June 2019

Dear Parents,

The Derryfield Middle School is pleased to provide you and your student(s) with an optional summer reading list. Many parents and students ask us for suggested reading for over the summer. This list includes a variety of books from all genres. It is also a list for our entire middle school, from sixth grade through eighth grade, from average readers to more advanced readers. Some of the novels on the list will be more appropriate for sixth graders, while others will be more suitable for eighth graders. Similarly, some of the novels are more challenging and complex than others, some with themes about difficult issues.

We encourage you to use this list to help you start your reading search. For those of you who like to monitor your child's reading, we encourage you to research some of these titles a little more to make sure you are comfortable with them. We hope that you will read alongside your child(ren) this summer, as this provides some excellent opportunities for intellectual growth and development.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Laurie Byron, Jodie Leen
MS English Teachers

“Young readers are asking for substance. They are asking for respect. They are asking for books that challenge, and confirm and console. They are asking for us to listen to their questions and to help them find their own answers.”

—Karen Hesse, Newbery acceptance speech, Horn Book, September/October 1998
The Derryfield Middle School
Summer Reading List
Summer 2019

Part I: General Listing (in alphabetical order)

39 Clues Series by multiple authors. Scholastic, Inc.
The 39 Clues is Scholastic's groundbreaking new series, spanning 10 adrenaline-charged books, 355 trading cards, and an online game where readers play a part in the story and compete for over $100,000 in prizes.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson. Henry Holt & Co.
Sometime in the near future, Jenna Fox, 17, awakens from an 18-month-long coma following a devastating accident, her memory nearly blank.

Airborn (and sequels) by Kenneth Opel. HarperCollins Publishers
Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko. Penguin Group
Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she's denied admittance to the school, the stark setting of Alcatraz begins to unravel the tenuous coping mechanisms Moose's family has used for dealing with her disorder.

Alabama Moon by Watt Key. Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Moon has spent most of his life in a camouflaged shelter in the forest with his father, a Vietnam veteran who distrusts people and the government. His life suddenly changes when the land is sold to a lawyer and his father dies. Moon is turned over to the local boys' home but Moon escapes and is chased by the constable, an emotionally unstable bully who becomes obsessed with capturing him. Much of the story revolves around multiple chases, captures, and escapes.

The Alchemyst (and sequels) by Michael Scott. Random House Children’s Book
Nicholas Flamel lives. But only because he has been making the elixir of life for centuries. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the Book of Abraham the Mage. It's the most powerful book that has ever existed. In the wrong hands, it will destroy the world.

The Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz. Puffin Spy thrillers starring fourteen year old Alex Rider.

All Rivers Flow to the Sea by Alison McGhee. Candlewick Press
When a car accident leaves a teenage girl in a coma, her surviving sister struggles with grief and guilt as she faces the inevitability of moving on -- and letting go. Heart-rending, honest, and ultimately hopeful, this first young adult novel from the acclaimed author of Shadow Baby and Snap is the poetically told story of a teenager overwhelmed by trauma and loss yet steadied by loyal friendships and, finally, the solace of first love.

Among the Hidden (and sequels) by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Aladdin
In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

An Abundance of Katherines by John Green. Penguin Young Readers Group
When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact.
**Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging** (and sequels) by Louise Rennison. HarperCollins
Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

**The Anybodies** (and sequels) by N.E. Bode. HarperCollins Publishers
Fern discovers that she was swapped at birth and leaves her tragically dull parents for an unforgettable adventure with her true father, the Bone.

**Artemis Fowl Series** by Eoin Colfer. Hyperion
Begin at the beginning and follow the adventures of a twelve-year-old evil genius as he tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold.

**Ashes** (third in Seeds of America Trilogy) by Laurie Halse Anderson. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
During the Revolution, Isabel and Curzon seek Isabel’s sister, a slave in a Southern state.

**The Beacon Street Girls Series** by Annie Bryant. Simon & Schuster
The escapades of a group of Boston girls.

**Beastly** by Alex Flinn. HarperCollins Publishers
Kyle Kingsbury is a gorgeous high school freshman, spoiled rotten. When Kyle humiliates a girl at school, she transforms him into a horrific-looking creature. Kyle's only hope for breaking the spell lies in finding true love. This is a lighthearted and contemporary twist on Beauty and the Beast.

**Bloody Jack** (and sequels) by Louis Meyer. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
While disguised as a boy, Jacky Faber experiences adventure and romance on the high seas in this exciting page turner.

**Booked** (the Crossover Series) by Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Nick, 12, loves soccer and never expects to start liking books in this verse novel about family and changes.

**The Boy Who Saved Baseball** by John Ritter. Penguin Group
The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato. Also try other books by this author.

**Breath** by Donna Jo Napoli. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
In this re-imagining of the Pied Piper tale, a boy afflicted with cystic fibrosis in the Middle Ages is an outcast. When the townsfolk of Hameln are affected by a grain mold, he survives an outbreak of madness, followed by a plague of rats.

**The Canning Season** by Polly Horvath. Farrar. Straus and Giroux
Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

**Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman. HarperTrophy
The hilarious journal of a young girl recreates the Middle Ages, fleas and all. Also try other books by this author.

**Chasing Redbird** by Sharon Creech. HarperCollins
Zinny, intrigued with the history of an old trail, sets out to restore it and learns her family’s hidden secrets. Also try other books by this author.

**Chasing Vermeer** (and sequels) by Blue Balliett. Scholastic
When strange and seemingly unrelated events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-
olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

**The Chocolate War** by Robert Cormier. Laurel-Leaf
Jerry Renault dares to disturb his universe by refusing to carry out the assignment he has been given by the malevolent Archie Costello and the Vigils.

**The Chronicles of Prydain** series by Lloyd Alexander. Yearling
The adventures of Taran the Assistant Pig-keeper and his quest to become a hero.

**Cinder** (and sequels) by Marissa Meyer
Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai’s, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

**Cirque du Freak Series** by Darren Shan. Little, Brown
Cirque du Freak is the frightening saga of a young boy whose visit to a mysterious freak show leads him on a journey into a dark world of vampires.

**The Color of Magic** by Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins
On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle, a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. There's an avaricious but inept wizard, a naive tourist whose luggage moves on hundreds of dear little legs, dragons who only exist if you believe in them, and of course THE EDGE of the planet. Also try other books by this author.

**Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen** (and sequels) by Dyan Sheldon. Candlewick Press
Mary Elizabeth Cep (or Lola, as she prefers to be called) longs to be in the spotlight. But when she moves to New Jersey with her family and becomes a student at Dellwood "Deadwood" High, Lola finds the role of resident drama queen already filled, by the Born-to-Win, Born-to-Run-Everything Carla Santini.

When a girl moves into an old house, she finds a door leading to a world that eerily mimics her own, but with sinister differences.

**The Dark Is Rising** series by Susan Cooper. Aladdin
Novels about a world where the conflict between good and evil reaches epic proportions.

**Deathwatch** by Robb White. Dell
An exciting novel of suspense, based on a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon who believes that anything can be had for a price.

**Define "Normal"** by Julie Anne Peters. Little, Brown Young Readers
When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

**The Diary of a Wimpy Kid** (and sequels) by Jeff Kinney. Amulet Books
It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary.

**The Divergent** trilogy by Veronica Roth. Katherine Tegen
In Beatrice Prior’s dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue; all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. During the
highly competitive initiation, Beatrice struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. This trilogy of dystopian thrillers is filled with electrifying decisions, heartbreaking betrayals, stunning consequences, and unexpected romance. (excerpt from Amazon.com book description)

**Does My Head Look Big in This?** by Randa Abdel-Fattah. Scholastic, Inc.
Sixteen-year-old Amal makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time and everyone has a reaction. But she stands by her decision to embrace her faith and all that it is, even if it does make her a little different from everyone else. Can she handle the taunts of "nappy head," the prejudice of her classmates, and still attract the cutest boy in school?

**Double Identity** by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Simon & Schuster
As Bethany approaches her thirteenth birthday, her parents act more oddly than usual. Her mother cries constantly, and her father barely lets Bethany out of his sight. Then one morning he hustles the entire family into the car, drives across several state lines — and leaves Bethany with an aunt she never knew existed. Bethany has no idea what's going on. She's worried her mom and dad are running from some kind of trouble, but she can't find out because they won't tell her where they are going. Bethany's only clue is a few words she overheard her father tell her aunt: "She doesn't know anything about Elizabeth."

**Downriver** by Will Hobbs. Dell
Fifteen-year-old Jesse and other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival team abandon their adult leader, steal his van and rafts, and run the dangerous white waters of the Grand Canyon. Also try other books by this author.

**Dragon's Breath** (and others) by E.D. Baker. St. Martin's Press
Having recovered their human shape, Emeralda and Eadric try to help Aunt Grassina find the special objects needed to break the spell that turned Grassina's true love, Haywood, into an otter.

**Dragon's Keep** by Janet Lee Carey. Harcourt
By learning to accept the dragon claw that mars her hand, a princess fulfills her destiny and saves her country from war.

**Drowning Anna** by Sue Mayfield. Hyperion
When Anna Goldsmith moves from her posh city school to a small town, everyone's gossiping. What starts as innocent teasing leads to mean remarks, and even violence, toward frightened Anna. But Hayley's cunning leaves a deeper impression on Anna than anyone, even her best friend Melanie, could have ever anticipated.

**Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie** by Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic
When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. Also try other books by this author.

**Elijah of Buxton** by Christopher Paul Curtis. Scholastic, Inc.
Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He’s best known in his hometown as the boy who made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass. But things change when a former slave steals money from Elijah’s friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South.

**Elsewhere** by Gabrielle Zevin, Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?

**Epic and Saga** by Connor Kostick. Penguin Group (USA)
Generations ago, violence was banned on New Earth. Society is governed and conflicts are resolved in the arena of a fantasy computer game, Epic. Everyone plays. If you win, you have the chance to go to university, get more supplies for
your community, and fulfill your dreams; if you lose, your life both in and out of the game is worth nothing. Follow Erik as he dares to subvert the rules of Epic.

**Eragon** (and sequels) by Christopher Paolini. Random House Children’s Books
In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

**Evil Genius** (and sequel) by Catherine Jinks. Harcourt
Meet Cadel Piggott, a seven-year-old Australian boy with an incredible mind and a proclivity toward mischief. Following a string of disasters, which Cadel engineers (e.g., hacking into the city’s power grid), his desperate adoptive parents take him to a psychologist, Dr. Thaddeus Roth. But instead of refocusing Cadel on more positive activities, Dr. Roth encourages the boy to develop increasingly destructive plans, such as orchestrating massive traffic jams and manipulating his classmates’ emotions so that they turn on one another.

**The Eye of the World** (Wheel of Time Series) by Robert Jordan. Tor
Three young friends, Rand, Matt and Perrin, are attacked by subhuman monsters, bestial Trollocs. With the help of Lady Moiraine, an Aes Sedai, a woman who can wield the One Power and her Warder, Lan, the young boys flee their homeland. But they are pursued relentlessly by the forces of the evil Dark One—and begin an adventure across an imaginative, fantastical world of strange wonders and deadly horror—where goodness stands on the brink of destruction—for the Wheel of Time is weaving a web in the pattern of ages, a web to entangle the world.

**Fairest** by Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins Publishers
Homely Aza, abandoned at birth, not only sings like a lark, she can throw her voice and mimic others, a skill she calls illusing. In a chance meeting, the treacherous new queen discovers Aza’s talent and blackmails the girl into secretly providing her voice for all of the queen’s public singing.

**Fallen Angels** by Walter Dean Myers. Scholastic
Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry’s stint in Vietnam brings home to him the agony and futility of war as he learns to kill and watches his comrades die.

**Feed** by M. T. Anderson. Candlewick
In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who wants to control herself.

**Fever 1793** by Laurie Halse Anderson. Simon & Schuster
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

**Firestorm** (and sequels) by David Klass. Square Fish
Jack Danielson is in a race against time to save the oceans and the future.

**Flipped** by Wendelin van Draanen. Knopf Books for Young Readers
Juli Baker devoutly believes in three things: the sanctity of trees, the wholesomeness of the eggs she collects from her backyard flock of chickens, and that someday she will kiss Bryce Loski. Unfortunately, Bryce has never felt the same. Frankly, he thinks Juli Baker is a little weird--after all, what kind of freak raises chickens and sits in trees for fun? Then, in eighth grade, everything changes.

**Fly by Night** by Frances Hardinge. HarperCollins Publishers
Twelve-year-old Mosca Mye hasn’t got much. Her cruel uncle keeps her locked up in his mill, and her only friend is her pet goose, Saracen, who’ll bite anything that crosses his path. But she does have one small, rare thing: the ability to read.
She doesn't know it yet, but in a world where books are dangerous things, this gift will change her life.

**Framed** by Frank Cottrell Boyce. HarperCollins
Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make their own garage into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town with valuable painting that they consider turning to crime.

**Freak** by Marcella Pixley. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux
Read about an unforgettable heroine, an outsider who dares to confront the rigid conformity of junior high, and in the process manages not only to save herself but to inspire and transform others. Teased and taunted in school, Miriam is pushed toward breaking, until, in a gripping climax, she finds the inner strength to prove she's a force to be reckoned with.

**Freak Show** by James St. James. Penguin Young Readers Group
Billy Bloom is gay, but it’s mostly theoretical, as he hasn’t had much experience. When he has to move to Florida, he can’t believe his bad luck. His new school is a mix of Bible Belles, Aberzombies, and Football Heroes, none of which are exactly his type. Billy’s efforts to fit in and stand out at the same time are both hilarious and heartrending.

**Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit** by Jaye Robin Brown. Harper Teen
To make life easier for her family, Joanna hides the fact that she is gay.

**The Goats** by Brock Cole. Farrar Straus
Stripped naked by fellow campers and left on a deserted island for a joke, wimpy Howie and Laura grow in self-respect as they figure out how to survive humiliation, natural dangers, and each other.

A beautiful Kirkassi girl, cold-eyed villains and smiling killers, a bazaar merchant peddling slightly used dreams - could any young adventurer ask for more? Not Carlo Chuchio, who is seeking hidden treasure on the legendary Road of Golden Dreams.

**The Goose Girl** (and sequels) by Shannon Hale. Bloomsbury USA
On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers. Also try other books by this author.

**A Great and Terrible Beauty** (and sequels) by Libba Bray. Bantam Doubleday Dell
After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

**H.I.V.E.** by Mark Walden. Simon & Schuster
Otto Malpense may only be thirteen years old, but so far he has managed to run the orphanage where he lives, and he has come up with a plan clever enough to trick the most powerful man in the country. He is the perfect candidate to become the world's next super villain. That is why he ends up at H.I.V.E., handpicked to become a member of the incoming class.

**Half Magic** (and sequels) by Edgar Eager. Harcourt Children's Books
Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

**Harry Potter Series** by J.K. Rowling. Scholastic
Follow the adventures of the boy wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends at Hogwarts.

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen. Aladdin
When the small plane taking him to his divorced father crashes, Brian, the only survivor, is stranded in the Canadian
wilderness and must work out his own survival.

*Heat* by Mike Lupica. Philomel
Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

*The Hero and the Crown* (and sequel) by Robin McKinley. Ace
Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the Blue Sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witch woman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

*The Heroes of Olympus* series by Rick Riordan. Disney Hyperion
Set in the same universe as Percy Jackson and the Olympians, in the first book, *Lost Heroes*, the reader meets demigods Jason (who has lost his memory), Piper (whose father is missing) and Leo (who is very talented with tools). The story is fast paced and includes time at Camp Half-Blood and a quest across the United States in a mechanical dragon to rescue Hera, queen of the gods. The series continues with *The Son of Neptune* with more to follow.

*Holes* (and sequel) by Louis Sachar. Farrar
There is no lake at Camp Green Lake, but why does the evil-tempered woman who is the warden make Stanley Yelnats and his fellow prisoners dig deep holes in it every day? (National Book Award and Newbery Award)

*Homecoming* (and sequels) by Cynthia Voigt. Fawcett
After their unstable mother abandons them in the middle of a trip, stout-hearted Dicey, 13, leads her brothers and sister on a long walk to find a home with their feisty grandmother.

*Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen. Knopf
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. Also try *Flush* and *Scat* by the same author.

*The House of the Scorpion* (and sequel) by Nancy Farmer. Simon Pulse
To most people around him, Matt is not a boy, but a beast. A room full of chicken litter with roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. But for El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium -- a strip of poppy fields lying between the U.S. and what was once called Mexico -- Matt is a guarantee of eternal life. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself for Matt is himself. They share identical DNA. Try other Nancy Farmer books as well: *Sea of Trolls* and *The Land of Silver Apples*.

*The Hunger Games* (and sequel) by Suzanne Collins. Scholastic, Inc.
In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

*Inkheart* (and sequels) by Cornelia Funke. Chicken House
Meggie lives a quiet life alone with her father, a bookbinder. But her father has a deep secret—he possesses an extraordinary magical power. One day a mysterious stranger arrives who seems linked to her father's past. Who is this sinister character and what does he want? Suddenly Meggie is involved in a breathless game of escape and intrigue as her father's life is put in danger. Will she be able to save him in time? Also try *The Thief Lord* by the same author.

*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, Inc.
Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. (Caldecott Medal)
**The Kane Chronicles** trilogy by Rick Riordan. Disney Hyperion
Based on Egyptian mythology, the story follows characters Carter and Sadie Kane in their quest to discover the truth about their family, and save the world. It is set in the modern day United States and United Kingdom, in the same universe as Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians and The Heroes of Olympus. It is similar to the Camp Half-Blood series, but has a darker and more serious tone. The three volumes are *The Red Pyramid*, *The Throne of Fire* and the third and last volume is *The Serpent's Shadow*. (excerpt from Amazon.com book description)

**Killing Mr. Griffin** by Lois Duncan. Laurel-Leaf
A group of high school students kidnap a strict teacher to get even with him—but they don’t know about his weak heart.

**The Last Goodie** by Stephen Schwandt. Free Spirit
Haunted by the still unsolved abduction of his babysitter twelve years before, high-school senior and track star, Marty Oliver, stumbles on a new lead in the case and finds himself involved in a dangerous adventure.

**The Last Mission** by Harry Mazer. Laurel-Leaf
Jack enlists in the Air Force at fifteen to get back at Hitler, but the reality of being a gunner on bombing raids is not what he expected.

**Last Shot: a Final Four Mystery** by John Feinstein. Random House Children's Books
When Stevie Thomas wins a sports writing contest and gets to cover the Final Four college basketball championship in New Orleans, he knows it's going to be the most unbelievable weekend of his life. And unbelievable it is, but in unexpected ways.

**Lawn Boy** by Gary Paulsen. Random House Children's Books
A 12-year-old receives an unexpected birthday present from his grandmother: his late grandfather's riding lawn mower. Since his family's lawn is postage-stamp size with grass that "never seemed to grow enough to need mowing," he's initially unsure what to do with the machine. But he soon realizes that he can earn money mowing neighbors' lawns- perhaps even enough to buy a new inner tube for his bike.

**The Leaving** by Tara Altebrando. Bloomsbury USA Children
Six kindergarteners were taken. Eleven years later, 5 come back--with no idea of where they’ve been.

**Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo** (and sequels) by Obert Skye. Simon & Schuster
Fourteen-year-old Leven Thumps (a.k.a. "Lev") lives a wretched life in Burnt Culvert, Oklahoma. But his life is about to change and his destiny be fulfilled as he learns about a secret gateway that bridges two worlds — the real world and Foo, a place created at the beginning of time in the folds of the mind that makes it possible for mankind to dream and hope, aspire and imagine. But Foo is in chaos, and three transplants from that dream world have been sent to retrieve Lev, who alone has the power to save Foo.

**Life as We Knew It** (and companion book) by Susan Beth Pfeffer. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
When Alex's parents disappear in the aftermath of tidal waves, he must care for his two younger sisters, even as Manhattan becomes a deadly wasteland, and food and aid dwindle.

**Lily's Crossing** by Patricia Reilly Giff. Random House Children's books
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently. (Newbery Honor)

**The London Eye Mystery** by Siobhan Dowd
Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they
overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

*Looks* by Madeleine George. Penguin Group
Meghan Ball is both the most visible and the most invisible person in school. Her massive size is impossible to ignore, yet people freely spill their secrets in front of her, perhaps because they think she isn't listening. But she is. Now her attention has turned to a new girl: Aimee Zorn, with her stick-figure body and defiant attitude. Meghan is determined to befriend Aimee, and when she ultimately succeeds, the two join forces to take down their shared enemy.

*Make Lemonade* (and sequels) by Virginia Euer Wolff. Point
A gutsy and exquisitely touching verse novel in which slovenly Jolly, 17, hires sensible La Vaughn, 14, to help her with her two little kids by different fathers.

*Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. HarperTrophy
Young Jeffrey Magee comes out of nowhere to become a legend as he brings the warring racial factions of the town to Two Mills together. (Newbery Award)

*Marley: A Dog Like No Other* by John Grogan. HarperCollins Publishers
Meet Marley, a yellow furball of a puppy who quickly grows into a large, rowdy Labrador retriever. With an appetite for nearly anything he can get his mouth around, including couches and fine jewelry, Marley is always getting into trouble. Some may say he's the world's worst dog. But those who know and love Marley accept him as a dog like no other. Or try the adult version, *Marley & Me*.

*The Maximum Ride Series* by James Patterson
Read about the adventures of a group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents.

*Misfits* by James Howe. Aladdin
Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names. Also try *Totally Joe* by the same author.

*Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller* by Sarah Miller. Atheneum Books for Young Readers
Annie Sullivan was little more than a half-blind orphan with a fiery tongue when she arrived at Ivy Green in 1887. Desperate for work, she’d taken on a seemingly impossible job—teaching a child who was deaf, blind, and as ferocious as any wild animal. Told in first person, Annie Sullivan’s past, her brazen determination, and her connection to the girl who would call her Teacher are vividly depicted in this powerful novel. (excerpt from Amazon.com book description)

*Mistmantle Chronicles Series* by M.I. McAllister. Hyperion/Miramax Kid
McAllister's (Ghost at the Window) brisk and colorful tale-part Redwall, part Wind in the Willows introduces Urchin, an orphaned squirrel born on a night of riding stars and destined for great things (and potentially great danger) on the mystical, and mist-enshrouded island of Mistmantle.

*Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool
Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. Powerful in its simplicity and rich in historical detail, Clare Vanderpool’s debut is a gripping story of loss and redemption.

*The Most Important Thing* by Avi. Candlewick
Seven short stories about boys and their fathers, grandfathers, and stepfathers.
Hour children living in different parts of the country intersect and are affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

**Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart. Little, Brown & Co.
Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete.

**Olive's Ocean** by Kevin Henkes. HarperCollins
A journal entry of a classmate killed in an accident sends 12-year-old Martha on an unintended pilgrimage. (Newbery Honor)

**Once Upon a Marigold** by Jean Ferris. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate and Patricia Castelao
Winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal and a #1 New York Times bestseller, this stirring and unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself.

**Only You Can Save Mankind** (and sequels) by Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins Publishers
The alien spaceship is in his sights. His finger is on the Fire button. Johnny Maxwell is about to set the new high score on the computer game Only You Can Save Mankind. Suddenly: We wish to talk. Huh? We surrender. The aliens aren't supposed to surrender — they're supposed to die! Now what is Johnny going to do with a fleet of alien prisoners who know their rights under the international rules of war and are demanding safe-conduct?

**Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You** by Hanna Jansen. Carolrhoda Books
The fictionalized account of a girl who survives the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

**Peaches** (and sequel) by Jodi Lynn Anderson. HarperCollins Children
In a Ya-Ya Sisterhood for teens, *Peaches* combines three unforgettable heroines who have nothing in common but the troubles that have gotten them sentenced to a summer of peach picking at a Georgia orchard.

**Peak** by Roland Smith. Harcourt Children's Books
The emotional, tension-filled story of a fourteen-year-old boy's attempt to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

**The Penderwicks** (and sequel) by Jeanne Birdsall. Random House Children's Books
This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel’s sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel’s owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

**The Pendragon Series** by D. J. McHale. Simon & Schuster
Bobby Pendragon is a Traveler, and he and others like him are in a battle to save all of time and space and its worlds from the dominion of the evil Saint Dane.

**Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series** by Rick Riordan. Disney Hyperion/Miramax Kid
For those who love monsters and mythological heroes, Rick Riordan has written the very popular fun, fast-
paced *Percy Jackson* series, which follows the adventures of young demigod (half mortal, half Greek god) Percy and his friends Annabeth and Grover.

**Peter and the Starcatchers** (and sequels) by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson. Disney Press
In an evocative and fast-paced adventure on the high seas and on a faraway island, an orphan boy named Peter and his mysterious new friend, Molly, overcome bands of pirates and thieves in their quest to keep a fantastical secret safe and save the world from evil.

**River to the Journey Sea** by Eva Ibbotson. Penguin
Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River. Also try *The Star of Kazan* (and other books) by the same author.

**Ruby in the Smoke** (and sequels) by Philip Pullman. Knopf
The death of her father and the theft of a priceless ruby are twin mysteries which challenge sixteen-year old Sally Lockhart in Victorian England.

**Rules of the Road** by Joan Bauer. Putnam
Jenna Boller, a tall, gawky girl who is a whiz at selling shoes, and gruff Mrs. Madeleine Gladstone, “the supremely aged president of Gladstone’s Shoes,” learn mutual respect and affection on a long sales trip, in a story full of wisdom, grace, and laughs. Try other Joan Bauer books as well: *Sticks; Stand Tall; Hope Was Here* (Newbery Honor); *Thwonk; Backwater; and Squashed.*

**Sabriel** (and sequels) by Garth Nix. HarperTrophy
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. The most recent in the series, *Clariel,* has just been published.

**The Schwa Was Here** (and sequel) by Neal Shusterman. Penguin Group
Eighth-grade Brooklynite "Antsy" Bonano narrates this quirky tale of how a classmate, Charles Schwa, who seems to appear and disappear in thin air, acts as a catalyst among an unlikely crew.

**Science Fair** by Dave Berry and Ridley Pearson. Disney Press
Eighth grader Toby Harbinger finds evidence of cheating at an annual science fair, but no one wants to believe him when he points to the wealthiest students in the school. Instead teachers and administrators decide that Toby is a liar whose goal is to disparage those who always win the contest.

**The Selection** (and sequels) by Kiera Cass
America Singer is chosen to compete in the Selection--a contest to see which girl can win the heart of Illea's prince--but all she really wants is a chance for a future with her secret love, Aspen, who is a caste below her.

**The Shakespeare Stealer** (and sequels) by Gary Blackwood. Puffin
A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

**Shark Girl** by Kelly Bingham. Candlewick Press
On a sunny day in June, at the beach with her mom and brother, fifteen-year-old Jane Arrowood went for a swim. And then everything - absolutely everything - changed. Now she's counting down the days until she returns to school with her fake arm, where she knows kids will whisper, "That's her - that's Shark Girl," as she passes. In the meantime there are only questions.

**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** (and sequels) by Ann Brashares. Delacorte
During their first summer apart, four teenage girls, best friends since earliest childhood, stay in touch through a shared pair of secondhand jeans that magically adapts to each of their figures and affects their attitudes to their different summer experiences.

**Skulduggery Pleasant** (and sequel) by Derek Landy. HarperCollins Publishers

Meet Skulduggery Pleasant. Ace Detective, Snappy Dresser, Razor–tongued Wit, Crackerjack Sorcerer, and Walking, Talking, Fire-throwing Skeleton — as well as ally, protector, and mentor of Stephanie Edgley, a very unusual and darkly talented twelve-year-old. These two alone must defeat an all-consuming ancient evil. The end of the world? Over his dead body.

**Son of the Mob** (and sequel) by Gordon Korman. Hyperion Press

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent. Also try other books by this author.

**Sounder** by William Armstrong. Scholastic

Sounder traces the keen sorrow and the abiding faith of a poor African-American boy in the 19th-century South. The boy's father is a sharecropper, struggling to feed his family in hard times. Then, one morning, almost like a miracle, a sweet-smelling ham is cooking in the family's kitchen. But that night, an angry sheriff and his deputies come, and the boy's life will never be the same. (excerpt from Amazon.com book description) (Newbery Award)

**Splendors and Glooms** by Laura Amy Schlitz

WINNER OF A 2013 NEWBERY HONOR Newbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz brings her sorcery to a Victorian gothic thriller — an enthralling, darkly comic tale that would do Dickens proud. The master puppeteer, Gaspare Grisini, is so expert at manipulating his stringed puppets that they appear alive. Clara Wintermute, the only child of a wealthy doctor, is spellbound by Grisini’s act and invites him to entertain at her birthday party. Seeing his chance to make a fortune, Grisini accepts and makes a splendidly gaudy entrance with caravan, puppets, and his two orphaned assistants. Lizzie Rose and Parsefall are dazzled by the Wintermute home. Clara seems to have everything they lack — adoring parents, warmth, and plenty to eat. In fact, Clara’s life is shadowed by grief, guilt, and secrets. When Clara vanishes that night, suspicion of kidnapping falls upon the puppeteer and, by association, Lizzie Rose and Parsefall.

**Splintered**, (and sequels) by A. G. Howard

A descendant of the inspiration for "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," sixteen-year-old Alyssa Gardner fears she is mentally ill like her mother until she finds that Wonderland is real and, if she passes a series of tests to fix Alice's mistakes, she may save her family from their curse.

**Stargirl** and **Love, Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli. Random House Children's Books

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes—for Leo and for the entire school. Also try **Loser** by the same author.

**Sticks and Stones** by Abby Cooper. Square Fish.

Elyse, 12, has a rare genetic disorder that makes the words other people say about her appear on her body.

**Summer of My German Soldier** by Bette Greene. Scholastic

German prisoners of war have arrived to make their new home in the prison camp in Jenkinsville, Arkansas. To the rest of her town, these prisoners are only Nazis. But to Patty, a young Jewish girl with a turbulent home life, one boy in particular becomes an unlikely friend. (excerpt from Amazon.com book description)

**Switchers** (and sequels) by Kate Thompson. Currently not published.

Look for library copies. Tess, who has the ability to change into animal form, must choose between good and evil as she
tries to decide whether to "Switch" into a phoenix or a vampire for the rest of time.

*Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* by Ibtisam Barakat. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux
In this groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat captures what it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war. With candor and courage, she stitches together memories of her childhood.

*There's a Girl in My Hammerlock* by Jerry Spinelli. Simon & Schuster
Did Marie join the boys’ wrestling team for herself or to win Eric?

*Things Not Seen* (and sequels) by Andrew Clements. Puffin
When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

*This Lullaby* by Sarah Dessen. Penguin
Raised by a mother who's had five husbands, eighteen-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician. Also try other books by this author.

*Tomorrow: When the War Began* (and sequels) by John Marsden. Houghton Mifflin
When a band of teenage friends returns from a wilderness camping trip to find their town—and their country—in the hands of invaders, they begin their own guerrilla war. If you like this series, check out *While I Live (The Ellie Chronicles).*

*The Traitor's Gate* by Avi. Simon & Schuster Children's
John Huffam is sure the tall man's beard is false. He's sure of little else in November 1849, the year he is fourteen, the year his father is sentenced to London's Whitecross Street Prison. Maybe the man following John—who claims to be one Inspector Copperfield—can explain why. What John learns on his own is that there's a traitor on the loose, somewhere. And he must uncover the villain—no matter whom it might be.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. HarperCollins
The American classic about a young girl's coming of age at the turn of the century.

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. HarperTrophy
As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

*True Meaning of Smekday* by Adam Rex. Hyperion Books for Children
Twelve-year-old Gratuity ("Tip") Tucci has many adventures when the Boov declare Earth a colony, rename it "Smekland" (in honor of glorious Captain Smek), and force all Americans to relocate to Florida via rocket pod.

*Twilight* (and sequels) by Stephenie Meyer. Little, Brown, & Co.
When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

*The Two Princesses of Bamarre* by Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins
With her adventurous sister, Meryl, suffering from the Grey death meek and timid Princess Addie sets out to find a cure.

*Uglies* (and sequels) by Scott Westerfeld. Simon & Schuster Trade
Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies* trilogy follows the high-tech adventures of Tally Youngblood. As an ugly, then a pretty, and finally a special, Tally works to take down a society created to function with perfect looking people who never have a
chance to think for themselves.

Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand – the young adult edition
A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

Under a War Torn Sky by Laura M. Elliott. Hyperion
After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, nineteen-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.

Under the Baseball Moon by John H. Ritter. Philomel
Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player.

The Warriors by Joseph Bruchac. Darby Creek
Jake Forrest enjoys playing lacrosse on the Algonquin Indian reservation where he lives. He understands the way the game ties into his people's view of the world and their history. After his mother gets a job as an attorney, however, and enrolls Jake in a fancy Washington, D.C., boarding school, Jake finds his world disrupted. Also try other books by this author.

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by the powerful ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day.

In a place similar to Venice, Italy, two teenaged orphans, apprenticed to a maker of magic mirrors, begin to realize that their fates are tied to the magical protector known as the Flowing Queen and to the ruler of Hell, respectively.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood has a tough year ahead of him. First of all, his teacher Mrs. Baker, keeps giving him the evil eye. Second of all, the class bully keeps threatening to do Number 167 (and you don't even want to know what Number 167 is). Third of all, his father keeps calling him the Son Who is Going to Inherit Hoodhood and Associates. But things are changing, and while reciting his favorite curses from Shakespeare's plays, Holling might just find the true meaning of his own story.

Lanky lizards! Punk teens Weetzie and Dirk search for love in a modern fairy tale that is funny, moving, and unlike any book you've read before.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare. Bantam Doubleday Dell
In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft. (Newbery Award)

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. Scholastic
In the first of two alternating stories, Ben is struck deaf moments after discovering a clue to his father’s identity, but undaunted, he follows the clue’s trail to the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City. Flash to Rose’s story, told simultaneously through pictures, who has also followed the trail of a loved one to the museum—only 50 years before Ben. Selnick’s beautifully detailed illustrations draw the reader inside the museum’s myriad curiosities and
wonders, following Ben and Rose in their search for connection. Ultimately, their lives collide in a surprising and inspired
twist that is breathtaking and life-affirming. (Seira Wilson on Amazon.com)

The Wreckers (and sequels) by Iain Lawrence. Random House Children’s Books
Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also
dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded.

A Wrinkle in Time (and sequels) by Madeleine L'Engle. Yearling
Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg’s father, who has disappeared
while engaged in secret work for the government. (Newbery Award)
Live, from our MS Book Blogs, it’s Peer-Recommended Reads!

The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling
A Man Called Ove, Fredrick Backman
Prisoner B-3087 and Project 1065, Alan Gratz
The Fault in Our Stars, John Green
Under Their Skin, Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Thing About Jellyfish, Ali Benjamin
Togo, Kate Kilmo
Five Kingdoms (series), Brandon Mull
The Pearl, John Steinbeck
A Dog’s Purpose, W. Bruce Cameron
The Maze Runner (series), James Dashner
The Secret School, Avi
March (trilogy), John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell
Thrones and Bones, Lou Anders
The Red Pyramid, Rick Riordan
The Unwanteds (series), Lisa McMann
Almost Home, Joan Bauer
City of Ember (series), Jeanne DuPrau
The Honest Truth, Dan Gemeinhart
Roller Girl, Victoria Jamieson
Number the Stars, Lois Lowry
Brian’s Winter, Gary Paulsen

I Am Malala, Malala Yousafzai
Because of Mr. Terupt (series), Rob Buyea
Ghosts, Raina Telgemeier
Counting by 7s, Holly Goldberg Sloan
Girl in Pieces, Kathleen Glasgow
Finding Audrey, Sophie Kinsella
The Book Thief, Markus Zusak
Gods of Chaos (series), Jen McConnel
Red Rising, Pierce Brown
The Inheritance cycle, Christopher Paolini
Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer
A Long Walk to Water, Linda Sue Park
Everything, Everything, Nicola Yoon
All American Boys, Jason Reynolds
A Night Divided, Jennifer A. Nielsen
1984, George Orwell
Before I Fall, Lauren Oliver
Eleanor and Park, Rainbow Rowell
The Best Young Adult Fantasy Novels of All Time—So Far (in chronological order)

  
  *(The Hobbit, 1937)*
  
  *The Fellowship of the Ring*
  
  *The Two Towers*
  
  *The Return of the King*

The seminal work which established the pattern of heroic fantasy and inspired the blossoming of the genre.

*The Earthsea Trilogy* by Ursula LeGuin. Bantam

  *A Wizard of Earthsea*
  
  *The Tombs of Atuan*
  
  *The Farthest Shore*
  
  *Tehanu*

Read the whole Earthsea cycle—a tale about a reckless, awkward boy named Sparrowhawk who becomes a wizard's apprentice after the wizard reveals Sparrowhawk's true name. The boy comes to realize that his fate may be far more important than he ever dreamed possible.

*House of Stairs* by William Sleator. Puffin

Five very different teenagers wake up in a place that is nothing but interlocking flights of stairs, where a machine gives them food pellets in a puzzling response pattern. How will they react to the situation—and to each other—when they find out that cruelty is what the machine rewards?

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams. Avon

A band of brave rabbits in search of a new warren becomes a metaphor for the dynamics of leadership and power.

*Z for Zachariah* by Robert O'Brien. Aladdin

After a nuclear holocaust, a breathless cat and mouse game results when the last girl on earth finds out that the last man wants to make her his slave.

*The Dragonriders of Pern* series by Anne McCaffrey. Bantam

Adventures in a pseudo-Medieval world where people live in isolated communities centered on the Harper, or tradition singer, bond with their personal dragons and, periodically, must hide from a poisonous rain called Thread.

  *Dragonsong*
  
  *Dragonsinger*
  
  *Dragondrums*

*The Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks. Ballantine

In a book which confirmed Tolkien’s pattern of heroic fantasy, the half-elf Shea and his brother flee their home of Shady Vale pursued by the skull bearer to find the magic world of Shannara and face a final confrontation with the Lord of Evil.

*Beauty* by Robin McKinley. Harper

Beauty and the Beast from a contemporary psychological perspective, a book which originated the many modern retellings of folk and fairy tales.


The hilarious journey of Arthur Dent and his friend Ford Prefect, a space hitchhiker, who escape from Earth seconds before it is demolished and travel to a variety of galactic civilizations while gathering information for a guidebook.

*Interstellar Pig* by William Sleator. Puffin

A boy plays an addictive board game with his strange neighbors, where the object is to control the “piggy”—which quite literally represents the fate of the world.
**Ender’s Game** (and sequels) by Orson Scott Card. Tor
Stun guns and space ships are featured in the education of a boy who is being trained at a space school to be the leader who will save the world from the threat of the aliens they call the Buggers.

**Redwall** (and sequels) by Brian Jacques. Ace
The first in a number of volumes of heroic animal fantasy—like *Wind in the Willows*—set in the Middle Ages with lots of graphic violence.

**The Silver Kiss** by Annette Curtis Klause. Laurel-Leaf
A sad and romantic teen love story in which one of the parties just happens to be a vampire.

**His Dark Materials Series** by Phillip Pullman. Knopf
The most innovative fantasy trilogy since *Lord of the Rings* tells of two young people’s fearful quest with the canal people called Gyptians, armored polar bears, and witches to do battle for a vast cause focusing on a city glimpsed in the Northern Lights.

- *The Golden Compass*
- *The Subtle Knife*
- *Amber Spyglass*

**Blood and Chocolate** by Annette Curtis Klause. Bantam
When Vivian, a member of a werewolf pack, falls in love with a human boy, she longs to share her secret with him. He would understand, wouldn’t he?

**Skellig** by David Almond. Delacorte
Who is this strange being Michael has found lying in the garage—owl-man, bird-creature, the Angel of Death?

**Lost Years of Merlin** (and sequels) by T. A. Barron. Philomel
Emrys, a young boy washed ashore on the coast of Wales with no memory, must return to the mythical island of his birth to discover his true parentage and the name that is his destiny, “Merlin.”

**Dealing with Dragons** (and sequels) by Patricia C. Wrede. Harcourt
The Princess Cimorene has never met anyone (or anything) like the dragon Kazul. But then, she's never met a witch, a jinn, a death-dealing talking bird, or a stone prince either. The bored princess has run away from her very proper royal family looking for some excitement--she's about to find it.

> “Good literature makes you think, “Wow, that’s just the way I feel!”
> “Great literature makes you think, “Wow, I never thought of that before!”

—Anonymous