

Green Acres School

Suggestions for Reading

For Students Entering 5th and 6th Grades

This is a list of suggested books, taken from several sources, including Green Acres student recommendations. Try other books by these authors, too. We hope that your child's schedule will allow for many relaxing times to read and ponder.

Aiken, Joan. **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase**

Two cousins and their friend Simon are left in the care of the terrible Miss Slighcarp at the great English country house of Willoughby Chase.

Alcott, Louisa May. **Little Women**

Meet the beloved characters Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. The book chronicles their family's troubles and triumphs.

Alexander, Lloyd. **The Book of Three** (series)

This *Chronicles of Prydain* series of five books is based on legends of ancient Wales and has it all: adventure, danger, good and evil, love, and death. Also filled with humor and memorable characters.

Alexander, Lloyd. **Gypsy Rizka**

Living alone in her wagon on the outskirts of a small town, Rizka, a Gypsy and a trickster, tricks the townspeople with ruses that create hilarious situations that turn out for the best.

Almond, David. **Skellig**

After discovering a strange creature (man? bird? angel?) in the dilapidated garage behind his new house, Michael sets out to care for him with the help of Mina, his new friend.

Armstrong, Jennifer. **The Kindling** (series)

In 2007, a small band of children have joined together in a Florida town, trying to survive in a world where it seems that all the adults have been killed off by a catastrophic virus.

Armstrong, Jennifer. **Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World**

Tells the harrowing survival story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his 27 sailors as they attempted to cross the frozen Antarctica in 1914.

Avi. **Crispin: The Cross of Lead**

After his mother's death, Asta's son, the nameless boy, learns that he not only had a name but a noble name. Wanted for a crime he didn't commit, he runs for his life and encounters Bear, a juggler with a secret and dangerous mission.

Avi. **The Secret School**

Fourteen-year-old Ida wants to be a teacher, but when her one-room schoolhouse in the remote Colorado mountains unexpectedly closes, her dreams seem unattainable.

Babbitt, Natalie. **Tuck Everlasting**

Violence erupts when the Tuck family members discover that their secret about a spring that brings immortality has been discovered. Circle of life imagery.

Balliett, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer** (series)

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. Set in a progressive school.

Banks, Kate. **Dillon Dillon**

During the summer he turns ten, Dillon learns the surprising story about his name and develops a relationship with three loons living on the lake near his family's New Hampshire cabin that helps him make sense of his life.

Barron, T. A. **The Lost Years of Merlin** (series)

A young boy washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Bateman, Colin. **Running with the Reservoir Pups**

After his parents divorce and his mother moves with him to Belfast, Northern Ireland, twelve-year-old Eddie contends with the Reservoir Pups, a gang of children who rule his neighborhood.

Bell, Hilari. **A Matter of Profit**

Sick of the horrors of conquering other planets, Ahvren will end his service as a soldier and save his sister from an unhappy marriage if he can discover who is behind a rumored plot to assassinate the emperor.

Billingsley, Franny. **The Folk Keeper**

This diary tells the eerie story of Corinna, who disguises herself as a boy to be a folk keeper, keeping the Evil Folk at bay. She discovers the sea and begins to understand her own mysterious heritage.

Billingsley, Franny. **Well Wished**

The magic wishing well grants each village resident one wish per lifetime but twists the wish. Read what happens when Nuria makes her wish.

Bloor, Edward. **Tangerine**

Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and wonders why no one else can see the terrifying truth about his brother.

Blumberg, Rhoda. **Shipwrecked: The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy**

A 14-year-old Japanese fisherman helped break down the isolationism of his country in the 19th century.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. **Framed**

Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town of Manod, Wales with valuable paintings, and their father disappears, that they consider turning to crime.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. **Millions**

After their mother dies, two brothers find a huge amount of money, which they must spend quickly before England switches to the new European currency, but they disagree on how to spend it.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **Halfway to the Sky**

After her brother's death and her parents' divorce, Katahdin runs away from home. Trying to move forward with her life, she plans to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, a trail she has always heard about in family stories.

Bruchac, Joseph. **Skeleton Man**

After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety--and maybe even for her life.

Bruchac, Joseph. **Winter People**

In 1759, during the French and Indian War, a fourteen-year-old Abenaki boy pursues the English rangers who have attacked his village and taken his mother and sisters hostage.

Bridges, Ruby. **Through My Eyes**

Bridges tells her story of integrating a New Orleans elementary school at age six in 1960.

Bryant, Jennifer. **The Trial**

In Flemington, New Jersey in 1935, twelve-year-old Katie Leigh Flynn describes the effect on her small town of the ongoing trial of Bruno Hauptmann for the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby son. Told in a series of poems.

Cameron, Ann. **The Secret Life of Amanda Woods**

Amanda grows and changes while coping with trying circumstances including a difficult mother, a beloved but distant father, and an older sister.

Chin-Lee, Cynthia. **Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World**

An introduction to twenty-six diverse, 20th-century women who have made a difference in such varied fields as the arts, sports, journalism, science, and entertainment.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts**

In 1935 Moose and his family, including his sister, who needs a special school, move to Alcatraz when his father gets a job as a prison guard.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Notes from a Liar and Her Dog**

Feeling out of place in her family, Antonia copes by telling lies, loving her dog and waiting for her "real parents" to find her.

Clements, Andrew. **The School Story**

After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novel, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.

Clements, Andrew. **A Week in the Woods**

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him. Also enjoy *School Story*, *The Janitor's Boy*, and *Things Not Seen*.

Colfer, Eoin. **Artemis Fowl** (series)

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Collins, Mary. **Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright**

A photobiography about the Wright brothers' experiments and triumphs in the field of flight.

Cooney, Caroline. **Goddess of Yesterday**

The sole survivor of a pirate raid, Anaxandra assumes the identity of Princess Callisto when she is found by Menelaus and taken to his kingdom of Sparta and to Helen, his wife.

Cooper, Susan. **King of Shadows**

While in London preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater.

Couloumbis, Audrey. **Say Yes**

In her efforts to hang on following the disappearance of her stepmother, Casey resorts to anything, including robbery.

Creech, Sharon. **Bloomability**

When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers that her world is expanding.

Creech, Sharon. **Love that Dog**

This funny, sweet, original short novel written in free verse introduces an endearingly unassuming, straight-talking boy who discovers the powers and pleasure of poetry.

Creech, Sharon. **Ruby Holler**

Twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage, but their lives change forever when an eccentric older couple invites them each on an adventure that begins in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

Creech, Sharon. **The Unfinished Angel**

In a tiny village in the Swiss Alps, an angel meets an American girl named Zola who has come with her father to open a school. Together, Zola and the angel rescue a group of homeless orphans, who gradually change everything.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. **The Seeing Stone** (series)

In 100 short chapters, a boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gave him a magical seeing stone that shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events in whose life seem to have many parallels to his own.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **The Watsons Go to Birmingham -- 1963**

Both hilarious and deeply moving, this novel tells how the lives of the Watsons, an African American family from Flint, Michigan, change when they visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama in that violent year, 1963. See also the wonderful novel *Bud, Not Buddy*.

Cushman, Karen. **Catherine Called Birdy**

Living in medieval times, Catherine uses wit, trickery, and luck to avoid being married off at age fourteen. Also enjoy her other novels set in medieval times, *Matilda Bone* and *The Midwife's Apprentice*.

Cushman, Karen. **Rodzina**

A twelve-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.

Dahl, Roald. **Vile Verses**

A collection of Dahl's work with selections illustrated by various artists.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. **The Conch Bearer**

In India, a healer invites twelve-year-old Anand to join him on a quest to return a magical conch to its safe and rightful home, high in the Himalayan mountains.

Eckert, Allen W. **Incident at Hawk's Hill**

A shy six-year-old survives a summer 100 years ago on the Canadian prairie under the care of a female badger. Based on a true story. The sequel is *Return to Hawk's Hill*.

English, Karen. **Francie**

When Francie helps her friend Jesse who has been accused of murdering a white man in Noble, Alabama, she puts herself and her family in danger.

Erdrich, Louise. **The Birchbark House; The Game of Silence**

Readers of Laura Ingalls Wilder's books about American pioneer life will enjoy reading about the daily life of a Native American family of the same period as seen through the eyes of Omakayas, a seven-year-old Ojibwa girl.

Etchemenday, Nancy. **The Power of Un**

When he is given a device that will allow him to "undo" what has happened in the past, Gib Finney is not sure what event from the worst day in his life he should change in order to keep his sister from being hit by a truck.

Enzensberger, Hans Magnus. **The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure**

Robert is bored with life and can't stand his math teacher, but when the number devil visits his dreams, Robert is intrigued and inspired by the funky things numbers can do.

Farmer, Nancy. **The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm**

In Zimbabwe in 2194, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

Fine, Anne. **The Tulip Touch**

Natalie, who lives in a hotel managed by her father, has a dangerous friendship with Tulip, the wildly uncontrollable girl on a neighboring farm.

Fleischman, Paul. **Whirligig**

While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he caused, sixteen-year-old Brent finds forgiveness and atonement.

Fleischman, Sid. **Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini**

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

Fleischman, Sid. **The Trouble Begins at 8**

A biography of Mark Twain in the wild, wild west.

Fletcher, Ralph. **Flying Solo**

When the substitute teacher doesn't show, Mr. Fabiano's 6th grade class sets out to prove they can run the class by themselves.

Fletcher, Susan. **Shadow Spinner**

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old disabled girl, joins the sultan's harem, she gathers the stories that will save the queen's life.

Fogelin, Adrian. **Crossing Jordan**

Cass and her new African American neighbor, Jemie, form a strong friendship around their mutual talent for running despite their families' prejudice.

Freedman, Russell. **The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights**

This inspiring biography of singer Marian Anderson tells the story of how she didn't set out to be a crusader for civil rights.

Funke, Cornelia. **Inkheart** (trilogy)

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force her father into service.

Funke, Cornelia. **The Thief Lord**

Two orphan brothers run away from the aunt who only wants to adopt the younger boy. In Venice they join a gang of homeless children led by the notorious Thief Lord, who teaches them to steal to support themselves.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book**

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

Galloway, Priscilla. **Archers, Alchemists, and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed**

Gives an introduction to medieval Europe by discussing occupations of that time.

Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Loses Control** (series)

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention and controlling mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

George, Jean Craighead. **My Side of the Mountain**

A young boy lives alone for a year in the Catskill Mountains depending on nature and animal friends, but he finally realizes that he needs human companionship.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Nory Ryan's Song** (series)

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Pictures of Hollis Woods**

A 12-year-old orphan, living with a woman who needs her, remembers the foster family who wanted her.

Gratz, Alan M. **Samurai Shortstop**

While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training, which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.

Green, Michelle Y. **A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson**

A biography of Washingtonian Mamie Johnson, one of three women to play in the professional Negro Leagues, discusses the challenges she faced as a black woman to make her way into professional baseball.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Running Out of Time**

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers that it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists. It is up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Double Identity**

When Bethany's parents suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family

Hale, Shannon. **Rapunzel's Revenge**

This graphic novel retelling of the fairytale classic, set in a swashbuckling Wild West, puts action first and features some serious girl power in its spunky and strong heroine.

Halls, Kelly Milner. **Albino Animals**

Presents information on and photographs of albinism in organisms ranging from plants to humans, and includes references to named individuals such as Ghost Boy, the albino koala.

Hamilton, Virginia. **The House of Dies Drear** (series)

An African American family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Henkes, Kevin. **Olive's Ocean**

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage on Cape Cod, Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

Henry, Marguerite. **King of the Wind: The Story of the Godolphin Arabian**

Sham and the stable boy Agba travel from Morocco to France to England where, at last, Sham's majesty is recognized and he becomes the "Godolphin Arabian," ancestor of the most superior thoroughbred horses.

Hesse, Karen. **The Music of Dolphins**

After surviving a plane crash at sea, Mila lives with a dolphin family until she is rescued. In journal entries she tells her story of trying to adjust to life in the human world.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Scat**

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Hilgartner, Beth. **A Murder for Her Majesty**

Horrified at having witnessed her father's murder, and fearing the killers are agents of Queen Elizabeth I, Alice flees to York in search of a family friend.

Hillman, Ben. **How Big Is It?**

Shows size by placing two objects near each other for comparison.

Hillman, Ben. **How Strong Is It?**

Discusses the strength of ordinary things, such as a spider's web and a one thousand-horsepower car.

Hoeye, Michael. **Time Stops for No Mouse**

In this mystery/fantasy, watchmaker Hermux Tantamoq searches for a customer who has not returned for her watch. A good read aloud for fans of the *Redwall* series or *Stuart Little*.

Holm, Jennifer. **Boston Jane: An Adventure** (series)

Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for her city manners during her long sea voyage and while living with traders and Chinook Indians in the Washington territory.

Holm, Jennifer. **Penny from Heaven**

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. **My Louisiana Sky**

Tiger Ann Parker longs to leave her 1950's community where everyone knows that her parents are mentally challenged. When she has an opportunity to spend the summer in the city with her aunt, she has to make a decision.

Hoobler, Dorothy. **The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn** (series)

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Hoose, Philip. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**

An African American teenager helps change segregation in the South.

Horowitz, Anthony. **Stormbreaker** (series)

Fourteen-year-old Alex works as a spy for the British MI6 in a story of action and high tech gadgets.

Horvath, Polly. **Everything on a Waffle**

In a story filled with offbeat characters, a plucky heroine, and real recipes, Primrose never loses faith that her parents, who have been lost at sea, are still alive.

Ibbotson, Eva. **Dragonfly Pool**

When their friend Prince Karil is in danger, Tally and her progressive-school friends help him escape the Nazis.

Ibbotson, Eva. **Journey to the River Sea**

Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.

Ibbotson, Eva. **The Secret of Platform 13**

Who should be sent to rescue the young prince who was kidnapped nine years before? Good choice for Harry Potter fans.

Jacques, Brian. **Castaways of the Flying Dutchman** (series)

In the 19th century, the only survivors of a shipwreck, Neb and his dog are given the gift of never aging or dying and are pulled into a mystery that could save a small town from being destroyed.

Jacques, Brian. **Redwall** (series)

Mice, rats, weasels, and rabbits engage in great battles of good and evil in this beloved series.

Jackson, Donna M. **Extreme Scientists**

Discover the world of some extreme scientists and their work.

Jackson, Donna M. **In Your Face: The Facts about Your Features**

Explores the many purposes of the human face in relation to interpersonal communication while also examining the different types of features that are considered beautiful in various cultures around the world.

Janezko, Paul B. (editor). **A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms**

Each poem represents a different poetic form, from the familiar to the more obscure. Provides clear, brief explanations of each form.

Jennings, Paul. **Undone; Unreal**

Wonderful short stories. Humor, some grossness, surprises, and more. (See also related titles.)

Juster, Norton. **The Phantom Tollbooth**

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers and finds a cure for his boredom.

Karr, Kathleen. **The Boxer**

Having learned how to box while in prison, fifteen-year-old Johnny sets out to discover whether he can make a decent living as a fighter in late nineteenth century New York City.

Kehret, Peg. **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio**

Kehret recounts her 7th grade year in 1949, when she was the only person in her Minnesota town to contract polio.

Kelly, Jacqueline. **Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather -- which leads to an important discovery.

Key, Watt. **Alabama Moon**

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, where he becomes entangled in the outside world he has never known and makes good friends and a relentless enemy.

Konigsburg, E.L. **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**

Claudia takes her younger brother with her when she runs away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Konigsburg, E.L. **The View from Saturday**

Four students, with their own stories, are chosen to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Koss, Amy Goldman. **The Girls**

Each of the girls in a middle school clique reveals the strong, manipulative hold that one of the group exerts on the others, causing hurt and self-doubt among the girls.

Lawrence, Caroline. **The Secrets of Vesuvius** (series)

Flavia and her friends encounter the Roman admiral Pliny before making a journey to her uncle's farm near Mt. Vesuvius, where they try to solve a riddle, reunite a family, and get out of the path of a natural disaster.

Lawrence, Iain. **The Wreckers** (series)

John Spencer survives a shipwreck, but he soon learns that the Cornish villagers are not rescuers but pirates who lure ships onto the rocks to plunder their cargo. They want no survivors.

Larson, Kirby. **Hattie Big Sky**

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems (including bias against people of German heritage) related to the war being fought in Europe.

Levine, Gail Carson. **Ella Enchanted**

Ella struggles against the childhood "gift" that forces her to obey any order given to her in this "Cinderella" novel.

Lipsyte, Robert. **Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made It America's Favorite Game**

A collective biography including some of baseball's biggest stars and a few lesser known but equally influential players.

Lisle, Janet Taylor. **Black Duck**

Years afterwards, 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.

Lowry, Lois. **Number the Stars**

During the German occupation of Denmark during World War II, Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Lynch, Chris. **Gold Dust**

Baseball and race relations in 1975 Boston are the backdrop for two unlikely seventh grade pals, Boston native Richard Riley Montcrief and Napoleon Charlie Ellis, newly arrived from the island of Dominica.

Macaulay, David. **The Way We Work**

Describes the human body.

Magorian, Michelle. **Good Night, Mr. Tom**

A battered child learns to embrace life when he is sent to live with an old man during World War II.

Marcus, Leonard S (editor). **Funny Business**

Thirteen favorite children's authors share their trade secrets

McCaughrean, Geraldine. **Greek Myths**

Enjoy the stories of Prometheus, Persephone, Echo and Narcissus, Perseus, Jason, Atalanta, Odysseus, and other tales from Greek mythology retold by a superb writer. Enjoy her other books of myths and legends including *Roman Myths*, *The Golden Hoard*, and *Starry Tales*.

McCaughrean Geraldine. **Death-Defying Pepper Roux**

Tale of a boy whose jealous and cruel Aunt Mireille foretells, at his birth, his death at age 14. A devout Catholic, she insists that he learn Last Rites rather than nursery rhymes. When his 14th birthday arrives, Pepper runs away to sea in an attempt to stay a step ahead of death.

McKay, Hilary. **Saffy's Angel**

Saffy, a member of an eccentric English family, searches for a memento from her past. (Related titles are available including *Permanent Rose*.)

McKinley, Robin. **The Hero and the Crown**

Aerin, daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the North, finds her destiny under the guidance of the wizard, Luthe, and with the help of the blue sword. (Related titles are available including *Blue Sword*.)

Mikaelsen, Ben. **Touching Spirit Bear**

Bully Cole Mathews will do what he must to stay out of prison even if it means accepting Circle Justice, based on Native American traditions, that will banish him alone for a year to a remote Alaskan island.

Montgomery, L.M. **Anne of Green Gables** (series)

Spend some time with a willful, talkative, redheaded, short-tempered girl living on Prince Edward Island.

Montgomery, Sy. **Saving the Ghost of the Mountain**

In this nonfiction book, scientist Tom McCarthy goes to the Mongolian mountain ridges in the hope of learning more about the snow leopard, a rarely seen animal.

Morris, Gerald. **The Squire's Tale** (series)

In a story full of adventure and humor based on the legends of Camelot, Terence becomes squire to Sir Gawain, and his life becomes more exciting.

Murphy, Jim. **Inside the Alamo**

An overview of the struggle between the Texan settlers and Mexico's General Santa Anna for control of Texas, with a detailed description of the 1836 siege of the Alamo.

Myers, Walter Dean. **At Her Majesty's Request**

A biography of the African princess who was saved from execution and taken to England, where Queen Victoria oversaw her upbringing.

Naidoo, Beverley. **The Other Side of Truth**

Two children, political refugees from Nigeria, are abandoned in London. A powerful and dramatic account.

Namioka, Lensey. **Ties That Bind, Ties That Break**

Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

Napoli, Donna Jo. **Daughter of Venice**

Donata, 14 years old and confined to the palace because she is a girl, sneaks out of her home disguised as a boy to explore her city and then must confront the repercussions of her actions.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Blizzard's Wake**

Kate's life has not been the same since her mother died four years earlier. This is a gripping story about grief, determination, and healing as the life of the Sterling family becomes entwined with that of Zeke Dexter, the drunk driver who killed Kate's mother.

Nicholson, William. **The Wind Singer** (series)

Kestrel Hath, her twin brother, and a classmate follow an ancient map in quest of the legendary silver voice of the wind singer in the hope of healing Amaranth and its people.

Nimmo, Jenny. **Midnight for Charlie Bone** (series)

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. **Habibi**

When Liyana Abboud and her family move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they encounter many changes and tensions between Jews and Palestinians.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Airborn; Skybreaker**

Matt Cruse, a young cabin boy aboard an airship and later a student at the Airship Academy, and heiress Kate team up for exciting adventures high above the ground.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Silverwing** (series)

When a newborn bat becomes separated from its colony during migration, it grows in ways that prepare it for even greater journeys.

Orr, Wendy. **Nim's Island**

A girl, an iguana, an island... and e-mail. Meet Nim, a modern-day Robinson Crusoe! She's not afraid when her scientist dad sails off to study plankton for three days, but when her father's cell phone calls stop coming and disaster seems near, Nim has to be stronger and braver than she's ever been before.

Parry, Rosanne. **Heart of a Shepherd**

Ignatius "Brother" Alderman, nearly twelve, promises to help his grandparents keep the family's Oregon ranch the same while his brothers are away and his father is deployed to Iraq. As he comes to accept the inevitability of change, he also sees the man he is meant to be.

Partridge, Elizabeth. **Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary**

Moving prose about the bravery of children who propelled the civil rights movement forward and inspired the adults in their lives months before the march with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet** (series)

Brian Robeson was on his way to visit his father in Canada when the pilot of the single-engine plane suffered a heart attack. Will Brian survive?

Paulsen, Gary. **How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And Other Outrageous Tales of Extreme Sports**

Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940's and early 1950's, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Peck, Richard. **A Long Way from Chicago**

A boy recounts his annual visit with his sister to a small Illinois town where their grandmother lies, cheats, and schemes during the Great Depression. (Related titles include the sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*, and *A Season of Gifts*).

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **All Alone in the Universe**

Debbie is dismayed when her best friend dumps her for boring Glenna.

Raskin, Ellen. **The Westing Game**

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.

Rawls, Wilson. **Where the Red Fern Grows**

In this bittersweet tale, a young boy in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

Philbrick, Rodman. **Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg**

Civil War era novel featuring a mistreated orphan who doesn't let truth stand in the way of spinning a good yarn.

Pratchett, Terry. **The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents**

Maurice the cat and his troop of talking rats plan a Pied Piper scam in the town of Bad Blintz.

Reeve, Philip. **Larklight, or the Revenge of the White Spiders!, or to Saturn's Rings and Back!**

In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system.

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief** (series)

The first book of the popular *Percy Jackson* series. After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and he joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

Ritter, John. **Choosing Up Sides**

Thirteen-year-old Luke finds himself torn between two worlds. His classmates urge him to join a baseball team after seeing his pitching ability, while his father's church forbids participation in sports.

Rodda, Emily. **Rowan of Rin; Rowan and the Travelers**

Following a magical map that only gentle, timid Rowan can read, seven villagers make their way to the top of a mountain to restore water to their valley. One by one, however, each confronts his fears and turns back, leaving Rowan to face the danger alone.

Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (series)

Sixth-year Hogwarts student Harry Potter gains valuable insights into the boy Voldemort once was, even as his own world is transformed by maturing friendships, schoolwork assistance from an unexpected source, and devastating losses.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. **Esperanza Rising**

A "riches to rags" story about Esperanza and her mother, who were forced to leave their privileged life in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes**

Stanley Yelnats comes from a family long accustomed to bad luck. When Stanley is sent unjustly to a juvenile detention facility, he learns about friendship and hard work.

Salisbury, Graham. **Lord of the Deep**

Working for his stepfather on a charter fishing boat in Hawaii teaches Mikey about fishing, about facing risks, and about facing some of life's difficult choices.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama**

Three seemingly caring, elderly sisters adopt eleven-year-old Maud, but she soon discovers that they are con artists who need her to stage elaborate spiritualistic shams for wealthy clients.

Scieszka, Jon. **Science Verse**

When the teacher tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything, a student is struck with a curse and begins hearing nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems.

Skurzynski, Gloria. **Wolf Stalker** (series)

Jack's family goes to Yellowstone National Park, where Jack's mother investigates a report that wolves reintroduced to the park have killed a dog there.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac McGee**

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats that awe his contemporaries.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Stargirl**

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage to be a nonconformist, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Stanley, Diane. **Bella at Midnight**

Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight and finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and the kingdom forever.

Stead, Rebecca. **When You Reach Me**

Sixth-grader Miranda lives in New York City with her mother in 1978, and her life compass is Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. When she receives a series of enigmatic notes that claim to want to save her life, she comes to believe that they are from someone who knows the future.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **Treasure Island**

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream**

A biography of the thirteen women astronauts of Project Mercury and their case for sex discrimination that gave other young women their place in the sky.

Stroud, Jonathan. **Heroes of the Valley**

When young Halli Sveinsson takes a practical joke too far, he is forced to leave the House of Svein and go on a hero's quest, where he encounters highway robbers, terrifying monsters, and a girl who may be as fearless as he is.

Taylor, Mildred. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** (series)

Taylor's classic story of Cassie Logan and her African American family struggling to survive in 1930's Mississippi is based on stories that the author's father told her about his family. A powerful series.

Tolan, Stephanie. **Surviving the Applewhites**

In this laugh-out-loud novel, Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, finds himself living in rural North Carolina with the outrageously eccentric Applewhite clan.

Turner, Megan Whalen. **The Thief** (series)

In this challenging, exceptionally clever novel, a gifted young thief imprisoned for life is given a chance to win his freedom.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief** (series)

Sammy gets in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery across the street from the senior citizens' building where she lives with her grandmother.

Van de Velde, Vivian. **Heir Apparent**

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game, Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Waugh, Sylvia. **The Mennymys** (series)

A family of life-size rag dolls does not want to attract any attention to themselves, yet life must go on. Read the whole series and get to know this remarkable family.

Waugh, Sylvia. **Earthborn** (series)

When Nesta Gwynn discovers that she is the child of alien parents who plan to return to their home planet, she devises a plan to stay on earth

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. **Bat 6**

Twenty-one girls recount the story of an annual softball game during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Woodford, Chris. **Cool Stuff Exploded**

Uses computer-generated images to explain how many devices and processes of modern technology work. Covers inventions such as the backhoe loader, the dishwasher, the spacesuit, the electric guitar, and the inkjet printer.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Hush**

Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters a witness protection program.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Miracle's Boys**

Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.

Wrede, Patricia. **Dealing with Dragons** (series)

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved in fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragon's kingdom.

Yee, Lisa. **Millicent Min, Girl Genius**

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Yee, Lisa. **Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time**

After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father.

Yolen, Jane. **The Sword of the Rightful King**

Merlinus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England: by pulling a sword from a stone. But trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.