2019 Summer Recommended Reading for Students Entering 5th and 6th Grade

Spotlight on NEW KID
A graphic novel by Jerry Craft

Seventh grader Jordan Banks is recently enrolled in a prestigious private school as one of the few kids of color. Drawn from the author-illustrator's own middle school experiences, this story explores complex topics of race, class, and friendship without ever becoming overwhelming or confusing; the balance of varied perspectives is handled with honesty and thoughtfulness.

SECTIONS

Newly Added Titles
Realistic and Historical Fiction
Science Fiction
Fantasy

Humorous Stories
Thrillers and Chillers
Poetry
Nonfiction, Biography and Memoirs

Newly Added Titles (back to top)

Applegate, Katherine.
THE LAST (Fantasy)
Hunted to near extinction, the Dairnes (a mythical dog-human species) hide from the Royal assassins in the depth of the woods. When Byx, the youngest member of her pack, witnesses the slaughter of her entire clan, must escape to seek safe haven and also to embark on a treacherous journey to find out if the legend of other dairnes in the world is true.
Auxier, Jonathan.
SWEEP: THE STORY OF A GIRL AND HER MONSTER (Fantasy)
Set in Victorian London, the story follows Nan, a chimney sweep, in a time where children are used and abused in this highly dangerous profession, her near-escape from death, and her deep bond with “Charlie”: a piece of charred substance that turned into a powerful magical being.

Boyce, Jo Ann Allen & Debbie Levy.
THIS PROMISE OF CHANGE (Verse Memoir)
Before the Little Rock 9, there was the Clinton 12: in 1956, Tennessee, twelve African American students were the first attending a desegregate state-supported high school. Although a much celebrated historical victory, the actual experience was anything but a smooth ride. JoAnn Boyce details her personal and tumultuous year at Clinton High in emotionally honest and clear verses, co-authored by Debbie Levy, to show readers the real story behind the headlines.

Vera Brosgol.
BE PREPARED (Graphic Novel/Memoir)
Comic creator of Anya’s Ghost Vera Brosgol recounts an eventful summer camp experience as a Russian immigrant girl who has much less than her suburban peers. At times hilarious and heart-wrenching, this is an honest and searing look at peer dynamics.

Connor, Leslie.
THE TRUTH AS TOLD BY MASON BUTTLE
Using voice-assisting writing software, Mason, the always sweaty, large, and shy Mason Buttle unveils the real story behind his best friend Benny’s untimely death 15 months ago and his impoverished family’s struggle.

Craft, Jerry.
NEW KID
Seventh grader Jordan Banks is recently enrolled in a prestigious private school as one of the few kids of color. Drawn from the author-illustrator’s own middle school experiences, this story explores complex topics of race, class, and friendship without ever becoming overwhelming or confusing; the balance of varied perspectives is handled with honesty and thoughtfulness.

DiCamillo, Kate.
LOUISIANA’S WAY HOME (Realistic Fiction)
Louisiana Elefante’s granny wakes her up one night and forces her on a bizarre car trip, running away from (imaginary?) law-enforcers. Louisiana has to use all her charms and wits to survive when she is abandoned and finds out that her life story has all been a gigantic lie. Her heart is put to the test: is it big enough to forgive?

Hiranandani, Veera.
THE NIGHT DIARY (Historical Fiction)
Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha seldom speaks and writes to her dead mother in a night diary. It’s 1947, and her country (India) was just split into two countries: Pakistan and India. For the family’s safety, they have to take a dangerous journey to a new home.
Magoon, Kekla.
THE SEASON OF STYX MALONE
When brothers Caleb and Bobby meet their new neighbor, the suave, older boy Styx Malone, they are instantly charmed. When Styx promises that they could use his "Great Escalator Trade" scheme to obtain the object of their wildest dreams: a motorcycle, the brothers become the most faithful disciples: not realizing that under Styx cool exterior lies a vulnerable young man in need of care and kindness.

Medina, Meg.
MERCI SUÁREZ CHANGES GEARS (Realistic Fiction)
Strong-willed and resourceful sixth-grader Merci Suarez has to navigate difficult friendship issues at school, a beloved grandfather who starts behaving erratically, and the burden of being a student on financial aid.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert.
BOOK OF BOY (Fantasy)
Set in 13th century Europe, Boy (no other name) is taken by Secundus, a Pilgrim, on a hectic journey to collect Relics with magical powers due to his superhuman talents: he could get to very high places, almost like flying, and he could communicate with animals in times of need. Hiding the fact that he does not need to eat and realizing the "hunch" on this back might not be a simple lump, Boy, and the readers, will finally discover his true identity.

Nie, Jun.
MY BEIJING (Fantasy, Graphic Novel)
Four fanciful short stories of Yu'er (Fish Child) and her grandfather, with whimsical illustrations, take place all in modern day Hutong community in Beijing.

Oh, Ellen and Elsie Chapman (Ed.)
A THOUSAND BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS (Short Stories)
Fifteen Asian American authors tells short stories inspired by Asian fairy tale, myth, and folklore. The stories range from mystical romances, to ghost sightings in early America, to realistic middle school friendship drama, to being trapped inside a Virtual Reality game.

(Rick) Riordan Presents
Authors with different heritages create four series based on their cultural mythologies, similar to the successful series created by Rick Riordan (Percy Jackson and Magnus Chase, etc.) These are the first book in each series:

ARUSHA AND THE END OF TIME by ROSHANI CHOKSHI (Indian/Fantasy)
DRAGON PEARL by YOON HA LEE (Korean, Sci-Fi)
THE STORM RUNNER by J.C. CERVANTES (Mayan/Mexican, Fantasy)
SAL AND GABI BREAK THE UNIVERSE by CARLOS HERMANDEZ (Cuban, Sci-Fi)

Sell, Chad and Jay Fuller.
CARDBOARD KINGDOM (Graphic Novel, Realistic Fiction)
A total celebration of imagination and community, this collaboration of many writers and artists presents a summer where the neighborhood kids get together to create a Cardboard Kingdom of villains, heroes, and the fun that is storytelling and playacting.
Maria Sibylla Merian (1647 – 1717) was one of the first artists who meticulously documented the metamorphosis of the butterflies and the life cycles of other insects. With her powerful observational and artistic skills, Maria also helped scientists understand the insects world -- and dispelled many misconceptions.

As the heir to the throne, Prince Sebastian has to have a bride of high standings - but his heart is fully occupied by something else: looking fabulous in stunning dresses and enjoying the Parisian fashion life secretly as the enigmatic Lady Crystallia. His dressmaker, Frances, on the other hand, struggles to succeed in the fashion world as a woman designer. The story is both about identity and true romance.

**REALISTIC AND HISTORICAL FICTION  (back to top)**

Alexander, Kwame.
THE CROSSOVER
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan have always been close, super close — until one of them develops a new interest in girls. They struggle to remain best siblings and buddies on and off the basketball court and have to deal with the fact that their father’s health is declining. Told in rhythmic and skillfully crafted short poems, the story, character, and emotions all ring true. Other titles by the author are worth exploring as well: BOOKED and OUT OF WONDER. (2015 Newbery Award winner)

Applegate, Katherine.
THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN
Ivan, the show Gorilla at Big Top Mall near Exit 8, tells his story of captivity and his yearning to be freed from the cage in simple and wise words. Ivan’s story is inspired by true events and will warm any reader’s heart. This is the 2013 Newbery Award winner!

Applegate, Katherine.
WISHTREE
Told in the first person perspective of Red, a gender fluid tree that has been around for more than 200 years who has witnessed many changes of the small American town. Being the "wishtree" of the town and knowing the secrete wishes (on paper hung all over their branches) of many, Red is compassionate and tries to help the folks. When an ugly word is carved on Red's trunk in response to a muslim family that only recently moved to the area, Red uses their uncanny power to help bring peace and understanding back. Applegate’s short and finely crafted phrases carry the wise narrative through with funny tidbits of the animals that call Red their home.
Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker.
THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE
Nine-year-old Ada’s mother is too embarrassed by Ada’s twisted foot to let her leave them one-room apartment in London. When Ada’s little brother is went out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him and begins a new adventure with Susan Smith, the woman who has lost a loved one and is now taking care of these siblings. Its sequel, THE WAR I FINALLY WON, is worthy reading as well.

Bruchac, Joseph.
TALKING LEAVES (Historical Fiction)
When his father, Sequoyah comes back from a long period of absence, Uwohali is excited to reconnect. However, his father’s mind seems far away and everyone thinks he’s crazy. As this story based on a major historical event unfolds, Uwohali and the readers find out that the engenius Sequoya is actually trying to invent the first Cherokee alphabet!

Bryan, Ashley.
FREEDOM OVER ME
Based on primary sources of slave auction documents, former Dalton art teacher and national treasure Ashley Bryan created a series of moving poems, accompanied by striking artwork, that give voices to those left out by the history books.

Burnett, Frances H.
THE SECRET GARDEN
A lonely orphan girl comes to live with her uncle in England, discovers a secret garden, and finds friends and happiness. THE LITTLE PRINCESS is another excellent title.

Cao, Wen-Xuan. translated by Helen Wang from Chinese
BRONZE AND SUNFLOWER
Set against the backdrop of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, this story about the unyielding and genuine friendship between young girl from the big city (Sunflower) and a mute boy from the poor family in the country (Bronze) shows the devastation of the time and the resilience of a tightly-knit, caring, and resourceful Chinese farmers family in the 1960s.

Choldenko, Gennifer.
AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS.
12-year-old Moose just moved to Alkatraz, a high security prison, where his father works. Set in the 1930s when Al Capone, the famous mobster, was imprisoned there, Moose’s adventures are both hilarious and heart-warming, especially when he has to protect his older sister who has autism.

Cliff, Tony.
DELILAH DIRK AND THE KING’S SHILLING
In this second installment of Delilah Dirk’s humorous and exciting adventure as a skilled swords-woman, Delilah and Mister Selim must go to England in order to clear her name as a spy and face one of her biggest nemeses: her own mother!
Cummings, Priscilla.
A FACE FIRST
12-year-old Kelley was horribly burned in an accident in the car driven by her mother. This thought-provoking novel allows the readers a glimpse into the painful process of rehabilitation of burn victims. An element of mystery gives another layer of intensity to the story.

Curtis, Christopher Paul.
BUD, NOT BUDDY
Bud, 10, is on the run from the orphanage and from yet another mean foster family. His mother died when he was 6 and he wants to find his father. Set in Michigan during the Great Depression, this story is told with a lot of humor and warmth.

Curtis, Christopher Paul.
JOURNEY OF LITTLE CHARLIE
Set in the late 19th century, twelve-year-old Little Charlie who appears to be much older due to his large size, is coerced into helping a ruthless plantation overseer, Cap'n Buck, catch runaway slaves. Little Charlie experiences many heart-stopping and heart-breaking scenes. In the end, his conscience and kindness tell him to defy his employer. But is it too little too late?

Cushman, Karen
CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY
Catherine, the daughter of an impoverished knight, is in her fourteenth year when she begins a record of her daily life. Her diary of the year 1290 provides a revealing, amusing, and vivid picture of both Catherine’s thoughts and Medieval life.

de Fombelle, Timothée; translated by Sarah Ardizzone.
VANGO: BETWEEN SKY AND EARTH
A mysterious and athletic young man who, after surviving a shipwreck as an infant, lived on a small island until his home was invaded and his loved ones threatened. Vango’s heart-pounding adventures (around the time when World War II was about to begin,) took him to an airship, a hidden monastery, and a posh hotel in New York City.

Draper, Sharon.
OUT OF MY MIND
10 year-old Melody has never spoken a word. She has a brilliant mind trapped inside an uncontrollable body suffering from cerebral palsy and yet, she is full of insights and never gives up. With the support and help of her loving family and a special teacher, Melody fights against the odds and triumphs.

Fitzhugh, Louise.
HARRIET THE SPY
The thoughts and notebooks of a young girl who lives in New York City, is unhappy when her nurse leaves, and “spies” and writes about her classmates.

George, Jean Craighead.
JULIE OF THE WOLVES
Alone and lost in the Alaskan wilderness without food or a compass, Julie is accepted by a pack of wolves who help her struggle to survive.
Giff, Patricia Reilly.
PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS.
12-year-old Hollis Woods has been sent to one foster home after another all her life. She is an amazing artist. With descriptions of her drawings, Hollis tells a moving story of a deeply bonding relationship with her newest foster mother, artist Josie, and her dream of a perfect family.

Gino, Alex.
GEORGE
George thinks she'll have to keep the secret forever that she knows she is a girl even though she was born in a boy’s body. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte’s Web. George really wants to be Charlotte and also to reveal her long-held secret. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan.

Gratz, Alan.
REFUGEE
Three seemingly separated refugee stories of a Jewish boy, Josef, from the 1930s Nazi Germany, a Cuban girl Isabel, escaping the political upheavals in 1990s; and a Syrian boy Mahmoud’s family torn apart by violent civil war, are interwoven and share surprising and impactful connections to each other.

Greenwald, Lisa.
MY LIFE IN PINK AND GREEN
In this funny and sweet story, Lucy Desberg’s tries to save her family’s struggling drugstore by running a successful makeover business. The sequels are MY SUMMER OF PINK AND GREEN and PINK AND GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK.

Hale, Shannon.
REAL FRIENDS
In this fiercely honest and emotional Graphic Novel memoir, Shannon experiences friendships lost and gained, the impact of having an emotionally volatile sister, and the gradual realization of her true self.

Jamieson, Victoria.
ALL’S FAIRE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
11-year-old Imogene loves the fact that her parents work at the Renaissance Faire as actors and shop owners. This fall, she begins her own training as a squire and has to prove her bravery: by attending middle school after being homeschooled all her life. It definitely does not start well when some of her classmates choose to not be supportive or understanding of her family’s vocation. This story is told in lively illustrated panels and naturalistic dialog.

Kadohata, Cynthia.
THE THING ABOUT LUCK
When a family emergency took her parents away back to Japan, Summer spends her vacation working as a cook for wheat harvesters. She tries to please her old-fashioned and demanding grandparents, helps her friendless little brother fit in, and experiences her first romance and heartache. This is the 2013 National Book Award winner.
Kelly, Erin Entrada.
HELLO! UNIVERSE
Owen, a Filipino American boy, is shy but has a rich and passionate inner life. He has a quite admiration of his classmate Valencia, who is deaf/mute but strong and confident. When Owen's backpack is thrown down to the bottom of an unused well by the school bully, he has to muster the courage to go after the backpack to rescue his pet guinnea pig. Who will rescue Owen from the deep well then? This story, interwoven with Filipino folklore, explores the idea of fate and development of genuine friendship among reflective children. Winner of the 2018 Newbery Award.

Konigsburg, E.L.
FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER
Claudia knows she has to run away, but grubby hideouts are not her style. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has all the elegance she wants – and much, much more.

Lai, Thanhha.
INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN
In sparse and evocative verse, author Thanhha Lai retells her childhood experiences of the dangerous journey escaping the war-torn and politically dangerous Vietnam and finding her place and a second home in the United States with her family.

Lin, Grace.
YEAR OF THE DOG
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. YEAR OF THE RAT is a 2008 follow-up of Pacy’s story.

Lupica, Mike.
HEAVY HITTERS
In the first game of the all-star games, Ben gets hit by a pitch that really upsets him. Not to mention that Justin, the best hitter on the team, is acting oddly and performs unevenly on the field. As Justin’s teammate, Ben decides to help Justin with his hidden family problem. Sports story fans will also enjoy: BATBOY, SHOOT OUT, HEAT, and many other titles.

Lyons, Mary.
LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL
A fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written during her slavery in North Carolina and as she prepared for escape to the North in 1842.

Martin, Anne and Danziger, Paula.
P.S. LONGER LETTER LATER: A NOVEL IN LETTERS
Elizabeth and Tara Starr are best friends. When Elizabeth moves away before their junior high years, they start corresponding and reporting to each other their respective lives in detail via letters. The sequel is SNAIL MAIL NO MORE.
Mass, Wendy.
A MANGO-SHAPED SPACE
Living with Synethesia (a mental condition that connects the five senses in unusual ways,) 13-year-old Mia sees colors in every letter of the alphabet, every number, and every note of music and feels alone and a complete outsider until she finds out that there are plenty of others in the world who share the same condition and experiences.

McKay, Hilary.
SAFFY'S ANGEL
Saffy finds out at the beginning of this humorous story that she was adopted into this very loving but quirky family of artists. She becomes obsessed with the idea to search for an angel statue in Italy which she remembers from the toddler days with her mother. This is the first in a 5-book series.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.
ALICE IN RAPTURE, SORT-OF
The summer of 12 year old Alice is filled with excitement, including going on a first date with her best friend. Always entertaining and enlightening, this and the first book in the series, THE AGONY OF ALICE and the many sequels have been favorites of middle school students.

Nicholls, Sally.
WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER
“My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. I have leukemia. By the time you read this, I will probably be dead.” This moving story about a terminally ill boy who tries to live his remaining days to the fullest and thus leaving a mark forever will make you cry but also have so many hilarious scenes that will make you laugh and admire Sam and his friend Felix for their vibrant minds.

Palacio, R.J.
WONDER
When home-schooled Auggie goes to school for the first time (in fifth grade,) he has a lot to adjust to. First, there are the stares and shocked faces all around him due to his facial deformity. Then, there are other unexpected disappointments and delights with new friends and altered relationships at home.

Paterson, Katherine.
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
Jess meets a neighbor girl named Leslie who leads him to the magical world of imagination. This power of imagination also helps him get through one of the most terrible things that will happen to him.

Paulsen, Gary
HATCHET
On his way to visit his father, Brian was left stranded in the wilderness after the pilot of his small plane dies of a heart attack. Waiting to be rescued, Brian has to fend for himself and survive the harsh environment and animal threats with armed with only his survival pack and a hatchet.
Philbrick, W.R.
FREAK THE MIGHTY
At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, a slow learner who is HUGE for his age and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when combining forces they make a powerful team.

Pérez, Celia C.
FIRST RULE OF PUNK
Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales, or Malú, is obsessed with two things: to make creative and humorous “Zines” (handmade magazines on single topics) and to start and sing in her own punk band! Starting over in a new school in 7th grade sure isn't easy but Malú has the full support of both her parents (although not together any more, their love for her has never changed) and the most important rule of PUNK to back her up: be yourself.

Preller, James.
SIX INNINGS
James Preller poured much of his passion for the game into a finely crafted story set in just ONE little league game: 6 innings, character sketches of 12 players of one visiting team. The format is a play-by-play report of the BIG game, but it is more than mere reporting. Readers will fall in love with the game, and further understand its relationship with the greater picture of Life.

Reynolds, Jason.
GHOST
Ghost (Castle Crenshaw) has been running away from a dark event from his childhood when his father got really mad at him and his mother -- and that's why he's so fast! By chance, Ghost is recruited into a local youth track team and finally starts to see some hope and brightness in his future as the track coach gives him support both on and off the field. The Tracks quartet is complete with PATINA, SUNNY, and LU. Read them all!

Rundell, Katherine.
WOLF WILDER
When pet wolves are abandoned by their aristocratic owners because they cannot be tamed, Feodora and her mother take the wolves in and retrain them to survive in the snowbound woods of Russia. When the hostile Russian Army led by a murderous leader threatens Feodora’s mother and the wolves’ safety, Feo is left to figure out how to rescue her mother by standing up for the things she loves and starting a revolution!

Ryan, Pam Muñoz.
ECHO
Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California all become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives.
Rylant, Cynthia
MISSING MAY
An eccentric cast of characters provide the focal point for this moving story, which grapples with the most important questions of all: Why do people die, and how do the survivors go on?

Sachar, Louis.
HOLES
Stanley Yelnats (his name is a palindrome) is accused of stealing a baseball player’s sneakers so he is sent to a “camp” in the middle of the desert where he has to dig holes five-foot by five-foot by five-foot every day. He meets a boy named Zero. Together they try to escape the sinister warden and her cronies.

Selznick, Brian.
THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET
In this heavily illustrated tale of mystery, loss, friendship, and creativity, author illustrator Brian Selznick combined text and pictures to present a rich world in 1930s Paris where Hugo lives in the wall of a busy train station, tries to hide the fact that he’s an orphan and living along, and discovers the secrets of the automaton left behind by his dead father.

Speare, Elizabeth
THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND
Kit, an orphan from Barbados, comes to live with her relatives in the Colony of Connecticut. When she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft, Kit gets drawn into the hysteria of the great witch hunt.

Spinelli, Jerry.
JAKE AND LILY
Jake and Lily are twins and they have a secret that binds them even stronger together: their telepathic connection with each other, to feel each other’s feelings and sense each other’s surroundings. But starting in the summer of their 11th birthday, they are growing apart. Lily is desperate to reconnect while Jake would rather spend the summer with the pack of boys who find great pleasure in picking on others.

Spinelli, Jerry.
MANIAC MAGEE
Funny and fantastic, Maniac Magee is the fastest runner in town. He’s even better at showing people how to get along with one another.

Stead, Rebecca.
GOODBYE STRANGER
Bridget is the survivor of a bad car accident and often wonders about life and death. She and her two best friends have a pact to never fight with each other. But, then 7th grade starts! Each of them is facing new challenges and when one of the three friends has done something that gets her in trouble with the school, how can the three remain close?

Weeks, Sarah.
SO B. IT!
Heidi’s mother suffers from severe mental illness and only knows 23 words. By chance, Heidi finds a clue in the drawer one day and that sets off her quest for her mother’s and her own true identities.
Williams-Garcia, Rita.
CLAYTON BYRD GOES UNDERGROUND
Cool Papa has been Clayton's music mentor in the ways of the Blues and the coolest grandpa anyone could ever wish for. Early on in the story, Cool Papa peacefully passed away, leaving Clayton in a state of deep and quiet sorrow. Forbidden by his mother who had a tempestuous relationship with her own father, from paying tribute to Cool Papa, decides to run away and join Cool Papa's old Blues Band. In the end, he discovers the tender side of his mother and is hopeful for a brighter tomorrow.

Wilson, Jacqueline
DOUBLE ACT
Written in two but interlaced voices of a pair of identical twins, this is an amusing story about how Ruby and Garnet learn to grow apart but still remain best friends with each other. Some of the capers they get themselves into (going to London to be auditioned for a TV show, for example) are funny and memorable.

Woodson, Jacqueline
LOCOMOTION
In this verse novel, Lonnie Collins Motion (LoCoMotion) tells with crystal clarity how life is like after losing his parents in a tragic fire, living with a foster mother, and missing his little sister who is sent to stay with a different foster family. The sequel, told in a series of letters, is PEACE, LOCOMOTION where Lonnie encounters a foster brother who has been wounded during the Iraqi war and suffers from psychological damages.

Yang, Kelly.
FRONT DESK
Mia Tang, a resourceful ten-year old Chinese immigrant, takes care of front desk duties at a motel where her parents are managers. Her parents' big dream of a free and wealthy life becomes almost impossible to reach when a series of bad things happen: a customer's car is stolen and Mia's mother is beaten by robbers. What will happen to the Tang family if the owner of the motel finds out that Mia's parents also are harboring other recent Chinese immigrants for free?

SCIENCE FICTION

Asimov, Isaac.
FOUNDATION (series)
In this classic science fiction tale, the Foundations are created by Hari Seldon to preserve human culture after the collapse of the first galactic empire. The series follows the developments as the Foundations struggle to survive and fulfill the mission.

Brown, Peter.
WILD ROBOT
ROZZUM unit 7134 (Roz) is the only intact surviving robot after a cargo ship crashed against a remote island. When she was accidentally activated by a group of otters, she starts a long series of exciting adventures that make the island her home, all the animals her friends, and one of the animals her family. Roz finally becomes content with her life as a Wild Robot — until when the Makers send the RECO units to capture her back to the factory!
Card, Orson Scott.
ENDER’S GAME and ENDER’S SHADOW (two series)
In these two companion stories, Ender and Bean are two brilliant young children who are
given the burden of saving humanity from the invading alien force. Action packed, these
two titles are thoughtful and deal with human nature in a profound fashion. (These books
do not shy away from using realistic, and sometimes, offensive language or dealing with
tough and rough situations. More suitable for older and more mature readers.)

Carman, Patrick
ATHERTON: THE HOUSE OF POWER (series)
This is an exciting adventure story set in a strange world that is in the process of
collapsing. Edgar, a lonely boy and a gifted climber, discovers all kinds of secrets and
mysterious history of the only home he’d ever known.

DuPrau, Jeanne
THE CITY OF EMBER (series)
It is the year 241 in the City of Ember. People are getting really desperate; the canned food
supply which was believed to be endless is shrinking rapidly; the generator for electricity
that is the only source of light for the entire city is faltering. 12-year-old Lina and Doon are
determined to find a way out of Ember and save the City.

Falkner, Brian.
BRAIN JACK
In a near-future New York City, fourteen-year-old computer genius Sam Wilson manages
to hack into the AT&T network and sets off a chain of events that have a profound effect
on human activity throughout the world.

Farmer, Nancy.
THE EAR, THE EYE, AND THE ARM
Tendai is a boy who lives in Zimbabwe in 2194. His father General Matsika forbids him to
leave his house. However, Tendai steals away with his brother and sister. In the city he is
kidnapped by gangsters and wakes up in the land of the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm – three
mutants with super powers who will help Tendai to avoid evils of the past and technology
of the future to return home.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson.
AMONG THE HIDDEN (Shadow Children series)
In a future U.S., when every family can only have two children, Luke, 12, the third boy in his
farming family, has been hidden since birth, safe for the time being from the Population
Police. Will Luke be able to change his world with the help of an underground
organization?

L'Engle, Madeleine.
A WRINKLE IN TIME (series)
Meg Murry, along with her brother and a good friend, embark on a journey through space
and time, accompanied by a mysterious midnight visitor. Their quest is to find (and
rescue?) Meg’s father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.
O'Brien, Robert C.
MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH
Mrs. Frisby, the widowed mouse, has a terrible situation and she has nowhere to turn to but the super-rats who keep to themselves. A 1972 Newbery Winner.

Paulsen, Gary.
THE TRANSALL SAGA
While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported to a more primitive world. He must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

Reeve, Philip.
MORTAL ENGINES (The Hungry Cities series)
In this original and fast-paced science fiction, set in a post-apocalypse future, cities of the world move around on tractor treads pursuing and scavenging each other.

Rex, Adam.
THE TRUE MEANING OF SMEKDAY
When her mother is abducted by aliens on Christmas Eve (or “Smekday” Eve since the Boov invasion), twelve-year-old Tip hops in the family car and heads south to find her and meets an alien Boov mechanic who agrees to help her and save the planet from disaster. Inventive and full of witty remarks and observations.

Sanderson, Stead, Rebecca.
WHEN YOU REACH ME
12-year-old Miranda has received some really odd notes from “You” and she knows that when “you” reaches her, something life-changing will happen to her.

Walden, Mark.
H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education (series)
Summary: When they are swept away to a hidden academy for training evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan; Wing, a sensitive warrior; Laura, a shy computer specialist; and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to beat the odds and escape.

Wells, H.G.
THE WAR OF THE WORLDS
The Martians are landing on earth! They’ve already destroyed London. Who or what can stop them from taking over the whole world? This classic story brings the hysteria and madness of a nightmare to life.

FANTASY  (back to top)
Alexander, Lloyd.
PRYDAIN CHRONICLES (five books)
The first title in the Chronicles of Prydain is THE BOOK OF THREE, in which Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper of Prydain becomes involved in a hazardous mission to save his country from the forces of evil.
Alexander, William.  
GOBLIN SECRETS  
The City of Zombay is home to many fantastic creatures. The witch Graba keeps a group of urchins to do her bidding. One of them is Rownie, who runs away to join the Goblin Theater group and to search for his missing older brother Rowan. The many mysterious powers of the witch and the Goblins are entwined with the fate of Zombay and Rownie/Rowan might be the only people who could save the whole town.

Barnhill, Kelly.  
THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON  
For as long as anyone remembers, a newborn from the town of Protectorate is brought to the forest and left for the evil witch. Luna is such a baby -- but her fate turns out quite differently. Not only is she lovingly brought up by the witch, she is also extremely magical. When she can finally control her magic, Luna has the chance to change the fate of the town.

Barron, T.A.  
THE LOST YEARS OF MERLIN (series)  
A boy named Emrys finds himself washed up from the sea, almost dead. He doesn’t remember anything about himself. When he grows up and finally decides to seek his fortune far away, he lands in Fincayra and meets new friends. He has to solve the riddle of the Land of the Giants and eventually learns his true identity and his true power.

Barry, Dave.  
PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS (series)  
This adventurous story tells how Peter Pan became the boy-who-never-dies and how he and Captain Hook became mortal enemies.

Baum, L. Frank.  
THE WIZARD OF OZ (series)  
The adventure of a girl in a magical new world called OZ you have probably seen the movie but you don’t know the book.

Collins, Suzanne.  
GREGOR THE OVERLANDER (series)  
Gregor, a New York City boy, and his toddler sister, Boots, encounter a world of unlikely creatures: humans who have been underground for six hundred years and have become pale and purple-eyed; gigantic roaches who are helpers and enormous rats who will destroy their enemies at all cost! This series (five books altogether) offers both thrilling adventures and a thoughtful look at wars and relationships between different peoples.

Cooper, Susan  
OVER SEA, UNDER STONE (series)  
The first of THE DARK IS RISING series in which the three Drew children find an ancient map in the attic and begin the search for a grail that will reveal the true story of King Arthur, and entrap them in a battle between the forces of Light and the forces of Dark. (Continue the series if you like the first one.)

Deutsch, Barry.  
HEREVILLE: HOW MIRKA GOT HER SWORD (series)  
In this enchanting graphic novel, Mirka, an Orthodox Jewish girl with an unconventional dream to search and fight a Troll, engages in verbal sparring with her witty stepmother, battles a talking pig, and must master her knitting skills to defeat her final foe!
DiTerlizzi, Tony.
THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (series)
After moving to a strange old house and finding a fascinating but dangerous book (Arthur Spiderwick’s Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You), the three children of the Grace family have to battle scary magical creatures and puzzle out their own family history. There are five books in this series.

Ende, Michael.
THE NEVER ENDING STORY
Bastien steals a book and goes inside the book himself to experience fantastic adventures: riding a dragon and discovering the secrets of the various inhabitants in the story. He never suspects that his own life might be in peril once he gets into the land of the never ending story.

Farmer, Nancy.
THE SEA OF TROLLS trilogy
Jack’s quest and wild adventures in Northern lands will satisfy readers who want a fast and exciting read. The outrageous characters include looting pirates, trolls, dragons, giant spiders, and fierce boars. The fantastic sequels are THE LAND OF SILVER APPLES and THE ISLANDS OF THE BLESSED.

Farrey, Brian.
THE VENGEKEEP PROPHECIES
Jaxter Grimjinx, 12, and a professional thief — so is his dad and his mom and his little sister and his grandmother. Each of them has a special talent: forgery, lock-picking, pick-pocketing, etc. Jaxter is no good at most regular thieving skills — but his talent at mixing anti-jinx potions and ability to solve mysteries will come in handy when the fake fatal prophecies come to live one by one, threatening to destroy not only his family, but the entire city.

Ferris, Jean.
ONCE UPON A MARIGOLD trilogy
This delightful fairy tale’s main characters are Marigold, a princess, and Christian, a forest foundling, who form a great friendship because they both love reading and writing. In fact, they send p-mail (mail carried by pigeons) to each other before they even met in person. Lots of action and funny scenes.

Flanagan, John.
RANGER’S APPRENTICE (series)
Young Will becomes the Ranger’s Apprentice in the first book of this expansive adventure series where he and his cohorts have to face monsters and many severe conditions to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe from invaders and traitors that come from near and far.

Funke, Cornelia. Inkheart. Translated by Anthea Bell. (series)
INKHEART
Meggie, 12 years old, goes on a dangerous adventure in which she and her father are pursued by a group of sinister bandits, led by a man named Scorpio. Most intriguing are the identities of the bandits (who were fictional characters from story books) and the magical ability of Meggie’s father who can “read” people, animals, and objects OUT of and INto books!
Gaiman, Neil.
NORSE MYTHOLOGY
Newbery winning author of The Graveyard Book Neil Gaiman retells some of the most well-known (and a couple lesser known) stories from the Norse Mythology tradition in a no-frill but subtly humorous manner that befits the tone of the often illogical and comical stories of Odin, Thor, Loki, Frost Giants, and other characters.

Gidwitz, Adam.
IN A GLASS GRIMMLY (series)
Jack and Jill, cousins from the Royal Court, left their homes and parents to seek for a better future and a place they could be accepted. On the way, they have to combat man-eating giants, creepy mermaids, conniving goblins, and befriend a gigantic salamander, before their journey takes them back home.

Gidwitz, Adam.
THE INQUISITOR’S TALE (Historical Fiction, Fantasy)
In this historical fantasy tale, sprinkled with Gidwitz’s trademark humor and wisdom, three children with special spiritual powers and their one “holy” dog are being persecuted and hunted by the King’s knights and an inquisitor for violating the laws and defying the King’s decree of burning the sacred Jewish scripture.

Hale, Shannon.
PRINCESS ACADEMY
Miri changes from an outcast and voiceless little girl into a strong, resilient, courageous leader of the Princess Academy, the school from which the prince must choose a bride.

Hale, Shannon.
RAPUNZEL’S REVENGE
Set in the Wild Wild West, this Rapunzel is courageous and resourceful beyond your imagination! Her long hair? It’s a handy weapon that she uses like a lasso to fight outlaws and finally free herself and her real mother from the evil clutch of the Witch. Great story accompanied by fabulous illustrations! The sequel is CALAMITY JACK.

Healy, Christopher.
THE HERO’S GUIDE TO SAVING YOUR KINGDOM (series)
In this fractured and hilarious fairy-tale mashup, the four princes who saved Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Snow White, and Rapunzel are now outcasts of their own Kingdoms. They find out about an evil plot that will ruin all their lands and have to overcome their own weaknesses and save their Kingdoms.

Hennesey, Carolyn.
PANDORA GETS JEALOUS (series)
Pandy finally got something great to show her classmates at the Athena Maiden Middle School, in Ancient Greece. She has a certain “box.” But when she opens it, all sorts of unpleasant things come out and now it is up to her to get each of them back into the box. First up? Jealousy! The sequels deal with heart, greed, fright, vanity, laziness, etc.
Jonell, Lynne.
EMMY AND THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING RAT (series)
After inheriting a large mansion, Emmy’s parents kept going away on vacations, leaving Emmy to cope in a new school and under the care of a villainous nanny. Her new found friends, a boy, a magical rat, and some other powerful rodents, will help her win back everything she has lost. The two sequels are also fun to read: EMMY AND THE HOME FOR TROUBLED GIRLS and EMMY AND THE BATS IN THE BELFRY.

Jones, Diana Wynne
A CHARMED LIFE (The Chrestomanci series)
Magic is an everyday affair in the charmed world of the story. It bubbles with invention and surprises. You’ll meet Cat and Gwendolen and Chrestomanci — and you’ll never know who may turn out to be a witch or an enchanter! All the titles in the series are amusing and truly magical.

Jones, Diana Wynne
HOWL’S MOVING CASTLE and CASTLE IN THE AIR
In these two stories, quite different in their settings, Jones weaves magic and humor to create the foremost entertainment for her readers.

Juster, Norton.
THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH
A story about a boy who goes through a toll booth and finds himself in a magical new world where he saves the day.

Law, Ingrid.
SAVVY
A “savvy” is a special supernatural power when you turn thirteen — if you are one of the Beaumont family members in the Midwest! Mibs’ big day is coming and she cannot wait to discover what her savvy is and whether her new found power will be able to save her father. Cool magical abilities and a cast of likable characters will surely entertain any reader.

Levine, Gail Carson.
ELLA ENCHANTED
A story about a noble girl, Ella, who suffers from a terrible curse from birth: the curse that forces her to obey anybody’s command. This is a humorous and well-crafted retelling of the Cinderella story with a really likable main character. Another light fantasy by Carson is TWO PRINCESSES OF BAMARRE.

Lewis, C.S.
THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE (The Chronicles of Narnia)
A magic wardrobe allows three children to enter a perpetual wintry land ruled by the white witch. They embark on adventures that lead them through a commitment involving trust and sacrifice to find the only creature who can turn winter into spring. Part of the seven-book NARNIA series.
Lin, Grace.
WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER
When Pinmei’s grandmother is kidnapped by the Emperor’s soldiers to help him find the
Luminous Stone That Lights the Night, she goes on a quest with her secretive new friend, a boy
named Yishan, to search for the gem in order to rescue her grandmother before it’s too late.
This is the concluding volume of Where the Mountain Meets the Moon trilogy.

Oppel, Kenneth.
THE NEST
In his eagerness to save his newborn brother from a mysterious illness, Steve strikes a
bargain with the beings that have been visiting him in his dreams. At first, he thinks that
they are angels, but then he realizes that they are really large wasps who have been
building a nest near Steve’s house. The queen promises him to “fix” his baby brother.
What will Steve and his baby brother lose in this disturbing and dangerous bargain?

Park, Linda Sue
THE FOREST OF WONDERS (Fantasy/Adventure)
A talented young apothecary, Raffa often heals his patients with intuition and does not follow the
rules as other apothecaries do. When a potent vine that can make animals talk is used in cruel
ways by the government, Raffa has to break rules and put himself and his companions, both
human and animals, in danger in order to protect the innocent animals in the Forest.

Pattou, Edith.
EAST
In this retelling of a Scandinavian folk tale “East of the Sun, West of the Moon” Rose saves
her sister’s life and the family fortune by agreeing to go and live far away with the white
bear, in his wondrous cave. There are several narrators of this story — Rose, The White
Bear, Rose’s Father, The Troll Queen, and Rose’s Brother. The reader pieces together a
richly detailed, moving, imaginative story that is full of action and thrilling adventures.

Pierce, Tamora.
ALANNA: THE FIRST ADVENTURE (series)
Eleven year old Alanna, who wishes to be a Knight, disguises herself as a boy and has
exciting adventures. This is the first book in the SONG OF THE LIONESS quartet. Also
read THE WILD MAGIC series, and the CIRCLE OF MAGIC series.

Pullman, Philip.
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (His Dark Materials trilogy)
Lyra and her daemon Pantalaimon live in Jordan College, Oxford. Like other daemons of
young children, Pantalaimon can change shapes and turn into any animal he wants to.
When Lyra finds out some hidden secrets and gets involved with the grown-ups’ and the
Church’s politics, her life makes a sharp turn and she is in constant danger and has many
heart-stopping adventures.

Riggs, Ransom.
TALES OF THE PECULIAR
The author of Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children created an assortment of truly
peculiar stories about characters with strange powers: taking out someone’s nightmare but
being haunted by all the strands or creating a time-split and thus an entire new universe
wrapped within other universes or seeing and befriending ghosts.
Riordan, Rick  
PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS series  
Percy Jackson’s (half-human, half-Greek God) action-packed and page-turning fun adventures in present day America have delighted many young readers. Now all five books are available, it is a great time to read the entire series! The second series and the Norse mythology series are all highly recommended!

Rowling, J.K.  
HARRY POTTER series  
Until he turns age 11, Harry Potter lives the horrible life as an orphaned “muggle” but this all changes magically when he’s invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is famous and he is clueless about why he is so famous – until he starts exploring and discovering all sorts of incredible powers he has. This is the first book of an extremely popular 7-volume series.

Sanderson, Brandon.  
RITHMATIST  
A Rithmatist defends, with geometric chalk patterns, against the mercilessly dangerous Wild Chalklings (that crawl around on 2-dimensional surfaces and can dissolve a person.) Although Joel knows everything about Rithmatist, he has no magical ability to be trained as one. When students of the Academy start disappearing, Joel must combine force with a Rithmatist student to solve the deadly mystery.

Schlitz, Laura Amy.  
SPLENDORS AND GLOOMS  
Clara Wintermute, the young daughter of a wealthy Victorian doctor, was bewitched and turned into a ballerina puppet by the evil wizard Grisin whose tyrannic control over Lizzie Rose and Parsefall, his two orphan apprentices, resulted in their running away with the puppets. At Cassandra the witch’s castle, everything — spells, curses, the fight for power, and the search for happiness and home, all came to a breathtaking and powerful conclusion.

Schmid, Susan Maupin.  
IF THE MAGIC FITS  
Darling Dimple, a kitchen maid in Princess Mariposa’s castle, accidentally discovers a magical closet with one hundred dresses. Each dress can turn the wearer into a different person from the Castle. When Darling finds out that Princess Mariposa is in danger of a devious plot, she knows that the only possible way to defeat the evil doers is by putting on the dresses!

Smith, Jeff.  
BONE series  
The adventure starts when cousins Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone are run out of Boneville and later get separated and lost in the wilderness, meeting monsters and making friends as they attempt to return home.
Stroud, Jonathan.  
THE RING OF SOLOMON (series)  
Bartimaeous, the wise-cracking, powerful, but not always lucky djinni comes back in this prequel to the best-selling trilogy. This time, he has to accomplish the impossible job to steal the magical ring from King Solomon while in a reluctant alliance with a young female assassin. The Bartimaeous trilogy leading up to the publication of this prequel is also highly recommended: THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND, THE GOLEM’S EYE, PTOLEMY’S GATE.

Tolkien, J.R.R.  
THE HOBBIT  
This is the prelude to The Lord of the Rings series, in which Bilbo Baggins is drawn from his quaint hobbit-hole to wondrous adventures involving elves, dwarfs, goblins and dragons in the far-off magic lands beyond the Misty Mountains.

Uehashi, Nahoko.  
MORIBITO: GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRIT  
Spear-wielding warrior woman Balsa takes on an almost impossible mission: to protect the Second Prince from being assassinated by the Emperor’s hunters and from being eaten alive by the spirit monster Rarunga. This first installment of a popular Japanese series is very exciting.

Wilson, N.D.  
100 CUPBOARDS  
Staying in the attic room of Uncle Frank’s mysterious house, twelve-year-old Henry discovers one hundred cupboards of various sizes and designs which turn out to be portals to many magical worlds: some friendly, others sinister.

Wrede, Patricia.  
DEALING WITH DRAGONS series  
Cimorene hates being a princess so she runs away to live with dragons. This is a fun read about Cimorene’s adventures with the dragons. These adventures continue in SEARCHING FOR DRAGONS, CALLING ON DRAGONS and TALKING TO DRAGONS.

Yang, Gene Luen.  
AVATAR: SMOKE AND SHADOW, parts 1-3 (Graphic Novel, Fantasy)  
The young king of the Fire Nation Zuko faces a threat from the New Ozai Society that plots to overthrow him and reinstate his father as the leader of the nation. Avatar Aang and his friends must solve the mysteries of missing children in the Capitol and help defeat those who oppose Zuko.
Angleberger, Tom.
FAKE MUSTACHE
Lenny’s best friend Casper bought a special fake mustache (Heidelberg Handlebar Number Seven: made with real human hair) that gives him evil super powers. Teamed up with the popular TV teen actress, Jodie O’Rodeo, Lenny tries to thaw Casper’s wild schemes: from robbing banks to winning the presidential election.

Angleberger, Tom.
THE STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMI YODA (series)
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. Other titles in the series are DARTH PAPER STRIKES BACK, THE SECRET OF THE FORTUNE WOOKIEE, and more.

Appelt, Kathi.
THE TRUE BLUE SCOUTS OF SUGARMAN SWAMP
Raccoons that scout for danger, a 12-year-old boy who struggles to maintain the family business (Paradise Pies Cafe,) a mysterious swamp god, some mean thugs and a group of even meaner hogs make for a hilarious, action packed, and heartwarming tall tale. A finalist at the National Book Awards of 2013.

Babbitt, Natalie.
DEVIL'S STORYBOOK.
A humorous book of stories about the Devil. Each short story is very funny and has a moral. I suggest this book for readers over the age of 8. The sequel is DEVIL’S OTHER STORYBOOK.

Brooke, William.
A IS FOR AARRGH!
Mog, a young boy living during the Stone Age, discovers words and language and teaches his fellow cave dwellers how to talk, thus altering the course of history.

Dahl, Roald.
ROALD DAHL’S REVOLTING RHYMES
Dahl changes your view of fairy tales in this collection of short twisted tales/rhymes by making them funnier, odder, and definitely more gruesome.

DiCamillo, Kate.
FLORA AND ULYSSES: THE ILLUMINATED ADVENTURES
When a powerful vacuum cleaner turned a common squirrel (Ulysses) into a flying, poetry-writing super-squirrel, Flora, the girl who just moved into the neighborhood finds uncommon friendships with the squirrel and the blind boy next door. This book won the 2014 Newbery Award for most distinguished American children’s book of the year.
Enzensberger, Hans Magnus
THE NUMBER DEVIL
12-year-old Robert is bored with math and can’t stand his math teacher whose main interest in life is to secretly eat pretzels when his students are solving math problems. When the Number Devil starts to visit Robert in his dreams, however, Robert is intrigued and inspired by the funky things numbers can do! This is for both math lovers and people who dislike math with a passion.

Gantos, Jack.
DEAD END IN NORVELT
In a light-hearted and earnest voice, Jack Gantos, a 12-year-old boy in 1962 Norvelt, Pennsylvania, reports the many zany incidents of his summer vacation: from misfiring his father’s war rifle (and potentially caused a neighbor’s death,) to helping an old woman boil her hands in hot wax, to trying to solve the mystery of the rapid and unexpected series of deaths in the neighborhood. This is the 2012 Newbery Award winner.

Gantos, Jack.
JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY series
JOEY PIGZA is a completely “wired” kid. When he doesn’t take his meds, he often loses control over what he’s doing, like accidentally snipped off the tip of his classmate’s nose with a pair of scissors. In this 4-book series, Joey grows up and has to deal with an even weirder bunch of family members. Both extremely funny and deeply emotional, this is a highly regarded series.

Horvath, Polly.
EVERYTHING ON A WAFFLE
Primrose’s dire predicament — losing her parents in a storm, combined with her humorous observations of the adults surrounding her, make this a quirky tale of faith, friendship, and growth. At the end of each chapter, there is a recipe that fits into the story. A Newbery Honor book of 2002.

Jones, Kelly.
UNUSUAL CHICKENS FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL POULTRY FARMER (Humorous Stories)
Twelve-year-old Sophie Brown moves into the farm the family inherited from a great-uncle and finds a roost of unusual chickens with super powers. When a respected local farmer tries to steal them, Sophie must find a way to keep them and their superpowers safe. Told in a series of letters, quizzes, doodles, etc., this is a delightful and unusual new book to enjoy.

Jung, Mike.
UNIDENTIFIED SUBURBAN OBJECT
Chloe Cho, the only Korean American student in her school, is proud to be a stereotypical overachiever who plays the violin and gets the best grades. She wants to be as closely linked to her Korean roots as possible, but oddly her parents never want to talk about Korea where they immigrated from. It’s as if they didn’t know their own Korean heritage or past. What Chloe finally finds out about her parents’ backstory is quite a shocker!

Mercado, Nancy, editor
TRIPPING OVER THE LUNCH LADY: AND OTHER SCHOOL STORIES
This is an anthology of ten humorous short stories about life in school, written by well-known authors of children’s books.
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.  
THE GRAND ESCAPE  
Marco and Polo might have been content to stay housecats forever. But Marco has been “reading” about ranches and wants to find one, while Polo longs to meet the mother he barely remembers. Together they set out on a journey and meet up with a gang of alley cats. They have to solve 3 mysteries of life in order to join the club.

Peck, Richard.  
A YEAR DOWN YONDER  
A rip-roaring story set against the backdrop of the Depression Era, features a grandmother who is a sharp shooter, bakes the most delicious pies, steals pumpkins from her neighbor’s garden, plays tricks on Halloween pranksters, and is truly kind-hearted.

Rodkey, Geoff.  
THE TAPPER TWINS GO TO WAR: WITH EACH OTHER  
This hilarious tale features twelve-year-old fraternal twins, Claudia and Reese, who are each other’s best frenemy and both want to come out on top in a “prank war!” But, when the situation gets really serious, the twins have to decide if it is worth the price to try to destroy each other. Equally fun sequels are THE TAPPER TWINS TEAR UP NEW YORK and THE TAPPER TWINS RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

Sleator, William.  
ODD BALLS  
This is a collection of short stories of an odd ball family. In one story, a boy is hypnotized by his brother’s friend and actually drinks out of the toilet bowl! Another time the children throw water balloons out of a window at people and are not even punished. This is a great funny book.

THRILLERS AND CHILLERS  
(back to top)

Anderson, M.T.  
WHALES ON STILTS  
Three resourceful children attempt to save the world from a mad scientist’s evil plan involving mind-controlled whales-on-stilts. First in a series.

Avi.  
THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE  
Charlotte leaves England in 1832 to rejoin her family and finds herself aboard a troubled ship sailing to Rhode Island under the brutal Captain Jaggery.

Avi.  
WOLF RIDER  
In this psychological thriller, 15-year-old Andy risks his own safety trying to protect Nina, a young woman that Andy believes to be the future victim of a planned murder.
Bellairs, John.  
**THE GHOST IN THE MIRROR**  
Strange things have been happening to Mrs. Zimmerman. It all started when she first saw the images in the mirror of the old dead witchcraft teacher. Now she and Rose Rita must go back in time and save the wise family from “the great wrong.” Check out all of Bellairs tales of supernatural and mystery.

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss.  
**BOOK SCAVENGER**  
12-year-old Emily has just moved to San Francisco and is now following the clues of an online Book Scavenger game with her new friend James. This ultimate Book Scavenger will lead the players to a real treasure. Emily and James are also trying to solve the mystery of who attacked Mr. Griswold, the Book Scavenger creator, and why the bad guys are so desperately want to find the treasure before anyone else!

Colfer, Eoin.  
**AIRMAN**  
When Conor Broekhart, teenage inventor and swordsman, is wrongfully jailed, he devices a daring escape from the island prison to clear his name and keep the kingdom from falling into evil hands. This is a very exciting new story from the popular author of the ARTEMIS FOWL series.

Compestine, Ying Chang.  
**A BANQUET FOR HUNGRY GHOSTS**  
In this collection of eight nightmare inducing, chilling and disturbing stories, all set in China, readers will also read about some customs and policies of current day China and learn to make some traditional dishes.

Conrad, Pam.  
**STONE WORDS — A GHOST STORY**  
Zoe always knows that something is not quite right with the friend she has, another little girl also named Zoe — no one else seems to notice this Zoe’s existence. In this ghost/time-travel story, the Zoe of the present has to find a way to rescue the ghostly Zoe from the past.

Cooney, Caroline B.  
**THE FACE ON THE MILK CARTON**  
A photograph of a missing girl from a long time ago on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. This is the first book of a 4-book series.

Del Rio, Tania.  
**WARREN THE 13TH AND THE ALL-SEEING EYE**  
The sole heir of a crumbling hotel, Warren the 13th works as the bellhop, valet, waiter, groundskeeper, and errand boy, without much hope for success: until an assortment of weird guests start arriving in search for the All-Seeing Eye, a rumored magical object. In order to solve the mystery, everyone must decipher a series of clues. Does Warren have what it takes?
Delaney, Joseph.
THE LAST APPRENTICE series
Starting with REVENGE OF THE WITCH, this dark and chilling series takes the readers into the world of Spooks: those who rid the villages of witches, ghosts, goblins, and other undesirable spirits. Timid readers do not try!

DeStefano, Lauren.
A CURIOS TALE OF THE IN-BETWEEN (Ghost Story)
If one is born on the day that one’s mother dies… what might happen to her senses of the world? Pram is one of such child and she can see both the living and the dead. One of her longtime companion is Felix, the ghost by the pond and her new friend wants her help to contact with his mother who died not long ago. Together, they seek the help of Lady Savant, who turns out to have very bad intentions and the children are in mortal danger!

Gaiman, Neil
THE GRAVEYARD BOOK
What happens when a baby is adopted by a graveyard full of (mostly) friendly ghosts? He learns all the ghostly knowledge and skills: fading, haunting, sliding from human sights. He also encounters strange and (often) frightening creatures: ghouls, sleers, hell hounds, and murderers. This is the 2009 Newbery Award winning title.

Grabenstein, Chris.
ESCAPE FROM MR. LEMONCELLO’S LIBRARY
Kyle wins a spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the new town library, designed by the genius Mr. Lemoncello, for an overnight of fun, food, and games. However, the children discover the next morning that they are locked inside the library and unless they solve every clue and puzzle left for them, they will not be able to leave. You might also enjoy the sequel MR. LEMONCELLO’S LIBRARY OLYMPICS.

Hahn, Mary Downing.
WAIT TILL HELEN COMES
Molly saves her strange stepsister from the ghost of a child who haunts the cemetery behind their new home.

Hiassen, Carl.
SCAT
Like FLUSH and CHOMP, SCAT is another humorous, environmentally conscious, and quick-paced mystery, set in Florida. Another favorite title by the same author is CHOMP featuring gators, gator wranglers, reality survival TV shows, and friends who help each other in time of crisis.

Hoffman, Nina Kiriki.
A STIR OF BONES
Susan can communicate with her House. When she joins the group of new friends to venture into a haunted house, her ability to communicate with the House helps Susan wake up and befriend the ghost boy, Nathan, whose spirit has been trapped in the house where he died a long time ago. This book is just creepy enough, just romantic enough, and complex, but not confusing, for those who want to have a little bit of “chilling” sensation for a hot summer day!
Hoobler, Dorothy.
THE DEMON IN THE TEAHOUSE
14-year-old Seikei, the adopted son of Judge Ooka, a Japanese “Sherlock Holm” is sent to solve the mystery of the fires and murders of Geishas in Edo and its nearby pleasure town? The first novel in this series is GHOST IN THE TAIKAIDO INN. The newest installment is IN DARKNESS, DEATH.

Horowitz, Anthony.
ALEX RIDER series
Alex Rider, a 14-year-old orphan, has been trained by his uncle Ian to be superbly athletic and remarkably resourceful, the stuff that makes for a great spy. It turns out that Alex needs every skill he has, when, after Uncle Ian dies, he is forced to work for the British intelligence agency MI6 to be one of their youngest agents. In the series, Alex has to defeat notorious villains and gather intelligence for MI6 time and time again, relying on physical powers, smarts, and some really cool gadgets!

Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin.
THE DOLL PEOPLE
Annabelle Doll has been eight-years-old for over one hundred years. Being cooped up in the same dollhouse with the same people is boring—until the pink plastic Funcrafts arrive. This is followed by THE MEANEST DOLL IN THE WORLD and the newest RUNAWAY DOLLS.

Mass, Wendy.
THE CANDYMAKERS
When four twelve-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents’ Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association’s annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

Miller, Kristen
KIKI STRIKE: INSIDE THE SHADOW CITY
Twelve-year-old Ananka discovers an underground room in the park across from her New York City apartment, and meets a mysterious girl called Kiki Strike who becomes a mastermind of a group of super-talented girls that sets out to save the city from the impending destruction. Its sequels, KIKI STRIKE: THE EMPRESS’S TOMB and KIKI STRIKE: THE DARKNESS DWELLERS are even more action-packed.

Mulligan, Andy.
TRASH
In an unnamed third-world country, living off of the garbage dump to barely survive, three young teens, Raphael, Gordo, and Rat, discovered an item that will lead them to a series of life-threatening events in a world of political corruption.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
JADE GREEN
This is a chilling ghost story in which an orphaned girl, Judith, moving in with her uncle, is confronted with the spirit (and the bloody severed hand) of a girl, Jade Green. Judith tries to solve the sinister mystery on her own.
Nielsen, Jennifer A.
THE FALSE PRINCE
Sage, an orphan, who is a practiced thief and has incredible street smarts, suddenly finds himself, along with two other orphans, captured and trained by a nobleman to impersonate a long lost prince. Only one of them will succeed — and those who don’t, will be disposed of to keep the secret. Truths and lies, alliances and plots, false steps and triumphs make this action-packed story told from Sage’s first person point of view incredibly intriguing.

Nixon, Joan Lowery
THE KIDNAPPING OF CHRISTINA LATTIMORE
Christina has a great life. She’s rich, she goes to a good school, and she is popular. Then, she gets kidnapped and everything changes. What makes it worse is that her parents are convinced that she is an accomplice in her own kidnapping. What will happen to Christina and who is the real culprit? Read and find out.

Potter, Ellen.
OLIVIA KIDNEY
Olivia Kidney is a 12-year-old girl whose life changes from the ordinary to the completely bizarre: encountering a murderous ex-pirate, a world renowned psychic, and even a ghost.

Potter, Ellen.
PISH POSH
Clara Francofile determines who’s in and who’s out at her parents’ trendy restaurant Pish Posh, but when she encounters a 12-year-old jewel thief, she is led to meet a ghost and solve, unwittingly, a 200-year-old secret.

Raskin, Ellen.
THE WESTING GAME
Sam Westing has died. 16 people came to hear his will. It turns out that they are all related. The will says that someone has murdered Westing and the heirs have to solve a puzzle game in order to inherit the huge amount of money left by him. This is a fun-filled mystery.

Roberts, Willo Davis
CAUGHT!
After a bus journey in search of their father, Vickie and her younger sister discover that he is missing and may need their help.

Selznick, Brian
THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET
Hugo Cabret, a young boy in 1931 Paris, holds many secrets and has suffered many losses. In this beautifully told, both in words and pictures, story, Hugo finds his self-worth and a warm place in the world. This story is part mystery and part historical fiction and entirely charming.

Sherry, Maureen.
WALLS WITHIN WALLS
This fun mystery of three NYC children solving a riddles and puzzles to find a treasure hidden somewhere in the city, is a perfect fit for readers from New York and are familiar with most of the landmarks referenced in the book and yet will be intrigued to know more about the hidden history of them.
Snicket, Lemony.
A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS series
The three Baudelaire orphans’ struggle against the evil Count Olaf is detailed in these thirteen highly original, dark, and yet humorous mystery stories.

Springer, Nancy
THE CASE OF THE BIZARRE BOUQUETS: AN ENOLA HOLMES MYSTERY
In this exciting sleuthing tale, Enola Holmes must decode the hidden messages in the strange bouquets by using the language of flowers in order to rescue Dr. Watson, her brother’s friend and assistant.

Stewart, Trenton Lee.
THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY (series)
Four extremely gifted and talented children are recruited by Mr. Benedict to go on a secret mission to thwart the plans of world domination by the evil genius Mr. Curtains at an isolated school on an island.

Stone, Jeff.
FIVE ANCESTORS (series)
The young monks, highly trained in martial arts, must face their old friend who has betrayed them and murdered the other monks in his desire to become the most powerful martial arts master.

Stroud, Jonathan.
THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE
Lockwood & Co. is a Psychic Investigation Agency to help the haunted living solve ghostly cases. When Lucy Carlyle, a talented young agent, joins the Agency, she finds herself on a mission that could result in her and her coworkers’ terrifying demise. This is the first in the Lockwood & Co. series. The second installment is THE WHISPERING SKULL.

Teitelbaum, Michael.
THE SCARY STATES OF AMERICA
Twelve-year-old Jason Specter introduces and presents his favorite stories of the paranormal—one from each state of the Union—submitted to the Web site he created after his own encounter with a ghost at school three years earlier.

POETRY  (back to top)
Adoff, Arnold, ed.
MY BLACK ME: BEGINNING BOOK OF BLACK POETRY
A compilation of poems reflecting thoughts on being Black by such authors as Langston Hughes and Nikki Giovanni. Poet Adoff and his wife Virginia Hamilton have published many other worthwhile anthologies.
Agard, John, ed.
THE CARIBBEAN DOZEN
Thirteen Caribbean poets recount childhood experiences in poetry and prose. This collection is both a delight to the eye and the mind.

Bierhorst, John.
IN THE TRAIL OF THE WIND: AMERICAN INDIAN POEMS AND RITUAL ORATIONS
This collection of Indian poetry originates from various tribes and is arranged by theme.

Brenner, Barbara (Editor)
VOICES: POETRY AND ART FROM AROUND THE WORLD
A sampler of traditional, ancient and modern poetry from six continents is interspersed with illustrations of world art and sculpture.

Bryan, Ashley.
ASHLEY BRYAN’S ABC OF AFRICAN AMERICAN POETRY
Poems ranging from the intense to the whimsical reflect the diverse voices of poets such as Rita Dove, Lucille Clifton, and Gwendolyn Brooks. The colorful illustrations add to the appeal of the collection.

Calmenson, Stephanie.
NEVER TAKES A PIG OUT TO LUNCH: and other funny poems about animals
Humorous poems and funny pictures will sure keep you laughing. A good book to share with a friend.

Carman, Bliss, ed.
The OXFORD BOOK OF CHILDREN’S VERSE IN AMERICA
Three hundred more pages filled with American poems written for children or traditionally enjoyed by children, by Longfellow, Poe, Eugene Field, Dr. Seuss, Jack Prelutsky and many other poets.

Demi, selec. & illus.
IN THE EYES OF THE CAT: JAPANESE POETRY FOR ALL SEASONS
A selection of mostly haiku organized by season with corresponding illustrations.

Eliot, T.S.
OLD POSSUM’S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS
“The naming of cats is a difficult matter…” So starts this classic which was turned into a musical.

Feelings, Tom, ill.
SOUL LOOKS BACK IN WONDER
Tom Feelings’ stunning illustrations accompany the powerful poems by some of the most celebrated African American poets, including Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Margaret Walker.

Fogliano, Julie.
WHEN GREEN BECOMES TOMATOES
Short, descriptive, and evocative poems, accompanied by intricate and skillfully rendered illustrations, this poetry collection expresses the awe and wonder everyone must feel at times about the passing of time and seasonal changes through the year.
Gollub, Matthew. Illustrated by Kazuko G. Stone.  
COOL MELONS — TURN TO FROGS: THE LIFE AND POEMS OF ISSA  
This is a collection of 33 haikus by an eighteenth-century Japanese poet. Both the English and the Japanese versions of each poem are presented.

Harris, Chris.  
I'M JUST NO GOOD AT RHYMING: AND OTHER NONSENSE FOR MISCHIEVOUS KIDS AND IMMATURE GROWN-UPS  
This collection of humorous and clever poems explore the ups and downs of being a young person who ponders about all sorts of matters realistic and fantastical.

Hughes, Langston.  
THE DREAM KEEPER AND OTHER POEMS  
A major African-American poet, Hughes’ poetry is written in a spirit of racial pride and protest.

Kennedy, Caroline.  
POEMS TO LEARN BY HERAT  
In this new collection of more than 100 classic poems, the anthologist Caroline Kennedy (daughter of President and First Lady John and Jacqueline Kennedy) invites us to enjoy the worthwhile challenge and unbound joy in memorizing and recite great poetry.

Koch, Kenneth and Kate Farrell, selec.  
TALKING TO THE SUN: AN ILLUSTRATED ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE  
Poems from many countries organized by themes and illustrated by works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Lear, Edward  
A BOOK OF NONSENSE  
The Metropolitan Museum reprint captures all the nonsense and absurdity in verse and illustration of this master of the limerick. There are many other editions.

Nye, Naomi Shihab, ed.  
THIS SAME SKY: A collection of poems from around the world  
A poetry anthology in which 120 poets from sixty-two different countries celebrate the natural world and its human and animal inhabitants. Elegantly designed and lovingly selected by poet Nye, this collection belongs on any poetry lover’s shelf.

Opie, Iona, ed.  
THE OXFORD BOOK OF CHILDREN’S VERSE  
A standard collection of mainly British poems for children.

Park, Linda Sue.  
TAP DANCING ON THE ROOF: SIJO POEMS  
Describing familiar topics such as breakfast, long division, seasons, and pockets, these poems, in the traditional Korean poetic form, the Sijo, are often funny and always surprising.
Sidman, Joyce.
DARK EMPEROR AND OTHER POEMS OF THE NIGHT
In this 2011 Newbery honor title, twelve beautifully crafted poems about the nocturnal experiences are accompanied by informational text about night-time plants and animals.

Stevenson, Robert Louis.
A CHILD’S GARDEN OF VERSES
There are many different editions of this collection — pick out one with great illustrations and enjoy the rich flavor of these timeless poems.

Whipple, Laura, ed.
CELEBRATING AMERICA: A COLLECTION OF POEMS AND IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT
More than 60 poems portrays the “Land,” the “Stories,” the “Heart,” the “People,” and the “Spirit” of America. Each is carefully paired with a piece of suitable art work from the Art Institute of Chicago. This anthology gives insightful glimpses to the U.S. history.

Wissinger, Tamera Will.
GONE FISHING: A NOVEL IN VERSE (Poetry)
This story of a nine-year-old boy’s eventful day of fishing told in a wide variety of poetic forms exploring sibling rivalry, the love of father and son, and the excitement – and difficulty — of fishing.

NONFICTION, BIOGRAPHY and MEMOIRS (back to top)

Artisan Press.
WHY WE MARCH: SIGNS OF PROTEST AND HOPE
This pictorial record documenting, with more than 300 pictures, the clever and powerful signs during the Women’s March in January 2017, serves as a reminder of the United States as a progressive country striving to achieve true gender-equality.

Bell, Cece.
EL DEAFO
Cece Bell, author and artist of this Graphic Novel Memoir, recounts in delightful panel art and witty dialog and internal monologue her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her “superpower.”

Blumberg, Rhoda.
SHIPWRECKED
A true and dramatic account of the very first Japanese man who came to the United States after his fishing boat was shipwrecked in the 1800's.

Booth, Ben.
SWORDS: An Artist’s Devotion
Intricate, breathtakingly beautiful illustrations are accompanied by carefully researched information about the history of swords from many cultures and through hundreds of years. This is a great book to re-visit over and over again in order to obtain better understanding of the artistic and practical aspects of this weapon.
Engle, Margarita.
ENCHANTED AIR: TWO CULTURES, TWO WINGS
In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle, a girl from two worlds: Cuba and Los Angeles, California. When a revolution breaks out in Cuba. Margarita’s worlds collide in the worst possible ways. How can the two countries she loves hate each other so much? And will she ever get to visit her beautiful island again?

Fleischman, Sid
THE ABRACADABRA KID: A WRITER’S LIFE
A rollicking autobiographical journey follows Fleischman from budding magician to award winning author.

Gourse, Leslie
DIZZY GILLESPIE AND THE BIRTH OF BEBOP
This is the story of jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, his passion for music and how he charted new territory and won recognition for one of America’s greatest original art forms.

Hale, Nathan.
THE UNDERGROUND ABDUCTOR
The life story and awesome achievements of Araminta Ross (Harriet Tubman) as a former slave who not only freed herself but went back to the South to help numerous others are told in this historical graphic narrative which honestly depicts the harsh conditions many had to face, sprinkled with the trademark humor by this graphic novelist of the Hazardous Tales series of American history. Read all his Hazardous Tales!

Lawlor, Laurie.
HELEN KELLER: REBELLIOUS SPIRIT
This carefully researched and fluidly written biography on Helen Keller portrays her as a distinctive and sometimes flawed individual.

Losure, Mary.
FAIRY RING
Frances (9) and Elsie (15) were cousins. During the summer when Frances stayed with Elsie in 1917, the two girls took photographs of what looked like fairies, dancing or resting in the meadow near Elsie’s house. These photographs became a sensational story that made many people believe the existence of fairies, including the famous author and spiritualist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Montgomery, Sy.
TEMPLE GRANDIN
An internationally renowned animal scientist and engineer who was born with autism, Temple Grandin has taken down many barriers and opened many doors: she has designed much more humane slaughterhouses, consulted with multi-national fast food chains on how to better treat animals, and has been able to bring much greater understanding of how an autistic mind functions to the world at large.

Napoli, Donna Jo.
TREASURY OF EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY
This ample collection of Egyptian mythological stories accompanied by historical, cultural, and geographic context on the sidebars will not only entertain readers but also provide fascinating historical information.
Partridge, Elizabeth.
MARCHING FOR FREEDOM
This photo-documentary presents the passionate and sometimes deadly three months of protests that led to the famous march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, focusing on the courageous young people who faced terrifying violence to fight for the right to vote.

Paulsen, Gary.
GUTS: THE TRUE STORIES BEHIND HATCHET AND THE BRIAN BOOKS
Gary Paulsen records in (often quite gory) details many dangerous situations he experienced and wove into his Brian books, including the chilling close-up knowledge of heart attacks, the tragedy of a child killed by two kicks from the razor-sharp hooves and many others.

Sweet, Melissa.
SOME WRITER!
In an attractive, scrapbook-like design, the author/illustrator tells the life story of E.B. White, author of the children’s classic Charlotte’s Web: from his farm childhood as a timid, tongue-tied boy to the accomplished author who left a prolonged legacy of literature.

Say, Allen.
DRAWING FROM MEMORY
Caldecott Award winner Allen Say recounts his childhood in Japan during World War II when he was kicked out of his home by his father due to his desire to become a cartoonist and when he found a master cartoonist as his mentor who became a second father to him. This beautifully rendered memoir in text and drawings allows the readers to experience Say’s sorrows and joyous moments in his young life.

Sheinkin, Steve.
BOMB: THE RACE TO BUILD – AND STEAL – THE WORLD’S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON
The stage is World War II; the characters are scientists, government officials, and spies; the drama is one of scientific triumphs, international espionage, and the race to win the war. The stakes couldn’t have been higher and the storytelling couldn’t have been more compelling in this stellar, award-winning nonfiction.

Spinelli, Jerry.
KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING
Spinelli, author of MANIAC MAGEE and WRINGER, turns regular happenings in his life, like sidewalk races and his first kiss, into hilarious episodes in this autobiography.

Stone, Tanya Lee.
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BARBIE: A DOLL’S HISTORY AND HER IMPACT ON US
The internationally famous Barbie Doll has a fascinating history. This entertaining and often enlightening nonfiction details the many lives and faces through decades and examines the impacts Barbie has on art, feminist movement, and the general population.

Telgemeier, Raina.
SMILE
An autobiography in graphic novel format shows how Raina lost two of her front teeth in an accident when she was twelve and her struggles with various all sorts of dental procedures throughout her adolescence.
Uchida, Yoshika
THE INVISIBLE THREAD
In her autobiography, the author Yoshiko Uchida describes growing up in California as a Nisei, a second-generation Japanese American, and the story of her family's internment in a Utah concentration camp during World War II.

Woodson, Jacqueline.
BROWN GIRL DREAMING
In this verse memoir, vivid poems capture the joy of finding her own voice through writing stories and reflect on what it was like to grow up African American in the 1960s and 1970s Brooklyn, New York and Greenville, South Carolina. (2015 Newbery Honor book)