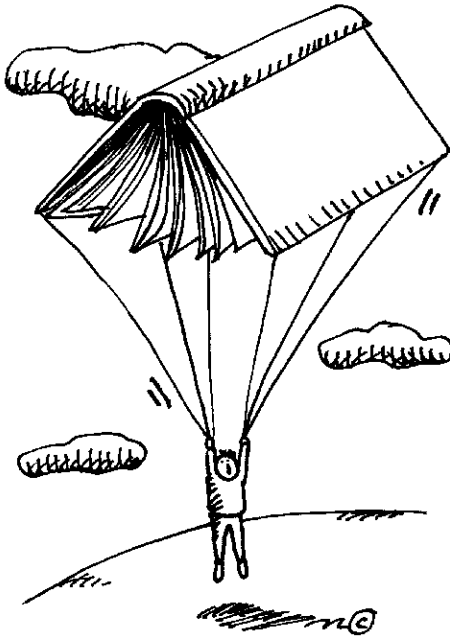


June 2009

Cambridge Friends School Library

## Summer Reading Suggestions for Middle Readers (Grades 5 - 7)



Reading good books during the summer is one of the best ways for you to prepare for the next grade. Reading will improve your comprehension, your vocabulary, your grammar, and your writing style. Even more importantly, reading will help you to gain understanding of yourself, other people, other places, and other times. And it is fun! You can do it at any time and in any place.

In this reading list we've included an annotated\* selection of new and noteworthy books as well as a list of books recommended by our librarians and students.

This book list and lists for other grades are on the CFS library website. You will also find an annotated list of new and recommended biographies about great Americans for grades 3 - 8. Please go to <http://www.cfsmass.org/curriculum/Library.htm>

This summer, use your public library and reserve your books online!  
See the next page for instructions on how to do it.

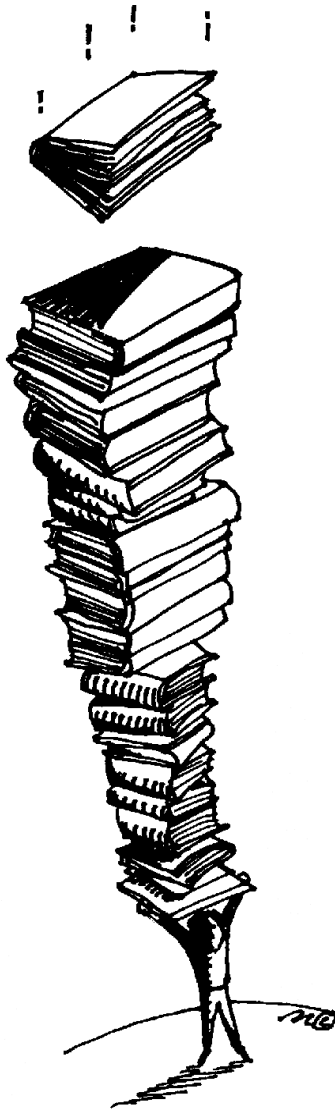
## Happy Reading!

### Contents

Going Online to the Public Library  
New and Noteworthy  
Fantasy and Science Fiction  
Fantasy Based on Greek Mythology  
Realistic Fiction  
Thrilling Adventures  
Historical Fiction

\* Some annotations have been adapted from publishers' information and book reviews.

## Use your public library and reserve your books online!



To get access to all these great books, use your public library. Communities in Massachusetts belong to large library networks - this means that they share their resources. Materials can be borrowed from any of the member libraries. You can go online, request books, and have them delivered to your own neighborhood branch.

Most of the communities around Cambridge belong to the Minuteman Library Network:

**Go to: [www.mln.lib.ma.us](http://www.mln.lib.ma.us)**

**To request books**, you must have a library card and a PIN. You can go to your public library to get both. If you already have a card, but not a PIN, you can create a PIN online. You can request books from any of the member libraries, and they will be delivered to any library you choose.

- To search the catalog and request books, first click on *My Account*.
- Put in your library card # and PIN. Click *Submit*.
- On the next screen, there is information about your account, such as which books you have signed out and requested. You can renew your books here. You also can begin to search the catalog.
- Under *My Account*, go to *Modify Personal Information* to see if the library has your e-mail address and to designate where you would like to pick up your books. You will get an e-mail message when your books are ready to be picked up.

### **To search the public library catalog:**

The default method of searching the catalog is by **KEYWORD**. You can also choose other search methods, such as **AUTHOR**, **TITLE**, or **SUBJECT**.

Click on a title that interests you. You will see more information about the book, including whether it is currently available. If you want the book, click on *Request Item*.

Use the *HELP* feature if you have any questions.

### **For the Boston Public Library System go to: [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org)**

If your local library is not a member of either of these systems, go to your library's web page on the Internet and find out how to reserve books.

## New and Noteworthy for Middle Readers

### **Avi. *The Seer of Shadows***

Fourteen-year-old Horace, apprentice photographer, becomes engaged in fake spiritualism. Short chapters with tantalizing cliffhangers heighten the story's suspense, which comes to a head when Horace's photographs unleash a vengeful ghost. Set in post-Civil War New York.

### **Baggott, Julianna. *The Prince of Fenway Park***

For more than 80 years, the Boston Red Sox have been cursed to never win a national championship. Twelve-year-old Oscar Egg discovers that his adoptive father has a secret: he lives deep below Fenway Park, one of a team of magical souls determined to reverse the curse.

### **Balliett, Blue. *The Calder Game***

Calder Pillay travels with his father to a remote village in England and is inexplicably drawn to a sculpture by Alexander Calder. Both the boy and the sculpture seem out of place. Then, they both disappear. Calder's friends Petra and Tommy must help Calder's father find him.

### **Barron, T. A. *The Eternal Flame***

*The Great Tree of Avalon* trilogy comes to an end as warlord Rhita Gawr, a vengeful dragon bent on conquest, leads an army across the land--and the only thing that stands in his way is a trio of unlikely heroes. Series.

### **Berry, Julie. *The Amaranth Enchantment***

Orphaned Lucinda works in her aunt and uncle's goldsmith shop until the mysterious Amaranth witch entrusts her with a precious gem, and the slippery thief Peter steals it. The adventure that follows involves magic and alternate worlds in an action-packed story involving thievery and jailbreak.

### **Bell, Ted. *Nick of Time: An Adventure Through Time***

In the tradition of "Treasure Island," "Nick of Time" is an epic adventure starring a boy named Nick McIver, who uses a time machine to rescue two children taken prisoner by pirates. Along the way, Nick changes the course of events in two time periods.

### **Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece***

A fast-paced mystery in which a young boy and a beetle become embroiled in the world of art forgery and theft. They attempt to pull off a staged art heist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

### **Clements, Andrew. *Lost and Found***

The Grayson twins are new in town, and on the first day of school Ray stays home sick. Jay soon discovers that no one seems to know a thing about Ray. They take turns going to school, each answering to the name Jay Grayson.

### **Cochrane, Mick. *The Girl Who Threw Butterflies***

Six months after her father's death in a car accident, Molly decides to try out for the boys' baseball team, a decision she knows her father, who taught her to throw a knuckleball, would have approved of.

### **Corbett, Sue. *Free Baseball***

The son of a Cuban superstar, Felix Piloto has baseball in his blood. He would give anything to be like his father, or know more about him, but his mother won't reveal anything. While attending a local Florida league game, the visiting team mistakes Felix for its batboy. He jumps at the chance to hang out with real ballplayers and hopes to discover more information about his dad.

### **DuPrau, Jeanne. *The Diamond of Darkhold***

Lina and Doon go back underground to the dying city of Ember in an action-packed adventure with powerful themes about hope, learning, and the search for truth. Fourth in the *Book of Ember* series.

### **Farmer, Nancy. *The Land of the Silver Apples***

In this sequel to *The Sea of Trolls*, the story of Jack, a bard-in-training in 790 A.D. Britain continues. When he learns that his sister Lucy has been stolen by the Lady of the Lake, Jack must brave his worst nightmares. Series.

**Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book***

After escaping the murder of his family, a toddler is taken in by the ghostly inhabitants of a local graveyard. Growing up in this strange setting, Bod has many adventures, leading to a final confrontation with the murderer. Newbery Medal winner.

**Green, Tim. *Baseball Great***

Josh LeBlanc's father has come to the end of a baseball career that never made it to the majors. Josh is also a talented player, and the family's dreams of glory settle on him. His angry, controlling father pulls him off the middle school team to have him try out for a traveling youth team sponsored by a suspicious character.

**Hardinge, Frances. *Well Witched***

Ryan and his friends don't think twice about stealing money from a wishing well. After all, who's going to miss a few tarnished coins? The well witch does--and she demands payback.

**Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat***

When their unpopular biology teacher goes missing in a suspicious fire during a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Nick and Marta don't accept the headmaster's excuse for her absence and decide to do some investigating of their own. Eco-avengers; an endangered, hunted panther; illegal pipelines in the Everglades; and a student with the nickname "Smoke" all play a part.

**Horowitz, Anthony. *Groosham Grange***

Sent to Groosham Grange as a last resort by his frustrated parents, David Eliot quickly discovers that his new boarding school is very peculiar. New pupils are made to sign their names in blood and there are chilling secrets hidden in the assistant headmaster's office. Suddenly, his biggest problem isn't staying in school, it's getting out alive.

**Jinks, Catherine. *Genius Squad***

In this sequel to *Evil Genius*, gifted computer hacker Cadel is now under police protection while the man who may or may not be his father is in jail and awaiting trial. He and a friend are offered the chance to move into a group house, which is really the cover for a "Genius Squad" of young people dedicated to bringing down a criminal company. Series.

**Kerr, P. B. *One Small Step***

NASA asks thirteen-year-old Scott, son of an Air Force flight instructor, to man a pre-Apollo 11, top-secret spaceflight to the moon with a crew of chimpanzees. Scott embraces the opportunity at first, but when he discovers that the chimps are being abused by NASA, he changes the nature of the moon shot when he's far beyond NASA's reach.

**Law, Ingrid. *Savvy***

For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a savvy--a supernatural power they acquire at 13. On the eve of Mibs's big day, she finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up.

**Lennon, Joan. *Ely Plot***

Pip thinks growing up in a medieval abbey, surrounded by nothing but monks and hundreds of miles of swamp, is pretty boring--until the day he meets Perfect, a small stone gargoyle with a life of her own. Before long, the two find themselves in the midst of an assassination attempt against the new king and other adventures.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *Ever***

A powerful fantasy about a world of flawed gods, unbreakable vows, and ancient omens. Olus, the god of wind from a family of Greek-like deities, disguises himself to mix with mortals and falls in love with Kezi, a girl confronted with a terrible destiny.

**Llewellyn, Sam. *Lyonesse: The Well Between the Worlds***

A fantasy that takes the King Arthur legend to a world of monsters. Idris works as a monstergroom, trapping monsters from a watery otherworld. When he finds a sword in a stone and pulls it free, he sets in motion a powerful destiny

**Mass, Wendy. *Every Soul a Star***

Three middle-schoolers' lives intersect at a campground during an eclipse. In alternating chapters, they tell their stories: Ally is devastated to be leaving the campground her family runs; Bree is equally horrified that her family is taking it over; Jack is surprised to be leading a group of "eclipse chasers" at the camp. See also the author's **11 Birthdays**.

**Meehan, Kierin. *Hannah's Winter***

Staying with the Maekawa family after she's dragged to Japan by her mother, twelve-year-old Hannah discovers a ghost — a young boy who needs her help to solve a riddle in this fast-paced mystery. The spooky mood is lightened with humor and with insight into the people and culture of Japan.

**Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. *Princess Ben***

With her parents lost, Princess Benevolence ends up under the thumb of the conniving Queen Sophia. Locked in the castle's highest tower, Ben stumbles upon a mysterious enchanted room. So begins her secret education in the magical arts.

**Paver, Michelle. *Wolf Brother***

In this adventure set 6,000 years ago, Torak and his wolf-cub companion must defeat the evil that stalks their land. Their journey takes them through the deep forest, onto glaciers, and into dangers they never had dreamed of. Other books in the series include *Soul Eater* and *Spirit Walker*.

**Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It***

When a meteor hits the moon, Miranda must learn to survive the unimaginable - worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts and earthquakes rock the continents. Told in journal entries, this is the heart-pounding story of Miranda's struggle to hold on to hope in an desperate and unfamiliar world. For mature readers.

**Pinkwater, Daniel Manus. *The Neddiad: How Neddie Took the Train, Went to Hollywood, and Saved Civilization***

Young Neddie goes on a life-changing and epic journey in this original and hilarious story. Neddie Wentworthstein, three good friends, a shaman, a ghost, and a little maneuver known as the French substitution determine the fate of the world.

**Prineas, Sarah. *The Magic Thief***

In a city that runs on a dwindling supply of magic, a young boy is drawn into a life of wizardry and adventure. Conn should have dropped dead the day he picked a wizard's pocket and touched the wizard's locus magicalicus, a stone used to focus magic and work spells. The wizard takes Conn as his apprentice to discover who--or what--is stealing the city of Wellmet's magic.

**Reeve, Philip. *Here Lies Arthur***

In this retelling of the legend of King Arthur, a girl named Gwynna, who is saved by Myrddin the bard, after her village is destroyed. In the course of their travels, Myrddin, who serves the young, rough Arthur, transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy.

**Riordan, Rick. *39 Clues***

Grace Cahill, matriarch of the world's most powerful family, dies and leaves behind a challenge to her descendants. They can either inherit one million dollars, or forgo the money and receive the first of 39 clues that will lead them on an around-the-world adventure in search of, well, that's a secret. Ten books, each by a different author, are planned for the series.

**Roy, James. *Max Quigley, Technically Not a Bully***

Sixth-grader Max Quigley doesn't hurt people on purpose, but he certainly enjoys making trouble. Bully or not, Max Quigley is in for a life change when he and his sometimes victim are forced together by their parents, in this funny book that explores the topic of bullying from the bully's perspective. Similar in format to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

**Rutkoski, Marie. *The Cabinet of Wonders***

Petra Kronos is shocked when her father is returned to their village without his eyes. The young Prince of Bohemia had commissioned Mikhail Kronos, who has a magical gift with metal and machines, to create a magnificent clock. Before its completion, however, the prince had the artisan's eyes removed, hoping to use their magical qualities, along with the clock, to gain control of the Hapsburg Empire and possibly the world. Petra, along with her well-read tin spider, Astrophil, sneaks off to Prague in order to get the eyes back.

**Simmons, Michael. *Alien Feast: Chronicles of the First Invasion***

After William's oppressive stepparents are eaten by aliens, the only things preventing him from realizing his dream of becoming a famous violin player are the flesh-eating creatures. Adventure and comedy follow as William teams up with his uncle and a classmate for a perilous mission packed full of thrilling battles and exciting plot reversals.

**Scott, Michael. *The Alchemyst***

Incorporating ancient myth and legend and set in present-day California, this is the story of 15-year-old twins who are potentially powerful magicians. They are spoken of in a prophecy appearing in the ancient book stolen by an evil alchemist and magician.

**Weatherill, Cat. *Barkbelly***

One night, a shiny, wooden egg falls from a flying machine down to the small village of Pumbleditch, where Barkbelly is born. He's the only wooden boy, and he's the cause of a tragic accident. Suddenly, Barkbelly's only choice is to flee for his life. As he tries to escape his haunting past, he faces extraordinary adventures and dangers.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *After Tupac and D Foster***

In 1994, the narrator is 11, and Tupac has been shot. Everyone in her safe Queens neighborhood is listening to his music and talking about him. Meanwhile D, a foster child, meets the narrator and her best friend, Neeka, while roaming around the city by herself. They become close, calling themselves Three the Hard Way, and Tupac's music becomes a soundtrack for the two years they spend together.

## Fantasy/Science Fiction



Alexander, Lloyd

The Jedera Adventure (series)  
The Chronicles of Prydain (series)

Anderson, M. T.

The Game of Sunken Places  
Whales on Stilts (series)

Baker, E. D.

Tales of a Frog Princess (series)

Barron, T A

The Great Tree of Avalon (King Arthur, series)

Bode, N. E.

The Nobodies (series)

Buckley, Michael

Sisters Grimm (series)

Byng, Georgia

Molly Moon (humor, series)

Carman, Patrick

The Dark Hills Divide (series)

Clare, Cassandra

City of Bones (series)

Collins, Suzanne

Gregor the Overlander (series)

Cooper, Susan

The Dark is Rising (series)

Corder, Zizou

Lionboy (Africa, animals, series)

Cowell, Cressida

How to Train Your Dragon (humor, series)

De Mari, Silvana

The Last Dragon

Delaney, Joseph

Last Apprentice (series)

Du Prau, Jeanne

The City of Ember (series)

Di Camillo, Kate

The Tale of Despereaux  
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Di Terlizzi, Tony

Spiderwick Chronicles (series)

Durst, Sarah Beth.

Into the Wild

Farmer, Nancy

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm  
Sea of Trolls (series)

## Fantasy/Science Fiction (con'd)

- Flanagan, John  
Ranger's Apprentice (series)
- Funke, Cornelia  
Inkheart (series)
- Gardner, Lyn  
Into the Woods (based on fairy tales)
- George, Jessica  
Dragon Slippers (series)
- Gliori, Debi  
Pure Dead Magic
- Hale, Shannon  
Book of a Thousand Days (based on fairy tales)
- Horvath, Polly  
The Trolls (humor)  
Everything on a Waffle (humor)
- Hunter, Erin  
Warriors (animals, series)
- Ibbotson, Eve  
The Secret of Platform 13  
Star of Kazan
- Jonell, Lynne.  
Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat
- Jones, Diana Wynne  
Chronicles of Chrestomanci (humor, series)
- Juster, Norton  
Phantom Tollbooth (humor)
- Kerr, Philip  
Children of the Lamp (series)
- Reeve, Philip  
Hungry City Chronicles (series)
- Lasky, Kathryn  
Guardians of Ga'hoole (animals, series)
- L'Engle, Madeline  
Wrinkle in Time (series)
- Levine, Gail Carson  
The Princess Tales (based on fairy tales, series)  
Fairest
- Lowry, Lois.  
The Willoughbys
- Martin, Ann M.  
The Doll People (series)
- McAllister, M. I.  
Mistmantle (animals, series)
- MacHale, D J  
Pendragon (series)
- Martin, Ann M.  
The Doll People (series)
- Miller, Kirsten  
Kiki Strike (series)
- Morris, Gerald  
The Squire's Tale (King Arthur, series)
- Napoli, Donna Jo  
Sirena, Zel (based on fairy tales)
- Nimmo, Jenny  
Charlie Bone (series)
- Oppel, Kenneth  
Silverwing (animals, series)
- Paolini, Christopher  
Eragon (series)
- Park, Linda Sue  
Archer's Quest
- Pierce, Tamora  
Song of the Lioness (series)  
The Immortals (series)
- Pullman, Philip  
The Golden Compass (series)
- Rex, Adam.  
The True Meaning of Smekday
- Sage, Angie  
Magyk (Septimus Heap series)
- Said, S. F.  
Varjak Paw (animals, series)
- Stroud, Jonathan  
Bartimaeus Trilogy (series)
- Wilkinson, Carole  
Dragon Keeper
- Wilson, N. D.  
100 Cupboards

**Fantasy Based on Greek Mythology**  
**(for those who love Riordan's**  
***Percy Jackson series*)**



Childs, Tera Lynn  
Oh. My. Gods.

Collins, Ross  
Medusa Jones

Druitt, Tobias.  
Corydon and the Island of Monsters (series)

Friesner, Esther  
Temping Fate

Hennesy, Carolyn  
Pandora Gets Jealous (series)

Levine, Gail Carson  
Ever

Marsh, Katherine  
The Night Tourist

McCaughrean, Geraldine  
Odysseus (series)

Mebus, Scott  
Gods of Manhattan

Riordan, Rick  
Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)

Turner, Megan Whalen  
The Thief (series)

Ursu, Anne  
The Shadow Thieves (series)

## Realistic Fiction

Balliett, Blue  
Chasing Vermeer (mystery)  
The Wright 3 (mystery)

Birdsall, Jeanne  
The Penderwicks (series)

Clements, Andrew  
Frindle  
The Janitor's Boy

Codell, Esme Raji  
Sahara Special  
Vive La Paris

Creech, Sharon  
Walk Two Moons  
Ruby Holler

Fuqua, Jonathon Scott.  
Darby

Di Camillo, Kate  
Because of Winn-Dixie

Dowd, Siobhan  
The London Eye Mystery

Dowell, Frances O'Roark  
The Secret Language of Girls  
Shooting the Moon

Going, K. L.  
The Liberation of Gabriel King

Henkes, Kevin  
Olive's Ocean

Hiassen, Carl  
Hoot

Howe, James  
The Misfits (humor)  
Totally Joe (humor)

Kinney, Jeff  
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (humor, series)

Konigsburg, E.L.  
Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place

Lin, Grace.  
Year of the Dog (series)

Lord, Cynthia.  
Rules

Lupica, Mike  
Travel Team (sports)  
The Big Field (sports)

Martin, Ann Matthews.  
A Dog's Life  
Main Street (series)

McKay, Hilary Saffy's Angel (series)	Sachar, Louis Holes (humor) Wayside School (humor, series)
Myracle, Lauren Eleven (series)	Snicket, Lemony Series of Unfortunate Events (humor, series)
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds Shiloh (animals, series)	Spinelli, Jerry Star Girl Loser
O'Connor, Barbara. How to Steal a Dog	Van Draanen, Wendelin Sammy Keyes (mystery, humor, series) Shredderman (mystery, humor, series)
Pearsall, Shelley. All of the Above	Woodson, Jacqueline Locomotion Feathers
Perkins, Mitali. First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover	Yee, Lisa Millicent Min, Girl Genius (humor) Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time (humor)
Rabb, M E. Missing Persons (mystery, series)	
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. Becoming Naomi León	

### ***Thrilling Adventures***

Abela, Deborah Spy Force (series)	Hill, Stuart Icemark Chronicles (series)
Broach, Elise Shakespeare's Secret	Hobbs, Will Go Big or Go Home (science fiction)
Bosch, Pseudonymous. The Name of This Book Is Secret	Korman, Gordon The Abduction (trilogy) The Contest (trilogy)
Colfer, Eoin Artemis Fowl (series)	Lawrence, Iain High Seas Trilogy
D'Lacey, Chris Icefire (series)	Patterson, James Maximum Ride (series)
Doder, Joshua Grk (series)	Paulsen, Gary Escape From Fire Mountain
Funke, Cornelia The Thief Lord	Sanderson, Brandon. Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians
George, Jean Julie of the Wolves (series) My Side of the Mountain	Selznick, Brian. The Invention of Hugo Cabret
Haddix, Margaret Peterson Among the Hidden (series)	Snicket, Lemony Series of Unfortunate Events
Horowitz, Anthony Alex Rider (series. spy adventure) Gatekeepers (series, fantasy)	Stewart, Trenton Lee. The Mysterious Benedict Society
	Stone, Jeff Five Ancestors (series)

## Historical Fiction

- Avi  
Crispin: Cross of Lead
- Blackwood, Gary  
Shakespeare Stealer (series)
- Cavendish, Grace  
Lady Grace Mysteries (series)
- Curtis, Christopher Paul - African American  
Bud, Not Buddy  
The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963
- Cooper, Susan  
Victory
- Cushman, Karen  
Catherine, Called Birdy  
The Loud Silence of Francine Green
- Dear America series - by different authors,  
historical fiction in diary form about girls
- Dorris, Michael  
Guests (Native American)  
Morning Girl (Native American)
- Erdrich, Louise  
The Birchbark House (series, Native American)
- Giff, Patricia Reilly  
A House of Tailors (series)
- Gardner, Sally  
The Red Necklace
- Gratz, Alan  
Samurai Shortstop (sports)
- Kadohata, Cynthia  
Weedflower (Japanese American)  
Kira-Kira
- Key, Watt  
Alabama Moon
- Lalicki, Tom - mystery  
Danger in the Dark: A Houdini & Nate Mystery
- Levine, Gail Carson  
Dave at Night
- Lowry, Lois  
Number the Stars
- Lyons, Mary E.  
Letters From a Slave Boy  
Letters From a Slave Girl
- Mack, Tracy  
Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street  
Irregulars (series)
- McKissack, Patricia C.  
A Friendship for Today
- My Name is America - historical fiction series by  
different authors about boys
- Napoli, Donna Jo  
Bound
- Osborne, Mary Pope  
Adaline Falling Star
- Park, Linda Sue  
A Single Shard (Korean)  
When My Name Was Keoko
- Paterson, Katherine  
Bread and Roses, Too
- Pearsall, Shelley.  
Crooked River
- Peck, Richard  
A Long Way From Chicago  
The River Between Us
- Rodman, Mary Ann  
Yankee Girl
- Royal Diaries – historical fiction series by several  
authors about girls and women
- Ryan, Pam Munoz.  
Esperanza Rising
- Schlitz, Laura Amy.  
A Drowned Maiden's Hair
- Schmidt, Gary  
Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy
- Springer, Nancy  
The Case of the Missing Marquess (mystery)
- Taylor, Mildred  
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (series)
- Wells, Rosemary  
Red Moon at Sharpsburg
- Wilson, Diane L.  
Black Storm Comin'
- Woods, Brenda.  
My Name Is Sally Little Song

