

GRADES 6 - 8

Reading Level R

Clements, Andrew. Books include *School Story*, *Lunch Money*, *The Last Holiday Concert*, *Frindle*, *The Report Card*, *No Talking* and *The Landry News*.

Gutman, Dan. *The Homework Machine* and *Return of the Homework Machine* (Realistic Fiction)

Korman, Gordon. *Kidnapped* and *On the Run* series (Action Adventure)

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules* (Realistic Fiction/Disabilities)

Naylor, Phyllis. *Shiloh* series (Realistic Fiction)

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet* series (Adventure)

VanDraanen, *Shredderman* series (Realistic Fiction/Heroes)

Winkler, Henry. *Hank Zipzer* series (Humor)

Reading Level S

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan* (Newberry Award Winner)

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda*. (Fantasy)

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War*, *The Lemonade Crime*, *The Bell Bandit*, *The Candy Smash* (Realistic Fiction)

Holm, Jennifer. *Turtle in Paradise* (Historical Fiction/Adventure)

Korman, Gordon. *Zoobreak* (Animals/Adventure)- *Swindle* (T), *Showoff* (U)

Lupica, Mike. *The Comeback Kids* series. (Sports)

Patterson, James. *I Funny* (Realistic Fiction)

Santat, Dan. *Sidekicks* (Graphic Novel)

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived*...series. (Historical Fiction)

Tashjian, Janet. *My Life as a Book* and *My Life as a Stuntboy* (Realistic Fiction)

Reading Level T

Angleberger, Tom. *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* series

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy* (Historical Fiction/Award Winner)

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza* books (Realistic Fiction/Disabilities).
Gutman, Dan. *Baseball Card Adventure* series (Sports/Time Travel)
Patterson, James. *Middle School is the Worst and Middle School Get Me Out of Here!* (Humor)
Kelly, Armstrong. *Loki's Wolves* (Fantasy)
Kessler, Liz. *Emily Winsnap* series (Fantasy/Mermaids)
Korman, Gordon. *Swindle*. (Animals/Adventure)- Zoobreak (S), Showoff (U)
Telgemeier, Raina. *Smile* (Graphic Novel/Middle School Girls)
Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes* series (Mystery)

Reading Level U

The 39 Clues series. Authors vary but include Rick Riordan, Gordon Korman and Peter Lerangis (Action Adventure)
DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora and Ulysses* (Fantasy/Award Winner)
Hunter, Erin. *Warriors* series (Fantasy)
Korman, Gordon. *Showoff* (Animals/Adventure)- *Zoobreak* (S), *Swindle* (T)
Mass, Wendy. *Every Soul a Star* (Realistic Fiction).
Palacio, R.J.. *Wonder* (Realistic Fiction/Self Acceptance)
Pseudonymous Bosc. *The Name of this Book is Secret*
Urban, Linda. *A Crooked Kind of Perfect* (Realistic Fiction/Music)

Reading Level V

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander* (Fantasy)
Funke, Cornelia. *Dragon Rider* (Fantasy)
Funke, Cornelia. *Thief Lord* (Detectives)
Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods* (Historical Fiction)
Henkes, Kevin. *Olives Ocean* (Realistic Fiction)
Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays* (Realistic Fiction)
Snicket, Lemony. *Series of Unfortunate Events* (Fantasy & Action Adventure)
Stewart, Trenton Lee. *Mysterious Benedict Society* (Science Fiction & Action Adventure)

Reading Level W

DuPrau, Jean. *City of Ember* (Fantasy)

Hiaason, Carl. *Hoot* (Realistic Fiction/Ecology/Award Winner)

Olson, Gretchen. *Call Me Hope* (Realistic Fiction)

Riordan, Rick. *Percy Jackson* series (Fantasy/Mythology)

Robinson, Sharon. *Promises to keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America* (Nonfiction)

Selznick, Brian. *Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Historical Fiction/Award Winner)

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck: a novel in words and pictures*. (Historical Fiction)

Smith, Jeff. *Bone* series (graphic novel)

Additional Middle School Suggestions

Albee, Sarah. *Bugged! How Insects Changed History*. Students will learn more than they bargained for about the impact of insects on human history.

Allen, Thomas B. *Mr. Lincoln's High-tech War: How the North Used the Telegraph, Railroads, Surveillance Balloons, Iron-clads, High-powered Weapons, and More to Win the Civil War*. Meet Abraham Lincoln, the nation's first hands-on Commander-in-Chief, whose appreciation for the power of technology plays a critical role in the North's Civil War victory over the less developed South.

Bauer, Joan. *Close to Famous*. Everyone in the little town of Culpepper has a dream, but nobody is even close to famous - until some unexpected events shake up the town and its inhabitants-and put their big ambitions to the test.

Black, Holly. *Doll Bones*. Three friends steal into the night on a perilous quest to satisfy an unquiet spirit inhabiting a creepy doll.

Bragg, Georgia. *How They Choked: Failures, Flops and Flaws of the Awfully Famous*. The author pokes fun, plays up, and revels in the mistakes of 14 famous figures because "There's nothing better than reading about how someone else messed up."

Burgan, Michael. *Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor*. You've heard that pictures speak louder than words. See the proof in this book that describes how the compelling photographs of Lewis Hine and others brought to light the harsh working conditions for immigrants, the poor, and the children working in mines, factories, and mills.

Byrd, Robert. *Electric Ben: the Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*. A very unusual, visually stunning biography of the renowned Founding Father and inventor.

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games Trilogy*. If you somehow managed to miss the series everyone is talking about, this is a great chance to catch up. (The other books in the series are *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay*.)

Cooper, Michael L. *Fighting fire! Ten of the Deadliest Fires in American History and How We Fought Them*. Brings to life ten of the deadliest infernos this nation has ever endured. With historical images and a fast-paced text, this is both an exciting look at firefighting history and a celebration of the human spirit.

Deem, James M. *Faces from the Past: Forgotten People of North America*. With the help of forensic artists, scientists re-create the lives of people from the past.

Fleming, Candace. *Amelia Lost: the Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*. One of the enduring mysteries of the 20th century is the disappearance of aviator Amelia Earhart. This book not only explores that disappearance, but goes back to study the life of this daring woman, using maps, photographs and other primary sources.

Friesner, Esther M. *Threads and Flames*. In 1910, thirteen-year-old Raisa travels alone from Poland to New York City, where she discovers her older sister, who was supposed to take care of

her, has disappeared, leaving Raisa to accept a job at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, where her life is changed once again after a tragic fire.

Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt*. This book, winner of the 2012 Newbery Medal, recounts one summer in the life of the author. Filled with humor and one of a kind characters, spend the summer with Jack as he desperately tries to find a way around being grounded.

Grimes, Nikki. *Planet Middle School*. For twelve years, Joylin Johnson's life has been just fine. A game of basketball with the boys-especially her friend Jake-was all it took to put a smile on her face. Baggy jeans, T-shirt, and hair in a ponytail were easy choices. Then, everything suddenly seems to change all at once.

Hiaassen, Carl. *Chomp*. The difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where he was filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him.

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

Knisley, Lucy. *Relish: my life in the kitchen*. If you dream of being the next Food Network star, enjoy this graphic novel memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley and her obsession with cooking and food.

Lewis, John. *March*. In this riveting graphic-novel memoir, a hero of the Civil Rights Movement, Congressman John Lewis, recounts his childhood in Alabama and entry into early activism.

Lowry, Lois. *Son*. *Son* thrusts readers once again into the chilling world of the Newbery Medal winning book, *The Giver*, as well as *Gathering Blue* and *Messenger*. In this thrilling series

finale, the startling and long-awaited conclusion to Lois Lowry's epic tale culminates in a final clash between good and evil.

Macy, Sue. ***Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom: (with a few flat tires along the way)***. Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons, and songs, this book transports young readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives.

Montgomery, Sy. ***Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World***. This fascinating biography about a brilliant, autistic scientist focuses on her strong bond with animals and her work to revolutionize the livestock industry. (Look for other unusual non-fiction titles from the same author.)

Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes & Monsters***. Tap into the renewed interest in Greek mythology generated by the Percy Jackson series and enjoy this beautifully illustrated and comprehensive treasury.

Newman, Patricia. ***Plastic, ahoy! : Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch***. Plastic - it's used to make everything, from drink bottles and bags to toys and toothbrushes. But what happens when it ends up where it doesn't belong--like in the Pacific Ocean? Find out what scientists discovered when they set out to investigate the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Rhodes, Parker. ***Ninth Ward***. New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina is the setting for this tense novel that blends the drama of the catastrophic storm with magic realism.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. ***Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein***. This inspiring biography chronicles the life of Leonard Bernstein from early childhood to his triumphant debut at age twenty- as conductor of the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall.

Say, Allen. *Drawing from Memory*. Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II, and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.

Schlosser, Eric. *Chew on this: everything you don't want to know about Fast Food*. This adaptation of Schlosser's adult book, *Fast Food Nation*, will make you stop and think before you gulp down that Big Mac.

Schmatz, Pat. *Bluefish*. Thirteen-year-old Travis, living in cramped quarters with his grandfather, longs for his old life in the country, and struggles in school to hide the fact that he cannot read, but a persistent teacher and a special girl open his eyes to a new world.

Schmidt, Gary D. *What Came from the Stars*. In a desperate attempt for survival, a peaceful civilization on a faraway planet sends its most precious gift across the cosmos into the lunchbox of Tommy Pepper, sixth grader, of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Schrefer, Eliot. *Endangered*. A girl, who has travelled with her mother to an animal sanctuary for bonobos in the Congo, struggles to survive with the animals after revolution breaks out and she and the animals are forced to flee into the jungle.

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck: a novel in words and pictures*. This beautiful and very original work tells the stories of Ben and Rose, set fifty years apart, and told in both words and pictures. Don't miss the author's award-winning *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.

Tolan, Stephanie S. *Applewhites at Wit's End*. Great changes are in store for the highly creative and somewhat eccentric Applewhite family when money problems force them to open a summer camp for gifted children. Don't miss this hilarious sequel to *Surviving the Applewhites*.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Running Game*. When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Navigating Early*. Set at the end of World War II, this is an odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters.

Wolitzer, Meg. *The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman*. Twelve-year-olds Duncan Dorfman, April Blunt, and Nate Saviano meet at the Youth Scrabble Tournament where they realize that something more important is at stake than the grand prize.