

RECOMMENDED READING 2020 - 2021

Pre-K Entering Kindergarten

Accident by Andrea Tsurumi When a clumsy armadillo named Lola knocks over a glass pitcher, she sets off a silly chain of events, encountering chaos wherever she goes. ©2017 **Grade Level K-3**

Counting on Community by Innosanto Nagara Counting up from one stuffed piñata to ten hefty hens - and always counting on each other--children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys inherent in healthy eco-friendly activities, and the agency they possess to make change. A broad and inspiring vision of diversity is told through stories in words and pictures. And of course, there is a duck to find on every page! ©2015 **Grade Level K-2**

Everywhere Wonder by Matthew Swanson The imagination of a young boy—who explores everything from the pyramids of Egypt to a dusty footprint on the moon—and then back out again to the wonderful world right in front of him. ©2017 **Grade Level K-1**

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae Giraffes Can't Dance is a touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. ©2012 **Grade Level Preschool-3**

Green by Laura Vaccaro Seeger How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, the incandescent green of a firefly, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea. **2013 Caldecott Honor Book, Geisel Honor Book, Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of** ©2012 **Grade Level Preschool-1**

Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall tells the story of life in a lighthouse. Told through full page illustrations, this fascinating picture book tells the story of a dedicated lighthouse keeper and his growing family. **2019 Caldecott Medal** ©2018 **Grade Level Preschool-3**

Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler by Margery Cuyler When a kindergarten class gets rowdy, Mrs. Ruler knows just what to do. She's about to teach a new golden rule: KINDNESS IS COOL! ©2007 **Grade Level K-3**

Little Cub by Olivier Dundee What's an Old Bear to do when he finds a Little Cub all alone and afraid of the dark? Adopt him, of course! And help him try to get over his fears. In this book we see the father and son from *Old Bear and His Cub* meet for the first time--and grow to love one another. ©2014 **Grade Level Preschool-3**

Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima Growing up in the ocean, Kelp has always assumed that he was a narwhal like the rest of his family. Sure, he's always been a little bit different—his tusk isn't as long, he's not as good of a swimmer, and he really doesn't enjoy the cuisine. ©2017 **Grade Level Preschool-3**

Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes by James Dean Pete's back, this time in a rhyming counting book that has the cat and his platypus buddy, Gus, solving a mystery: Who's taking the cupcakes for the party? ©2016 **Grade Level Preschool-3**

Robinson by Peter Sís illustrated by the author Exquisite art and a heartfelt story of adventure and friendship come together in this imaginative, magical book. ©2017 **Grade Level K-2**

They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . . In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see? **2017 Caldecott Honor Book** ©2016 **Grade Level Preschool-K**

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell A girl is lost in a snowstorm. A wolf cub is lost, too. How will they find their way home? **2018 Caldecott Medal** ©2017 **Grade Level Preschool-1**

Kindergarten Entering First Grade

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal When Alma's father shares family stories about the origins of her long beautiful name, she gains an appreciation for its uniqueness and connection to her history. Martinez-Neal uses smudgy graphite and colored pencil to convey a soft palette that gently transports readers into Alma's rich ancestral past. **2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level K-3**

Blue Sky White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus In this text, the same words describe both the fabric of America and the Star-Spangled Banner. Beautiful illustrations coupled with sparse text make this seemingly simple book meaningful and thought-provoking as readers weave their way through the history of the nation and its flag. **©2017 Grade Level: K-2**

Moses Goes to a Concert by Isaac Millman Moses and his schoolmates, all deaf, attend a concert where the orchestra's percussionist is also deaf. Includes illustrations in sign language and a page showing the manual alphabet. **©2014 Grade Level K-2**

Nana in the City by Lauren Castillo A young boy spends an overnight visit with his nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise and crowds and scary things. But then Nana makes him a special cape to help him be brave, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful. **2015 Caldecott Honor Book ©2014 Grade Level K-3**

Narwhal Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clinton Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do they love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together. **©2016 Grade Level 1-4**

Snowy Nap by Jan Brett Snow is on the way, and as Hedgie trundles around the farm all his friends tell him of the winter-time fun he will miss as he hibernates--Icicles decorating the chicken coop! Lisa making snowmen! The pond turned to slippery ice! It sounds so amazing, Hedgie decides to stay awake instead of going to his burrow. But then a snowstorm starts. **©2018 Grade Level K-3**

Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. **2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level K-3**

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder. *New York Times* Notable Children's Book of the Year **©2016 Grade Level 1-3**

Trombone Shorty by Troy Andrews Hailing from the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest. **2016 Caldecott Medal Book and Coretta Scott King Award ©2015 Grade Level 1-4**

Truman by Jean Reidy Truman the tortoise lives with his Sarah, high above the taxis and the trash trucks and the number eleven bus, which travels south. He never worries about the world below...until one day, when Sarah straps on a big backpack and does something Truman has never seen before. **©2019 Grade Level 1-2**

First Grade Entering Second Grade

Caroline's Comets: A True Story by Emily Arnold McCully Caroline Herschel (1750–1848) was not only one of the greatest astronomers who ever lived but also the first woman to be paid for her scientific work. ©2017 Grade Level 1-3

Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon Dory has her first loose tooth, and, with her usual over-the-top excitement, she cannot stop talking about the tooth fairy. Naturally, this drives her brother and sister crazy. ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

A Flicker of Hope by Julian Cook Sometimes the dark clouds overhead seem too heavy and you feel like giving up. Little candle knows all about this. Bad grades, blasted on social media, worried about making the team, and wondering who her real friends are so many hard things to deal with! All she can see is darkness. ©2018 Grade Level 2-3

The Girl With a Mind for Math by Julia Finley Mosca Meet Raye Montague—the hidden mastermind who made waves in the U.S. Navy! After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer. Little did she know sexism and racial inequality would challenge that dream every step of the way, even keeping her greatest career accomplishment a secret for decades. ©2018 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book 2019, NSTA Best STEM Trade Books for Students K-12 2019, 2019 Amelia Bloomer List, and 2019 Mathical Honor Book Grade Level 2-4

The Kid from Diamond Street by Audrey Vernick Beginning in 1922, when Edith Houghton was only ten years old, she tried out for a women's professional baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. ©2016 Grade Level K-3

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? 2016 Newbery Medal, 2016 Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book ©2015 Grade Level K-2

The Rough Patch by Brian Lies Evan, a fox, and his dog are best friends and in a series of acrylic, oil, and colored pencil vignettes, they are shown attending a fair, playing games, and, most important, working in Evan's meticulously groomed garden. These loving scenes are abruptly cut short by a large spread of white space with spare text stating: "But one day, the unthinkable happened." On the opposing page, white space surrounds a grieving Evan as he mourns the loss of his dog. ©2019 Caldecott Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal He's always been a happy little utensil. But lately, he feels like life as a spoon just isn't cutting it. He thinks Fork, Knife, and The Chopsticks all have it so much better than him. But do they? ©2009 Grade Level 1-2

Spring According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney Spring has sprung and everyone at Longfellow School, including Ms. Brisbane's class, are HAPPY-HAPPY-HAPPY! It also means Family Fun Night is coming up and all the students' families are involved in making amazing circus activities. ©2017 Grade Level 2-4

The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers) by Lisa Hendey Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

Second Grade Entering Third Grade

All That's Missing by Sarah Sullivan Secretly providing for himself and a beloved grandfather who is succumbing to dementia, young Arlo is placed in the care of a social worker and runs away to find and connect with his only other family member. ©2013 Grade Level 3-7

Bad Bella by Ali Standish All Bella wants is a family who loves her for the dog she is. And perhaps some popcorn now and then (with extra butter). But with Christmas growing nearer and a new baby on the way, her adopted family finds that they have little patience and even less time for a dog. ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

Grand Canyon by Jason Chin Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. 2018 Caldecott Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. 1945 Newbery Honor New edition ©2004 Grade Level 3-5

John Lincoln Clem: a Civil War Drummer Boy by E. F. Abbott Do you have what it takes to run off and join the army, leaving your family behind? That's what John Lincoln Clem, a nine-year-old boy living in Ohio, does as the American Civil War rages on. ©2017 Grade Level 3-4

St. John Bosco and His Big Gray Dog by Hayley Medeiros It is hard to believe that anyone would have ever wanted to hurt good Father John Bosco. He helped so many people. But there were times when his life was in danger. During those times, a very special guardian would appear to protect him. ©2015 Grade Level 2-4

Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero by Patricia McCormick When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to a packhorse. ©2017 Grade Level 1-5

Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille by Jen Bryant Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. ©2016 Grade Level 2-4

The Sign of the Carved Cross by Lisa M. Hendey Katie joins her friends in being mean to the new girl, Lily. But suddenly, Katie becomes the new girl—in 1675! She has no idea how she traveled in time to a Native American village, but she's hoping the young woman she meets will be nicer to her than Katie was to Lily. ©2015 Grade Level 2-5

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964. 2016 Caldecott Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, and John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award ©2015 Grade Level 3-6

The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers) by Lisa M. Hendey Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

Wish by Barbara O'Connor "A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are." ©2016 Grade Level 3-5

Third Grade Entering Fourth Grade

Brave Like My Brother by Marc Tyler Nobleman When Charlie's brother, Joe, is called up to fight in World War II, he promises to write letters to ten-year-old Charlie as often as he can. It won't make up for not being there to help Charlie out with the neighborhood bullies, but it's all Joe can do. ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

The Chestertons and the Golden Key by Nancy Carpentier Brown Summer vacation turns into an adventure for the three Nicholl sisters when Mr. Gilbert Chesterton and his wife come to town. Eleven-year-old Clare hopes to write a detective story. Eight-year-old Cece wants to be a champion roller-skater. And ten-year-old Joan just wants to learn how to play the locked piano in the family living room. But as they befriend the Chestertons, skating accidents, surprising friendships, puppet shows, and mystery solving ensue! ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

Counting Thyme by Melania Conklin When eleven-year-old Thyme Owens' little brother, Val, is accepted into a new cancer drug trial, it's just the second chance that he needs. But it also means the Owens family has to move to New York, thousands of miles away from Thyme's best friend and everything she knows and loves. ©2016 Grade Level 4-7

Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project by Dan Gutman Four very different kids are picked by a mysterious billionaire to travel through time and photograph some of history's most important events. This time, the four friends are headed to 1863 to catch Abraham Lincoln delivering his famous Gettysburg Address. ©2017 Grade Level 4-7

I Survived the American Revolution, 1776 by Lauren Tarshis Nathaniel Fox never imagined he'd find himself in the middle of a blood-soaked battlefield, fighting for his life. He was only eleven years old! He'd barely paid attention to the troubles between America and England. ©2017 Grade Level: 3-5

Katerina's Wish by Jeannie Mobley Thirteen-year-old Trina's family left Bohemia for a Colorado coal town to earn money to buy a farm, but by 1901 she doubts that either hard work or hoping will be enough, even after a strange fish seems to grant her sisters' wishes. ©2012 Grade Level 4-7

Lincoln and Kennedy: A Pair to Compare by Gene Barretta President Abraham Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin. President John F. Kennedy was raised in the lap of luxury. One was a Republican and one a Democrat. They lived and served a hundred years apart. ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert by Gary D. Schmidt As the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave, Martin de Porres was born into extreme poverty. Even so, his mother begged the church fathers to allow him into the priesthood. Instead, Martin was accepted as a servant boy. But soon, the young man was performing miracles. **2013 Pura Belpre Award for Illustration**
©2012 Grade Level 3-5

Pieces and Players by Blue Balliett The kids have been drawn in by the very mysterious Mrs. Sharpe, who may be playing her own kind of game with the clues. And it's not just Mrs. Sharpe who's acting suspiciously -- there's a ghost who mingles with the guards in the museum, a cat who acts like a spy, and bystanders in black jackets who keep popping up. ©2016 Grade Level 4-6

Raffie on the Run by Jacqueline Resnick Raffie Lipton lives a rat's dream life. In his family's subway station home, he has all the food he can forage from the treasure chests humans call trash cans, and the perfect shoebox bed for telling his brother his famous adventure stories. ©2018 Grade Level: 3-6

Wish Girl by Nikki Loftin Peter Stone's parents and siblings are extroverts, musicians, and yellers—and the louder they get, the less Peter talks, or even moves, until he practically fits his last name. When his family moves to the Texas Hill Country, though, Peter finds a tranquil, natural valley where he can, at last, hear himself think. ©2016 Grade Level 4-6

Fourth Grade Entering Fifth Grade

27 Magic Words by Sharelle Byars Morganville Although Kobi's parents sailed into a storm five years ago, she believes they are alive, and when she is sent from her grandmother's luxurious Paris apartment to live with an uncle in Iowa, Kobi tells lies that soon catch up with her. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

Aim by Joyce Moyer Hostetter As World War II threatens the United States in 1941, fourteen-year-old Junior Bledsoe fights his own battles at home. Junior struggles with school and with anger—at his father, his insufferable granddaddy, his neighbors, and himself—as he desperately tries to understand himself and find his own aim in life. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; **Danielle**, who never stands up for herself; shy **Anna**, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and **Jeffrey**, who hates school. ©2011 Grade Level: 4-6

The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. **2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book** ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. **Coretta Scott King Award** ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary by Laura Shovan Emerson Elementary is closing its doors and is due to be replaced by a shopping mall. Not everyone in this multiracial fifth-grade class feels the same about the school's imminent closure. The variety of expressive writing styles for each character makes this book unique. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. **2012 Newbery Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award, and Coretta Scott King Award** ©2011 Grade Level 5–7

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. ©2014 Grade Level -7

Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. ©2016 Grade Level 5-8

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. **2016 Newbery Honor Book and 2016 Schneider Family Book Award** ©2016 Grade Level 5–6

Fifth Grade Entering Sixth Grade

A.K.A. Genius by Marilee Haynes "When standardized test scores identify seventh-grader Gabe Carpenter as St. Jude's resident genius, he wonders what it means to have brains when he can't even manage to open his own locker." ©2013 Grade Level 5-7

Almost Home by Joan Bauer Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. ©2012 Grade Level 5-8

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes author's note about the poet. **Pura Belpré Award Winner** ©2012 Grade Level 5-9

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Regan Barnhill Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. **2017 Newbery Medal Book** ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. ©2016 Grade Level 5-8

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. ©2015 Grade Level 6-Up

Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter by Beth Fantaskey It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. **2019 Newbery Medal** ©2018 Grade Level 5-7

The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts by Avi Oliver is left on his own after a terrible storm hits his English community in 1724. High adventure and near disasters meet Oliver as he tries to make his way to London to find his sister, Charity. Once in London and reunited with Charity, life does not calm down. Avi leaves readers hanging—will they survive? ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown Though Roz, a robot, is initially viewed with suspicion when she finds herself on an isolated island, she soon becomes part of the natural order, parenting an orphaned gosling and providing shelter for the animals. But is there really a place for her within this ecosystem? ©2016 Grade Level 5-7

SIXTH GRADE ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE

Forever, or a Long, Long Time by Caela Carter Flora and her brother, Julian, don't believe they were born. They've lived in so many foster homes, they can't remember where they came from. And even now that they've been adopted, Flora still struggles to believe in forever. ©2017 Grade Level 7-8

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. ©2015 Grade Level 5-8

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy—though you wouldn't guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage—in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history. ©2015 Grade Level 6-8

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children. Their adventures take them on a chase through France: they are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. 2017 Newbery Honor Book ©2016 Grade Level 6-10

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt It only takes a few hours for Turner Buckminster to start hating Phippsburg, Maine. No one in town will let him forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. 2014 Newbery Honor Book ©2013 Grade Level 6-9

Race to the Bottom of the Sea by Lindsay Eagar Merrick the Monstrous, a pirate who kidnaps Fidelia for her marine knowhow, takes her on an adventure to find a treasure lost on the ocean floor. A scientist, an inventor, a huge shark, a librarian, and the Royal Navy are all part of a story that keeps readers wondering how they are all connected and why a dying pirate is so intent on finding his lost treasure. ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

The Red Bandanna by Tom Rinaldi Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Readers will be fascinated by the story of an ordinary man who did extraordinary work to save lives of others while sacrificing his own. Winner of the Christopher Award, Notable Social Studies Book ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

Riding Chance by Christine Kendall Troy is a kid with a passion. And dreams. And wanting to do the right thing. But after taking a wrong turn, he's forced to endure something that's worse than any juvenile detention he can imagine—he's "sentenced" to the local city stables where he's made to take care of horses. ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

Strongheart Wonder Dog of the Silvre Screen by Candace Fleming Based on a true story, this absorbing novel from the duo behind *Giant Squid* and other books introduces Strongheart, a German shepherd that worked as a police dog in Germany until his discovery by Hollywood director Larry Trimble in the early 1920s. ©2018 Grade Level 7

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. 2017 Newbery Honor Book ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! **Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8**

The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's list by Leon Leyson The only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. **©2015 Grade Level 6-9**

Code Girls the True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII by Lizz Mundy More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. **©2018 Grade Level 8–Up**

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. **2016 Newbery Honor Book ©2014 Grade Level 6-8**

Endurance Young Readers Edition by Scott Kelly Discover the extreme challenges of long-term spaceflight, the pressures of living in close quarters with people from many countries, the extremely dangerous risk of colliding with space junk and the unnerving feeling of not being able to help if tragedy strikes at home. **©2018 Grade Level 8-9**

I Kill the Mockingbird by Paul Acampora When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. **©2015 Grade Level 6-8**

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story by Linda Sue Park The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. **©2011 Grade Level 6-8**

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. **©2018 Grade Level 7–8**

Resistance by Jennifer Nielsen Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. **©2018 Grade Level 8-9**

Terror at Bottle Creek by Watt Key In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, thirteen-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf Coast hurricane. Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Category 3 storm makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills-and bravery-to the test. **©2016 Grade Level 6-9**

You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen by Carole Brown Weatherford *I WANT YOU!* says the poster of Uncle Sam. But if you're a young black man in 1940, he doesn't want you in the cockpit of a war plane. Yet you are determined not to let that stop your dream of flying. **©2016 Grade Level 8-10**