12-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does.
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Clements, Andrew	<u>No Talking</u>	The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.
Donoghue, Emma	<u>The Lotteries More or Less</u>	Sumac Lottery is the keeper of her family's traditions. But this winter all Sumac's seasonal plans go awry when a Brazilian visitor overstays his welcome. A terrible ice storm grounds all flights, so one of her dads and her favorite brother can't make it home from India.
Draper, Sharon	<u>Out of My Mind</u>	Considered by many to be mentally disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.
Graff, Lisa	<u>Lost in the Sun</u>	As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.
Ellis, Deborah	<u>No Ordinary Day</u>	Valli has always been afraid of the lepers living on the other side of the train tracks in the coal town of Jharia, India, so when a chance encounter with a doctor reveals she also has leprosy, Valli rejects help and begins an uncertain life on the streets.
Hashimi, Nadia	<u>One Half from the East</u>	is a coming-of-age journey set in modern-day Afghanistan that explores life as a <i>bacha posh</i> —a preteen girl dressed as a boy.
Hautman, Pete	<u>Slider</u>	Competitive eating vies with family expectations in a funny, heartfelt novel.
Hiasson, Carl	<u>Chomp</u>	The difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival," disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father.
Hosseini, Khaled	<u>Sea Prayer</u>	<i>Sea Prayer</i> is composed in the form of a letter, from a father to his son, on the eve of their journey. Watching over his sleeping son, the father reflects on the dangerous sea-crossing that lies before them.
Khan, Hena	<u>Amina's Voice</u>	A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

Korman, Gordan	<u>Schooled</u>	Home schooled by his hippie grandmother, Cap Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even used money. When his grandmother has to go to the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school.
Lord, Cynthia	<u>Rules</u>	Frustrated at life with her autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a paraplegic.
Lupica, Mike	<u>Travel Team</u>	After he is cut from his travel basketball team - the very same team that his father once led to national prominence - twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.
Medina, Meg	<u>Merci Suárez Changes Gears</u>	Merci Surez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother Roli are on a scholarship.
O'Connor, Barbara	<u>How to Steal a Dog</u>	Living in the family car after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.
Paulson, Gary	<u>Lawn Boy</u>	Things get out of hand for a twelve-year old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.
Pearsall, Shelley	<u>The Seventh Most Important Thing</u>	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.
Schmidt, Gary D.	<u>Okay for Now</u>	Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

Sonnenblick, Jordan	<u>After Ever After</u>	Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>The Warden's Daughter</u>	A teenage girl who lives with her father, a prison warden, looks to inmates for a mother figure, only to find herself in the process.
Yang, Kelly	<u>Front Desk</u>	Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them.

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Science Fiction

Blakemore, Megan Frazer	<u>The Firefly Code</u>	Mori and her friends live a normal life on Firefly Lane in their utopian community, Old Harmonie. In a world this safe and perfect, they've never had to question anything . . . never had to wonder about how their lives came to be. Until a new girl named Ilana moves in.
Hubbard, Kirsten	<u>Watch the Sky</u>	The signs are everywhere, according to Jory's stepfather, Caleb. The end is coming, and they must be prepared. School is Jory's only escape from Caleb's tight grasp, and with the help of new friends, he begins to explore the outside world.
Philbrick, Rodman	<u>Last Book in the Universe</u> (Read other books by this author)	After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future.
Trenton, Lee Stewart	<u>Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict</u> (series)	Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict, a boy without parents and afflicted with an unfortunate nose and narcolepsy, is sent to a new orphanage where he encounters vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumstances, and a mystery that could change his life forever.

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