



*The following list of highly recommended titles has been chosen by Arlington Educators from the English, Reading and Library/Media Departments at the Ottoson Middle School as outstanding books to be read as start your secondary school education.*

*Ottoson 7/8th Grade English Teachers Melissa Brodie, ,Caroline Egan, Natalie Galligan, , Joanne Holton, Leslie Kilgore, Melanie Konstandakis, Judith Packer, Kathy Paul, Peter Scully, Cynthia Winfield, Elise Frangos, English Department Head, Mary Fischer, Director of Reading and Jane Ruddock, Ottoson Librarian/Lead Teacher, Library/Media Department*

## **Happy Reading!**

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- **ADVANCED AND CHALLENGING READ**

\*David Almond **KIT'S WILDERNESS** (*Delacorte*)-Suspense

The Watson family moves to Stonygate, an old coal-mining town, to care for Kit's elderly grandfather. Kit meets John Askew, another boy whose family and ancestors had both worked and died in the mines, and as Kit's grandfather provides the stories of the mine's past, the boys search them for ghosts. **SKELLIG** is another adventure he's written.

\*An Na **A STEP FROM HEAVEN** (*Front Street*)- Multicultural

In her mesmerizing first novel, Na traces the life of Korean-born Young Ju from the age of four through her teenage years, wrapping up her story just a few weeks before she leaves for college.

Miriam Bat-Ami **TWO SUNS IN THE SKY** (*Front Street*)-Historical Fiction

Through the parallel voices of Chris and Adam, the world of Oswego, New York, the only U.S. wartime haven for refugees during the final year of WWII is re-created.

Laurie Halse Anderson **FEVER 1793** (*Simon and Schuster*)- Historical Fiction

During the hot mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire and wiped out 5,000 people--or 10% of the population in three months. Sixteen year old Mattie Cook, her mother and her grandfather must struggle to survive.

\***CATALYST** (*Viking Children's Books*)- Realistic Fiction

Discover that life is no easier for an honor roll student, who has to share her room with two homeless outcasts, face the pain of rejection from her first choice college and deal with her mother's death.

\*Anderson, M.T. **FEED** (*Candlewick Press*)- Science Fiction

Set in a future world where TV and computers are connected directly to baby's brains, teens are empty-headed kids driven by fashion and shopping and the avid pursuit of silly entertainment. Sensing that things have gone awry, one girl cares about what is happening to the world.

Kathi Appelt **KISSING TENNESSEE: AND OTHER STORIES FROM THE STARDUST**

(*Harcourt*) - Short Stories/ Romance

"For this one night, this one room is no longer the Dogwood Junior High cafeteria, not at all.

It's the Stardust Dance. You're invited."

**POEMS FROM HOMEROOM** (*Holt*)- Poetry

Appelt describes the inspiration for each of the 26 poems, provides questions to stir the imaginations and pens of young writers and asks readers through a series of open-ended questions to examine that motivation in their own writing.

\*Jennifer Armstrong **SHIPWRECK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD: THE EXTRA-ORDINARY TRUE STORY OF SHACKLETON AND THE ENDURANCE**

(*Crown*)-Nonfiction/Adventure

Shackleton sets out to become the first to cross Antarctica, but sometimes even the best planning is no match for nature.

Avi **NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH** (*Orchard*) -Teen Issues

A disgruntled ninth-grade boy fails to make the track team because of a low grade and vents his anger on the teacher. This is a frightening story of the devastating effects, emotions, power and miscommunication can have on distorting the truth.

**CRISPIN:THE CROSS OF LEAD** (*Hyperion*)- Historical Fiction

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14<sup>th</sup> century England flees his village and meets a larger than life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. **2003 NEWBERY AWARD WINNER** Author's web site: [www.avi-writer.com](http://www.avi-writer.com)

\*T.A. Barron **THE MERLIN EFFECT** (*Tor*)-Fantasy/Arthurian Legends/Series

Kate, the heroine of **HEARTLIGHT** and **THE ANCIENT ONE**, finds herself entangled in an ancient mystery when she accompanies her father on an expedition to find a shipwreck that may be the resting place of the lost Horn of Merlin

**Author's web site:** [www.tabarron.com](http://www.tabarron.com)

\*Susan Bartoletti **BLACK POTATOES THE STORY OF THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE** (*HoughtonMifflin*)-Non-Fiction/History

Eyewitness accounts and memories combine with devastating facts to tell the story of how one million died from starvation and disease, two million emigrated and how the famine could have been avoided.

\*Livia Bitton-Jackson **I HAVE LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS: GROWING UP IN THE HOLOCAUST** (*Simon and Schuster*)- Autobiography/World War II/Holocaust

Ellie was 13 years old when Hungary was invaded; the Nazis forced her and her family into a Jewish Ghetto and then sent her and her mother to Auschwitz to live innumerable harrowing experiences. Her descriptions of her ordeal are brutal, frank and terrifying especially so because she lived through it and makes her observations personal and immediate. **MY BRIDGES OF HOPE: SEARCHING FOR LOVE AND LIFE AFTER AUSCHWITZ** (*Aladdin*) is the sequel.

**US Holocaust Memorial Museum web site:** <http://www.ushmm.org>

Edward Bloor **CRUSADER** (*Scholastic*)- Realistic Fiction

Fifteen-year-old Roberta works hard every afternoon and weekend trying to save the family business, a video arcade in a stagnant shopping mall. She tries to keep her mind off the fact of her mother's brutal murder seven years ago. Her quest to find the killer involves playing "Crusader", a virtual reality game. Though it appears lengthy, the nonstop action and startling revelations will keep the reader transfixed until the very last sentence.

Tom Bodett **WILLIWAW!** (*Random House*)- Adventure

Thirteen-year-old September and her younger brother Ivan are home alone while their father, a commercial fisherman, is off the Alaskan coast. Disobeying their father, they take the skiff across the bay, and after one broken rule leads to another, an autumn windstorm threatens to capsize their boat.

Ann Brashares **SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS** (*Delacorte Press*)-Humor

They were just a soft, ordinary pair of thrift-shop jeans until the four girls took turns trying them on. The sequel is **THE SECOND SUMMER OF THE SISTERHOOD**.

Michael Brooke **THE CONCRETE WAVE: THE HISTORY OF SKATEBOARDING** (*Warwick*) -

Sports The first book ever published to document the history of one of the worlds most cutting edge sports-skateboarding. The book features hundreds of photos of skaters, memorabilia and includes interviews with Tony Alva and Tony Hawk.

**Skateboard web site:** [www.skateboarding.com](http://www.skateboarding.com)

Bryan Burwell **AT THE BUZZER** (*Doubleday*)-Sports

Basketball's legendary players, record-setting games, buzzer-beating baskets, stunning upsets, and much more come to life as never before.

Meg Cabot **THE PRINCESS DIARIES** (*HarperCollins*)- Humor/Series

Mia is a typical combat-boot-wearing, animal-rights-loving, algebra-failing New York teen until her absentee father reveals that she's the heir to the throne of a small European principality. Read what she tells her diary about what happens. **THE PRINCESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT** **PRINCESS IN LOVE** and **PRINCESS IN WAITING** are the sequels.

Michael Cadnum **THE BOOK OF THE LION** (*Viking*)-Historical Fiction

Edmund, a young metalwork apprentice, finds himself rescued from prison and put into service as a squire to a knight. Without any experience with horses or swords, he goes off to fight the Crusades in both terror and delight.

\*Orson Scott Card **ENDER'S GAME** (*Tor*)- Science Fiction/Series

This futuristic tale involves aliens, political discourse on the Internet, sophisticated computer games, and an orbiting battle station. The reason it rings true for so many is that it is first and foremost a tale of humanity; a tale of a boy struggling to grow up into someone he can respect while living in an environment stripped of choices. Sequels are **SPEAKER FOR THE DEAD**, **CHILDREN OF THE MIND** and **XENOCIDE**. **ENDER'S SHADOW**, **SHADOW PUPPET** (August 2002) and **SHADOW OF THE HEGEMON** are more to check out if you enjoy this. **Author's website: [www.hatrack.com](http://www.hatrack.com)**

\*Lewis Carroll **ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND** (*Athenaeum*) -Fantasy/Classic

The classic tale of a little girl who falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters. If you haven't read it yet, try it out this summer.

Michael Cart, compiler **TOMORROWLAND: TEN STORIES ABOUT THE FUTURE** (*Scholastic*)-Fantasy/Science Fiction

From humor to drama to fiction on the edge, ten award-winning authors invite readers to view the future through stories with themes as diverse as love, hate, the environment, disease, and the fate of the human race.

Nancy Cartwright **MY LIFE AS A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY** (*Hyperion*) Humor/ Biography

Cartwright is the voice of Bart Simpson, and in her enthusiastic, candid memoir, she delivers an inside view of the show that has become such a cultural phenomenon.

Jeanne Cavelos **THE SCIENCE OF STAR WARS** (*Griffin*)-Non Fiction/Science

How possible is this galaxy "far, far away"? In this entertaining and informative work, former NASA scientist and Star Wars fan Jeanne Cavelos explores the scientific possibilities and questions raised by the Star Wars films and books. Enlisting the aid of leading experts from today's cutting-edge scientific disciplines, she writes in an accessible, easy-to-read style that will appeal to young science enthusiasts.

Richard Chapman **GUITAR** (*DK*)-Non Fiction/Music

Guitar looks at the incarnation of this versatile instrument in its different musical contexts throughout the world, from modern classical and flamenco to blues, folk, country, jazz, and rock 'n' roll. Co-written with Eric Clapton, it has terrific photos and illustrations.

Sook Nyul Choi **THE YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES** (*Houghton/Mifflin*) -History/Korean Culture/Series

This is a touching memoir of the author as she recalls her difficult childhood in Korea during the Japanese World War II occupation. Two more books about the author's life: **ECHOES OF THE WHITE GIRAFFES** and **GATHERING OF PEARLS**.

J.B. Cheaney **THE PLAYMAKER** (*Knopf*)- Historical Fiction

The year is 1597. Young Richard Malory has come to London to seek his missing father, who abandoned the family long ago. He is persuaded by the pretty maid Starling to audition for Lord Chamberlain's Men, an acting troupe that numbers among its players Will Shakespeare himself. Richard immerses himself in the stage never noticing that someone is following his every move along London's twisted streets. **TRUE PRINCE** is the sequel.

Beverly Cleary **MY OWN TWO FEET** (*Morrow*)- Autobiography

Popular children's author, Beverly Cleary began the story of her own life in **GIRL FROM YAMHILL**. This second memoir details her college years, library work, marriage, family and how she came to write **HENRY HUGGINS**.

Clements, Andrew **THINGS NOT SEEN** (*Philomel*)-Humor

What would happen if you actually did wake up invisible one day? Fifteen-year-old Bobby is faced with this curious predicament. Doing his best to adapt, Bobby informs his parents and grows more and more frustrated as they try to control his (unseen) life.

\*David Clement-Davies **THE FIRE BRINGER** (*Dutton*)-Animal Fantasy

Young buck Rannoch was born on the night his father was murdered and into a herd of deer where hunger for power has gradually whittled away at all that is true and good. He knows he must escape to survive. Chased by stags, with their fearsome antlers sharpened for the kill, he begins a treacherous journey into the unknown, and ahead of him lies a shocking and formidable search for truth and goodwill in the shadow of the Great Mountain. **THE SIGHT** is his latest tale.

\*Carlo Collodi **THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO** -Fairy Tales/Classic

A wooden puppet full of tricks and mischief, with a talent for getting into and out of trouble, wants more than anything else to become a real boy.

Carolyn Coman **WHAT JAMIE SAW** (*Front Street*)- Family Issues

Eight-year-old Jamie is a witness to an angry act of child abuse. The story of how he, his mother and sister survive and heal is told in spare lyrical style.

**MANY STONES** (*Front Street*) - Family Issues.

On a trip to South Africa to attend a memorial service for her murdered older sister, Berry's bitterness towards her parents' divorce is directed at her father at a time when they need each other the most

Caroline Cooney **BOTH SIDES OF TIME** (*Bantam*) -Fantasy/Time Travel/ Romance/Series

The summer after Senior year Annie, who wishes she could live in a more romantic time, finds herself in the 1890's. **OUT OF TIME** and **PRISONER OF TIME** are the sequels.

Susan Cooper **KING OF SHADOWS** (*Simon and Schuster*) -Fantasy/Time Travel

The author of **THE DARK IS RISING SERIES** has written a story of a young actor who travels back in time to 1599 and performs at the Globe Theatre alongside Shakespeare himself. Nat and Will form an intense attachment, and when Nat wakes again in 1999 he's devastated-- until he learns that his time-traveling saved the playwright's life.

Clinton Cox **HOUDINI: MASTER OF ILLUSION** (*Scholastic*) –Biography

This famous magician's biography is an evenhanded portrait that dispels myths, some created by Houdini himself, and reveals some of the secrets behind the tricks.

Bruce Coville **INTO THE LAND OF THE UNICORNS and SONG OF THE WANDERER**

(*Scholastic*) –Fantasy/Series

A magical series about Cara, a girl sent on a mission by her grandmother to the land of the unicorns. Only Cara can protect the unicorns and their world from invasion.

**A GLORY OF UNICORNS** contains short stories featuring the magical creature.

**Author web site:** [www.brucecoville.com](http://www.brucecoville.com)

Sharon Creech **THE WANDERER** (*HarperCollins*) -Teen Issues/Family

This book tells about thirteen-year-old Sophie, who is passionate about sailing and talks her way onto her uncle's sailboat as he, his two brothers, and a couple of nephews prepare to sail across the Atlantic to visit Grandfather in England. Though she is brave and resourceful, Sophie is haunted by fears. The frequently frightening trip gradually reveals these fears as true.

**WALK TWO MOONS** (*Harper Collins*) concerns two young girls trying to cope with living without their mothers. Their friendship and family stories are narrated by Salamanca Hiddle on her journey to Idaho across America. **Newbery Award winner**

Michael Crichton **JURASSIC PARK and THE LOST WORLD** (*Ballantine Books*)-Adventure

Read the books that became the smash hit movies and join the fans of prehistoric animals co-existing with humans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin **THE SEEING STONE** (*Scholastic*)-Fantasy

As *The Seeing Stone* opens, exuberant young Arthur has no idea what adventure lies ahead. A 13-year-old growing up in 12th-century England, Arthur soon discovers that his life parallels that of another Arthur, son of Uther centuries past, the legendary boy king "who was and will be." **AT THE CROSSING-PLACES** is the second title in a planned trilogy.

Christopher Curtis **BUD NOT BUDDY** (*Delacorte*) -Family

Bud 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 is an **Oliver Twist** kind of foundling story, but it's told with affectionate comedy.

**THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM (1963)**. Kenny's family is known as the "Weird Watsons" for lots of good reasons. Though he does well in school and tries to please, his older brother Byron's misdeeds tries his hard-working parents' patience and makes them decide to take him to Grandma in Alabama to finish school. The story, set in 1963, vividly describes the prejudice and violence of the civil rights movement and one family's involvement.

Karen Cushman **CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY** (*Harper-Trophy*) -Historical Fiction

Written against a background of everyday life on a medieval English manor, is a young girl's 1290's diary of her fourteenth year. It is a revealing, amusing, and sometimes horrifying view of Catherine's thoughts and life. Continue your interest in this time period in **THE MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE**, (*Clarion*) which won the **1995 Newbery Award**, with a plucky orphan who diffuses the wicked temper and sour disposition of the midwife who takes her in and trains her. **MATILDA BONE** (*Clarion*) meets Peg the Bonesetter, who practices medieval medicine at the end of Blood and Bone Alley. Can a delicate, excessively pious girl succeed as her apprentice?

Roald Dahl **BOY** (*Farrar, Strauss, Giroux*) - Autobiography

Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood that includes summer vacations in Norway and boarding school. **GOING SOLO** (*Puffin*) continues his life experiences as a young man working in Africa for Shell Oil through his time as a pilot with the RAF.

Joan Dash **THE WORLD AT HER FINGERTIPS: THE STORY OF HELEN KELLER** (*Scholastic*)-Biography

Keller's later life is perhaps less well known to readers familiar with the "Miracle Worker" story. Her struggles through high school and her acceptance to and graduation from Radcliffe, her social and political activism, and the "love affair" with her secretary Peter Fagan are carefully described using passages from Keller's autobiographies.

Deborah Davis **MY BROTHER HAS AIDS** (*Athenaeum*)- Teen Issues

Thirteen-year-old Lacy and her parents deal with her brother's final weeks of life and emotional upheaval in their lives. Realistic portrayal of Jack's illness will provide readers with information about AIDS and an opportunity to understand how families are affected by it.

Cynthia DeFelice **THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LUCAS WHITAKER** (*Avon Camelot*) -Historical Fiction After losing his entire family to consumption, Lucas takes a position as an apprentice to Doc Beecher, who refuses to experiment with a miracle cure for the dreaded disease, and Lucas learns a valuable lesson about fear, desperation and the practical uses of science.

Barry Denenberg **ALL SHOOK UP** (*Scholastic*) -Biography

This personable biography of the man who swayed his hips and ushered in the age of rock 'n' roll chronicles not only the turbulent life of Elvis but the sweeping shifts he brought to popular culture.

Carl Deuker **NIGHT HOOPS** (*HarperTrophy*)-Sport

- Nick Abbott finds himself trying to deal with his parent's divorce and a host of other problems that face him during his sophomore year. He wants above all else to be a star player on his high school basketball team.
- Kate DiCamillo **TIGER RISING** (*Candlewick*) –Realistic Fiction  
 Rob, who passes the time in his rural Florida community by wood carving, is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger.
- Michael Dorris **MORNING GIRL, GUESTS and SEES BEHIND TREES** (*Hyperion*)  
 -Historical Fiction/Native American This trio of titles gives the reader eyewitness accounts of the arrival of the first Europeans to Hispaniola, one boys' struggle growing up in the Massachusetts area during the time of the first Thanksgiving and the struggle of a native American boy with a special gift to "see" beyond his poor eyesight, and to develop as a great hunter.
- \*Arthur Conan Doyle **ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** -Mystery/Classic  
 A collection of baffling cases, which Sherlock Holmes solves, using his keen ability to detect the motives and strategies of his opponents.
- \*A.K. Dewdney **YES, WE HAVE NO NEUTRONS: AN EYE-OPENING TOUR THROUGH THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF BAD SCIENCE** (*John Wiley and Son*)- Non-fiction/Science  
 Why do good scientists fall into error? Here are case studies, analyzed by a former Scientific American columnist who notes that scientific advance consists of getting an idea and testing it. The image of invention tends to focus on a flash of inspiration but without the unspectacular process of designing and carrying out experiments, even the most brilliant idea can fail.
- Sharon Draper **DOUBLE DUTCH** (*Atheneum*)-Realistic Fiction  
 Three eighth grade friends, preparing for the International Double dutch Championship jump rope competition in their hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies and a secret Delia is too embarrassed to share.
- \*Tony Early **JIM THE BOY** (*Little Brown*) - Fiction  
 Ten-year-old Jim is growing up in Aliceville, North Carolina, during the Depression with his mother and uncles. He learns about work, honor, family and friendship with humor and joy.
- Deborah Ellis **THE BREAD WINNER** (*Groundwood*) –Multicultural Fiction  
 Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, she is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother. **Parvana's Journey** and **Mud City** are the sequels.
- \*Nancy Farmer **THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION** (*Atheneum*) – Science Fiction  
 In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142 year old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. **2003 National Book Award**  
**THE EAR, THE EYE AND THE ARM** (*Scholastic*)- Science Fiction/ Humor  
 Two hundred years in the future in Africa, three kids are kidnapped in a danger-filled city. Will the mutant detectives Ear, Eye and Arm find them before it's too late? In another vivid story, Farmer plunges readers deep into a Mozambique village when Nhamo, **A GIRL NAMED DISASTER** (Orchard/Jackson) flees from her home in search of her father in Zimbabwe and gets lost on vast Lake Cabora Bassa. She survives harsh weather, wild animals and near starvation before building a new life in the strikingly different world of her father's people. This **1997 Newbery Honor Book** takes readers on a fabulous journey.
- Anne Fine **FLOUR BABIES** (*Little Brown*) -Teen Issues

- A class of boys thinks the child-development project will end with a messy explosion of flour bags throughout the school. Before the three weeks are over, Simon learns more about his feelings for parenting in this funny book with unexpected results. **TULIP TOUCH** (*Laurel Leaf*) From the first day of their friendship, Natalie falls under the spell of bad-girl Tulip--telling lies to classmates, talking back to teachers, and playing evil tricks on people--but when Natalie tries to get away from the menace, she knows that Tulip will get the ultimate revenge.
- Sharon Flake **THE SKIN I'M IN** (*Jump at the Sun*)- Multicultural  
Thirteen-year-old AfricanAmerican Maleeka suffers from acute low self-esteem, stemming from the taunts she receives mainly because of her dark complexion. Into her life walks Miss Saunders, a teacher whose rare skin condition also sets her apart.
- John Fleischman **PHINEAS GAGE: A GRUESOME BUT TRUE STORY ABOUT BRAIN SCIENCE** (*Houghton Mifflin*) – Non Fiction  
When a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain in 1848, Phineas Gage survived another eleven years; yet he was no longer Gage and his case is still a fascination and revelation to brain scientists today.
- Paul Fleischman **SATURNALIA** (*Harper/Zolotow*) -Culture/Historical Fiction  
Strands of several different stories are woven around that of William, a Narragansett Indian boy, who works as an apprentice in 1681 Boston. A suspenseful, spellbinding tale.  
**BULL RUN** (*HarperCollins*) - Historical Fiction  
Northerners, Southerners, young and old describe the horror, thrill and disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.  
If you like teen horror films you might enjoy **A FATE TOTALLY WORSE THAN DEATH** (*Candlewick*). -Humor Danielle, Tiffany and Brooke, girls of the ruling school clique, are convinced that Helga, the Norwegian exchange student, is the avenging ghost of a girl whose death they caused last year. Does Drew, whose father is a millionaire, know who is causing the girls to suffer from liver spots, gray hair and sagging breasts? Read and find out.
- Susan Fletcher **SHADOW SPINNER** (*Athenaeum*)- Fantasy/Adventure  
Young Marjan steals away to the market square to find and bring new stories to the Sultan's wife, Sharazade, officially confined to the Harem.
- Paula Fox **MONKEY ISLAND** (*Orchard*) -Realistic Fiction/Homelessness  
An honest portrayal of an eleven-year-old boy who is forced by economics from a loving home out onto the streets. He takes up with several kindly men and is taught how to survive. A tough and timely subject.
- \*Russell Freedman **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT -A LIFE OF DISCOVERY** (*Scholastic*) -Biography/  
U.S.History  
Packed with over 140 photographs, this 1994 Newbery Honor Book introduces readers to FDR's First Lady, a strong advocate of human rights and world peace. **FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT** (*Clarion*) is the biography of Eleanor's famous partner. Continue exploring biography with **MARTHA GRAHAM** (*Clarion*) who was a dancer, choreographer, and teacher for more than 70 years, and during that time she changed the landscape of dance forever. Long before women's soccer The Associated Press elected **BABE DIDRIKSON ZAHARIAS** (*Clarion*) Woman Athlete of the Year six times. Read how she earned her Olympic medals and national championships.
- Suzanne Freeman **THE CUCKOO'S CHILD** (*Greenwillow*) -Family/Historical Fiction  
Mia refuses to believe that her parents are not coming back after they've been reported lost at sea. Set in the 1960's in America with flashbacks to her life in Lebanon.
- Jean Fritz **HOMESICK: MY OWN STORY** (*Everbind*) -Autobiography/ China

The author's own story of growing up in China, of her fierce longing for America, but also of the wonderful times spent with family and friends.

Varian Fry **ASSIGNMENT RESCUE** (*Scholastic*) - World War II/Holocaust

When many people were trapped in Hitler's Germany, one man risked his life to smuggle people from Germany to France. He tells his own incredible story.

Cornelia Funke **THE THIEF LORD** (*Scholastic*)- Suspense

Twelve-year-old Prosper and 5-year-old Bo ran away when their aunt decided she wanted to adopt Bo, but not his brother. Refusing to split up, they escaped to Venice, a city their mother had always described reverently, in great detail. Right away they hook up with a long-haired runaway named Hornet and various other ruffians who hole up in an abandoned movie theater and worship the elusive Thief Lord, a young boy named Scipio who steals jewels from fancy Venetian homes so his new friends can get the warm clothes they need. And then the plot thickens.....

Donald R. Gallo, editor **CENTER STAGE** (*Harper*) -Drama

Ten one-act plays put together for teen actors or those who like reading stage presentations. Great preparation for Middle School Theatre Arts Classes.

**ULTIMATE SPORTS: SHORT STORIES BY OUTSTANDING WRITERS FOR YOUNG ADULTS** (*Bantam Doubleday Dell*) -Sports/Fiction

Sixteen original stories feature teens playing a variety of sports, including basketball, football and tennis.

Jack Gantos **JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWS THE KEY and JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL**

(*Farrar*)- Realistic Fiction/ADD Issues/Series

"They say I'm wired bad or wired sad, but there's no doubt about it-I'm wired." Sometimes Joey makes bad choices-sticking his finger in the pencil sharpener, swallowing his house key or consuming an entire shoofly pie on a field trip to Amish country. Whether he's sent to Special School in the first book or goes to live with his Dad during the summer in the second, Joey explains that he's really a good kid. Readers will know from the start that he's a great kid.

**WHAT WOULD JOEY DO?** completes the tale.

Fans of Jack Gantos's Jack titles who expect to read crazy tales of bike riding on rooftops and dog-eating crocodiles will be surprised to read in **HOLE IN MY LIFE** (*Farrar*) that one dangerous escapade landed the author in jail. Looking back to "the bleakest year of his life" he records his fears and his dream of getting out to be a real writer.

Jean Craighead George **JULIE** (*HarperCollins*) - Survival/Series

In this sequel to **JULIE OF THE WOLVES**, Julie decides to return to her father, in spite of her fears that he will kill her wolf pack. And in the third novel, **JULIE'S WOLF PACK**, the author takes a bold step by focusing on the wolf pack and leaving people on the periphery. Reading all these well-researched stories gives one a vivid sense of how wolves live in their environment, what experiences they revel in, and how they deal with threats.

James Cross Giblin **WHEN PLAGUE STRIKES: THE BLACK DEATH, SMALLPOX, AIDS** (*HarperCollins*) - Non-Fiction

While three diseases may seem to have little in common, Giblin draws parallels between them that are striking. Tracing the medical community's fearful and confused reactions, the prejudices and practices that arose to deal with them and the history involved, the author's facts read like a mystery story.

Savion Glover **SAVION: MY LIFE IN TAP** (*Morrow*)-Biography

Savion is an acknowledged genius of tap-dancing. His influence has overcome the whiff of black-faced vaudeville that caused tap-dancing to seem dated. The format of the book, with words seemingly tapping across the pages, brings a noisy, quick-moving artist successfully to life.

Kristina Gregory **EARTHQUAKE AT DAWN** (*Harcourt Brace*) -Historical Fiction

On April 18, 1906 a powerful earthquake rocked San Francisco. Based on a 30-page letter written by Mary Atkins Campbell and the actual photographs taken by Edith Irvine, here is an exciting fictional account of the devastation of the city and the courage of the citizens, as seen through the eyes of 15 year-old Daisy.

Nikki Grimes **BRONX MASQUERADE** (*Dial*)- Multicultural Fiction

When a high school teacher in the Bronx begins to host Open-mike poetry in his classroom on Fridays, his students find a forum to express themselves and forge unexpected connections with one another.

Dan Gutman **HONUS AND ME** (*Avon Camelot*) - Sports/Time Travel/ Fiction

After Joe Stoshak finds the world's most valuable baseball card while he is cleaning out his neighbor's attic, he wakes up and finds himself confronting Honus Wagner, the 1909 World Series hero and together they embark on a fantastical adventure through time. **JACKIE AND ME** (*Camelot*) and **BABE AND ME** (*Avon Camelot*) and **SHOELESS JOE AND ME** (*Avon Camelot*) and **MICKEY AND ME** are more of the Baseball Card Adventures.

Margaret Peterson Haddix **RUNNING OUT OF TIME** and **AMONG THE HIDDEN, AMONG THE IMPOSTERS, AMONG THE BETRAYED** and **AMONG THE BARONS** (*Aladdin*) -Suspense

What if the costumed workers at historical sites really lived there, and tourists watched them through hidden cameras rather than from pathways? What if those workers and families were not allowed to leave, ever? Jessie in **RUNNING OUT OF TIME** lives in the 1840s, or so she believes until her mother sends her on an escape mission outside the fence, where it's 1996. In a society where family size is strictly limited to two children, Luke in **AMONG THE HIDDEN** is a third child living in an attic bedroom to avoid being seen by authorities. All of these novels are thought provoking and very readable.

Mary Downing Hahn **PROMISES TO THE DEAD** (*Clarion*)- Historical Fiction

Aiding and abetting an escaped slave is against the law, and it goes against everything Jesse Sherman has been taught. But he has promised a dying runaway slave that he will take her seven-year-old son, Perry, to safety in Baltimore. He can't break a promise made to the dead, no matter what the risks.

\*Virginia Hamilton **HER STORIES** (*Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich*) -Folk and Fairy Tales

A collection of tales about the supernatural and animals, fairy tales, folk tales and legends, by and about African American women.

**BLUISH** (Blue Sky Press)-Friendship/Multicultural At first, Dreenie doesn't know what to make of Natalie, the sick girl in a wheelchair who is part of her class in a New York City magnet school. The kids call Natalie "Bluish," not because of her ethnicity (her dad's black and her mom's Jewish) but because her pale skin has a bluish tint caused by all the chemotherapy she's had for cancer. Dreenie tries to be nice, but she's scared ("What if she dies? What if I die?"), and Bluish demands respect, not pity.

Karen Hesse **OUT OF THE DUST** (*Scholastic*) -Historical Fiction- Winner of the 1998 Newbery Award, this novel, written in poetic form, tells the story of Billy Jo in the dust bowl, depression days of Oklahoma. She dreams of becoming a professional musician but those dreams end in a tragic fire that takes her mother's life and her talent away. If you've ever written thoughts and feeling in a journal you'll find a kinship in this book. Look for **LETTERS FROM RIFKA** (*Holt*) and **A TIME OF ANGELS** (*Disney Press*). Though unconnected, the author calls these books her trilogy of the American history experience. **STOWAWAY** (*Simon and Schuster*)- Adventure Hesse's latest novel, tells the tale of 11-year-old Nicholas Young, on the run from his demanding father and the cruel butcher who employs him, who finds adventure beyond his wildest imaginings when he stows away on the ship of legendary Captain James Cook. Once he is discovered and put to work he becomes witness to some amazing sights: indigenous natives, kangaroos, cannibalism, hurricane, a near shipwreck and a deadly bout with typhoid.

\*Homer Hickham **ROCKET BOYS** (*Delacorte*)- Biography

Inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team, 14-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his tickets out of Coalwood, West Virginia; a mining town that everyone knew was dying. He grew up to be a NASA engineer and his memoir of the bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960—an unprecedented honor for a miner's kid—is rich in humor as well as warm sentiment. The paperback edition and the movie were re-named **OCTOBER SKY**. The sequel is **THE COALWOOD WAY** (*HarperCollins*).

Carl Hiaasen **HOOT** (*Knopf*)- Humor

In his first novel for a younger audience, Carl Hiaasen plunges readers right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies—three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system. **Newbery Honor 2003**

Will Hobbs **JASON'S GOLD** (*HarperCollins*) -Historical Fiction/Adventure

Racing to catch up to his brothers in the Klondike gold fields, fifteen-year-old Jason Hawthorn meets an adventurous girl named Jamie and the not-yet-famous Jack London. **DOWN THE YUKON** (*HarperCollins*) is the sequel where all the talk is of Nome, nearly 2,000 miles away from Dawson City, where gold has been discovered in the beach sands and Jason is itching to join the new rush. **Author web site: [www.willhobbsauthor.com](http://www.willhobbsauthor.com)**

Kimberley Willis Holt **MY LOUISIANA SKY** (*Holt*) -Historical Fiction/ coming of age

Set in rural 1950's Louisiana, twelve-year-old Tiger has some tough times growing up, her grandmother's death and trying to accept her mentally handicapped parents.

With **WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN** (*Henry Holt*) -Teen Issues

Holt further explores southern-flavored small town life. Toby's quirky, yet ultimately rewarding story will serve as a gentle reminder to teens that sometimes the best way to work through your problems is by helping others with theirs.

**DANCING IN THE CADILLAC** (*G.P.Putnam*)-Fiction/Family Issues

When widower Grandpap moves in during the summer of 1968 and buys an emerald green Cadillac, his life with Jaynelle and her family and his death leave nothing the same.

Norma Howe **THE ADVENTURES OF THE BLUE AVENGER** (*Holt*)-Humor

When sixteen-year-old David changes his name to Blue Avenger, he saves his principal from an attack of killer bees, falls in love with classmate Omaha Nebraska Brown, and creates "weepless" lemon meringue pie—among other achievements large and small. **THE BLUE AVENGER CRACKS THE CODE** (*Holt*); the sequel involves discovering the real author of Shakespeare's plays. **BLUE AVENGER AND THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING** continues the fun.

Dean Hughes **SOLDIER BOY** (*Atheneum*)- Historical Fiction/WWII

This WWII novel tells parallel stories of two young soldiers fighting on opposite sides. Sixteen-year-old Spencer, a Mormon from Utah, drops out of high school to begin paratrooper training. On the other side of the world, Dieter's blind devotion to the Fuher gets him promoted, at age fifteen, from Hitler Youth into the German army.

Jeanette Ingold **BIG BURN** (*Harcourt*)- Historical Fiction/Environmental Science

Summer, 1910, a vast wild fire- one of the biggest of the century—changes the face of Montana and Idaho as well as the lives of three teenagers caught in its pain.

Brian Jacques **REDWALL** (*Philomel*) - Fantasy/ Series

As the inhabitants of Redwall Abbey bask in the glorious summer of the Late Rose, all is quiet and peaceful. But things are not as they seem. Cluny the Scourge, the evil one-eyed rat warlord, is hell-bent on destroying the tranquillity as he prepares to fight a bloody battle for the ownership of Redwall. If you enjoy this title, try the rest of the series listed in order of publication: **MOSSFLOWER, MATTIMEO, MARIEL OF REDWALL, SALAMANDASTRON, MARTIN THE WARRIOR, THE BELLMAKER, OUTCAST OF REDWALL, THE PEARLS OF LUTRA, THE LONG PATROL, MARLFOX, LEGEND OF LUKE, LORD**

**BROCKTREE, THE TAGGERUNG,TRISS** website: [www.redwall.org](http://www.redwall.org)

**CASTAWAYS OF THE FLYING DUTCHMAN** (*Philomel*)- Fantasy/Adventure

Brian Jacques takes a break from his Redwall series with this new adventure filled with drama and salty images or the highseas.

Paul B. Janeczko, editor **I FEEL A LITTLE JUMPY AROUND YOU: PAIRED POEMS BY MEN AND WOMEN** (*Aladdin*)- Poetry

You can't keep reading Shel Silverstein forever. Move along and try this anthology of modern poetry where the editors' group 196 poems into pairs, to demonstrate the different ways in which male and female poets see the same topics. In **STARDUST HOTEL** (*Orchard Books*) and **THAT SWEET DIAMOND: BASEBALL POEMS** (*Athenaeum*) you can read how well Janeczko himself creates poems from a 15-year-old boy's point of view and about the national past time. Also in **HOW TO WRITE POETRY** (*Scholastic*)- Non-fiction/writing Award-winning poet Paul B. Janeczko shares advice and instructions for writing poetry--from keeping a journal to developing an actual poem. The book also includes a detailed glossary of poetry terms and a bibliography of great poetry books.

\*Jill Jiang **RED SCARF GIRL: A MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION** (*HarperTrophy*) - Autobiography/Multicultural

This is a rare personal glimpse of the upheaval China suffered during the 1960s from Jill's point of view. A child's nightmare unfolds in Jiang's chronicle of the excesses of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution in China in the late 1960s. She a young teenager at the height of the fervor, when children rose up against their parents, students against teachers, and neighbor against neighbor.

Angela Johnson **HEAVEN** (*Simon and Schuster*)- Realistic Fiction/Coming of Age

Fourteen-year-old Marley's idyllic life in the small town of Heaven is suddenly disrupted when she discovers her father and mother are not her real parents.

Patrice Kindl **THE WOMAN IN THE WALL** (*Puffin*) - Fantasy/Teen Romance

Anna is more than shy. She is nearly invisible. At seven, terrified of school, Anna retreats within the walls of her family's enormous house, and builds a world of passageways and hidden rooms. As the years go by, people forget she ever existed. Then a mysterious note is thrust through a crack in the wall, and Anna must decide whether or not to come out of hiding.

**OWL IN LOVE** (*Puffin*)- Fantasy/Humor

Owl, 14 years old, hangs out at night in a tree near the home of her one love--science teacher Mr. Lindstrom. It's quite normal if you're a "wereowl" and sitting in a tree is as easy as snacking on rodents while watching the object of her affection. A little offbeat? Yes, but entirely amusing.

David Klass **CALIFORNIA BLUE** (*Scholastic*)- Realistic Fiction

When 17 year old John Rodgers, growing up in North California Timber Country, accidentally discovers a rare endangered butterfly, he finds himself and his dying father on opposite sides of an environmental conflict. This author has also written a number of sports stories. If you liked **HOOPS**, try **HOME OF THE BRAVE** (*Farrar*) and **DANGER ZONE** (*Scholastic*). Jimmy Doyle and his teammates are chosen to be part of the American "Teen Dream Team" basketball players who are to compete in Europe, where they find their ambitions of becoming world champions shattered when they encounter neo-Nazi threats.

Annette Curtis Klause **BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE** (*Delacorte*) - Horror/Fantasy

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teen werewolf must battle her packmates and the townspeople to decide where she belongs. **SILVER KISS** is another title about a mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret who helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's illness.

\*E.L. Koningsberg **THE SECOND MRS. GIACONDA** (*Aladdin*) -Historical Fiction

The Mona Lisa... Why did Leonardo de Vinci spend three years on a painting of the second wife of an unimportant merchant when all the nobles of Europe were begging for a portrait by his

hand? Read and find out the story behind the picture.

**SILENT TO THE BONE** (*Atheneum*)-Realistic Fiction/Mystery What if your best friend were to stop talking one day after a terrible accident? What might you do if your friend were charged with causing his infant sister to slip into a coma? Connor Kane recounts his journey to untangle the mystery that has stolen his friend's words.

Kathleen Krull **LIVES OF THE ARTISTS, LIVES OF MUSICIANS, LIVES OF WRITERS, LIVES OF THE ATHLETES, LIVES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN and LIVES OF THE PRESIDENTS** (*Harcourt*)-Biography

These books are cleverly written by Krull to fill us in on how famous artists, musicians, writers, athletes, women and American presidents really lived and what the neighbors thought of them. Each volume covers from classical to modern periods and illustrations by Kathryn Hewitt are filled with sight gags you'll enjoy.

Steven L. Layne **THIS SIDE OF PARADISE** (*Pelican*)- Science Fiction

Part science fiction thriller, part theme-park horror ride, this first novel is set in a paradise community where everything is perfectly controlled.

Kathryn Lasky **BEYOND THE BURNING TIME** (*Blue Sky Press*) -Historical Fiction

When, in the winter of 1691, accusations of witchcraft surface in her small New England village, twelve-year-old Mary Chase fights to save her mother from execution.

**TRUE NORTH**, set in pre-Civil War America, unites two girls, one a sailor and the other a slave running for her life through the Underground Railroad.

\*Ursula K. LeGuin **TEHANU: THE LAST BOOK OF EARTHSEA** (*Athenaeum*) -Fantasy

In a tale that takes as its theme the nature of a woman's place and power, the Archmage, Ged, has returned to Gont stripped of his powers. Tenar, the heroine of **THE TOMBS OF ATUAN** (*Atheneum*) and now a widow, is raising a disfigured and abused child who clearly has an unusual destiny in store. A beautiful expression of mature love; a thoughtful, brilliant achievement.

\*Madeline L'Engle **A SWIFTLY TILTING PLANET** (*Dell*) -Fantasy

The third story in the popular series that begins with **A WRINKLE IN TIME** and **A WIND IN THE DOOR**.

Julius Lester **PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: A NOVEL OF ANCIENT EGYPT** (*Harcourt*)-Historical Fiction

Born into slavery, adopted as an infant by a princess, and raised in the palace of mighty Pharaoh, Moses struggles to define himself. And so do the three women who love him: his own embittered mother, forced to give him up to save him from death, the Egyptian princess who defies her father and raises Moses as her own child; and his headstrong sister, Almah, who discovers a greater kinship with the Egyptian deities than with her own God of the Hebrews.

Gail Carson Levine **DAVE AT NIGHT** (*HarperTrophy*)- Historical Fiction/Family Issues

When his father dies, Dave knows nothing will ever be the same. And then it happens. Dave lands in an orphanage -- the cold and strict Hebrew Home for Boys in Harlem -- far from the life he knew on the Lower East Side. But he's not so worried. If it doesn't work out, he'll just leave. But it's not that simple. Outside the gates of the orphanage, the nighttime streets of Harlem buzz with jazz musicians and swindlers. Inside, another world unfolds, thick with rare friendships and bitter enemies. Perhaps somewhere, among it all, Dave can find a place that feels like home.

Sonia Levitin **JOURNEY TO AMERICA** (*Aladdin*)-Historical Fiction/Holocaust

The story of a Jewish family's escape from 1938 Berlin, told through the eyes of ten-year-old Lisa Platt. The tension and the heartache of the time are conveyed as Lisa, her sisters, and her mother leave everything behind and flee to Switzerland, where they must wait for Papa to send for them from America. The Platt family's story is continued in **Silver Days** and **Annie's Promise**.

\***THE CURE** (*HarperCollins*)- Fantasy/ Historical Fiction

It is the year 2407, when everyone wears a mask to emphasize conformity, and tranquility has

been implemented via genetics, drugs, and therapy. It is also the year 1348, the time of the Black Death in Strasbourg, France, and 16-year-old Gemm has been sent back from the future to cure his nonconformist desire to create music.

Ted Lewin **I WAS A TEENAGE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER** (*Hyperion*) -Autobiography /Sports  
Ted Lewin, the Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator of more than 100 children's books, recalls his experience as a seventeen-year-old pro wrestler in the early 1950's. Includes photos, sketches, and an eight page full color insert of Lewin's evocative oil paintings.

Bill Littlefield **CHAMPION: STORIES OF TEN REMARKABLE ATHLETES** (*Little Brown*) - Sports/Nonfiction  
A selection of stories highlighting sports personalities. Well written, engaging narratives which focus on character rather than celebrity.

\*Anita Lobel **NO PRETTY PICTURES: A CHILD OF WAR** (*Greenwillow*)-Autobiography/World War II  
From age 5 to age 10, Lobel spent what are supposed to be carefree years hiding from the Nazis, protecting her younger brother, being captured and marched from camp to camp, and surviving completely dehumanizing conditions. A terrifying story by any measure, Lobel's memoir is all the more haunting as told from the first-person, child's-eye view.

\*Lois Lowry **THE GIVER** and **GATHERING BLUE** (*Houghton Mifflin*) - Futuristic Fantasy  
Lois Lowry's magnificent novel of the distant future, **The Giver**, is set in a highly technical and emotionally repressed society. **Gathering Blue**, the eagerly awaited companion volume, by contrast, takes place in a village with only the most rudimentary technology, where anger, greed, envy, and casual cruelty make ordinary people's lives short and brutish. This society, like the one portrayed in **The Giver**, is controlled by merciless authorities with their own complex agendas and secrets and at the center of both stories there is a young person who is given the responsibility of preserving the memory of the culture--and who finds the vision to transform it.  
**LOOKING BACK: A BOOK OF MEMORIES** (*Houghton Mifflin*) -Autobiography  
Imagine sitting on a sofa with a friend listening with fascination while she tells you about the pictures in her photo album. That is the feeling one has when browsing through this book of Lowry's family snapshots.  
**SILENT BOY** (*Houghton Mifflin*) Katy Thatcher was the bright and curious daughter of the town doctor. She was fascinated by her father's work, and even as a child she knew that she too wanted to be a doctor. She wanted to know about people. Perhaps it was this, her insatiable curiosity, or simply the charm of Jacob's gentle intimacy with animals large and small, that fueled their friendship. Although Jacob never spoke to her or even looked at her directly, Katy grew to understand him from the moments they spent together quietly singing to the horses.

\*Chris Lynch **SLOT MACHINE** and **EXTREME ELVIN** (*HarperCollins*). Humor  
Wise-cracking Elvin maneuvers the perils of overweight adolescence with the help of pals Frankie, Mikie, and his sharp-as-nails mother while dealing with hemorrhoids, bullies, a semi-comatose dog, and sweaty-palmed dances with their sister school. The verbal by-play is hugely entertaining, and the teenaged sweethearts act their ages to perfection.

Mary Lyons **THE POISON PLACE** (*Aladdin*) Historical Fiction/ Mystery  
Could it be that famous portraitist Charles Willson Peale had a dark side? He was known nationally for his fine paintings and for starting his own museum in Philadelphia with art and taxidermy. But could he have been purposely poisoning his own son with arsenic?

Geraldine McCaughrean **THE STONES ARE HATCHING** (*HarperCollins*)- Fantasy  
After centuries of undisturbed slumber, the Stoor Worm—the World Eater—is waking. A creature of monstrous proportions and unimaginable evil, the Stoor Worm must be destroyed. Already its murderous hatchlings are bringing terror and destruction to every corner of Britain. And an odd trio—a Fool, a Maiden, and a Horse—is desperately trying to convince one quite ordinary boy that he alone can save the world.

- \*David Macaulay **BUILDING BIG** (*Houghton*) -Non-Fiction/Technology  
 David Macaulay's hit PBS series by the same name cannot take you as far as this book does into the wonders of the constructed world: dams, domes, skyscrapers, tunnels, and bridges.  
 This latest title from the master of architectural explanation (**CASTLE, CATHEDRAL, CITY, UNDERGROUND, UNBUILDING, THE WAY THINGS WORK**) takes the reader on a tour with crystal-clear text and profuse illustrations, and you get a sense of what a marvelous act of imagination a bridge is. web site: [www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig)
- Andy MacDonald **DROPPING IN WITH ANDY MAC: THE LIFE OF A PRO SKATEBOARDER** (*Simon Pulse*) –Sports  
 As a baby he flipped himself upside down in his jolly jumper. As a kid he rode his Big Wheel into traffic. When he discovered skateboarding, his life was changed forever.
- \*Robin McKinley **BEAUTY: A RETELLING OF THE STORY OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** (*HarperTrophy*)-Fantasy  
 This retelling of the classic French tale "Beauty and the Beast" elicits the familiar magical charm, but is more believable than the traditional story. In this version, Beauty is not as beautiful as her older sisters but she is the most competent of the three sisters. This proves essential when she must go to the beast to save her father. Written 20 years ago, the author chose to return again to this tale with a fresh perspective in **Rose Daughter** (*Ace Books*) as well as retelling "Sleeping Beauty" in novel form in **Spindle's End** (*Ace Books*).
- Patricia and Frederick McKissack **BLACK DIAMOND: THE STORY OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES** (*Scholastic*) -Sports An account of the Negro Baseball League from the sport's origin in 1839 to the early 1950's. Individual players - Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bill - enliven the pages for a passionate and purposeful read.  
**REBELS AGAINST SLAVERY** (*Scholastic*) -Non-Fiction/ African American History  
 Presents a tribute to unsung antislavery heroes, including Cinque, from the Armistead mutiny, rebel Nat Turner and Harriet Tubman
- Margaret Mahey **THE CHANGEOVER: A SUPERNATURAL ROMANCE** (*Puffin*)- Suspense  
 When her little brother seems to become possessed by an evil spirit, fourteen-year-old Laura seeks the help of the strangely compelling older boy at school who she is convinced has supernatural powers.
- Carol Matas and Perry Nodelman **OF TWO MINDS** (*Scholastic*)-Fantasy  
 Princess Lenora and Prince Coren are two reluctant, soon-to-be-wed royals caught in a strange world that holds them hostage and robs them of their powers. In the sequel MORE MINDS, Princess Lenora is supposed to be preparing for her wedding. But she and Prince Coren are sidetracked when the Balance, which holds two alternate worlds in place, begins to crumble.
- Carolyn Meyer **WHITE LILACS** (*Harcourt Brace*) -Historical Fiction/ Black History  
 Based on a true story set in Texas in 1921, Rose Lee Jefferson sees her whole way of life changed when the white population decides a park should replace the colored neighborhood.  
**JUBILEE JOURNEY** (*Harcourt Brace*) is a continuation of the Jefferson family saga.
- Ben Mikaelson **PETEY** (*Hyperion*)- Realistic Fiction  
 A little boy named Petey, born in 1905 with cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot, and his parents reluctantly institutionalize him. He grows up with a sharp intelligence and a desire for affection, touch and the feel of the outside air. When he is moved to another institution as an old man, a teen named Trevor, almost against his will, befriends Petey when he saves him from a snowball attack by local ruffraff.  
**TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR** (*HarpeTrophy*)-Fiction/Adventure  
 Cole Matthews is a violent teen offender convicted of viciously beating a classmate causing a neurological and psychological problems. Cole elects to participate in Circle Justice, an alternative

sentencing program based on traditional Native American practices that results in his being banished to a remote Alaskan Island where he is left to survive for a year.

\*Lucy Maud Montgomery **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES** -Friendship/ Fiction

Anne, an 11 year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on Prince Edward Island and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. This is the first book in a series which may keep you reading all summer.

\* Kyoko Mori **SHIZUKO'S DAUGHTER** (*Ballantine*) -Teen Issues/Japan

Saddened by her mother's suicide, twelve-year old Yuki manages to grow strong despite the indifference of her cold, resentful stepmother.

Gerald Morris **THE SQUIRE'S TALE** (*HoughtonMifflin*) Fiction/Series

Growing up an orphan in an isolated cottage in the woods with Trevisant the hermit, young Terence never expected much adventure. But upon the arrival of Gawain, his life takes an odd turn. Terence leaves his secluded life for one of adventure as Gawain's squire in King Arthur's Court. If you like this, read **PARSIFAL'S PAGE and THE SAVAGE DAMSEL AND THE DWARF.**

Walter Dean Myers **THE GLORY FIELD** (*Scholastic*) -Historical Fiction

Told in five sections, it follows various members of an African-American family. In each generation, a strong teenage character continues the family's fight for dignity and ownership of the previous land: The Glory Field.

\***MONSTER** is the 2000 winner of the **MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD**, (the NEWBERY for Young Adult Literature). Using a mixture of journal, letters and screenplay-style narrative, Steve Harmon's future as a movie maker is in doubt as he stands trial for felony murder. Did he play the lookout in the pharmacy robbery that turned fatal? Should he be punished for choosing the wrong friends?

Two other Myers's titles you might enjoy are **145<sup>th</sup> STREET** and **HANDBOOK FOR BOYS.**

\*Lensey Namioka **TIES THAT BIND, TIES THAT BREAK** (*Laurelleaf*) Multicultural/ Coming of age

It's 1911, and China is slowly beginning to accept modern ideas--but the changes may not happen fast enough for young Ailin. Her grandmother has decided it's time she has her feet bound, to make her more attractive to a future husband.

Donna Jo Napoli **ZEL** (*Dutton*)-Fantasy

High in the mountains, Zel lives with her mother, who insists they have all they need -- for they have each other. Zel's life is peaceful and protected-- until a chance encounter changes everything. When she meets a beautiful young prince at the market one day, she is profoundly moved by new emotions. But Zel's mother sees the future unfolding -- and she will do the unspeakable to prevent Zel from leaving her. Napoli retells some other fairy tales: "Beauty and the Beast" in BEAST, "Hansel and Gretel" in **THE MAGIC CIRCLE**, "Jack and the Beanstalk" in CRAZY JACK, and "Rumpelstilskin" in **SPINNERS.**

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor **HOW I CAME TO BE A WRITER** (*Aladdin*)- Biography

Details the career of one writer from stories composed in grade school through first published pieces to novels written to date. One of her most successful efforts is a series of books about Alice McKinley. Beginning with **THE AGONY OF ALICE** (*Aladdin*), Alice feels that life is just one big embarrassment. Here she is, about to be a teenager and she doesn't know how.

William Nicholson **THE WIND SINGER** (*Hyperion*)- Fantasy/SERIES

Discovered on a list titled "Better than Harry Potter," this first book in a planned trilogy may appeal to J.K. Rowling fans. Set in the hyper-planned city of Aramanth, Kestrel Hath decides she is through with the Aramanth work ethic. She is joined in her small rebellion by her twin brother Bowman and their friend Mumpo. Together, they set the orderly city on its ear. **FIRESONG** is the sequel

\*Garth Nix **SABRIEL** (*HarperCollins*) -Fantasy/Science Fiction

- Sabriel attends school in an area where technology reigns supreme, but her father lives in the Old Kingdom, where magic is alive and well. When Sabriel's father is somehow trapped in Death, she must travel to the Old Kingdom to rescue him. **LIRAEAL: DAUGHTER OF THE CLAYR**  
Another title by this author is **SHADE'S CHILDREN** (*HarperCollins*) a dark, slick Sci-Fi novel that establishes a world ruled by overlords where all the adults have disappeared and children's minds and bodies are harvested for the raw material used to create monsters who fight endless battles for their masters. Garth Nix also writes The Seventh Tower series that's enjoyed by Sci-Fi/Fantasy fans.
- Han Nolan **IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE I WAKE** (*Harcourt*) Time Travel/Holocaust  
Neo-Nazi wanna-be Hilary Burke lies in a coma after a motorcycle accident. Before returning to consciousness, Hilary slips into the memory of Holocaust survivor Chana Bergman and travels back in time to Auschwitz.
- Naomi Shihab Nye **19 VARIETIES OF GAZELLE: POEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST** (*Greenwillow*)\_ Poetry  
This is the entire collection of Nye's poems about the Middle East, peace, and growing up and Arab-American in the United States.
- Uri Orlev **THE MAN FROM THE OTHER SIDE** (*Houghton Mifflin*)-Historical Fiction/Holocaust  
Living on the outskirts of the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII, 14 year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising.
- Judith Ortiz-Cofer **AN ISLAND LIKE YOU: STORIES OF THE BARRIO** (*Orchard*)  
-Short Stories/Culture  
These rich, interrelated short stories about Puerto Rican-American teens are told with sensitivity and humor, evoking the universal confusion, passions and rites of the passage of youth.
- Mary Pope Osborne **FAVORITE NORSE MYTHS** (*Scholastic*)-Mythology-  
Mighty Thor wields a magic hammer so he can defeat the most vicious of giants. Additionally, Odin, the greatest of the gods, trades an eye for all the world's wisdom. You'll love these 14 electrifying tales of the Viking universe.
- Argentina Palacios **STANDING TALL: THE STORIES OF TEN HISPANIC AMERICANS** (*Scholastic*) -Biography The inspiring true stories of ten important, influential, history-making Hispanic Americans, including Gloria Estefan, Roberto Clemente, Admiral David Farragut, and engineer-turned-schoolteacher Jaime Escalante.
- Linda Sue Park **A SINGLE SHARD** (*Clarion*) -Historical Fiction  
**The 2003 Newbery award winner** Tree-ear, an orphan, lives under a bridge in Ch'ulp'o, a potters village famed for delicate celadon ware. He has become fascinated with the potter's craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, he is elated until he finds obstacles in his path.
- Rosa Parks and Jim Haskins **ROSA PARKS: MY STORY** (*Scholastic*) -History/Biography  
With quiet dignity, this remarkably brave woman from Alabama describes her upbringing, and the pivotal events of December 1955, when she was arrested for sitting in the front of the bus.
- Katherine Paterson **JIP:HIS STORY** (*Dutton*)- Historical Fiction/Family Issues  
This companion novel to the popular **LYDDIE** (*Dutton*) tells about a child abandoned as an infant and raised on a poor farm where he fantasizes about a loving parent awaiting his return. While caring for Put, an old man with a raging madness, Jip learns the truth and danger of his real identity. A caring community helps him learn, grow and find a new future.  
**PARK'S QUEST** (*Lodestar*) -Identity/Families/Vietnam-  
Eleven-year-old Park, whose father has been killed in Vietnam, spends a summer at his grandfather's farm and discovers a family secret.

Gary Paulsen **SOLDIER'S HEART** (*Delacorte Press*) Historical Fiction

Based on the life of a real boy, this is the story of Charley Goddard, who lies his way into the Union Army at the age of 15. The book is filled with details of what actually happens on the battlefield: the living men suddenly blown into pieces, the agony, the fear, the noise and terror, the stinking corpses. **NIGHTJOHN** (*Troll*) -Historical Fiction/African American Culture

After Nightjohn escaped slavery and learned to read, he resolved to teach other slaves to read, despite the harsh penalty of death. Will twelve-year-old Sarny risk death to learn to read? And you can read all about her life in **SARNY: A LIFE REMEMBERED** (*Delacorte*) from her girlhood until 1930 when she is 94 years old. Both of these books provide a personal glimpse of the lives of African-Americans in our country's history

**GUTS: THE TRUE STORIES BEHIND THE BRIAN AND THE HATCHET BOOKS** (*Delacorte*)- Biography

In **Guts**, Paulsen reveals the stories behind Hatchet, as he lived them. Linked to specific incidents from Brian's ordeal are the skills and insights Paulsen learned as a teenager passionately in love with hunting in the north woods of Minnesota.

**Author web site:** [www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen](http://www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen)

Richard Peck **FAIRWEATHER** (*Scholastic*) –Historical Fiction

When they attend the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the Beckett Family meet up with some of the era's most fascinating real people for a whirlwind of fun, misadventure and charms beyond measure.

Jayne Pettit **A PLACE TO HIDE** (*Scholastic*) -History/Holocaust/Survival

During World War II, 8,000 Jews escaped Denmark in tiny boats. Who were the brave people who helped them? Read their true stories in this fascinating book.

Rodman Philbrick **FREAK THE MIGHTY** (*Scholastic*) -Friendship/Fiction

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. **MAX THE MIGHTY** is the sequel.

**THE LAST BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE** (*Blue Sky Press*)- Futuristic Fiction

Spaz, an epileptic boy, lives in a violent, impoverished society where nearly everyone is illiterate. His encounter with an elderly man called Ryter, who believes in the power of books, results in the two making a daring visit to Eden, a community endowed with fresh air and technological marvels.

**REM WORLD** (*Scholastic*)-Science Fiction

An 11 year old orders a weight-loss device, but because he fails to follow directions, he unleashes a force that could destroy the universe.

Tamora Pierce **THE REALMS OF THE GODS** (*Random House*) -Fantasy/ Science Fiction

This is just one of the many titles in The Immortals series about Daine and Numair. Also look at the Wild Magic and Circle of Magic series if you enjoy reading Fantasy and lots of it.

**Author web site:** [www.sff.net/people/Tamora.Pierce](http://www.sff.net/people/Tamora.Pierce)

\*Phillip Pullman **THE GOLDEN COMPASS and THE SUBTLE KNIFE** (*DelRey/Ballantine*) -Fantasy

Both of these titles are highly recommended not just by librarians and teachers but by the many student fans of this adventure of Lyra and her daemon, Pantalaimon, who escape the clutches of her evil mother to rescue her father and missing children with the help of gypsies, witches and a polar bear. She meets Will in the second book and they move between two worlds searching for the mysterious phenomenon called Dust. **THE AMBER SPYGLASS** (*Random House*), the final book in the trilogy, is now available after a long wait by some readers.

\*Phillip Pullman **THE RUBY IN THE SMOKE, THE SHADOW IN THE NORTH and THE TIGER IN THE WELL** (*Alfred A. Knopf*)-Mystery and Suspense

In 19th century London, Sally Lockhart becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious

ruby and run-ins with other unexpected events and shadowy figures in the second and third books.

Arthur Ransome **SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS** -Adventure

Introduces the lovable Walker family, the camp on Wild Cat Island, the able catboat, "Swallow" and the two intrepid Amazons, Nancy and Peggy Blackett. Great for family read-aloud.

Wilson Rawls **WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS and SUMMER OF THE MONKEYS** (Bantam) - Adventure/Family Issues

In the late 1800's an Ozark mountain boy earns the money to buy two dogs whom he grows to love dearly. In the sequel he spends a summer trying to recapture monkeys escaped from a traveling circus.

Catherine Reef **JOHN STEINBECK** (Clarion) -Biography

Author of **THE PEARL**, the focus is on how his themes and his writing style grew out of his concern about what was happening to ordinary people in hard times. Read about Steinbeck's ideas and stories and his struggle to write about people in a casual style, neither difficult nor showy. The many black-and-white photos throughout include portraits of Steinbeck and his family and friends.

Ann Rinaldi **A BREAK WITH CHARITY** (Harcourt)- Historical Fiction

Rinaldi tells the story of the deceit and hysteria that gripped Salem in 1692 from the viewpoint of a teenager outside the circle of accusers. A concluding note explains the fictional departures from the historical records. This author's speciality is historical fiction. **AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH DARKNESS**(Harcourt) takes place when chaos reigns in Washington, D.C. President Lincoln has just been assassinated and the city is reeling with fear and suspicion. But to Emily Bransby Pigbush, the turmoil is nothing compared to the personal struggle she faces when she suspects that her uncle, a respected physician, is involved in body snatching.

Website: [www.scils.rutgers.edu/specil/kay/rinaldi.html](http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/specil/kay/rinaldi.html)

Laura Rothenberg **BREATHING FOR A LIVING** (Hyperion)-Biography

Twenty-one-year-old Laura Rothenberg has always tried to live a normal life -- even with lungs that betray her, and a sober awareness that she may not live to see her next birthday. A moving account by an extraordinary young woman who mounts a daily struggle with cystic fibrosis in an effort to lead an ordinary life.

J.K. Rowling **HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCER'S STONE** (Scholastic) -Fantasy

This is the book everybody is reading, talking about and waiting at the bookstores for the next episodes to go on sale.. The sequels are called **HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS, HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN and HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE** June 21, 2003 **HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX** debuts.

Authorwebsite: [www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/home.asp](http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/home.asp)

Cynthia Rylant **I HAD SEEN CASTLES** (Harcourt) -Historical Fiction/World War II

Despite the urging of his girlfriend to become a conscientious objector, John Dante joins the service during World War II. The graphic descriptions of battle and casualties are horrifying, and, although John survives, his ability to lead a normal life has been permanently damaged.

Louis Sacher **HOLES** (Farrar)- Humor/Suspense

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert. There he finds a treasure, his first real friend and a new sense of himself. 1999 NEWBERY AWARD WINNER

Graham Salisbury **LORDS OF THE DEEP** (Laureleaf)- Adventure

Thirteen-year-old Mikey is a deckhand on stepfather Bill's charter-fishing boat in the warm waters off the Hawaiian coast. Teeming with energy, this novel depicts electrifying fishing scenes and

the emotional drama of a boy learning to be a man. **BLUE SKIN OF THE SEA** (*Delacorte*) - **SHARK BAIT** and **JUNGLE DOGS** are other great adventures set in Hawaii  
Author website: [grahamsalisbury.com](http://grahamsalisbury.com)

Aranka Siegal **GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS** (*Farrar*)-Autobiography/World War II  
Liberated from a German concentration camp at the end of WWII but haunted by the memory of her ordeal, 15 year-old Piri describes the feelings Anne Frank never lived to enter in her diary.  
Sequel to **UPON THE HEAD OF THE GOAT**.

William Sleator **INTERSTELLAR PIG and PARASITE PIG** (*Dutton*)  
In the first book, Barney joined neighbors in an oddly absorbing board game, only to find that it was real, that the other players were aliens, and that the fate of Earth lay in the balance. **PARASITE PIG**, set the next summer, finds the 16-year-old still playing Interstellar Pig with his friends Katie and Matt, but just as a simple board game. Or so he thinks, until Julian, a mysterious new player, turns out to be a disgusting, parasitic alien who kidnaps him and whisks him off to the planet J'koot.

Roland Smith **CAPTAIN'S DOG** (*Gulliver Books*)- Historical Fiction  
This account of the Lewis and Clark expedition features the Newfoundland pup Seaman who doesn't imagine his life will be marked by any kind of glory beyond chasing down rats. But when he meets Captain Meriwether Lewis, Seaman finds himself on a path to find the Northwest Passage that will make history.

Sherwood Smith **CROWN DUEL** (*Harcourt*)- Fantasy  
A girl in Remalna traditionally spends her Flower Day being feted, dancing with friends, and celebrating her passage to womanhood. Countess Meliara spends hers on the front lines of a war when she and her brother promise their dying father to free Remalna from the oppressive rule of Greedy Galdran. Courageous, stubborn Meliara, honorable and sharp-tongued, is determined to win or die fighting. **COURT DUEL** is the companion story.

Gary Soto **BASEBALL IN APRIL AND OTHER STORIES** (*Harcourt*) -Sports/Identity/Latino  
In these simple short stories, the reader is introduced to Latino youngsters just like us who dream dreams that don't always work out and encounter problems that seem like they never go away. **NEIGHBORHOOD ODES** (Scholastic) -Poetry  
In this collection of poems about fireworks, weightlifting, lawn sprinklers and more, an award winning poet celebrates his neighborhood. Find out if his neighborhood is just like yours.

\*Art Spiegelman **MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE** (*Pantheon*)- History/ Holocaust/ Survival  
Jews are drawn as mice and Nazis as cats in Spiegelman's grim graphic novel that depicts revelations about the Holocaust by his Polish survivor father. Expressive visual storytelling.  
**MAUS II: AND HERE MY TROUBLES BEGAN** (Pantheon) continues the tale.

Jerry Spinelli **CRASH** (*Knopf*) -Sports/Teen Issues  
Crash is a star football player. He torments Penn, a classmate who is everything Crash is not -- friendly, small, and a pacifist. When his beloved grandfather comes to live with his family and suffers a debilitating stroke, Crash comes to see value in many of the things he has scorned.

Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema **CLEOPATRA, GOOD QUEEN BESS, SHAKA, KING OF THE ZULUS, THE BARD OF AVON, THE LAST PRINCESS, JOAN OF ARC, MICHELANGELO (PETER THE GREAT), CHARLES DICKENS** and **LEONARDO da VINCI** (*Morrow*) -Biography  
Each of these biographies presents a distinguished representative of a culture or era to help young adult readers learn some of the background in history and literature needed to continue their learning in Middle School. The newest title **SALADIN, NOBLE PRINCE OF ISLAM** will provide attentive readers of this book some history, some geography, and quite a lot about Islam, as well as about the life of Salah al-Din. One interesting fact is that he was neither an Arab nor a

Turk, but a Kurd. Even more important, however, may be the chance to put oneself in the shoes of "the enemy," an exercise that is as useful today as it would have been in 1099. Presented with full-color illustrations, these big oversized books grab the reader's attention and give an arm-chair tour of the subject's world.

- \*Suzanne Fisher Staples **SHIVA'S FIRE** (*Farrar*) -Coming of Age/India/Pakistan/ Multicultural  
Parvati, born in a village in the South of India, becomes known for the peculiar events that seem to spring from beneath her dancing feet and is widely thought to have supernatural powers. She attracts the attention of a great master of Indian classical dance and fills her days with a rigorous program of study, dance, and devotion until she meets a boy with his own extraordinary powers and her life is turned upside down.  
**SHABANU: DAUGHTER OF THE WIND** and its sequel **HAVELI**, (*Knopf*) are stories set in present-day Pakistan, about a spirited young daughter who is forced to balance her individualism against ancient tribal customs. Shabanu has to protect herself from her parents and her four-year-old daughter from the jealousy of her husband's more cultured wives.
- \*Rosemary Sutcliff **THE SHINING COMPANY** (*Farrar*) Adventure/Historical Fiction A surviving seventh-century Celtic poem celebrating the death of a band of British warriors is the basis of the story of a teenage youth. Prosper recalls the events of his own life from the age of twelve and witnesses the battle as a shield bearer, combining his unquestioning acceptance of a stern warrior ethos with a vivid sensitivity to human emotion and suffering.  
**THE SWORD AND THE CIRCLE: KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** (*Dutton*) -Adventure Based chiefly on Sir Thomas Malory's *Le morte d'Arthur*, it retells the famous tales of Arthur, Queen Guenevere Sir Lancelot and the other knights of the Round Table.
- Mildred D. Taylor **THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS** (*Dial*) - Culture/Black History  
The saga of the Logans continues in this sprawling, meaty novel. Cassie, who is finishing high school and planning to go to college, meets a handsome lawyer from Memphis; the war in Europe looms; and an ugly racial incident threatens the Logans and their neighbors, forcing Jeremy Simms to take a stand at last. Last book in a series that begins with **Roll of thunder, Hear my cry**. **THE LAND** (*Dial*) is the 2002 **Coretta Scott King Award Winner** which is the prequel that introduces Cassie's family, ex-slaves, who have to fight to secure land and a place in the post-Civil War South.
- Katrin Tchana **THE SERPENT SLAYER AND OTHER STORIES OF STRONG WOMEN** (*LittleBrown*) -Folk Tales  
Nothing is more satisfying than watching a valiant hero conquer a dragon, outwit a thief or destroy a monstrous cannibal—unless it's seeing an intrepid heroine accomplish all these brave feats!
- Frances Temple **THE RAMSAY SCALLOP** (*Orchard*) -Historical Fiction  
A 13th century couple, Eleanor and Tom, overcome their reluctance to marry after they are sent on a pre-nuptial journey to Spain and learn more about the world and each other. In the sequel, **THE BEDUIN'S GAZELLE** (*Orchard*), the location moves to North Africa to meet two cousins of the nomadic Beni Khalid tribe who are betrothed, but become separated by political intrigue between warring tribes.
- Jane Resh Thomas **BEHIND THE MASK: THE LIFE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I** (*Clarion*)-  
Biography  
Despite a wretched childhood and at times fearing for her life, Elizabeth became one of the most influential women in history.
- Kate Thompson **SWITCHERS** (*Hyperion*) - Fantasy  
Tess, a Dublin shape-shifter, enjoys her gift by running in parks and wooded lands in a variety of animal forms, until she meets Kevin, a fellow shifter. **WILD BLOOD AND MIDNIGHT'S CHOICE** are additional stories from this author.

- \* Terry Trueman **STUCK IN NEUTRAL** (*Scholastic*)- Realistic Fiction  
Shawn has cerebral palsy, a condition he has had since birth that has robbed him of all muscle control. He can't walk, talk, or even focus his eyes on his own. But despite all these handicaps, despite the frustrations of not being able to suspect that his father is thinking of killing him. Shawn knows that his father is trying to be kind; he imagines his son's life is an endless torment and has no idea of the rich life he lives inside his head. Shawn, helpless and mute, has no way of telling him.
- Megan Whalen Turner **THE THIEF** (*Greenwillow*)-Fantasy/Mystery  
An exceptionally clever novel features a thief named Gen who accompanies the king's Magus on a journey to steal a legendary stone. Gen tells the story and he is clearly not what he seems as you'll discover in the surprise ending. In **THE QUEEN OF ATTOLIA**, an intense sequel, Gen is captured by the ruthless young Queen of Attolia and has his right hand struck off. Who expected this to happen? How does he survive?
- Cynthia Voigt **THE RUNNER** (*Scholastic*)- Sports-Series  
The fourth book in the beloved Tillerman series that began with **HOMECOMING**. When faced with the task of helping a cross-country teammate, Bullet Tillerman finds he still has many lessons to learn himself.
- Yoko Kawashima Watkins **MY BROTHER, MY SISTER AND I** (*Bradbury*) - Historical Fiction-Series  
This sequel to **SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE** continues the autobiographical account of Yoko, her sister and their reunion with their brother, as they survive in post-war Japan; shows incredible hardships and heroism.
- Robert Westall **YAXLEY'S CAT** (*Scholastic*)-Mystery  
Missing for seven years and no one has seen him since...so Tim, Jane and their mother discover when they rent Yaxley's old cottage for a week in the summer. It was going to be fun, but then Tim and Jane decide to figure out what happened to old Yaxley.
- Gloria Whelan **HOMELESS BIRD** (*HarperCollins*)- Coming of Age/ India  
"What if I don't like him?" ... "Of course you will like him." ... "But what if I don't?"  
Maa impatiently slapped at a fly. "Then you must learn to like him."  
But Koly, married and promptly widowed at 13, never gets a chance to find out if she does care for her groom and finds herself in the grim position of being cast out by a society that has no place for her.  
**ANGEL ON THE SQUARE** (*HarperCollins*)- Historical Fiction  
In this story, a young girl joins Russian Tsar Nikolai II, empress Alexandra and their children when her mother becomes one of the empress's ladies-in-waiting.
- Robb White **DEATHWATCH** (*LaurelLeaf*) - Adventure  
Ben needs money for college and is offered a great deal to go into the desert and track down an animal with Madec. After the kill, Ben is left naked, unarmed and abandoned. Will he survive?
- Ruth White **BELLE PRATER'S BOY** (Farrar Straus Giroux) - Family Issues/ Death of a parent  
When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.
- \*Ellen Wittlinger **THE LONG NIGHT OF LEO AND BREE** (*Simon and Schuster*) Family and Teen Issues/ Realistic Fiction  
It is the anniversary of Leo's sister's death. His troubled heart reaches a breaking point. He finds himself driving around, looking for a girl to murder. Enter wealthy Bree. Tired of being under her mother's thumb, she heads off to find a pool game. Instead, Leo finds her and takes her captive. The emotions roiling around are right on the surface, and will plug into the anger, fear, and

sadness that surround young people's lives.

Patricia Wrede **DEALING WITH DRAGONS** (*Scholastic*) -Fantasy

A bored runaway princess teams up with a powerful, dangerous dragon in a young adult fantasy novel that has become a best-selling modern classic. This is No. 1 in the Enchanted Forest Chronicles. If you like this one, look for the others to read and enjoy.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer **MAKE LEMONADE** (*SimonPulse*) –

Accepting a part-time babysitting job to earn college money, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn comes to love and understand her two charges, and their unmarried teenage mother Jolly, in a way no one else seems to want to. **TRUE BELIEVER**, a **Michael Printz Award Winner**, the second novel in a proposed trilogy, picks up where **Make Lemonade** left off. LaVaughn is fifteen now, and she's still fiercely determined to go to college. But that's the only thing she's sure about. Loyalty to her father bubbles up as her mother grows closer to a new man. The two girls she used to do everything with have chosen a path LaVaughn wants no part of. And then there's Jody. LaVaughn can't believe how gorgeous he is...or how confusing. He acts like he's in love with her, but is he?

Tim Wynne-Jones **LORD OF THE FRIES** (*DK Publishing*) - Short Stories/Humor

This wonderfully wise and witty short story collection is full of surprises as ordinary kids in offbeat situations uncover the unexpected--about themselves and others. In the title story, Carrie and Sam discover that while the Lord of the Fries, a legendary short--very short!--order cook at the Burger Barn, talks tough, he is anything but.

Laurence Yep **THE STAR FISHER** (*Morrow*) Culture/ Chinese Identity

The lovely Chinese legend of the star fisher serves as a analogy to the plight of the Lee Family who in 1927 move from Ohio to West Virginia in search of a better life.

Jane Yolen **THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC** (*Puffin*) -Holocaust/ Jewish Identity

When Hannah opens the door during Passover Seder to welcome the prophet Elijah, she suddenly finds herself in the unfamiliar world of a Polish village in the 1940's. The Nazi soldiers take Chaya and her family away to the death camp, a place of unspeakable horrors.

Jane Yolen **HOBBY, PASSAGER and MERLIN** (*Harcourt Brace*) - Fantasy

Merlin, King Arthur's magician, must have had a childhood and the author uses her imagination to set the story in a fabulous land with the falconer who adopts him and others who help him to begin to discover his true powers in the Young Merlin Trilogy.

**Author web site: [www.janeyolen.com](http://www.janeyolen.com)**

Paul Zindel **RATS** (*Hyperion*)- Fantasy/Monster Fiction/Horror

This author, popular for his **PIGMAN** series, has dipped into the horror genre and created a number of fast-paced, thrilling tales of smart teens battling the slime of the earth. In **RATS**, the first scene graphically depicts a man being devoured by a mob of vicious rats. In **DOOM STONE** a slimy creature stalking the moors is truly evil as well as bloodthirsty and physically repellent. A tidal wave of adventure and a cast of villains--including the biggest, nastiest, man-eating fish on earth--await the reader in **REEF OF DEATH**. **RAPTOR** is for dinosaur lovers filled with vivid descriptions. Even readers with limited imaginations can picture the bloody devastation wreaked by the raptors and visualize them in all their slimy, multifanged, razor-clawed glory, and smell their putrefying breath. **LOCH**, set in Vermont, involves a search for modern-day plesiosaurs. The creatures do appear, and they're vicious when annoyed. Finally, **THE GADGET** It's 1945, and 13 year-Old Stephen has just reached the gates of the top secret military base in Los Alamos, New Mexico. He has come to join his father, a famous physicist who is working on a covert project for the Allies. He's terribly nose and finds out too much, too soon.

**ANY TITLE BY ANY AUTHOR ON THIS LIST IS APPROVED FOR  
INCLUSION ON YOUR READING LOG**

**The following Authors and Poets are also highly recommended for Grades 7 and 8**

Douglas Adams, Joan Aiken, Louisa May Alcott, Natalie Babbitt, J.M. Barrie, Francesca Lia Block, Lucy Boston, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Eric Campbell, Richard Chase, Agatha Christie, Mary Stetson Clarke, Vera and Bill Cleaver, Robert Cormier, Emily Dickinson, Berlie Doherty, Lois Duncan, Sarah Ellis, Amy Ehrlich, Sid Fleischman, Esther Forbes, Robert Frost, Leon Garfield, Rosa Guy, James Herriot, S.E. Hinton, Irene Hunt, M.E. Kerr, Stephen King, Jackie French Koller, Gordon Korman, C.S. Lewis, Anne McCaffrey, David McCord, John Marsden, Milton Meltzer, Ogden Nash, Edith Nesbit, Sterling North, Mary Norton, Scott O'Dell, Zibby O'Neal, K.M. Peyton, Daniel Pinkwater, Edgar Allan Poe, Chaim Potok, Howard Pyle, Anna Sewell, Shel Silverstein, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Theodore Taylor, James Thurber, J.R.R. Tolkien, P.L. Travers, Mark Twain, Yoshiko Uchida, Jill Paton Walsh, Sylvia Waugh, E.B. White, T.H. White and Jacqueline Woodson,



## Community Read

There is a legend that Paikea rode on the back of a whale and led his people to New Zealand. Since that time tradition has decreed that the first-born male descendant will become chief of the tribe. Then Pai is born...and she is a girl.... **WHALE RIDER** by Wite Ihimaera

The Town of Arlington Diversity Task Force and The Robbins Memorial Library have chosen **Whale Rider (Harcourt Paperbacks, 2003)** as the 2004 Community Read Title. During the summer, all in the town of Arlington are invited to borrow, buy, read and share this story about eight-year-old Kahu, a member of the Maori tribe of Whangara, New Zealand, who fights to prove her love, her leadership, and her destiny. A variety of discussion groups and activities will be listed at the Robbins Library and in the local paper. Tell your neighbors and share the pleasure of books.

***This book is the basis of an award winning film that is available in video stores.***

***Why not rent it and view this summer with friends and family!***

## WHAT YOU MUST DO

\*\*\* ALL STUDENTS MUST READ A MINIMUM OF FOUR BOOKS FROM THIS LIST and we strongly recommend that you read AT LEAST 6-8 BOOKS THIS SUMMER.

\*\*\* ALL STUDENTS MUST READ A WHOLE CLASS READ TITLE SELECTED FOR THE GRADE YOU ARE ENTERING.

\*\*\* Students are not required to confine their additional reading solely to this list, but we do think that these titles and authors will interest and excite you.

\*\*\* Copies of books on this list from the Ottoson Library are on deposit for the summer at the Robbins and the Fox Libraries, so they have generous numbers to lend. Local bookstores have also been sent a list.

\*\*\* Included in this package is a Student Reading Log for you to list the titles and authors of books you read this summer. Also 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> grade teachers have provided forms to fill out for books. Your teachers hope this will jog your memory and help with your first assignment in September.

\*\*\* This log should be brought to school with you in the fall. Extra copies are available at the Robbins Library if you lose yours or need more space.

\*\*\*In September, students will share their reading experiences with classmates and teachers.



### \*\*\**ALA Special*\*\*\*

*As Mrs. Ruddock is going to the American Library Association convention in Orlando, FL this summer, she expects to bring back oodles of goodies. So if you read 5 books and return your list to your English Teacher by 9/12, your name will go into a FISH BOWL and you could be a winner of an autographed book, a poster, bookmarks or a souvenir. If you take your log to the Robbins Library and ask to have it stamped, you will have your name entered in the fishbowl twice!*

# Summer Reading Log Grades 7-8

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in September '03 \_\_\_\_\_

To the student:

Please list below the titles and authors of books you read this summer. You must read **4** books from this list and we strongly recommend that you read at least **6-8** books this summer. For those of you who read more, and we truly encourage you to do so, please list those titles and authors as well on an additional piece of paper if you run out of space.

## Don't forget **WHOLE CLASS READ TITLE**

Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders **Along Way From Chicago** and/or **A Year Down Yonder** by Richard Peck

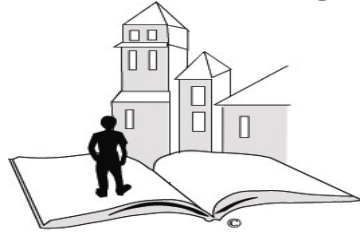
Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders **Tangerine** by Edward Bloor

TITLE	AUTHOR
<b>REQUIRED READING</b>	
(1) _____	_____
(2) _____	_____
(3) _____	_____
(4) _____	_____
<b>ADDITIONAL READING (RECOMMENDED)</b>	
(5) _____	_____
(6) _____	_____
(7) _____	_____
(8) _____	_____

Please return this completed form to your English Teacher in September. If you misplace this form, you can pick up a copy at the Robbins Library Young Adult Room or list your titles on a piece of white lined paper.

# Summer at the Robbins

## *Join activities in the Young Adult Department*



The Russell Trust Fund sponsors art and writing programs.

- ❖ Art for Young Adults 6/5, 6/12, 6/19
- ❖ Writing and Publishing for Teens 6/9 and 6/16

*Call the Library at 781 316 3235 to check on programs planned for July and August. Some require sign-ups and you'll want to get on the list!*

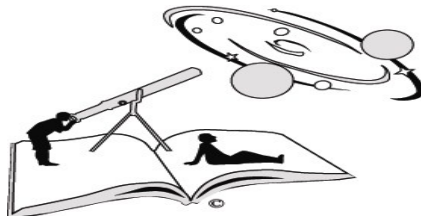
The **APS Summer Reading lists** are available, as well as the many of the books. Assistance in getting titles through the Minuteman Library System is one way of being sure you get the books you need and want to read.



ON-Line Computers help find authors sites and more background about the stories you are reading



Books-On-Tape and music and video collection can be borrowed for travel, rainy days and listening on your walkman.



**Explore Other Worlds, Summer of 2004**