



**ROAR FOR  
SUMMER  
READING!**



# **NSHA SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2021**





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## Introduction to Roar for Reading!

Dear Families,

**One of the most important things that you can do for your children this summer is to make reading a top priority.** Research shows that you can dramatically decrease your child's summer slide, or academic regression that takes place each summer, by ensuring that your child reads for at least 20 minutes every day. Reading is defined as you reading to your child, your child reading to you or when ready, your child reading independently. Reading aloud to your child at any age helps to expand his/her literacy skills including listening comprehension and vocabulary development, love of reading, and empathy and awareness of the world around them. Consider reading newspapers and magazines, in addition to books, as a family, too!

**As has become the NSHA tradition, we are sharing a reading list through "NSHA's Roar for Summer Reading" initiative!** This list is a small selection of the thousands of incredible children's books available in the world, curated for our students to encourage a love of reading. In addition to fiction lists by grade level, we've also put together nonfiction reading lists as well. As every child is different, you will notice a range of reading levels on each list, and you are also welcome to look at the list above and below your child's grade for additional suggestions.

**This summer, your child should be reading every day, and must read three books from his/her grade's Summer Reading List.** Depending on the books your child chooses, and his/her own independent reading level, your child may be able to read this book independently, or you may choose to read it to him/her.

**Incoming  
Grade...**

**K- Grade 1**

**Grades 2-5**

**Grades 6-8**

**Assignment:**

Read! Read! Read!

Read! Read! Read!  
**Select one project  
 from the menu on  
 page 3 to complete.**

Read! Read! Read!  
 Visit [www.nsha.org/mssummer](http://www.nsha.org/mssummer)  
 for reading assignment

I highly encourage you to sign up for the **Great Neck Public Library Summer Reading program**, as well. You can participate regardless of whether you are a resident of Great Neck, and if you are a resident, your child is eligible to win a number of prizes for reading, as well. The sign-up can be found [here](#). We've partnered with the library on this initiative and will receive a list of NHSA students who participated in their program at the end of the summer!

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy summer full of reading,  
**Lisa Weinstein** | Director of Curriculum & Instruction, K-8 | [lweinstein@nsha.org](mailto:lweinstein@nsha.org)



### Menu of Book Projects for Students Entering Grades 2-5

Choose one book you read this summer and **complete one** of the writing projects below. The final project will be collected and celebrated in September by your new teacher! The menu includes straightforward writing assignments, along with more creative, hands-on projects. We encourage you to help your child select the project that works best for his/her learning style and interests.

#### Project Options for Fiction OR Nonfiction Books:

1. Make a new book jacket for your book - include a front cover, an inside cover with a summary of the book and a back cover including your own review of the book.
2. Make a board game for your book. Include directions, game board and all pieces needed to play it!
3. Create an amusement park (think *Harry Potter World*!) for your book. Include the map of the amusement park including illustrations and descriptions of the rides, the food, and the gift shop.
4. Write a letter to a friend recommending or not recommending the book you've read. Include three reasons to support your opinion, along with details from the book itself.

#### Project Options for Fiction Books Only:

1. You are a news reporter interviewing the main character of your book on TV. Write the interview - including your questions and the character's answers to each question.
2. Choose a character from your book and imagine this character keeps a journal. Write 3-5 journal entries from the point of view of this character.
3. Imagine your main character was creating a scrapbook for their family about their life. Include pictures, captions, and artifacts in your final project.

#### Project Options for Nonfiction books:

1. Create your own "Alphabet Book" based on the book you read, using facts, details and vocabulary words you learned. For example, an ABC Book on the Desert might include pages like: A is for Armadillo and B is for Bighorn Sheep. Write a sentence and include an illustration about each word.
2. Create a set of trading cards (like baseball or Pokémon cards) using index cards to teach someone some of the facts and details you learned from your book.



**Reading Log: Please complete and hand in on the first day of school.**

Name:

Incoming Class:

The three books I read this summer from the Summer Reading List:

1.

2.

3.

My three favorite books I read over the summer (does not have to be from the Summer Reading List):

1.

2.

3.

Other books I read this summer:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

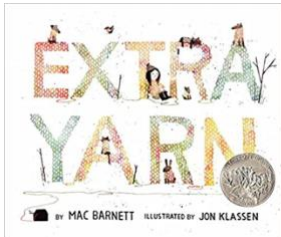
6.

7.



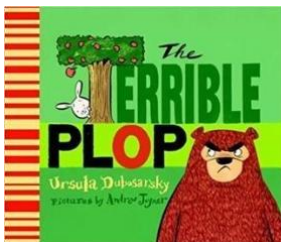
## Summer Reading List for Students Entering Kindergarten

For children entering Kindergarten, here is a list of ten unique picture books to read aloud to your child. Read 1, 3, 5, or all of them!



### **Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett**

With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.



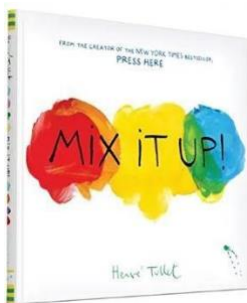
### **The Terrible Plop by Ursula Dubosarsky**

A mysterious sound sends the whole forest running away in fear, and only the littlest rabbit is courageous enough to figure out the source of the sound.



### **The Monster Who Lost His Mean by Tiffany Strelitz Haber**

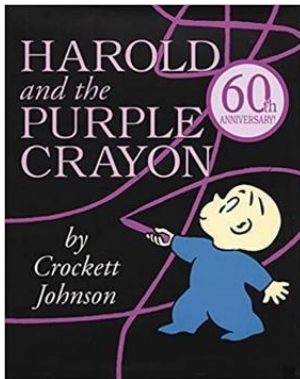
Everyone knows that the M in "monster" stands for MEAN. But what happens when a monster can't be mean any more? Is he still a monster at all? One young monster's attempts to live up to his name go hilariously awry as he discovers—with a little help from new friends—that it's not what you're called but who you are that counts.



### **Mix It Up by Herve Tullet**

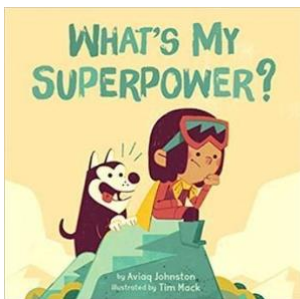
An interactive picture book that introduces mixing colors to children. A perfect book for a summer day of reading and painting!





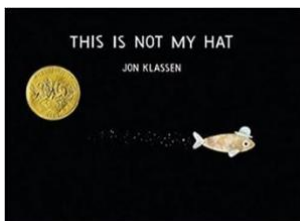
**Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson**

One evening Harold decides to go for a walk in the moonlight. Armed only with an oversized purple crayon, young Harold draws himself a landscape full of wonder and excitement. Harold and his trusty crayon travel through woods and across seas and past dragons before returning to bed, safe and sound. Full of funny twists and surprises, this charming story shows just how far your imagination can take you.



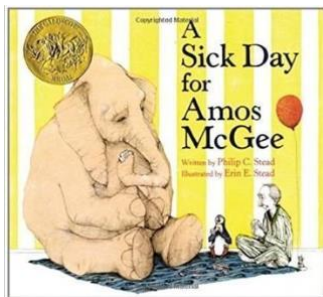
**What's My Superpower? By Aviaq Johnston**

Nalvana feels like all of her friends have some type of superpower. She has friends with super speed, friends with super strength, and friends who are better than her at a million other things. Nalvana thinks she must be the only kid in town without a superpower. But then her mom shows Nalvana that she is unique and special, and that her superpower was right in front of her all along.



**This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen**

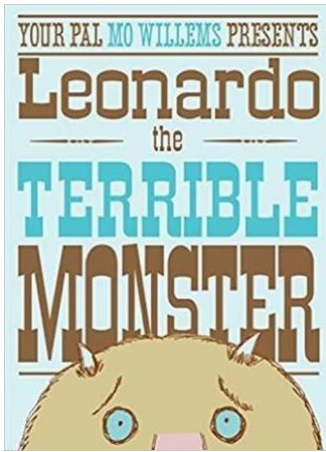
This tiny fish knows it's wrong to steal a hat. It fits him just right. But the true owner of the hat wants it back.



**A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Christian Stead**

A friendly zookeeper always made time to visit his good friends, the elephant, the tortoise, the penguin, the rhinoceros and the owl. When he catches a cold one day, he receives some unexpected guests.





### **Leonardo the Terrible Monster by Mo Willems**

No matter how hard he tries, Leonardo can't seem to frighten anyone. Finally, he finds a nervous little boy, and scares the tuna salad out of him! But scaring people isn't quite as satisfying as he thought it would be.

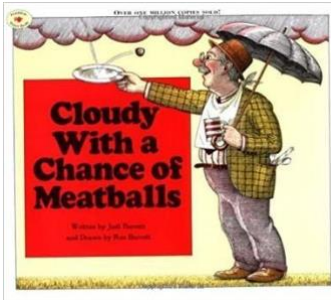
**And here are a few bonus titles to get your child excited about Kindergarten!**

				
<u>Kindergarten, Here I Come!</u> By D.J. Steinberg	<u>The Night Before Kindergarten</u> By Natasha Wang	<u>Miss Bindergraten Gets Ready for Kindergarten</u> By Joseph Slate	<u>Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten</u> By Toni Buzzeo	<u>The King of Kindergarten</u> By Derrick Barnes



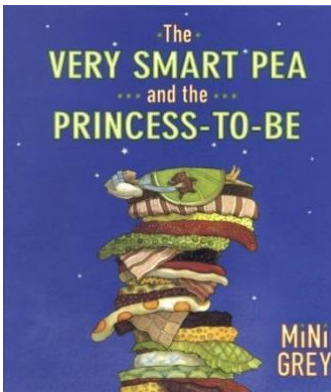
## Summer Reading List for Students Entering 1st Grade

This list includes a few titles for parents to read to their children, along with some books that children may be able to read to their parents, as well.



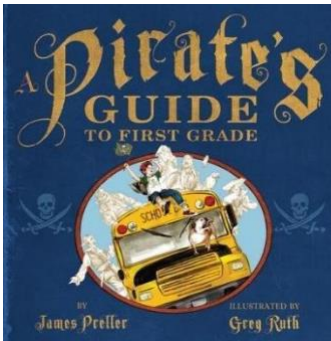
### **Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett**

In the town of Chewandswallow, when it rains, it pours...soup, spaghetti and soda! This tall tale about the tiny town where the weather is "served" at breakfast, lunch and dinner is a laugh.



### **The Very Smart Pea and the Princess-To-Be by Mini Grey**

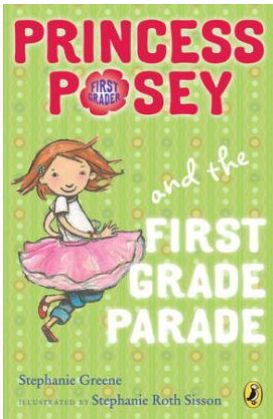
Straight from the pod, a retelling of a fairy tale classic.



### **A Pirates Guide to First Grade by James Preller**

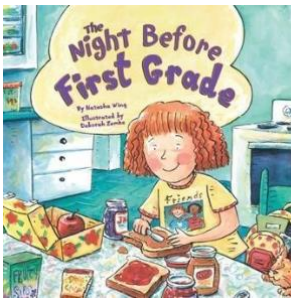
Ahoy, mateys! A boy's daily routine is buoyed by his imaginary adventures on the high seas. Narrated entirely in pirate-speak, this is a fun book to read aloud to your budding young pirate before sending them off to first grade!





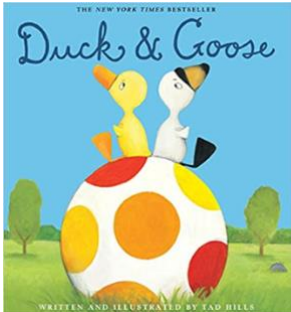
**Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade by Stephanie Greene**

This series is all about a first grade girl, Posey. In this book, Posey is really nervous about starting first grade. Instead of getting walked to her classroom, her mom has to drop her off at Kiss-and-Go Lane. Posey inspires her new teacher to throw a first-day parade in which all the kids are invited to wear whatever makes them feel the most comfortable, first grade starts to feel a lot better!



**The Night Before First Grade by Natasha Wing**

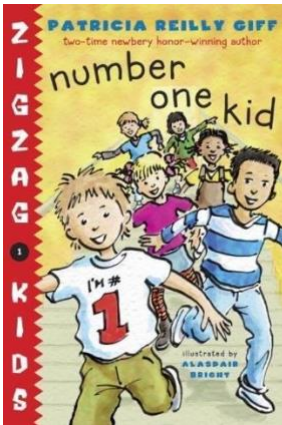
This picture book introduces us to a young Penny and invites us to follow along as Penny weather her night-before jitters and encounters the strange, new realities of first grade. An ideal “what to expect” guide for anxious almost first graders.



**Duck & Goose by Tad Hills**

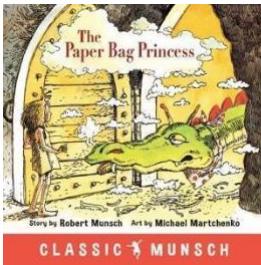
Meet Duck and Goose, two young birds who mistake a polka-dot ball for an egg and have to master the art of cooperation—and sharing—to take care of it. But friendship is not always easy, as proved in this funny, accessible story.





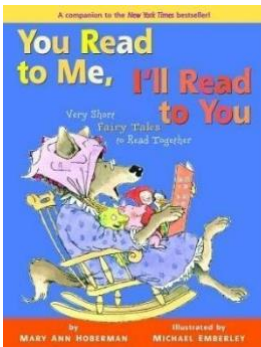
**Zigzag Kids #1 Number One Kid by Patricia Reilly Giff**

Newbery Honor-winning author Patricia Reilly Giff has authored Zigzag Kids, a new illustrated series about the excitement and surprises of new friends and after-school fun.



**Paperbag Princess by Robert Munsch**

When the fiercest dragon in the whole world smashes Princess Elizabeth's castle, burns all her clothes, and captures her fiancé, Prince Ronald, Elizabeth takes matters into her own hands. With her wits alone and nothing but a paper bag to wear, the princess challenges the dragon to show his strength in the hopes of saving the prince. But is it worth all that trouble?



**You Read to Me, I'll Read to You, Very Short Fairy Tales to Read by Mary Ann Hoberman**

Each of these short tales is told in short rhyming dialogues—with each character's lines indicated by a different color-to be used as a script for two voices to read. Goldilocks, the Little Red Hen, the Three Little Pigs, and many more beloved characters star in these tales-with-a-twist that are perfect for early and reluctant readers, readers' theater, and bedtime fun.

**Continue to the next page for series books for students entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade**



## Series Books for Students Entering 1st and 2nd grades

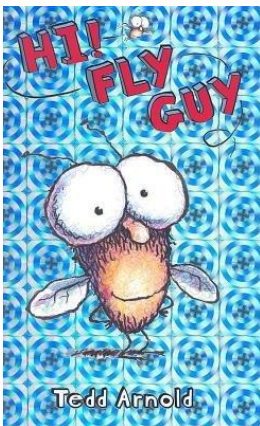
The following titles include some of my favorite, easy reader series books! Series books are a great way to get students excited about reading and include many sight words your child may be able to read, even if they can't read the entire book independently.

TIP: When asking your child to read independently, match the book to your child by asking him/her to read a page aloud. If your child makes less than two mistakes, and understands what he/she read, it's a go! Otherwise, try a book at an easier level.



**Puppy Mudge Finds a Friend, Puppy Mudge Has a Snack, Puppy Mudge Loves His Blanket, Puppy Mudge Takes a Bath, Puppy Mudge Wants to Play, and Henry and Mudge: The First Book, by Cynthia Rylant (Level D-E)**

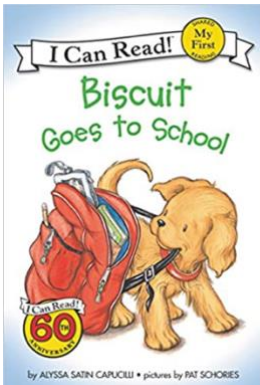
Before Mudge was a big, playful dog, he was a big, adorable puppy! Classic characters Henry and Mudge star in this unforgettable series by award-winning author Cynthia Rylant all about Puppy Mudge's hilarious and heartwarming adventures in friendship



**Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold (Level F)**

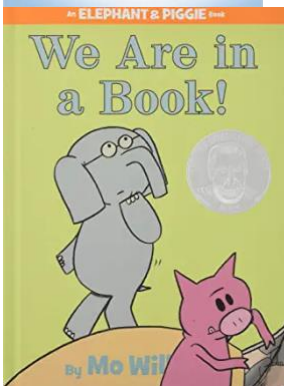
The first in a long series of books featuring this perky pest. While short and easy to read, the chapters help first graders feel like they are reading a "big kid" book.





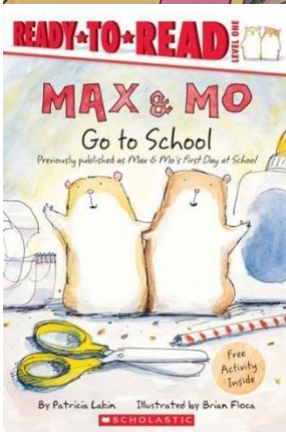
**Biscuit goes to School by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (Level F)**

Biscuit can't wait to go to school! Even though no dogs are allowed, he is determined to see and do everything that takes place at school. But what will happen when the teacher discovers a puppy in his classroom? One of a series!



**We Are in A Book! by Willems, Mo (Level G)**

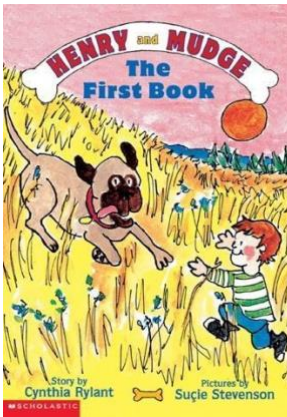
This book is one of many in the Elephant and Piggie series, done in comic book style, by Mo Willems, an author our students studied in Kindergarten. In this book, Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends? One of a series!



**Max & Mo Go To School by Patricia Lakin (Level H-I)**

Max and Mo are two class hamsters that go back to school after summer break and discover that the new kids do not know their names. Embarrassed by being called Tummy and Fluffy, they sneak out of their cage at night to make their own name tags. And the next day, the little creatures are called by their right names! One of a series!





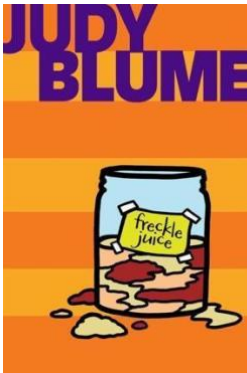
**Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant (Level J)**

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. Together Henry and Mudge have many adventures together. One in a series that can become very addicting!



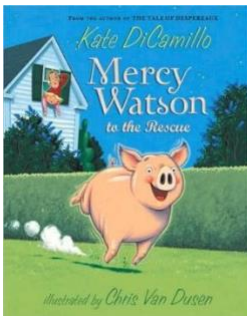
## Summer Reading List for Students Entering 2nd Grade

You'll notice a wide variety of books and levels on this list as at this age, we have a wide range of readers. Feel free to use the 1st grade list or Series list, as well, if your child's reading level matches this list better. In addition, reading aloud to your child at this age is critically important. Many incoming 2nd graders comprehend at a much higher level than they read, and we want to expose them to sophisticated and entertaining books, regardless of their reading level.



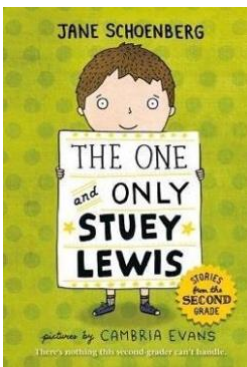
### **Freckle Juice by Judy Blume (Level M)**

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys a freckle recipe for fifty cents.



### **Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo (Level K)**

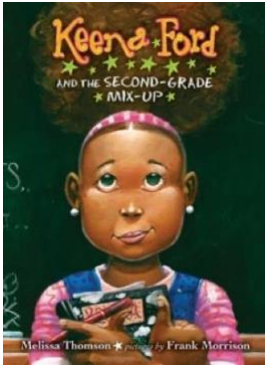
The first adventure of this New York Times best-selling series is about Mercy - is a pig - who is treated more like a child, than an animal! To the portly and good-natured Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention great snugglers! This is not, however, so good for the Watsons' bed. BOOM! CRACK! As the bed and its occupants slowly sink through the floor, Mercy escapes in a flash - "to alert the fire department," her owners assure themselves. But could Mercy possibly have another emergency in mind — like a sudden craving for their neighbors' cookies?



### **The One and Only Stuey Lewis by Jane Schoenberg (Level N)**

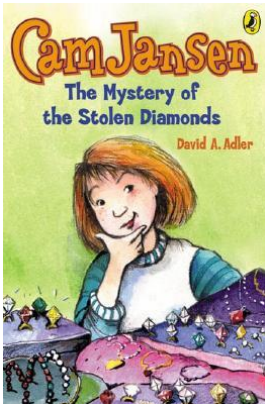
Stuey Lewis is a really funny kid. Despite all the indignities he's forced to suffer as a second grader (reading difficulties, overprotective parents, annoying brother), he never loses his sense of humor!





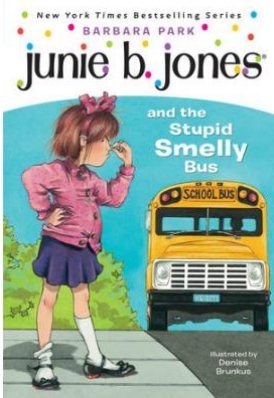
**Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up by Melissa Thomson  
(Level N)**

Keena is super excited about starting second grade, and she's eager to impress her new teacher, but why does Ms. Hanson think Keena's birthday is tomorrow? It was a small mistake, but now Keena can't turn down a cake and a crown! No more than she can help sneaking into her friend Eric's classroom to see if it's really as much fun as he claims.



**Cam Jansen: The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds by David Adler  
(Level L)**

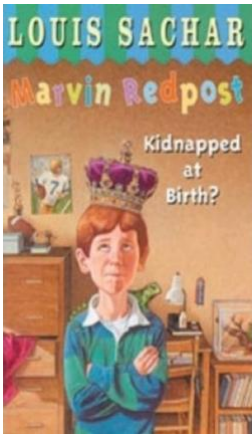
When Cam Jansen and her friend Eric believe the police have caught an innocent man, they decide to take the situation into their own hands and discover for themselves who really robbed Parker's Jewelry Store. One of a series!



**Junie b. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus by Barbara Park  
(Level N)**

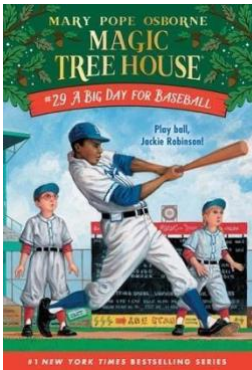
Funny, feisty, and prone to mishaps, Junie B. Jones tackles the challenges of growing up in her own mischievous (and hilarious) way. One of a series!





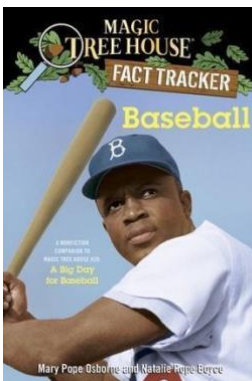
**Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth? By Louis Sachar (Level N)**

Nine-year-old Marvin Redpost has finally figured out why he has red hair and blue eyes, while everyone else in his family has brown hair and brown eyes. He is not really Marvin Redpost. He is Robert, the lost prince of Shampoo. Now all he has to do is break the news to his "former" parents. One of a series!



**Magic Treehouse #29 A Big Day for Baseball by Mary Pope Osborne (Level M)**

PLAY BALL! Jack and Annie aren't great baseball players . . . yet! Then Morgan the librarian gives them magical baseball caps that will make them experts. They just need to wear the caps to a special ballgame in Brooklyn, New York. The magic tree house whisks them back to 1947! When they arrive, Jack and Annie find out that they will be batboys in the game—not ballplayers. One of a series!



**Magic Treehouse Fact Tracker Baseball by Mary Pope Osborne (Level M)**

When Jack and Annie came back from their adventure in Magic Tree House #29: A Big Day for Baseball, they had lots of questions. When was baseball invented? What are the rules? Who was Jackie Robinson? Who are some other baseball greats? Find out the answers to these questions and more as Jack and Annie track the facts about America's national pastime.





**Andy Shane, Hero at Last by Jennifer Richard Jacobson (Level K)**

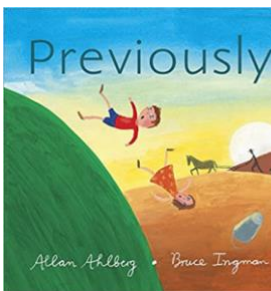
There are two things Andy Shane wants more than anything — to win the contest for best-decorated bike in the parade, and . . . to be a hero. He has a great idea for the bike part, although high-strung Dolores is upping the ante with her paper-daisy-covered helmets for her and her cat. But the second goal has Andy stumped, until the parade is in motion and his eagle eyes catch the reason why the drum corps has suddenly thrown the marchers out of whack! One of a series.



## Summer Reading List for Students Entering 3rd Grade

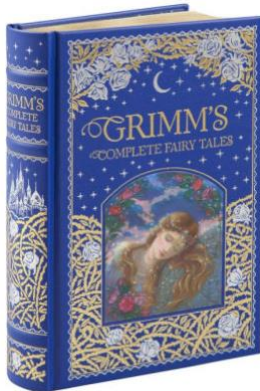
Wondering what book to pick up for your incoming third grader? As they develop the ability to read longer and more complex stories, the world of children's books becomes very exciting. Many of these titles are great for reading aloud to your child, or you can try alternating back and forth with your child - they read a page, you read a page- they can practice their reading, but also have a chance to sit back and enjoy the story! Take a look at the incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Reading List too, as there are many great choices there too.

### A few book suggestions to read aloud to your child...



#### **Previously by Allan Ahlberg**

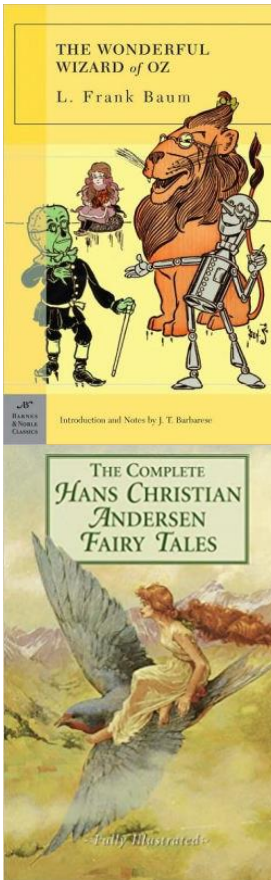
Do you know what Jack and Jill were arguing about before they went up the hill? And what happened before that? Every story, every person, and everything started somewhere.



#### **Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm**

Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales collects some of the best-loved and most famous fairy tales in all literature: "Little Red Riding Hood," "Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Cinderella," "Sleeping Beauty," "Rapunzel," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "Tom Thumb."





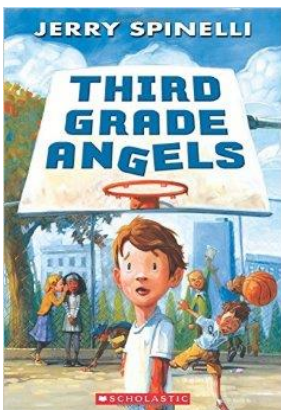
### **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum**

After a cyclone scoops them up with their Kansas farmhouse, Dorothy and her dog Toto find themselves transported to Oz, a magical land that is home to diminutive munchkins, wicked witches and good and flying monkeys. During her stay she meets --a Tin Woodman in search of a heart, a Scarecrow desperate for a brain, and Cowardly Lion who craves courage--Dorothy seeks out the Wizard of Oz, the only person in the land with the power to return her home.

### **Hans Christian Anderson Fairy Tales**

Andersen's fairy tales, which have been translated into more than 125 languages. Some of his most famous fairy tales include "The Little Mermaid", "The Snow Queen", "The Ugly Duckling", "The Nightingale", "The Emperor's New Clothes" and many more. His stories have inspired plays, ballets, and both live-action and animated films and make the perfect read-aloud for children of all ages.

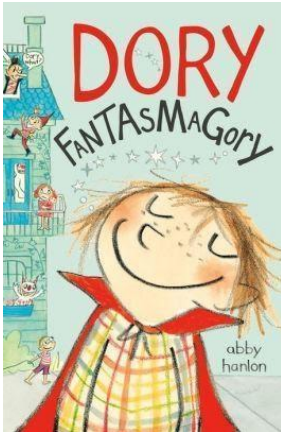
**A varied selection of chapter books - and don't hesitate to look at the 2nd and 4th grade lists too!**



### **Third Grade Angels by Jerry Spinelli (Level P)**

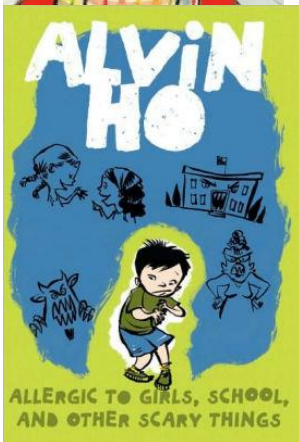
George, aka "Suds," has just entered third grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded "the halo" — which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be the first to earn the halo, but he's finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated.





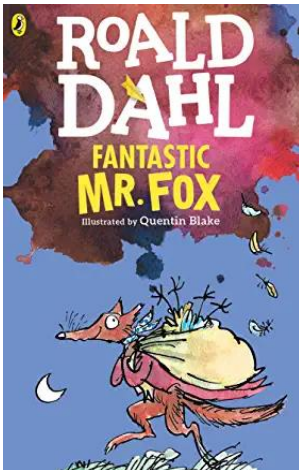
**Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon (Level O)**

It's hard being the youngest sibling, especially when your brother and sister won't play with you. Good thing Dory has an unbelievably wild imagination to keep her entertained. With its sharp-toothed robbers, bearded fairy godmothers, and a best friend who just happens to be a monster, this book is a real hoot.



**Alvin Ho by Lenore Look (Level P)**

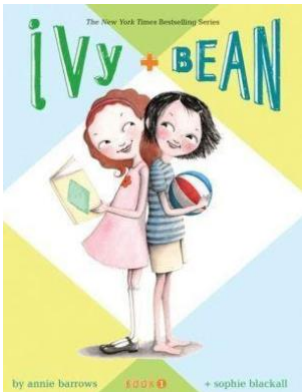
Here's the first book in the beloved and hilarious Alvin Ho chapter book series, which has been compared to Diary of a Wimpy Kid and is perfect for both beginning and reluctant readers. Alvin, an Asian American second grader, is afraid of everything—elevators, tunnels, girls, and, most of all, school. He's so afraid of school that, while he's there, he never, ever, says a word. But at home he's a very loud superhero named Firecracker Man, a brother to Calvin and Anibelly, and a gentleman-in-training, so he can be just like his dad.



**Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl (Level P)**

When is Roald Dahl not a good idea? This book is a quick read and hilariously funny. After twelve years, the Fox Family's quiet home life proves too much for Mr. Fox's natural animal instincts. When his young nephew arrives, Mr. Fox slips back into his old ways as a smart bird thief and, in doing so, endangers not only his beloved family, but the whole animal community as well.





**Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows (Level M)**

Ivy and Bean seem about as different as two young girls can be. Obviously, they won't be friends. But when Bean gets herself in a bit of trouble and Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other. One of a series!



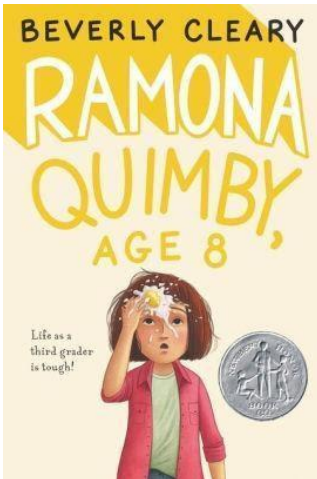
**Kids of the Polk Street School: The Beast in Ms. Rooney's Room by Patricia Reilly Giff (Level M)**

It's September again. What does it mean for Richard "Beast" Best to be left back? It means being teased by his old friends while he's stuck facing the same old teacher in the same old classroom. He even has to take a special reading class with "babies" like Emily Arrow and Matthew Jackson. And just like last year, he can't help getting into trouble. But with the help of Mrs. Paris, the reading teacher, Beast starts to enjoy reading and just might find a way to help the second grade win the school banner for best class. One of a series!

**Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Level N)**

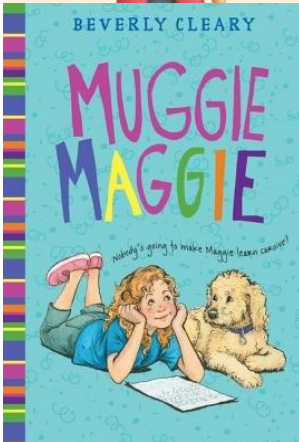
This delightful trilogy follows three friends (a stuffed stingray, a stuffed buffalo, and a rubber ball) who live in the bedroom of a little girl and have plenty of adventures when she's out.





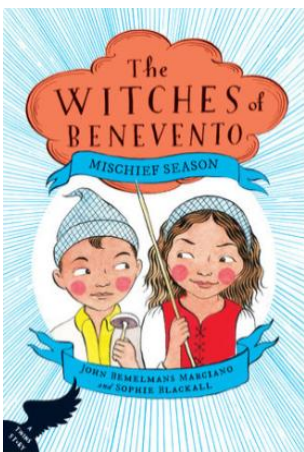
**Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary (Level O)**

Ramona likes that she's old enough to be counted on, but must everything depend on her? Mrs. Quimby has gone back to work so that Mr. Quimby can return to school, and Ramona is expected to be good for Mrs. Kemp while her parents are away, to be brave enough to ride the school bus by herself, and to put up with being teased by Danny the Yard Ape. In Ramona's world, being eight isn't easy, but it's never dull! One of a series!



**Muggie Maggie by Beverly Cleary (Level O)**

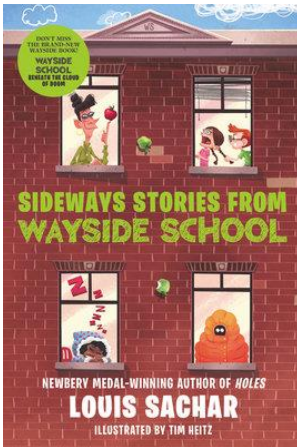
Maggie doesn't want to learn cursive. She absolutely refuses until she is made the class messenger and starts taking notes, all written in cursive, to the office. After a while, she starts to wonder if the notes are written about her. But if she wants to know what they say, she'll have to learn cursive!



**The Witches of Benevento Series by John Bemelmans Marciano**

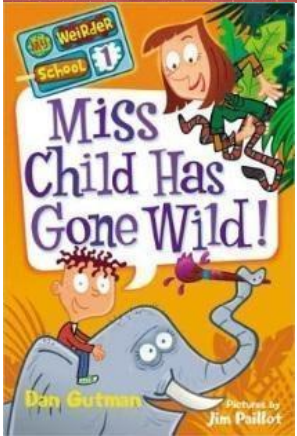
In the ancient Italian town of Benevento, legendary witches wreak all sorts of mischief. Five young cousins — Primo, Emilio, Rosa, Maria Bepinna, and Sergio — must work together if they're ever going to outsmart them. The books are full of tantalizing clues and plucky characters who each get their moment in the spotlight: Rosa becomes the first girl to compete in the annual Boar Hunt, Sergio tries to appease the ancestor spirit who lives upstairs, and more.





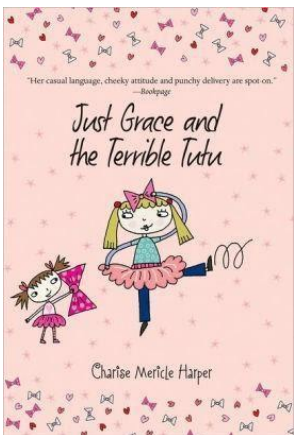
**Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar  
(Level P)**

Wayside school was supposed to be thirty classrooms, side by side. Instead, the builder made it thirty stories high, one classroom stacked on top of another. But that's only the beginning of the weirdness at the school, especially on the thirteenth floor, where things are always a little bit odd. Perfect for a reader who enjoys their fair share of goofiness. One of a series!



**Miss Child Has Gone Wild! by Dan Gutman (Level N)**

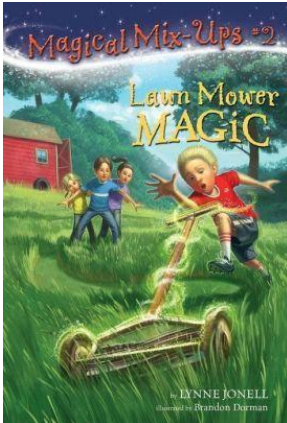
A.J. and his fellow third-graders from Ella Mentry School, including new student Alexia, go on a field trip to the zoo, where they meet a very strange zookeeper. One of a series!



**Just Grace and the Terrible Tutu by Charise Mericle Harper  
(Level O)**

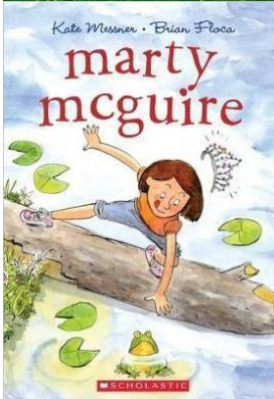
Eight-year-old Grace is excited to learn that her best friend, Mimi, is going to become an older sister, but when both try to be "mother's helpers" for a family renting a house on their street, little Lily likes Grace best, causing Mimi to doubt herself and Grace to form a plan to fix things. One of a series!





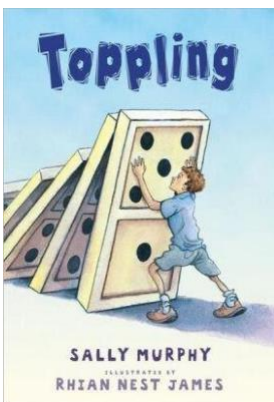
**Lawn Mower Magic by Lynne Jonell**

When Derek Willow is invited to visit a friend in the old neighborhood, he and his siblings Abner, Tate, and Celia try to earn money for his train ticket using an enchanted, and very hungry, lawnmower.



**Marty McGuire by Kate Messner (Level O)**

When tomboy Marty is cast as the princess in the third-grade play, she learns about improvisation, which helps her become more adaptable. One of a series!



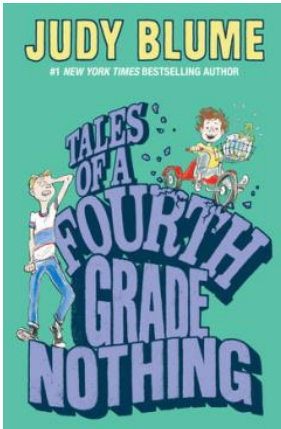
**Toppling by Sally Murphy**

All John cares about is setting the world record for knocking down dominoes and spending time with his best friends at school. But then his closest friend, Dom, is hospitalized, leaving John and the gang wondering what to do for him.



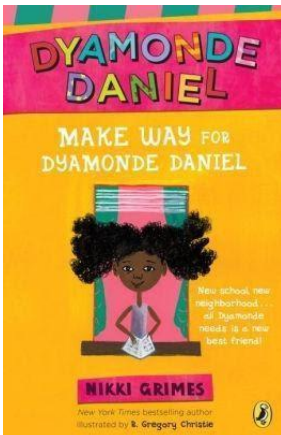
## Summer Reading List for Students Entering 4th Grade

Included on this list are chapter books of a variety of reading levels. You can also look at the 3rd and 5th grade lists for additional ideas!



### **Tales of a Fourth Grade by Judy Blume (Level Q)**

Life with his little brother, two-year-old Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Fudge causes mischief everywhere he goes. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing mashed potatoes on the walls at Hamburger Heaven, or trying to fly, he's never far from trouble. When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?



### **Dyamonde Daniel Series by Nikki Grimes (Level P)**

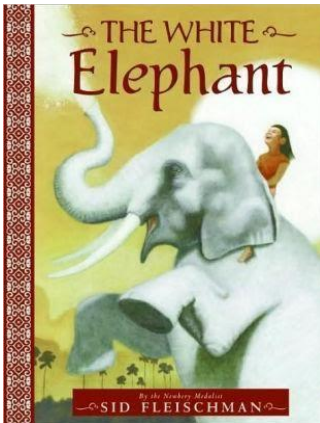
Dyamonde Daniel is the sort of literary role model parents dream of for their kids. The third grader with "wild-crazy hair" is here to make friends, reconsider what she really needs in life, and question the narratives she's hearing at school. One in a series.



### **The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies (Level S)**

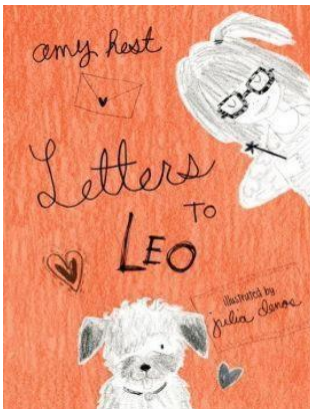
Evan and his sister Jessie usually get along just fine, until he finds out that she's skipping third grade. That means she'll be in his fourth grade class next year, showing him up every day with her perfect grades. Now Evan doesn't want her help with his lemonade stand, even though he could really use her math skills to make a profit. One in a series.





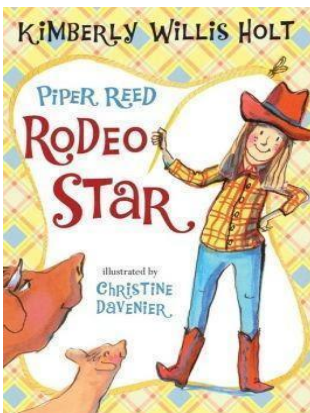
**The White Elephant by Sid Fleischman (Level Q)**

In old Siam, young elephant trainer Run-Run and his old charge, Walking Mountain, must deal with the curse of a sacred white elephant.



**Letters to Leo by Amy Hest**

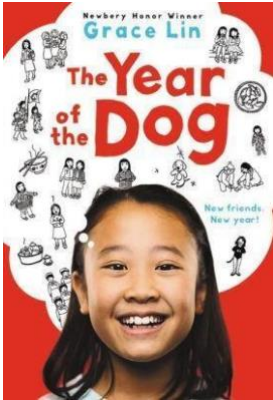
In a series of letters to her new dog, fourth-grader Annie Rossi relates her daily exploits and remembers her mother.



**Piper Reed Gets a Job by Kimberly Willis Holt**

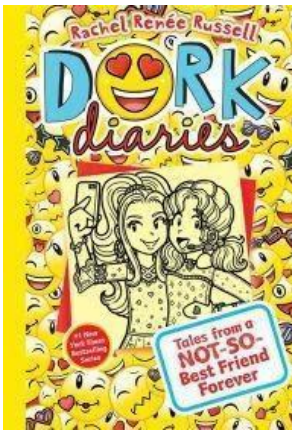
When she discovers the price of the coveted clubhouse, ten-year-old Piper and her fellow Gypsy Club members try to earn the money by creating a birthday-party-planning business.





**The Year of the Dog: a Novel by Lin Grace (Level Q)**

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.



**Dork Diaries #1 Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life by Rachel Renee Ruseell\_(Level U)**

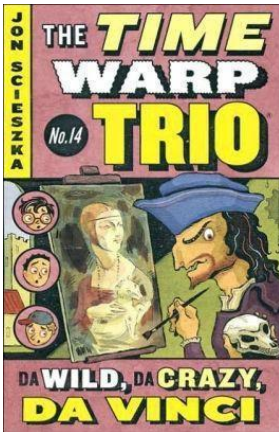
This book chronicles Nikki's trials and tribulations as the new girl at school, her love/hate fascination with the school's queen bee, her crush and her epic battle to convince her mom to buy her an iPhone. One of a series.



**Sidekicks by Dan Santat (Level R)**

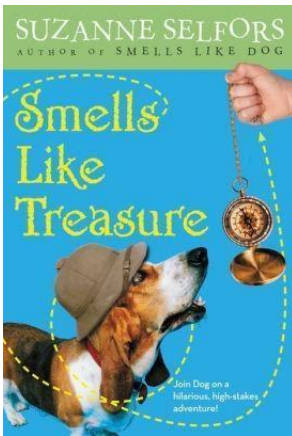
Captain Amazing feels he's getting too old to be a reliable superhero, so he tries to hire a new sidekick. His pets have different ideas.





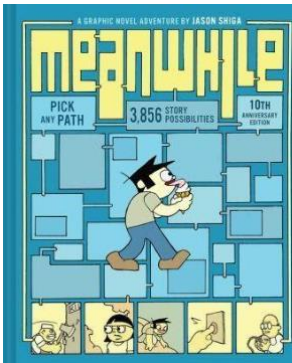
**Da Wild, Da Crazy, Da Vinci by Jon Scieszka (Level P)**

In their latest time travel adventure, Fred, Joe, and Sam da Brooklyn meet Leonardo da Vinci and try to avoid becoming toilet scrubbers in a sixteenth-century Italian army. One of a series!



**Smells Like Treasure by Suzanne Selfors**

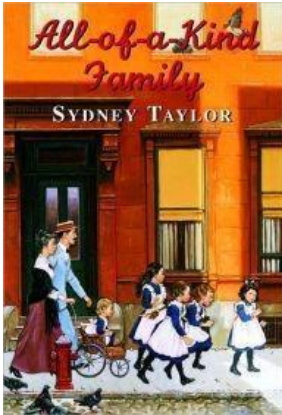
Farm boy Homer faces another challenger for his uncle's spot in the society of Legends, Objects, Secrets, and Treasures but Dog's hidden ability to smell treasure guides the duo as clues lead them to fantastic mansions and hidden islands.



**Meanwhile Jason Shiga**

In this choose-your-own adventure graphic novel, a boy stumbles on the laboratory of a mad scientist who asks him to choose between testing a mind-reading device, a time machine, and a doomsday machine.





**All-of-a-kind Family by Sydney Taylor (Level Q)**

The story of five Jewish sisters growing up on New York's lower East Side in the early twentieth century, and their life including their adventures and celebrating holidays together. One of a series, and one of my all-time favorites as a kid!



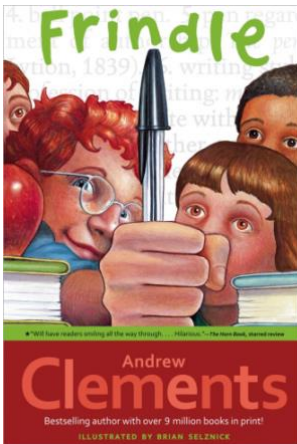
**The Landry News by Andrew Clements (Level R)**

Cara Landry is a budding journalist. When she posts a scathing editorial about her burned-out teacher on the bulletin board one afternoon, everything changes. Prodded into action for the first time in years, Mr. Larson challenges his fifth-grade students to create a real newspaper. Soon The Landry News gets more attention than either Cara or her teacher bargained for, as the principal uses the paper to try to get Mr. Larson fired.



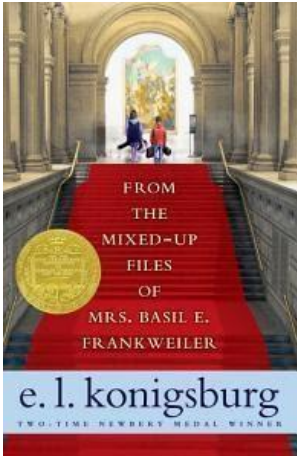
## Summer Reading List for Students Entering 5th Grade

Included on this list are chapter books of a variety of reading levels. Included on this list are books that are appropriate for 5th graders, but content-wise, may be too sophisticated for earlier grades. You can also look at the 4th grade list for additional ideas.



### **Frindle by Andrew Clements (Level R)**

Nick's in fifth grade, and it looks like his days as a troublemaker are over. Everyone knows that Mrs. Granger, the language arts teacher, has X-ray vision, and nobody gets away with anything in her classroom. To make matters worse, she's also a fanatic about the dictionary, which is hopelessly boring to Nick. But when Nick learns an interesting tidbit about words and where they come from, it inspires his greatest plan yet: to invent a new word. From now on, a pen is no longer a pen — it's a frindle.



### **Mixed Up Files of Basil E Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg (Level S)**

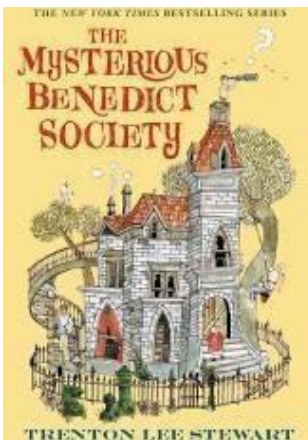
When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away from home, she knows she doesn't just want to run *from* somewhere; she wants to run *to* somewhere - the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money and thus can help her with the serious cash flow problem, she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. (Highly recommend doing a virtual tour of the MET while reading this book!)





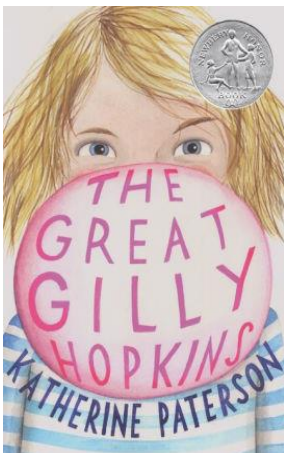
**Wonder by R. J. Palacio (Level V)**

Kindness brings us together no matter how far apart we are. Millions of people have read the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Wonder* and fell in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. An incredible story - highly recommended for students and parents alike.



**Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart (Level V)**

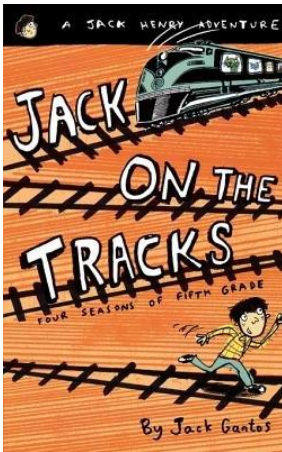
"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children--two boys and two girls--succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. So, if you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help. One of a series!



**Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson (Level S)**

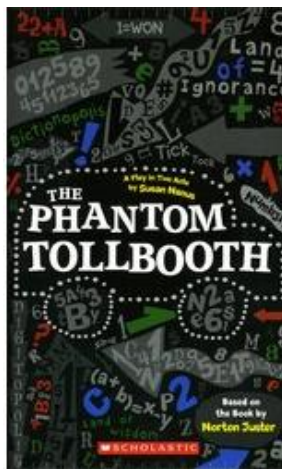
Eleven year old Gilly has been struck in more foster families than she can remember, and she's hated them all. She has a reputation for being brilliant and unmanageable, and that's the way she likes it. So when she's sent to live with the Trotters- by far the strangest family yet -she knows it's only a temporary problem. She is determined to no longer be a foster kid...





**Jack on the Tracks: Four Seasons of Fifth Grade by Jack Gantos (Level S)**

Jack Henry — star of Jack on the Tracks — is loosely based on his creator Jack Gantos, the award-winning, darkly hilarious author of the *Joey Pigza* and *Rotten Ralph* series (also highly recommended). In this collection of nine short stories, a cycle following Jack's year in fifth grade, we learn all about Jack's strange family, his fascination with all things disgusting and macabre, and his struggles to adjust to school in a new town.



**The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster (Level W)**

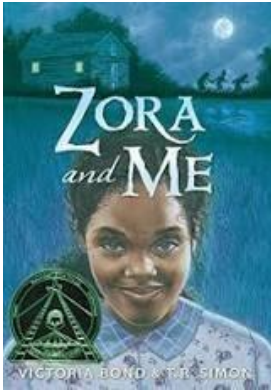
Milo's mysterious journey to the Island of Conclusions and his burgeoning friendship with Tock the ticking watchdog will reinvigorate imaginations — including yours! This book makes a great family-wide read aloud.



**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger (Level T)**

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.





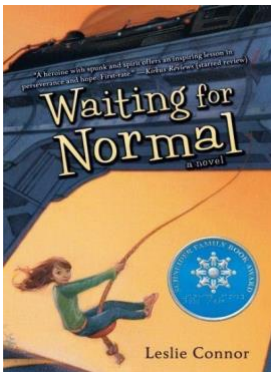
**Zora and Me by Victoria Bond and T.R. Simon (Level U)**

Future storyteller Zora Hurston and her friends investigate a bizarre murder in their small town.



**No Passengers Beyond This Point by Gennifer Choldenko (Level U)**

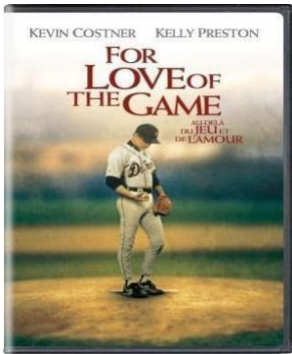
It all starts when Finn, India, and Mouse's mom loses their house to foreclosure, even after everything she does to save it. When their journey takes them on an unexpected detour, they are pitted in a race against time.



**Waiting for Normal by Connor Leslie (Level V)**

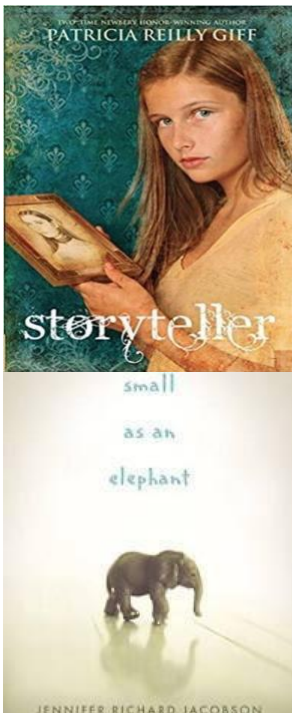
Addie's mother has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, her way or no way. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie all to home, where she wants to be with her half-sisters. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal.





**Love of the Game by John Coy**

Sixth-grader Jackson has a rough start in middle school, with bullies on the bus, few classes with his friends, and changes at home but some good teachers, meeting a girl, joining a club, and playing football soon turn things around.

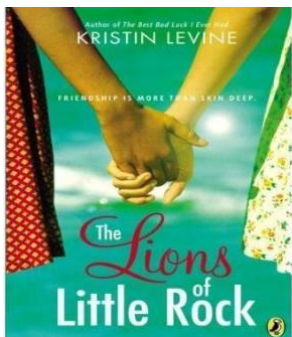


**Storyteller by Patricia Reilly Giff (Level T)**

Forced to spend months at an aunt's house, Elizabeth feels a connection to her ancestor Zee, whose picture hangs on the wall, and who reveals her story of hardships during the Revolutionary War as Elizabeth comes to terms with her own troubles.

**Small as an Elephant by Jennifer Jacobson**

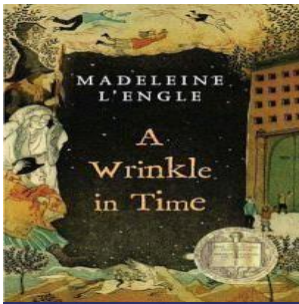
Abandoned by his mother in an Acadia National Park campground, Jack tries to make his way back to Boston before anyone figures out what is going on, with only a small toy elephant for company.



**The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine (Level X)**

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.





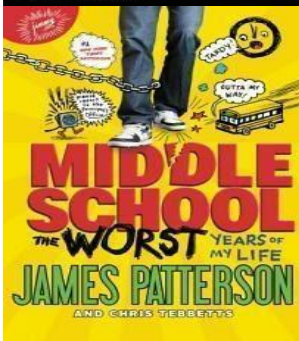
**A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle (Level W)**

Winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, this is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem).



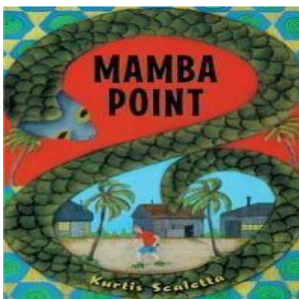
**Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass (Level U)**

Three young teens witness a total solar eclipse and are changed forever in this novel, told in alternating narratives, that weaves exciting astronomy facts into the teens' personal lives.



**Middle School: the Worst Years of My Life by James Patterson (Level V)**

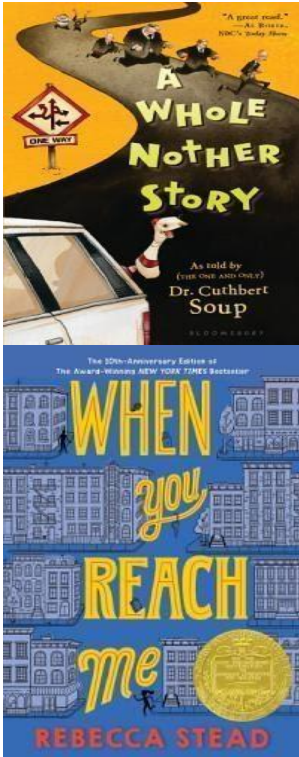
When Rafe Khatchadorian enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.



**Mamba Point by Kurtis Scaletta**

Linus discovers that he has a mystical connection with the black mamba, one of the deadliest snakes in Africa, which he is told will give him some of the snake's characteristics.





### **A Whole Nother Story by Cuthbert Soup (Level W)**

Ethan Cheeseman and his children, ages eight, twelve, and fourteen, hope to settle in a nice small town, at least long enough to complete work on a time machine, but spies and government agents have been pursuing them for two years and are about to catch up.

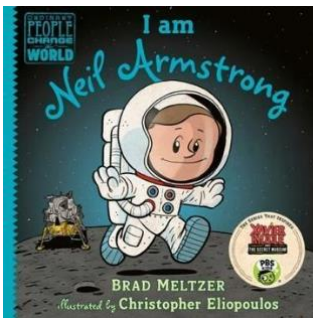
### **When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (Level V)**

Miranda and her best friend Sal part ways, and for some inexplicable reason, her once familiar world turns upside down. Maybe it's because she's caught up in reading A Wrinkle in Time and trying to understand time travel, or perhaps it's because she's been receiving mysterious notes which accurately predict the future.



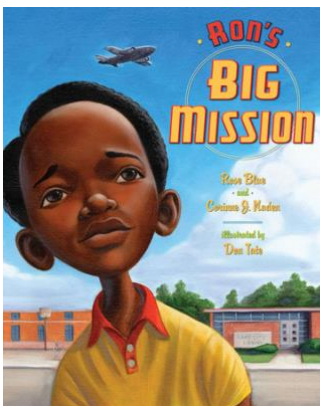
## Nonfiction Reading List for Lower Elementary

Nonfiction reading is an important part of any good reader's diet. Nonfiction books teach us about the world around us, offer us different information and perspectives to help us solve real-world world problems, expand our vocabulary, and build our background knowledge about a variety of topics. Here is a tiny sampling of some excellent nonfiction books. When your child finds a particular topic interesting, I encourage you to find additional books and articles on the topic to read.



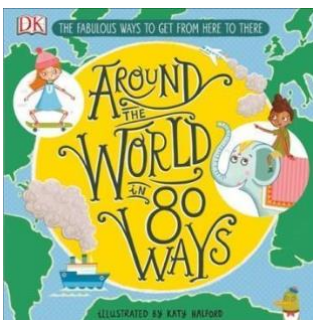
### **I am Neil Armstrong by Brad Meltzer**

This friendly, fun biography series focuses on the traits that made our heroes great--the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. Each book tells the story of one of America's icons in a lively, conversational way that works well for the youngest nonfiction readers and that always includes the hero's childhood influences. At the back are an excellent timeline and photos. This volume tells the story of Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon.



### **Ron's Big Mission by Rose Blue and Corinne Naden**

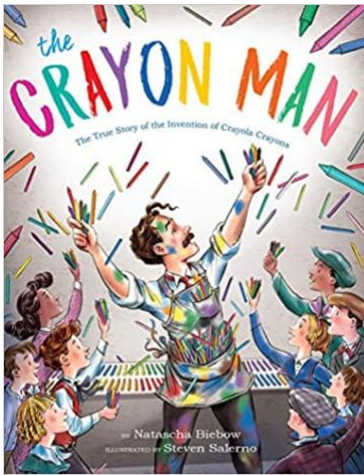
Before Ron McNair was a real-life astronaut, he was a 9-year-old boy with a mission to change the rules at his public library in South Carolina, where only white people could check out books. In this story, young Ron dreams of someday becoming a pilot and loves to read books about airplanes at the library — but he wants to be able to take them home with him too! So he unexpectedly stages a peaceful protest, demanding the right to check out books. After much deliberation, the librarian gives him his own library card. Ron's Big Mission depicts one event in 1959 that exemplified just how courageous and determined Ron McNair was.



### **Around the world in 80 Ways by DK**

Quick, simple explanations of all of the different modes of transportation are brought to life by beautiful, vibrant illustrations. From camels and hang gliders to rickshaws and rockets, this book is sure to get the wheels turning in little heads. Perfect for K-2, while thought-provoking enough for older readers, this is a book that will inspire curious minds for years.





**The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons by Natascha Biebow**

What child doesn't love to hold a crayon in their hands? But children didn't always have such magical boxes of crayons. Before Edwin Binney set out to change things, children couldn't really even draw in color.

Here's the true story of an inventor who so loved nature's vibrant colors that he found a way to bring the outside world to children – in a bright green box for only a nickel! With experimentation, and a special knack for listening, Edwin Binney and his dynamic team at Crayola created crayons!



**The Arctic Fox's Journey (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out series) by Wendy Pfeffer**

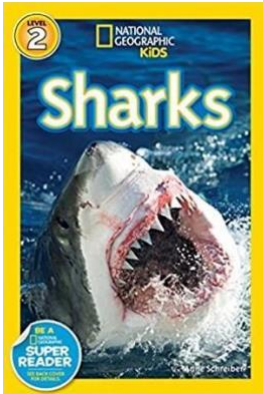
During the winter, the arctic fox begins an incredible journey. She heads north through the tundra, toward the top of the world. No larger than a house cat, she faces treacherous obstacles, frightening predators, and bitter cold along the way. It seems impossible that she could persist against the elements on her almost 2,000-mile journey—but she does.



**National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Where (National Geographic Little Kids First Big Books) by Jill Esbaum**

This reference book zeroes in on location, location, location. More than 200 colorful photos are paired with age-appropriate text featuring answers to questions like, "Where does the sky end?" "Where is the highest mountain?" and, "Where was ice cream invented?" Containing several kid-friendly maps designed to expand the learning experience, this book inspires kids to be curious, ask questions, and explore the world around them





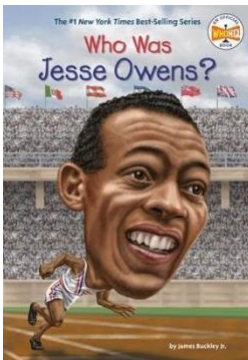
**National Geographic Readers: Sharks by National Geographic KIDS**

He's quick. He's silent. He has five rows of deadly teeth. Chomp! Meet the shark—the fish who ruled the deep before dinosaurs roamed the Earth! This fish has soft cartilage so he can glide, twist, and turn before his prey can say "gulp!" He can smell a single drop of blood in 25 million drops of ocean. He can feel electricity given off by his prey. He will lose and replace more than 10,000 teeth in his lifetime. Cool photos bring kids into the shark's world. Fun facts go deep into the shark's scary science.



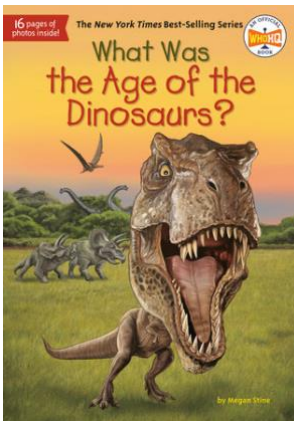
## Nonfiction Reading List for Upper Elementary

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### **Who Was Jesse Owens? By James Buckley Jr.**

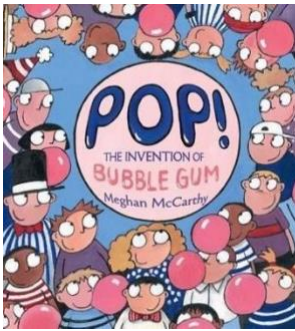
At the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics, track and field star Jesse Owens ran himself straight into international glory by winning four gold medals. But the life of Jesse Owens is much more than a sports story. Born in rural Alabama under the oppressive Jim Crow laws, Owens's family suffered many hardships. As a boy he worked several jobs like delivering groceries and working in a shoe repair shop to make ends meet. But Owens defied the odds to become a sensational student athlete, eventually running track for Ohio State. He was chosen to compete in the Summer Olympics in Nazi Germany where Adolf Hitler was promoting the idea of "Aryan superiority." Owens's winning streak at the games humiliated Hitler and crushed the myth of racial supremacy once and for all. This and the entire Who Was? Series is an incredible, highly recommended biography series. *And if you're an incoming 4th or 5th grader, get ready for our 2nd Annual NSHA Who Was? Series Bee coming late fall!*



### **What Was the Age of the Dinosaurs? By Megan Stine**

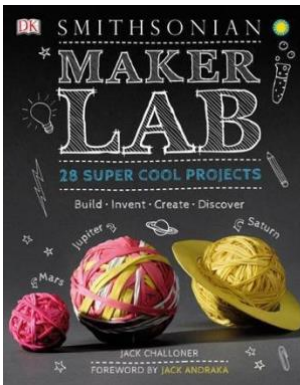
An offshoot of the super popular "Who Was?" series for middle grade readers, the books in the "What Was?" series focus on pivotal moments in world history, including everything from the age of the dinosaurs to the creation of the Constitution to the March on Washington.





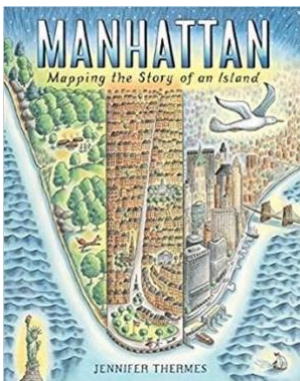
**Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy**

The delightfully entertaining history of gum and of how our modern-day love of bubble gum came to be. It reads like a great fictional story, made even better by McCarthy's fantastic illustration.



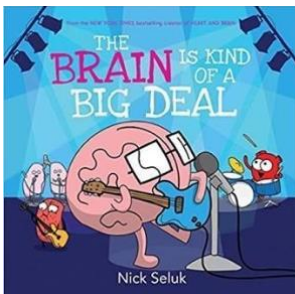
**Smithsonian Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects by Jack Challoner**

This book gives students a better understanding of science while they work through kid-safe projects that are designed to make young inventors think. With colorful photos, cool graphics, and interesting scientific facts sprinkled throughout, kids will be excited to jump right in — learning, problem-solving, and experimenting as they go.



**Manhattan: Mapping the Story of An Island by Jennifer Thermes**

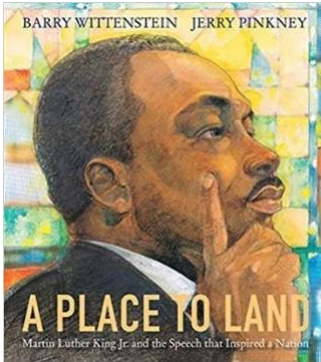
Told through maps and sidebars of information, this book tells us the story of every inch of the island of Manhattan. Humans, history, and natural events have shaped this tiny sliver of land for more than 400 years. In *Manhattan*, travel back in time to discover how a small rodent began an era of rapid change for the island. Learn about immigration, the slave trade, and the people who built New York City. See how a street plan projected the city's future, and how epic fires and storms led to major feats of engineering above and below ground!



**The Brain Is Kind of a Big Deal by Nick Seluk**

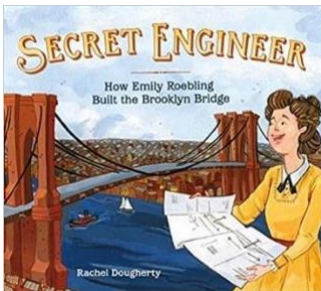
Have you ever thought about everything your brain does for you? It is always working to keep you alive and safe. (Plus it lets you think about funny stuff, too.) So why is the brain such a big deal? Because it makes you YOU, of course!





**A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation by Barry Wittenstein**

Martin Luther King, Jr. was once asked if the hardest part of speaking was knowing where to begin. No, he said. The hardest part is knowing where to end. "It's terrible to be circling up there without a place to land." Finding this place to land was what Martin Luther King, Jr. struggled with, alongside advisors and fellow speech writers, in the Willard Hotel the night before the March on Washington, where he gave his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.



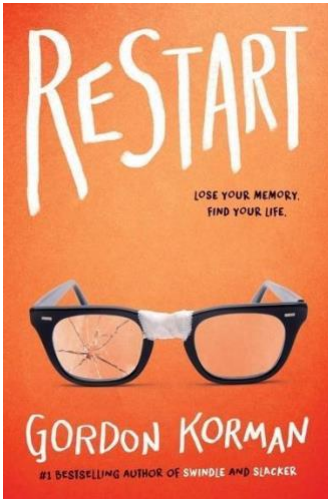
**Secret Engineer: How Emily Roebling Built the Brooklyn Bridge written and illustrated by Rachel Dougherty**

On a warm spring day in 1883, a woman rode across the Brooklyn Bridge with a rooster on her lap. The woman's husband was the chief engineer, and he knew all about the dangerous new technique involved. The woman insisted she learn as well. Women weren't supposed to be engineers.

But this woman insisted she could do it all, and her hard work helped to create one of the most iconic landmarks in the world. This is the story of Emily Roebling, the secret engineer behind the Brooklyn Bridge.



## Fiction Reading List for Students Entering 6th Grade

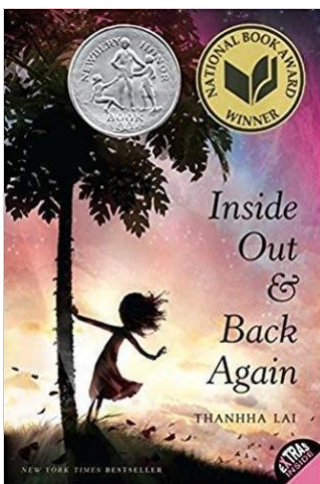


### **Restart by Gordon Korman (Level V)** **(\*\*Required Summer Reading)**

Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name.

He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets.

Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be.



### **Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai (Level U)**

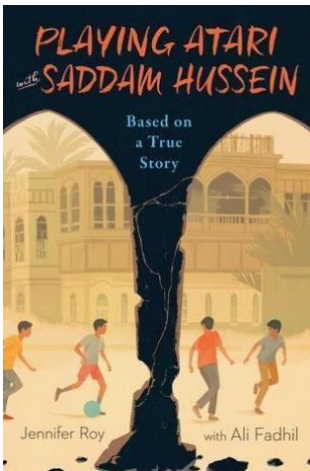
Hà loves her home in Vietnam, but when the Vietnam War reaches Saigon, her family boards a ship headed for the United States. Hà tells her story in verse, and it is based on the author's childhood.





#### **14 Hollow Road by Jenn Bishop (Level U,V)**

Maddie's sixth grade dance is abruptly ended when a tornado races through her town, destroying her family's home and the home of her crush, Avery. A neighbor opens their home to both Maddie and Avery's families, and suddenly, Maddie is spending the summer living with the boy she likes.

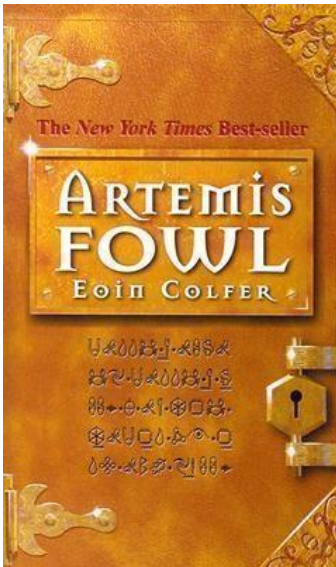


#### **Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein by Jennifer Roy, Ali Fadhil**

At the start of 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil was consumed by his love for soccer, video games, and American television shows. Then, on January 17, Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein went to war with thirty-four nations lead by the United States.

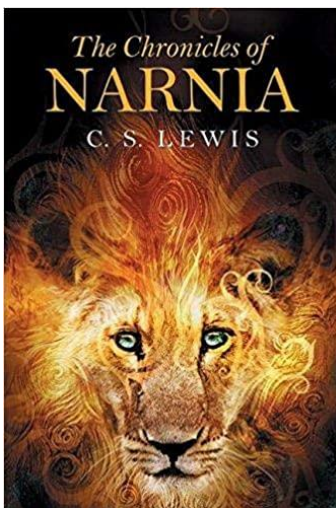
Over the next forty-three days, Ali and his family survived bombings, food shortages, and constant fear. Ali and his brothers played soccer on the abandoned streets of their Basra neighborhood, wondering when or if their medic father would return from the war front. Cinematic, accessible, and timely, this is the story of one ordinary kid's view of life during war.





### **Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (Level Y)**

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius, and above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories—they're dangerous! Full of unexpected twists and turns, Artemis Fowl is a riveting, magical adventure.



### **The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis (Level T)**

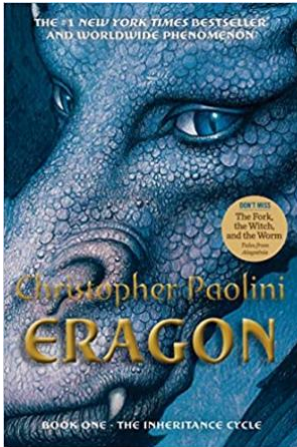
Lucy is the first to find the secret of the wardrobe in the professor's mysterious old house. At first her brothers and sister don't believe her when she tells of her visit to the land of Narnia. But soon Edmund, then Peter and Susan step through the wardrobe themselves. In Narnia they find a country buried under the evil enchantment of the White Witch. When they meet the Lion Aslan, they realize they've been called to a great adventure and bravely join the battle to free Narnia from the Witch's sinister spell.



### **The Land of Stories series by Chris Colfer (Levels Y,Z)**

Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change, in this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales. The Land of Stories tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.



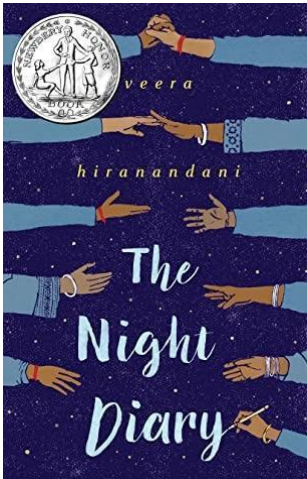


**Eragon: The Inheritance Cycle, Book 1 by Christopher Paolini  
(Level Y)**

One boy... One dragon... A world of adventure.

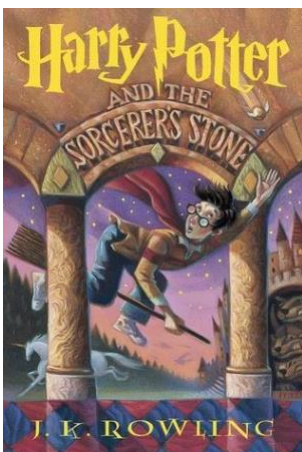
When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself.

Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power. With only an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon must navigate the dangerous terrain and dark enemies of an Empire ruled by a king whose evil knows no bounds.



**The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani**

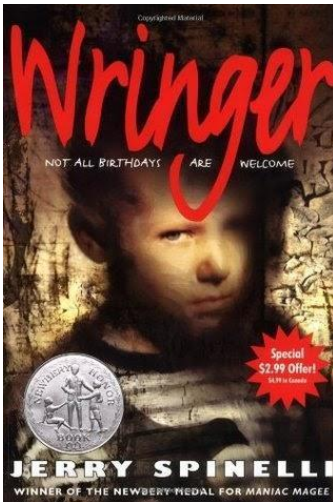
It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.



**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Harry Potter #1) by J.K. Rowling, Mary GrandPré (Illustrator) (Level V)**

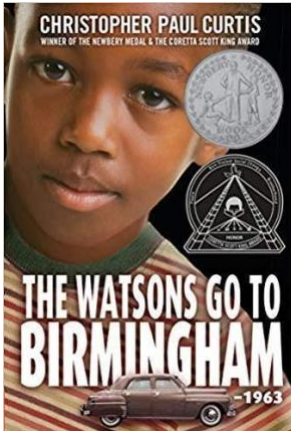
Harry Potter's life is miserable. His parents are dead and he's stuck with his heartless relatives, who force him to live in a tiny closet under the stairs. But his fortune changes when he receives a letter that tells him the truth about himself: he's a wizard. A mysterious visitor rescues him from his relatives and takes him to his new home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. After a lifetime of bottling up his magical powers, Harry finally feels like a normal kid. But even within the Wizarding community, he is special. He is the boy who lived: the only person to have ever survived a killing curse inflicted by the evil Lord Voldemort, who launched a brutal takeover of the Wizarding world, only to vanish after failing to kill Harry.





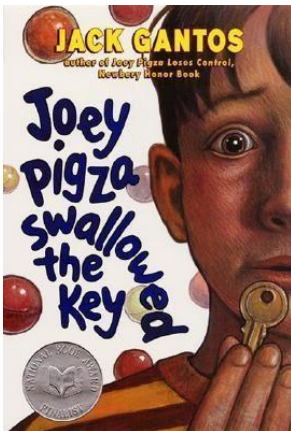
**Wringer by Jerry Spinelli (Level U)**

Sometimes he wished it would come after him, chase him, this thing he did not want to be. But the thing never moved. It merely waited. Waited for him to come to it. In Palmer LaRue's hometown of Waymer, turning ten is the biggest event of a boy's life. It marks the day when a boy is ready to take his place as a wringer at the annual Family Fest. It's an honor and a tradition. But for Palmer, his tenth birthday is not something to look forward to, but something to dread. Because -- although he can't admit this to anyone -- Palmer does not want to be a wringer. But he can't stop himself from getting older, any more than he can stop tradition. Then one day, a visitor appears on his windowsill, and Palmer knows that this, more than anything else, is a sign that his time is up. Somehow, he must learn how to stop being afraid and stand up for what he believes in.



**The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis (U)**

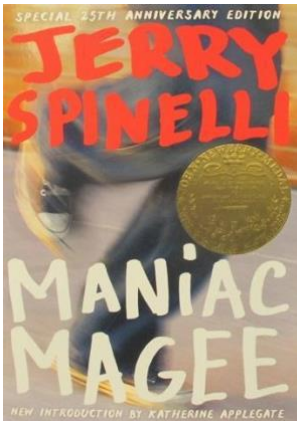
The Watson family travels to Birmingham in the summer of 1963, hoping that Grandma can straighten out 13-year-old Byron, who is something of a delinquent. Their visit coincides with the Birmingham church bombing, so this is historical fiction set against the backdrop of an engaging family with carefully rendered characters.



**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos (T)**

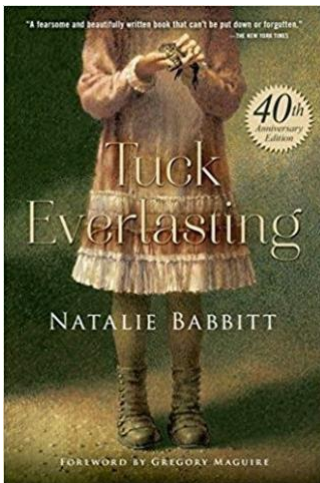
Joey Pigza can't sit still. He can't pay attention, he can't follow the rules, and he can't help it -- especially when his meds aren't working. Joey's had problems ever since he was born, problems just like his dad and grandma have. And whether he's wreaking havoc on a class trip or swallowing his house key, Joey's problems are getting worse. In fact, his behavior is so off the wall that his teachers are threatening to send him to the special-ed center downtown. Joey knows he's really a good kid, but no matter how hard he tries to do the right thing, something always seems to go wrong. Will he ever get anything right?





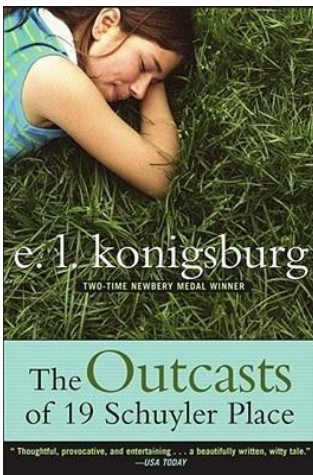
**Maniac McGee by Jerry Spinelli (Level W)**

Jeffrey, whose parents were killed when he was three, has had enough. One day, he runs away from his cruel aunt and uncle, looking for a new place to call home. Along the way, Jeffrey encounters a series of trials and somehow manages to come out on top in each one, earning him the nickname Maniac.



**Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt (Level W)**

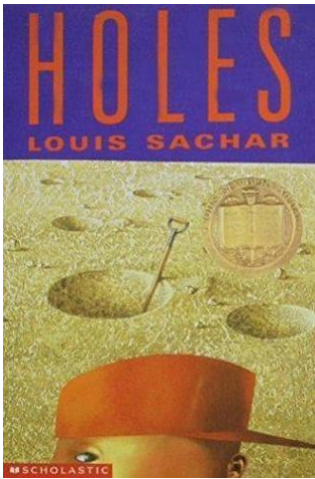
Winnie Foster discovers a spring on her family's property that grants immortality, and she meets members of the Tuck family who have drunk from the stream. Winnie must decide whether she, herself, wants immortality.



**The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by E.L. Konigsburg (Level U)**

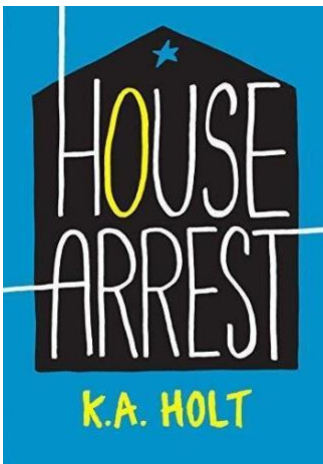
I Prefer Not To....That's Margaret Rose Kane's response to every activity she's asked to participate in at the summer camp to which she's been exiled while her parents are in Peru. So Margaret Rose is delighted when her beloved uncles rescue her from Camp Talequa, with its uptight camp director and cruel cabinmates, and bring her to stay with them at their wonderful house at 19 Schuyler Place. But Margaret Rose soon discovers that something is terribly wrong at 19 Schuyler Place. People in their newly gentrified neighborhood want to get rid of the three magnificent towers the uncles have spent forty-five years lovingly constructing of scrap metal and shards of glass and porcelain. Margaret Rose is outraged, and determined to strike a blow for art, for history, and for individuality...and no one is more surprised than Margaret Rose at the allies she finds for her mission.





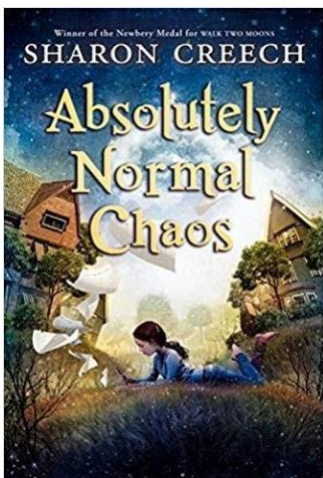
### **Holes by Louis Sachar (Level V)**

Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment -- and redemption. Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes: five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.



### **House Arrest by K.A. Holt (Y)**

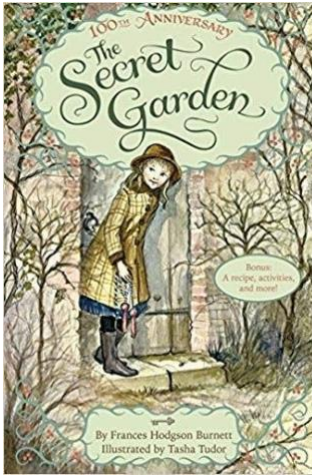
Timothy makes a bad decision to steal a credit card in order to buy infant formula for his baby brother. He is placed on house arrest and ordered to keep a journal. House Arrest is Timothy's journal, which is written in verse.



### **Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech (Level V)**

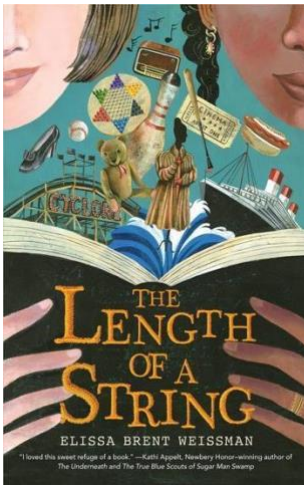
This is a prequel to Walk Two Moons, which appears on the fifth-grade list. In this story, Mary Lou is assigned to keep a journal over the summer, but her summer turns out to be an exciting one, as readers can appreciate as they follow along with Mary Lou.





**The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett and illustrated by Tasha Tudor**

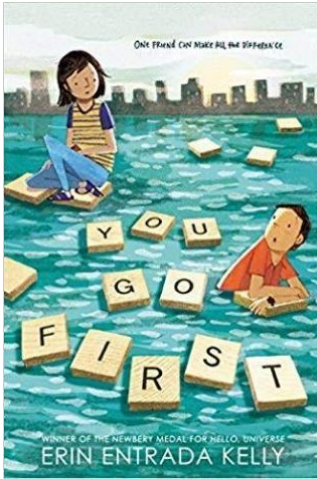
Mary Lennox is an orphan and is sent to live at her uncle's mansion. The mansion and her uncle contain many secrets. Mary finds a garden hidden away on the surrounding property and breaks in, determined to bring the garden back to its former splendor.



**The Length of a String by Elissa Brent Weissman**

Imani is adopted, and she's ready to search for her birthparents. But when she discovers the diary her Jewish great-grandmother wrote chronicling her escape from Holocaust-era Europe, Imani begins to see family in a new way. Imani knows exactly what she wants as her big bat mitzvah gift: to meet her birthparents. She loves her family and her Jewish community in Baltimore, but she has always wondered where she came from, especially since she's black and almost everyone she knows is white. When her mom's grandmother--Imani's great-grandma Anna--passes away, Imani discovers an old diary among her books. It's Anna's diary from 1941, the year she was twelve--the year she fled Nazi-occupied Luxembourg alone, sent by her parents to seek refuge in Brooklyn. Written as a series of letters to the twin sister she had to leave behind, Anna's diary records her journey to America and her new life with an adopted family. Anna's diary and Imani's birthparent search intertwine to tell the story of two girls, each searching for family and identity in her own time and in her own way.





**You Go First by Erin Entrada Kelly (Level X)**

Twelve-year-old Charlotte Lockard and eleven-year-old Ben Boxer are separated by more than a thousand miles. On the surface, their lives seem vastly different—Charlotte lives near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while Ben is in the small town of Lanester, Louisiana. Charlotte wants to be a geologist and keeps a rock collection in her room. Ben is obsessed with Harry Potter, presidential history, and recycling. But the two have more in common than they think. They're both highly gifted. They're both experiencing family turmoil. And they both sit alone at lunch. Over the course of a week, Charlotte and Ben—online friends connected only by a Scrabble game—will intersect in unexpected ways as they struggle to navigate the turmoil of middle school. *You Go First* reminds us that no matter how hard it is to keep our heads above troubled water, we never struggle alone.

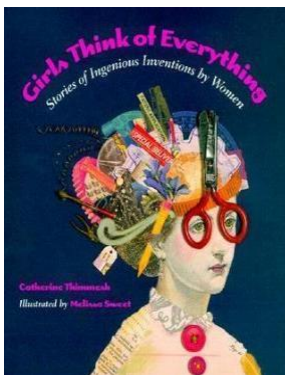


## Nonfiction Reading List for Students Entering 6th Grade



### **Older Than Dirt: A Wild but True History of Earth by Don Brown and illustrated by Dr. Mike Perfit**

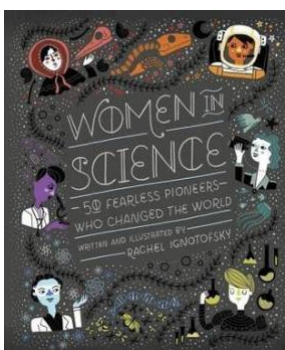
Almost 14.5 billion years ago, it all started with a BIG BANG and what began as a cloud of gas, dust, and rock eventually took shape and bloomed into a molten sphere. Battered by asteroid collisions, ice ages, and shifting tectonic plates, our fledgling planet finally pushed forth continents. But if you think the earth has calmed down since then—think again! Geological activity continues to sculpt the earth's landscape, sometimes with terrible consequences for its inhabitants: earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis.



### **Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women by Catherine Thimmesh, Melissa Sweet (Illustrator)**

In kitchens and living rooms, in garages and labs and basements, even in converted chicken coops, women and girls have invented ingenious innovations that have made our lives simpler and better. Their creations are some of the most enduring (the windshield wiper) and best loved (the chocolate chip cookie). What inspired these women, and just how did they turn their ideas into realities?

Features women inventors Ruth Wakefield, Mary Anderson, Stephanie Kwolek, Bette Nesmith Graham, Patsy O. Sherman, Ann Moore, Grace Murray Hopper, Margaret E. Knight, Jeanne Lee Crews, and Valerie L. Thomas, as well as young inventors ten-year-old Becky Schroeder and eleven-year-old Alexia Abernathy. Illustrated in vibrant collage by Caldecott Honor artist Melissa Sweet.

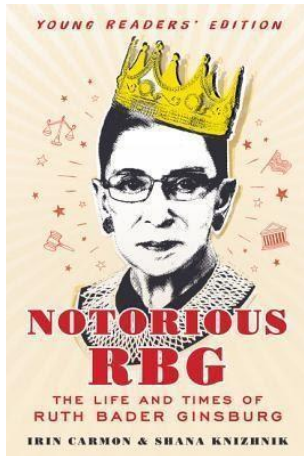


### **Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky**

It's a scientific fact: Women rock! A charmingly illustrated and educational book, *Women in Science* highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the ancient to the modern world. Full of striking, singular art, this fascinating collection also contains infographics about relevant topics such as lab equipment, rates of women currently working in STEM fields, and an illustrated scientific glossary. The trailblazing women profiled include well-known figures like primatologist Jane Goodall, as well as lesser-known pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American physicist and mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the



moon. *Women in Science* celebrates the achievements of the intrepid women who have paved the way for the next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts, physicists, and more!



**Notorious RBG Young Readers' Edition: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon, Shana Knizhnik**

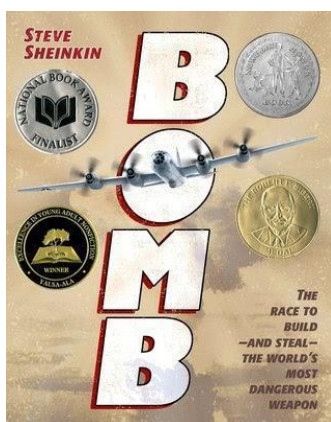
Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has become an icon to millions. Her tireless fight for equality and women's rights has inspired not only great strides in the workforce but has impacted the law of the land. And now, perfect for a younger generation, comes an accessible biography of this fierce woman, detailing her searing dissents and powerful jurisprudence.

This entertaining and insightful young readers' edition mixes pop culture, humor, and expert analysis for a remarkable account of the indomitable Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Heroine. Trailblazer. Pioneer.



**Loving vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case by Patricia Hruby Powell, Shadra Strickland**

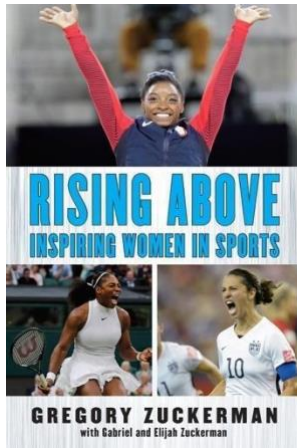
From acclaimed author Patricia Hruby Powell comes the story of a landmark civil rights case, told in spare and gorgeous verse. In 1955, in Caroline County, Virginia, amidst segregation and prejudice, injustice and cruelty, two teenagers fell in love. Their life together broke the law, but their determination would change it. Richard and Mildred Loving were at the heart of a Supreme Court case that legalized marriage between races, and a story of the devoted couple who faced discrimination, fought it, and won.



**Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin**

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

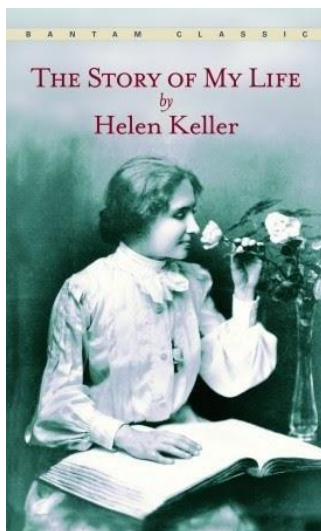




### **Rising Above: Inspiring Women in Sports**

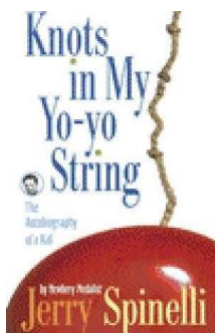
**by Gregory Zuckerman with Gabriel and Elijah Zuckerman**

Growing up in a crime-plagued, gang-infested neighborhood, Venus and Serena Williams were led to believe their environment was not a place where dreams could come true. It took a relentless determination, a burning desire to be the best, and a willingness to conquer racial barriers for them to emerge as tennis legends. Simone Biles was raised by a single mother with addiction issues, forcing her grandparents to intervene. But Simone soon discovered balance beams and gymnastics mats, setting her on a path toward Olympic greatness. Carli Lloyd, meanwhile, believed her youth soccer career was really starting to take off, only to be cut from her team. Instead of quitting the sport she loved, Carli rebuilt her confidence from the ground up, ultimately becoming one of the leaders on the World Cup Champion US Women's Soccer team.



### **The Story of My Life by Helen Keller (Level X)**

When she was 19 months old, Helen Keller (1880–1968) suffered a severe illness that left her blind and deaf. Not long after, she also became mute. Her tenacious struggle to overcome these handicaps-with the help of her inspired teacher, Anne Sullivan-is one of the great stories of human courage and dedication. In this classic autobiography, first published in 1903, Miss Keller recounts the first 22 years of her life, including the magical moment at the water pump when, recognizing the connection between the word "water" and the cold liquid flowing over her hand, she realized that objects had names. Subsequent experiences were equally noteworthy: her joy at eventually learning to speak, her friendships with Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edward Everett Hale and other notables, her education at Radcliffe (from which she graduated cum laude), and-underlying all-her extraordinary relationship with Miss Sullivan, who showed a remarkable genius for communicating with her eager and quick-to-learn pupil.

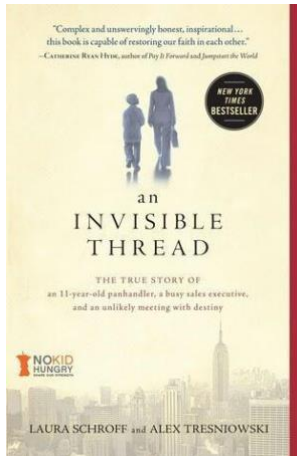


### **Knots in My Yo-yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid**

**by Jerry Spinelli (Level U)**

From first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, first trip to the principal's office, and first humiliating sports experience, this is not merely an account of a highly unusual childhood. Rather, like Spinelli's fiction, its appeal lies in the accessibility and universality of his life.

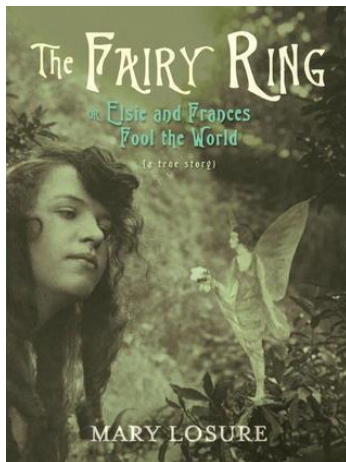




**An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny by Laura Schroff, Alex Tresniowski, Valerie Saalebier**

Stopping was never part of the plan...She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades.

Whatever made me notice him on that street corner so many years ago is clearly something that cannot be extinguished, no matter how relentless the forces aligned against it. Some may call it spirit. Some may call it heart. It drew me to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still.

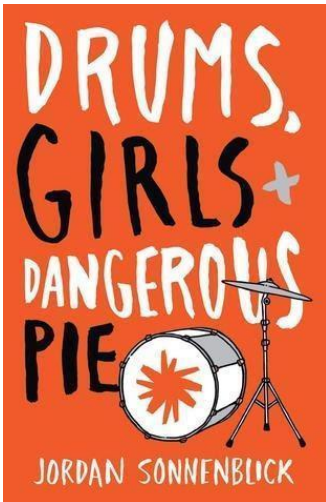


**The Fairy Ring by Mary Losure**

The enchanting true story of a girl who saw fairies, and another with a gift for art, who concocted a story to stay out of trouble and ended up fooling the world. Frances was nine when she first saw the fairies. They were tiny men, dressed all in green. Nobody but Frances saw them, so her cousin Elsie painted paper fairies and took photographs of them "dancing" around Frances to make the grown-ups stop teasing. The girls promised each other they would never, ever tell that the photos weren't real. But how were Frances and Elsie supposed to know that their photographs would fall into the hands of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? And who would have dreamed that the man who created the famous detective Sherlock Holmes believed ardently in fairies— and wanted very much to see one? Mary Losure presents this enthralling true story as a fanciful narrative featuring the original Cottingley fairy photos and previously unpublished drawings and images from the family's archives. A delight for everyone with a fondness for fairies, and for anyone who has ever started something that spun out of control.



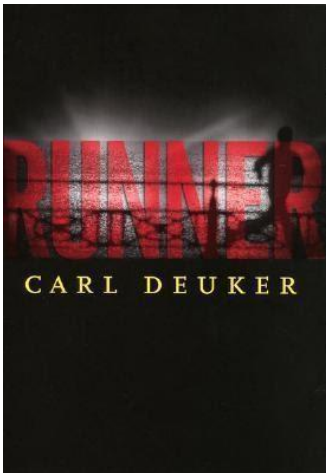
## Summer Reading List for Students Entering 7th and 8th Grades – Fiction



### **Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick (Level Y)**

(7th Grade Required Summer Reading)

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, *DRUMS, GIRLS, AND DANGEROUS PIE* is a heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

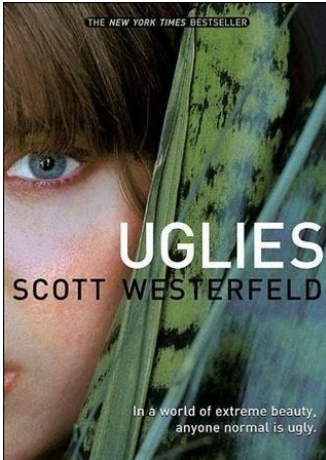


### **Runner by Carl Deuker (Level Z)**

(8th Grade Required Summer Reading)

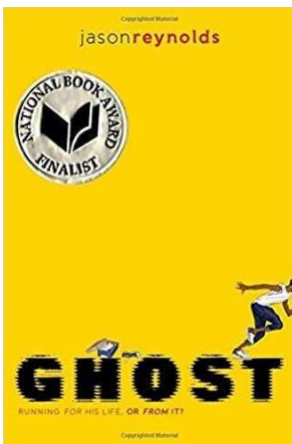
From the award-winning author of "Night Hoops" and "Painting the Black" comes this suspenseful, psychologically astute novel with themes of terrorism and patriotism, fear and courage.





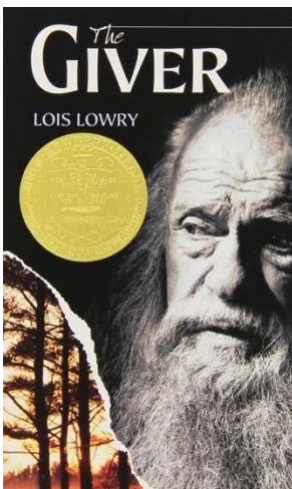
**Uglies (Series) by Scott Westerfeld (Level Z)**

(Uglies #1) Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunning pretty. And as a pretty, she'll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world-- and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally's choice will change her world forever.



**Ghost by Jason Reynolds (Level Y)**

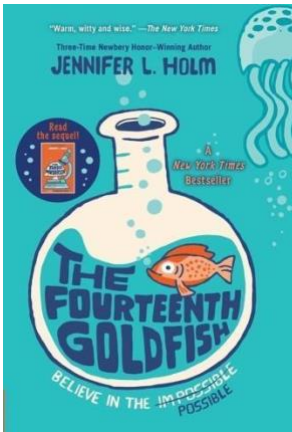
Four kids are chosen for an elite middle school track team. They are each from vastly different backgrounds but come together to attempt to qualify for the Junior Olympics. Author Jason Reynolds has written a book for each kid in the track series: Ghost, Lu, Patina, and Sunny.



**The Giver by Lois Lowry (Level Y)**

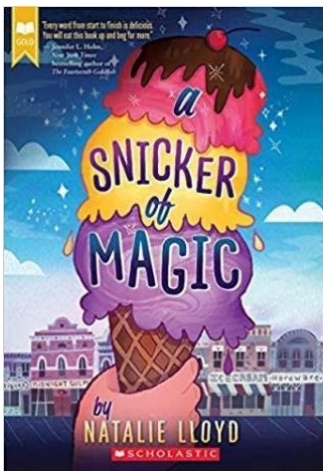
Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.





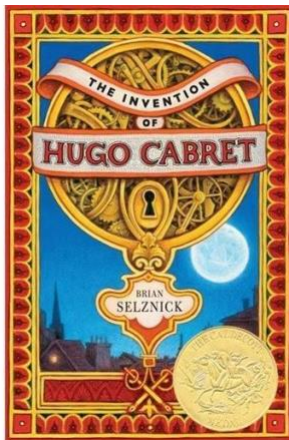
### **The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm (Level Z)**

Galileo. Newton. Salk. Oppenheimer. Science can change the world . . . but can it go too far? Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality.



### **A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd (Level W)**

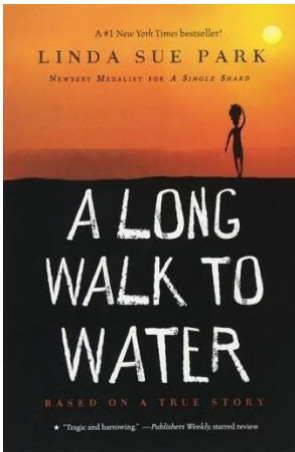
Midnight Gulch used to be a magical place, a town where people could sing up thunderstorms and dance up sunflowers. But that was long ago, before a curse drove the magic away. Twelve-year-old Felicity knows all about things like that; her nomadic mother is cursed with a wandering heart. Felicity and her family move to the town of Midnight Gulch for her mother's new job, but Felicity doesn't trust that it will last long. Her mother is cursed with a wandering heart, after all. But Felicity soon learns that Midnight Gulch was once a magical place until a curse drove away all the magic. She starts to think that, if she can get the magic to return, maybe her mother will finally settle down, too.



### **The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (Level W)**

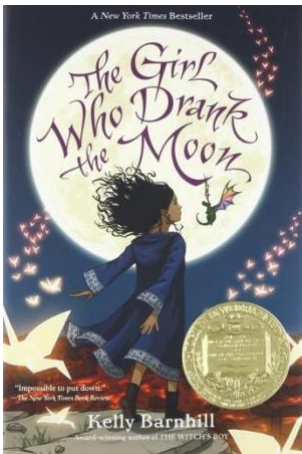
Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.





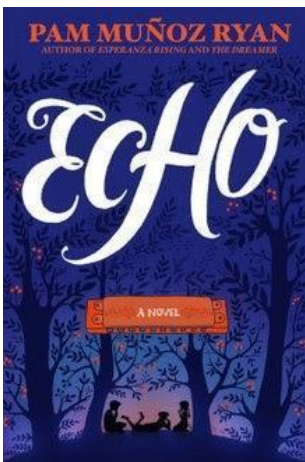
### **A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park (Level U)**

The Sudanese water crisis is told through two perspectives – that of Nya, a Sudanese girl in 2008 who walks two hours to retrieve water, and Salva, in 1985, who becomes one of the lost boys of Sudan. This is based on a true story and is extremely powerful.



### **The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill (Level X)**

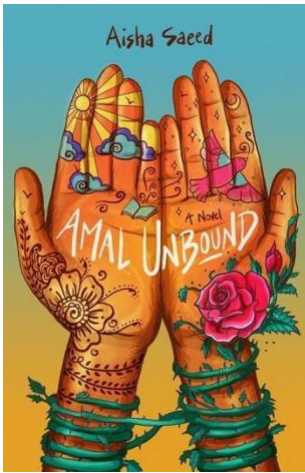
The witch in the forest, Xan, is kind, but the people of the Protectorate don't know this. They leave her an offering each year – an offering of a child. Xan takes the children and places them with adoptive families in a neighboring town. One year, Xan decides to keep a child and raise her as her own. This child is Luna, and as Luna turns 13, her magic starts to unfold while a man from the Protectorate is on a mission to kill the witch and free his people.



### **Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan (Level Y)**

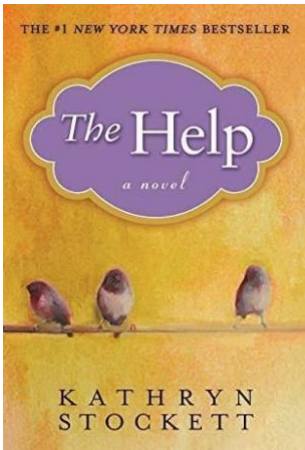
Echo is very impressive middle grade magical realism. This is the story of three children who are connected by a magic harmonica in the World War II era. It's hard to put down.





**Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed (Level Z)**

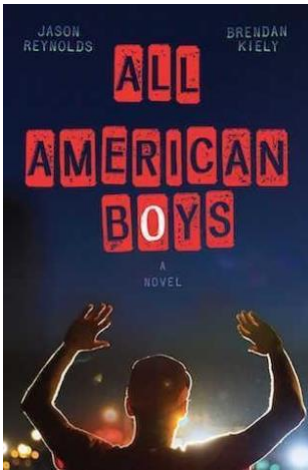
A young Pakistani girl, Amal, is forced into indentured servitude by her village's corrupt landlord. Amal is determined to make sure her dreams aren't dashed in the process.



**The Help by Kathryn Stockett (Level Z)**

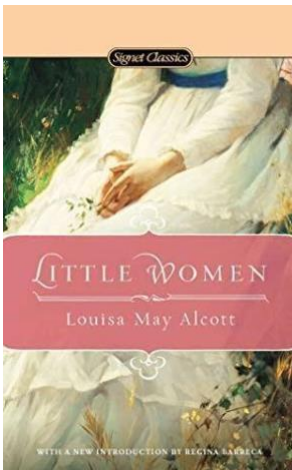
Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.





### **All American Boys by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely (Level Z+)**

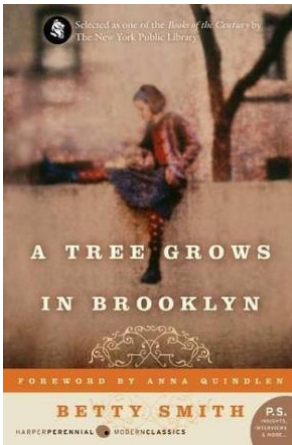
Rashad is absent again today. That's the sidewalk graffiti that started it all... Well, no, actually, a lady tripping over Rashad at the store, making him drop a bag of chips, was what started it all. Because it didn't matter what Rashad said next—that it was an accident, that he wasn't stealing—the cop just kept pounding him. Over and over, pummeling him into the pavement. So then Rashad, an ROTC kid with mad art skills, was absent again...and again...stuck in a hospital room. Why? Because it looked like he was stealing. And he was a black kid in baggy clothes. So he must have been stealing. And that's how it started. And that's what Quinn, a white kid, saw. He saw his best friend's older brother beating the daylights out of a classmate. At first Quinn doesn't tell a soul...He's not even sure he understands it. And does it matter? The whole thing was caught on camera, anyway. But when the school—and nation—start to divide on what happens, blame spreads like wildfire fed by ugly words like "racism" and "police brutality." Quinn realizes he's got to understand it, because, bystander or not, he's a part of history. He just has to figure out what side of history that will be. Rashad and Quinn—one black, one white, both American—face the unspeakable truth that racism and prejudice didn't die after the civil rights movement. There's a future at stake, a future where no one else will have to be absent because of police brutality. They just have to risk everything to change the world.



### **Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (Level Z)**

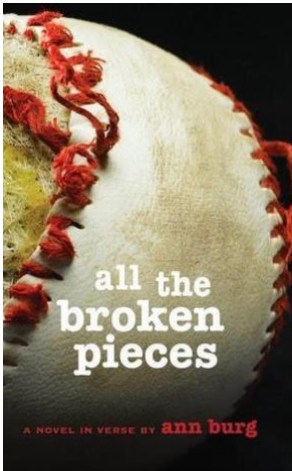
Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.





### **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith (Level Z+)**

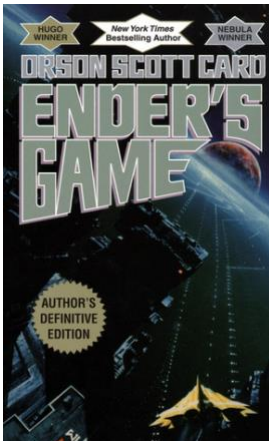
The American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age. It is a poignant and deeply understanding story of childhood and family relationships. The Nolans lived in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn from 1902 until 1919... Their daughter, Francie, and their son, Neely, know more than their fair share of the privations and sufferings that are the lot of a great city's poor. Primarily this is Francie's book. She is a superb feat of characterization, an imaginative, alert, resourceful child. And Francie's growing up and beginnings of wisdom are the substance of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." - Orville Prescott



### **All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg (Level Y)**

Two years after being airlifted out of war-torn Vietnam, Matt Pin is haunted: by bombs that fell like dead crows, by the family -- and the terrible secret -- he left behind. Now, inside a caring adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events force him to choose between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom.

By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love.

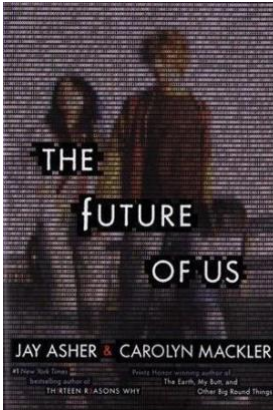


### **Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card, Stefan Rudnicki (Narrator), Harlan Ellison (Narrator) (Level Z)**

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast. But Ender is not the only result of the experiment. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Ender's two older siblings, Peter and Valentine, are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. While Peter was too uncontrollably violent, Valentine very nearly lacks the capability for violence altogether. Neither was found suitable for the military's purpose. But they are driven by their jealousy of Ender, and by

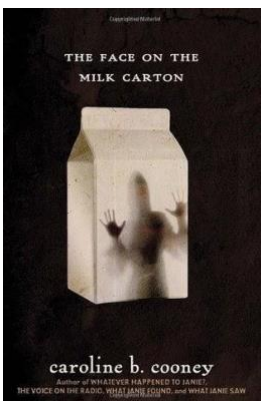


their inbred drive for power. Peter seeks to control the political process, to become a ruler. Valentine's abilities turn more toward the subtle control of the beliefs of commoner and elite alike, through powerfully convincing essays. Hiding their youth and identities behind the anonymity of the computer networks, these two begin working together to shape the destiny of Earth-an Earth that has no future at all if their brother Ender fails.



### **The Future of Us by Jay Asher & Carolyn Mackler**

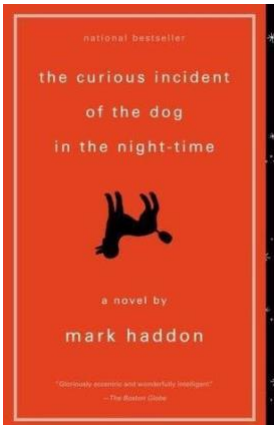
It's 1996, and Josh and Emma have been neighbors their whole lives. They've been best friends almost as long—at least, up until last November, when Josh did something that changed everything. Things have been weird between them ever since, but when Josh's family gets a free AOL CD in the mail, his mom makes him bring it over so that Emma can install it on her new computer. When they sign on, they're automatically logged onto their Facebook pages. But Facebook hasn't been invented yet. And they're looking at themselves fifteen years in the future. By refreshing their pages, they learn that making different decisions now will affect the outcome of their lives later. And as they grapple with the ups and downs of what their futures hold, they're forced to confront what they're doing right—and wrong—in the present.



### **The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney**

No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar—a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey—she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl—it was she. How could it possibly be true? Janie can't believe that her loving parents kidnapped her, but as she begins to piece things together, nothing makes sense. Something is terribly wrong. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson really her parents? And if not, who is Janie Johnson, and what really happened?

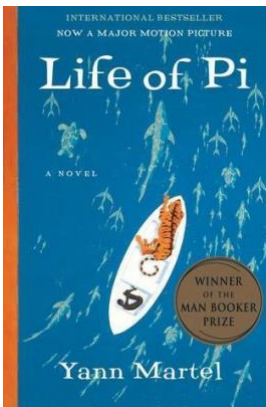




### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (Level Z+)**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

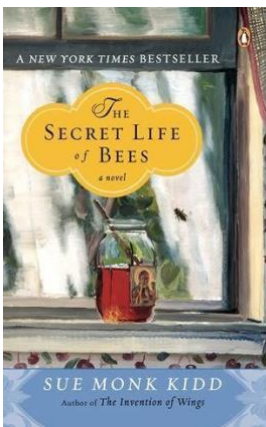
Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.



### **Life of Pi by Yann Martel (Level Z)**

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes.

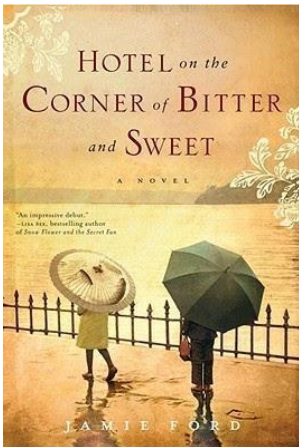
The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea.



### **The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (Level Z+)**

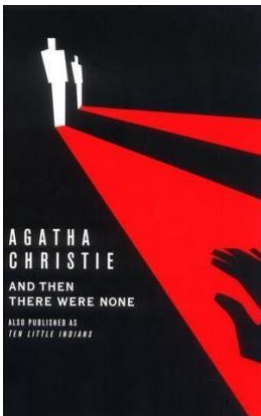
Set in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.





### **Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford (Level Z+)**

In 1986, Henry Lee joins a crowd outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has discovered the belongings of Japanese families who were sent to internment camps during World War II. As the owner displays and unfurls a Japanese parasol, Henry, a Chinese American, remembers a young Japanese American girl from his childhood in the 1940s—Keiko Okabe, with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors. After Keiko and her family were evacuated to the internment camps, she and Henry could only hope that their promise to each other would be kept. Now, forty years later, Henry explores the hotel's basement for the Okabe family's belongings and for a long-lost object whose value he cannot even begin to measure. His search will take him on a journey to revisit the sacrifices he has made for family, for love, for country.

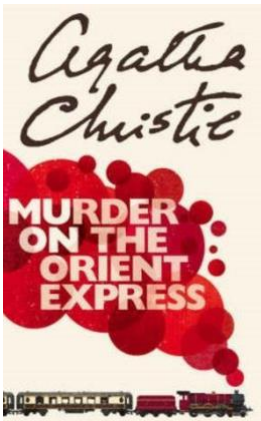


### **And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie (Level Z+)**

First, there were ten—a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a little private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. A famous nursery rhyme is framed and hung in every room of the mansion: "Ten little boys went out to dine; One choked his little self and then there were nine. Nine little boys sat up very late; One overslept himself and then there were eight. Eight little boys traveling in Devon; One said he'd stay there then there were seven. Seven little boys chopping up sticks; One chopped himself in half and then there were six. Six little boys playing with a hive; A bumblebee stung one and then there were five. Five little boys going in for law; One got in Chancery and then there were four. Four little boys going out to sea; A red herring swallowed one and then there were three. Three little boys walking in the zoo; A big bear hugged one and then there were two. Two little boys sitting in the sun; One got frizzled up and then there was one. One little boy left all alone; He went out and hanged himself and then there were none."

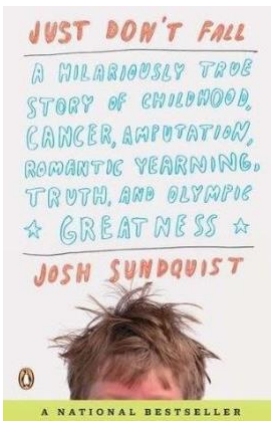
When they realize that murders are occurring as described in the rhyme, terror mounts. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. Who has choreographed this dastardly scheme? And who will be left to tell the tale? Only the dead are above suspicion.





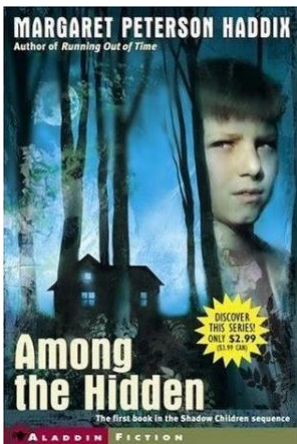
**Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie (Level Z+)**

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer—in case he or she decides to strike again.



**Just Don't Fall by Josh Sundquist**

A remarkable odyssey that John le Carre calls 'inspiring, courageous, sometimes heartbreaking' Josh Sundquist was an energetic and inquisitive nine-year-old when he was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a virulent cancer that eventually claimed his left leg. His extraordinary journey takes him from his small southern town-with his father, an aspiring pastor questioning his faith, and his mother, a rigidly conservative homeschool teacher- through a dizzying array of hospitals, on to high school, and then to the mountains, where Josh learns to ski. On the slopes, Josh's world bursts wide open and he finds within him the drive to become a champion skier, despite his disability. While he navigates the dramas of high school and an unstable home life, Josh keeps his eyes on the prize-the 2006 Paralympics in Turin, Italy. Just Don't Fall isn't just the story of a boy becoming a man, but of a champion realizing his greatest aspiration.

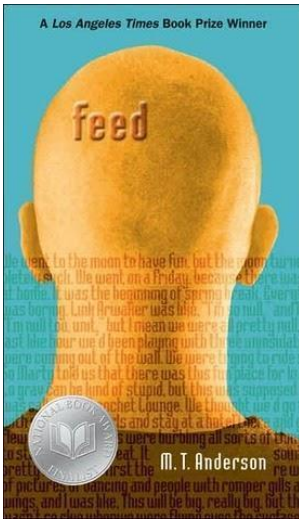


**Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Level Z)**

Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows - does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?





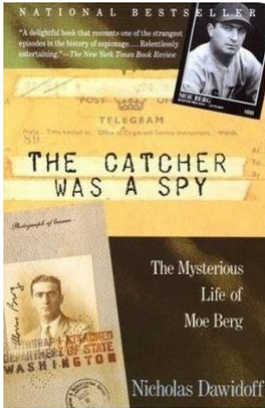
### **Feed by M.T. Anderson (Level Z)**

Identity crises, consumerism, and star-crossed teenage love in a futuristic society where people connect to the Internet via feeds implanted in their brains.

For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Following in the footsteps of George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., M. T. Anderson has created a not-so-brave new world — and a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.

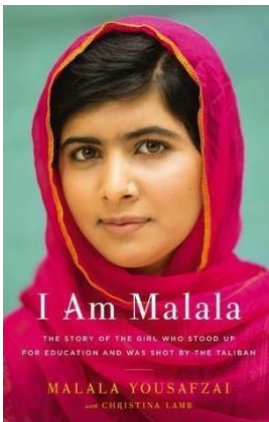


## Nonfiction Reading List for Students Entering 7th and 8th Grades



### **The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg** **by Nicholas Dawidoff**

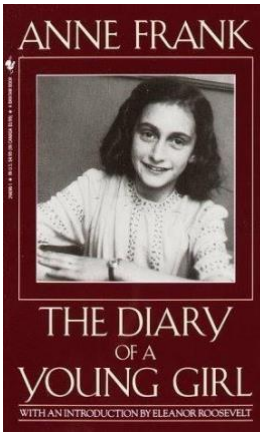
The only Major League ballplayer whose baseball card is on display at the headquarters of the CIA, Moe Berg has the singular distinction of having both a 15-year career as a catcher for such teams as the New York Robins and the Chicago White Sox and that of a spy for the OSS during World War II. Here, Dawidoff provides "a careful and sympathetic biography" (Chicago Sun-Times) of this enigmatic man.



### **I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban** by Malala Yousafzai, Christina Lamb **(Level Z)**

*I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate. *I Am Malala* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.*



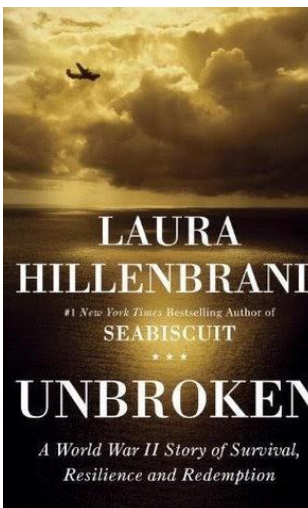


**The Diary of a Young Girl**

by Anne Frank, Eleanor Roosevelt (Introduction), B.M. Mooyart-Doubleday (Translator) (Level Y)

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annexe" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and surprisingly humorous, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.

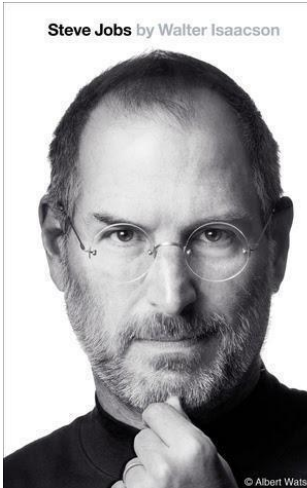


**Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption**  
by Laura Hillenbrand

In her long-awaited new book, Laura Hillenbrand writes with the same rich and vivid narrative voice she displayed in *Seabiscuit*. Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit. On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with



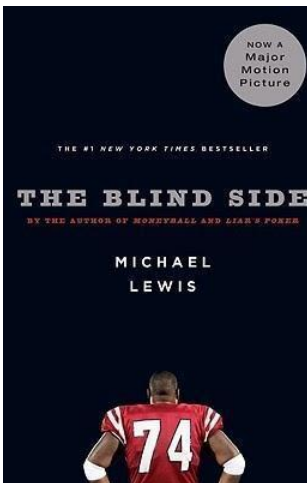
rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.



### **Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson (Level Z)**

Based on more than forty interviews with Jobs conducted over two years—as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues—Walter Isaacson has written a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.

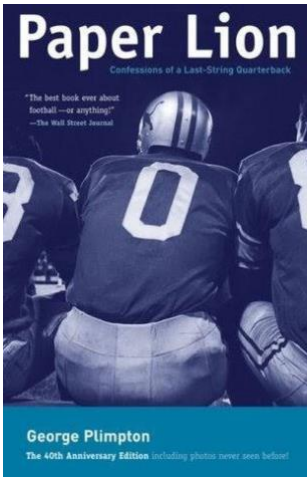
At a time when America is seeking ways to sustain its innovative edge, and when societies around the world are trying to build digital-age economies, Jobs stands as the ultimate icon of inventiveness and applied imagination. He knew that the best way to create value in the twenty-first century was to connect creativity with technology. He built a company where leaps of the imagination were combined with remarkable feats of engineering.



### **The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis (Level Z+)**

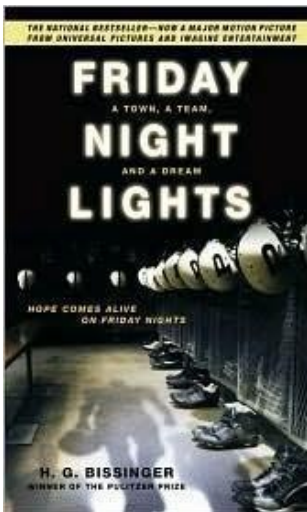
When we first meet Michael Oher, he is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or how to read or write. He takes up football and school after a rich, white, Evangelical family plucks him from the streets. Then two great forces alter Oher: the family's love and the evolution of professional football itself into a game in which the quarterback must be protected at any cost. Our protagonist becomes the priceless package of size, speed, and agility necessary to guard the quarterback's greatest vulnerability: his blind side.





**Paper Lion: Confessions of a Last-String Quarterback  
by George Plimpton**

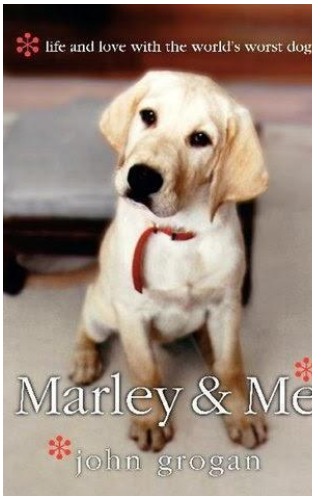
**Paper Lion** tells the story of his incredible adventure. Plimpton spent four weeks with the **Lions** at their pre-season training camp, four weeks in which he managed to lift the lid on the closed world of the NFL profession. His aim was to show the everyday fan what it was really like to be part of a pro football team.



**Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream  
by H.G. Bissinger (Level Z+)**

Return once again to the enduring account of life in the Mojo lane, to the Permian Panthers of Odessa -- the winningest high school football team in Texas history. Odessa is not known to be a town big on dreams, but the Panthers help keep the hopes and dreams of this small, dusty town going. Socially and racially divided, its fragile economy follows the treacherous boom-bust path of the oil business. In bad times, the unemployment rate barrels out of control; in good times, its murder rate skyrockets. But every Friday night from September to December, when the Permian High School Panthers play football, this West Texas town becomes a place where dreams can come true. With frankness and compassion, Bissinger chronicles one of the Panthers' dramatic seasons and shows how single-minded devotion to the team shapes the community and inspires-and sometimes shatters-the teenagers who wear the Panthers' uniforms.

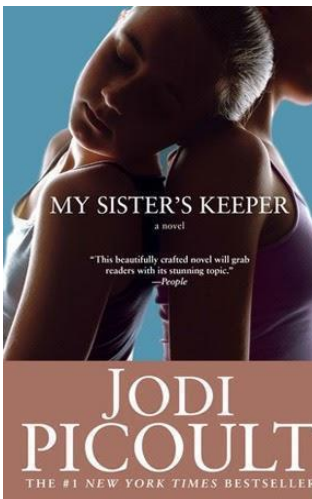




**Marley and Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog**  
by John Grogan

John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same.

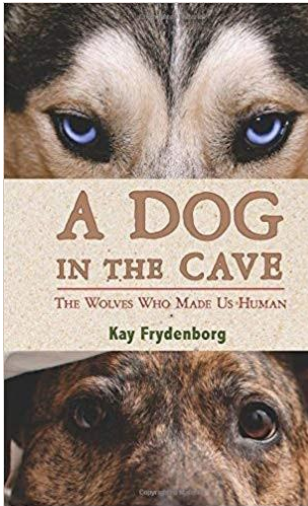
Marley quickly grew into a barreling, ninety-seven-pound steamroller of a Labrador retriever, a dog like no other. He crashed through screen doors, gouged through drywall, flung drool on guests, stole women's undergarments, and ate nearly everything he could get his mouth around, including couches and fine jewelry. Obedience school did no good—Marley was expelled. Neither did the tranquilizers the veterinarian prescribed for him with the admonishment, "Don't hesitate to use these." And yet Marley's heart was pure. Just as he joyfully refused any limits on his behavior, his love and loyalty were boundless, too. Marley shared the couple's joy at their first pregnancy, and their heartbreak over the miscarriage. He was there when babies finally arrived and when the screams of a seventeen-year-old stabbing victim pierced the night. Marley shut down a public beach and managed to land a role in a feature-length movie, always winning hearts as he made a mess of things. Through it all, he remained steadfast, a model of devotion, even when his family was at its wit's end. Unconditional love, they would learn, comes in many forms.



**My Sister's Keeper** by Jodi Picoult

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate—a life and a role that she has never challenged... until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister—and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

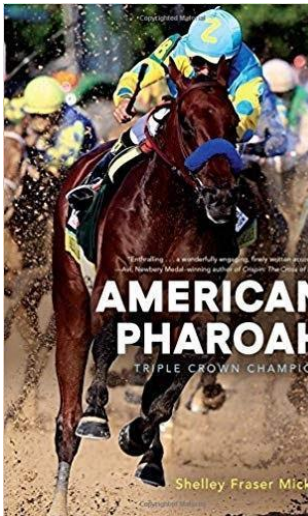




**A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human by Kay Frydenborg**

We know dogs are our best animal friends, but have you ever thought about what that might mean?

Fossils show we've shared our work and homes with dogs for tens of thousands of years. Now there's growing evidence that we influenced dogs' evolution—and they, in turn, changed ours. Even more than our closest relatives, the apes, dogs are the species with whom we communicate best.



**American Pharoah: Triple Crown Champion by Shelley Fraser Mickle**

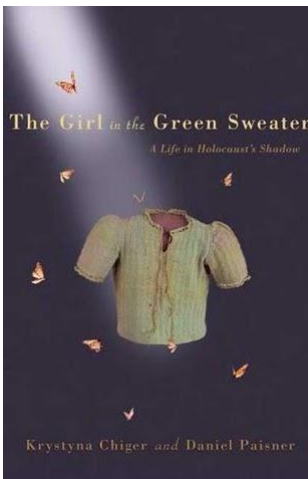
This is the life story of American Pharoah, the horse that won the Triple Crown in 2015. The story goes into great detail about the horse himself as well as the trainers, breeders, and jockey who were a part of his team.





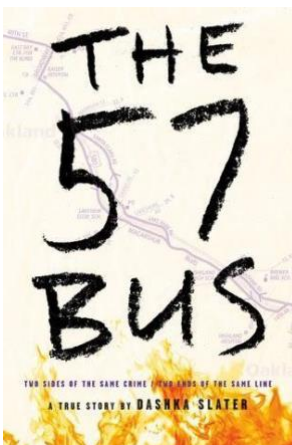
**No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War by Anita Lobel (Level Z)**

Anita Lobel was barely five years old when World War II began and the Nazis burst into her home in Krakow, Poland, changing her life forever. She spent the days of her childhood in hiding with her brother--who was disguised as a girl--and their Catholic nanny in the countryside, the ghetto, and finally in a convent where the Nazis caught up with her. She was imprisoned in a succession of concentration camps until the end of the war. Sent by the Red Cross to recuperate in Sweden, she slowly blossomed as she discovered books and language and art. Since coming to the United States as a teenager, Anita Lobel has spent her life making pictures. She has never gone back. She has never looked back. Until now.



**The Girl in the Green Sweater: A Life in Holocaust's Shadow by Krystyna Chiger, Daniel Paisner**

In 1943, with Lvov's 150,000 Jews having been exiled, killed, or forced into ghettos and facing extermination, a group of Polish Jews daringly sought refuge in the city's sewer system. The last surviving member this group, Krystyna Chiger, shares one of the most intimate, harrowing and ultimately triumphant tales of survival to emerge from the Holocaust. *The Girl in the Green Sweater* is Chiger's harrowing first-person account of the fourteen months she spent with her family in the fetid, underground sewers of Lvov. *The Girl in the Green Sweater* is also the story of Leopold Socha, the group's unlikely savior. A Polish Catholic and former thief, Socha risked his life to help Chiger's underground family survive, bringing them food, medicine, and supplies. A moving memoir of a desperate escape and life under unimaginable circumstances, *The Girl in the Green Sweater* is ultimately a tale of intimate survival, friendship, and redemption.

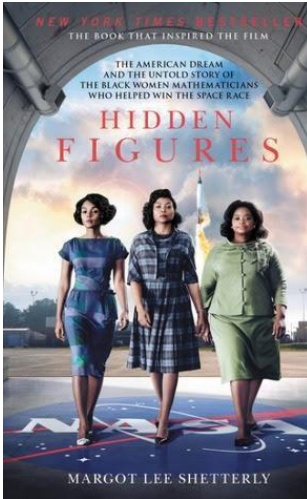


**The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater (Z+)**

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and

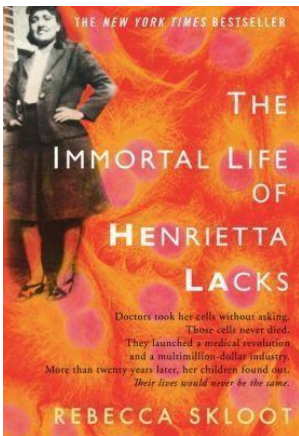


facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.



### **Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (Level Z+)**

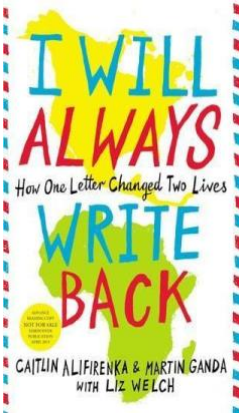
The #1 New York Times Bestseller. Set amid the civil rights movement, the never-before-told true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program. Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these 'coloured computers' used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets and astronauts, into space. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War and the women's rights movement, 'Hidden Figures' interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.



### **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (Level Z+)**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they'd weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.





**I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives**  
by Caitlin Alifirenka , Martin Ganda, Liz Welch (Level Y)

*The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from an impoverished city in Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe written on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of--so she chose it.*

Martin was lucky to even receive a pen pal letter. There were only ten letters, and forty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.

That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends --and better people--through letters. Their story will inspire readers to look beyond their own lives and wonder about the world at large and their place in it.



**Refugee by Alan Gratz (Level Y)**

Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE.

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe... All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers--from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.