**Dear Administrators, Librarians and Teachers,**

**Following is the list of recommended books for the 2024-2025 school year. This list includes titles and descriptions of books approved for summer reading and for reading during the school year. Teachers should not assign books for a class to read unless they are listed on this document or a previous listing of approved books.**

**The titles on this list will also be used for the Diocesan Reading Olympics next year. We are providing the lists at this time so that students can begin their reading during the summer.**

**It is important to remember that, when selecting titles from the recommended list, teachers should please pre-read books before assigning them to students. Some books may be better suited as directed or guided reading and not read alone. While every effort has been made to recommend quality literature, it is important that a teacher is prepared to respond to any questions that may arise.**

**You should inform parents that all books are available at Amazon, and Barnes & Noble**

**We are most grateful to the Media Arts Committee for their time and effort in preparing this document and to this committee and the ELA committee who are preparing the Reading Olympics. If you are interested in assisting in this activity, please let me know.**

**Know we are grateful for all you do. God bless you!**



**PRE-K ENTERING KINDERGARTEN**

***Bright Star* by Yuyi Morales** With the combination of powerful, spare language and sumptuous, complex imagery characteristic of her work, Yuyi Morales weaves the tale of a fawn making her way through a landscape that is dangerous, beautiful—and full of potential. A gentle voice urges her onward, to face her fears and challenge the obstacles that seek to hold her back. Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Book and The Tomás Rivera Mexican Children’s Book Award @2021 Grade Level Preschool-2

***Dilly Duck Plays All Day* by Holly DiBella-McCarthy** On the bank of a great big lake in a park called Wonder Wake, Dilly Duck sits all alone, so sad and bored on her own. There is just one thing to do. Find her friends, her flock, her crew! @2023 Grade Level Preschool-K

***Duck Duck Taco Truck* by Laura Lavoie** Two food trucks staffed by sworn enemies: ducks vs. geese. Before you can say "curly fries'', these two rivals are in an epic food truck face-off. *"Battle on! At dawn, we ride!"* But soon, Goose becomes overwhelmed by *hangry* crowds. He sure could use some extra wings to help out! Will these foes find a solution and become feathered friends? @2024 Grade Level K-2

***I Will Always Be Proud of You* by Michael Wong** It explores the many wonderful possibilities in life, and reassures children that they will be loved unconditionally whatever they choose to be. The inspirational story is beautifully illustrated with diverse and inclusive characters. @2022 Grade Level Preschool-1

***The Panda Problem* by Deborah Underwood** Every story needs a problem. But Panda doesn’t have a problem. Unless, Panda is the problem. Just who is the main character of this story? A funny book about how books work. ©2019 Grade Level Preschool-2

***Partly Cloudy* by Deborah Freedman** Two curious bunnies enjoy watching clouds go by. But when they look at the sky, they each see something completely different! While one bunny likes to use his imagination and sees cotton candy or whipped cream, the other bunny can only see the science behind them. Together they learn that cloud watching is much more fun when they can see it through each other's eyes. @2024 Grade Level Preschool-2

***A Seed Grows* by Antoinette Portis** To understand how a seed becomes a sunflower, you have to peek beneath the soil and wait patiently as winding roots grow, a stalk inches out of the earth, and new seeds emerge among blooming petals. Sibert Honor Book, and Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book @2022 Grade Level Preschool-K

***See This Little Dot* by Jane Yolen** When is a dot "not just a blot on a page"? In Jane Yolen's characteristically imaginative, free-verse explanation, the humble dot can take on many functions, from a spot of food to an animal's eye, from a marble to a moon. As Yolen extolls the dot's satisfying shape and innate neatness. @2024 Grade Level K-2

***This I Know: Seeing God in the World He Made (Based on Jesus Loves Me)* by Clay Anderson** Whether it's a morning sunrise that reminds us that God makes everything new. A frightening thunderstorm that shows us God's power. A gentle snowfall that demonstrates God's grace Or nighttime crickets that help us rest in God's peace everywhere in creation, we see the craftsmanship of God, filling our world with His beauty and character! @2020 Grade Level K-2

***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

***Worm and Caterpillar Are Friends* by Kaz Windness** Worm and Caterpillar are friends—*best* friends. Worm loves how they are just alike, but Caterpillar has a feeling there is a big change coming. Then Caterpillar disappears for a while and comes back as Butterfly. Will Butterfly and Worm still be friends? Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book @2022 Grade Level Preschool-1

***The Wrong Book* by Drew Daywalt** Do bicycles say cock-a-doodle-doo? Do firefighters shout Ding Dong! before they put out a fire?That’s what the narrator of this hilarious picture book thinks! Good thing there are some other characters in this book to set him straight. @2024 Grade Level K-2

***You Are My Happy* by Hoda Kotb** As mama bear and her cub cuddle together before closing their eyes for a good night’s sleep, they reflect on the everyday wonders of life that make them happy. @2019 Grade Level Preschool-2

# *You're Always Enough: And More Than I Hoped For* by Emily Ley Features vibrant illustrations of a diverse cast of characters and will enhearten children who are always trying so hard, are afraid of making mistakes, or need reassurance that they are enough exactly as they are. Hold your child close as you share this sweet message and show them just how proud you are of the fun, amazing, and so very special person that they are. @2022 Grade Level Preschool-2

**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. Caldecott Honor Book American Award for Literature ©2018 Grade Level 1

***Big* by Vashti Harrison** Traces a child’s journey to self-love and shows the power of words to both hurt and heal. With spare text and exquisite illustrations, this emotional exploration of being big in a world that prizes small is a tender portrayal of how you can stand out and feel invisible at the same time. Caldecott Medal Winner & Coretta Scott King Honor @2023 Grade Level 1

***The Crayons Go Back to School* by Drew Daywalt** The crayons are getting ready to go back to school, and each crayon has a subject they're looking forward to the most. They're also ready to meet new friends. . . and let loose during their very favorite time of day: art class. A humorous, small hardcover back-to-school story from everyone's favorite school supplies. ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

***Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho** A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother’s, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. 2021 Nerdy Award Winner ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Fox Has a Problem* by Corey R. Tabor** Fox has a problem: His kite is stuck in a tree! But every clever plan creates even more problems for him—and for all his friends. Can they work together to fix things before it’s too late? Theodor Seuss Geisel Award ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

***Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates* by Cheryl Klein** It's been two hundred and five days since Henry has had peace. That's because it's been two hundred and five days since Marvin has come to live with him. Marvin, who loves to talk in the tunnels, talk while they're eating, talk while they're running. Marvin, who drives Henry up the cage walls. But when Henry finally loses his cool and gets exactly what he wanted, both hamsters have to figure out a way to live together and work through their communication mishaps. Kirkus Children's Best Book ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Have You Ever Seen a Flower?* by Shawn Harris** Encourages mindfulness, appreciation of nature and the world around us, and exploring themes of self-acceptance and the senses in a lighthearted yet thought-provoking way. Caldecott Honor Book ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Is God Still Awake?: A Small Girl* *with a Big Question About God* by Sheila Walsh** Is God Still Awake? introduces curious young readers to Poppy: a little girl who has big questions about God! Poppy wants to know how to talk with God and whether God listens to her. As she goes through her day with her cat by her side, Poppy discovers that God is always there--even when the world is asleep! ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion* by Shannon Stocker** From the moment Evelyn Glennie heard her first note, music held her heart. She played the piano by ear at age eight, and the clarinet by age ten. But soon, the nerves in her ears began to deteriorate, and Evelyn was told that, as a deaf girl, she could never be a musician. Schneider Family Book Award ©2022 Grade Level 1

***Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor** A tale about self-confidence and taking a leap of faith, starring a kingfisher. Sometimes, you might fall down,down,down,before you learn to fly up, up, up. 2022 Caldecott Honor Book, ALA Notable Book of the Year ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Pass the Ball, Mo! (Mo Jackson)* by David A. Adler** Mo's latest obsession is basketball. He's determined to learn how to pass, but as the shortest member of the team, he can't seem to launch the ball high enough. Can Mo learn to pass in time to help his team win the big game? Theodor Seuss Geisel Award ©2019 Grade Level 1

***Something: One Small Thing Can Make a Difference* by Natalee Creech** Based on a familiar passage from Matthew 25, this picture book explores themes of compassion and empathy, encouraging children to take positive action when they see a need in the world around them. From big things—like helping to plant a community garden or trying to find a home for an animal in need—to small things—like making a card or welcoming someone new there is always something we can do! ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Sounds Like School Spirit* by Meg Flemingn** They have spirit, yes they do! Follow kids from circle time to the lunch line in this lively, rhyming picture book that perfectly matches the high energy of a new classroom. With a call and response like "We say ALPHA, you say BET," built into the text, kids will love reading and cheering along. ©2021 Grade Level 1

***The Truth About Dragons* by Julie Leung** Follows a young child on a journey guided by his mother's bedtime storytelling. He quests into two very different forests, as his two grandmothers help him discover two different, but equally enchanting, truths about dragons. Caldecott Honor and Asian Pacific ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

***Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer** When two curious kids embark on a "wonder walk," they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see: Is the sun the world's light bulb? Is dirt the world's skin? Are rivers the earth's veins? Is the wind the world breathing? I wonder. Caldecott Honor Book ©2022 Grade Level 1

**FIRST GRADE ENTERING SECOND GRADE**

***Built to Last* by Minh Lê** Two kids build entire worlds out of blocks, cardboard, and imagination. From boats attacked by a sea creature to a castle crumbling into the ocean. And they don’t mind when these creations break apart and CRASH to the floor. In fact, they think it’s pretty funny! Every time a creation falls apart, they pick up the pieces and keep building bigger and better. ©2024 Grade Level 2-3

***Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln* by Margarita Engle** As a little girl, Teresa Carreño loved to let her hands dance across the beautiful keys of the piano. If she felt sad, music cheered her up, and when she was happy, the piano helped her share that joy. Soon she was writing her own songs and performing in grand cathedrals. Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book ©2019 Grade Level 2-3

***Discovering the Land of Virtues with Grandma Eliza* by Mary Elizabeth Feda** Enter a land

of comfort and peace! Join hands with Grandma Eliza, Madeline and Felicity in an unexpected adventure to a special land where heavenly creatures greet you and guide you on your journey. Discover with them as they explore the town filled with peace, love and joy. ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Extra Yarn* by Max Barnett** A young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a

community in this stunning picture book. With spare, gently humorous illustrations and a palette that moves from black-and-white to a range of color, this modern fairy tale has the feel of a new classic. Caldecott Honor Book, *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award ©2018 Grade Level 2

***Floaty* by John Himmelman** Blah! Mr. Raisin is a bit of a grump. He lives all alone in a little house, and he likes it that way just fine. One day, a mysterious basket appears on Mr. Raisin’s doorstep. When he opens it up, it seems there’s nothing inside until he notices a floating dog bobbing along his ceiling. ©2018 Grade Level 1-2

***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard** Fry Bread is an evocative depiction of a modern Native American family. Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal, American Indian Youth Literature Picture Book Honor Winner, Pura Belpre Award, and Caldecott Honor Book ©2019 Grade Level 2-3

***A Flicker of Hope* by Julia Cook** HOPE is our children's window for a better tomorrow. In terms of resilience and well-being, hope is a critically important predictor of success. This creative story from the best-selling author of My Mouth is a Volcano!, and Bubble Gum Brain, reminds children that dark clouds can be temporary and asking for help is always okay. We all have times when we need to borrow a little hope from someone else. ©2018 Grade Level 2

***Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Spider* by Jessica Lanan** What if you were small as a bean. Could walk on the walls and ceiling. Sense vibrations through your elbows and jump five times your body length?That is Jumper's world. Sibert Honor Book and NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

***The Little Flower: The Story of St. Therese of the Child Jesus* by Mary Fabyan Windeatt** This book tells what happened to little Therese: It shows how Therese received a second mother when she lost her first mother, how she was teased at school, and how she was cured of being a crybaby. It tells about her mysterious illness, her miraculous cure, her First Holy Communion, the terrible criminal whose soul she won back for God, and what she decided to do when she grew up. ©1992 Grade Level 1-3

***Love Letters from God* by Glenys Nellist** What child does not love to receive mail? What if your child could receive and read his or her own personal mail from God? Love Letters from God will invite them to do just that! In this new updated edition, 18 of the most popular Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments are accompanied by a special and encouraging letter from God to your beloved child. ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Just Help!: How to Build a Better World* b**y **Sonia Sotomayor** Every night when Sonia goes to bed, Mami asks her the same question: *How did you help today?* And since Sonia wants to help her community, just like her Mami does, she always makes sure she has a good answer to Mami's question.©2022 Grade Level 2-3

***Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina** Mia’s abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. While they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English, and Mia learns some Spanish, too, but it’s still hard for Abuela to learn enough words to tell Mia her stories. Then Mia sees a parrot in the pet-shop window and has the perfecto idea for how to help them all communicate a little better. Pura Belpré Award ©2017 Grade Level 2

***Margaret and the Pope Go to Assisi* by Jon M. Sweeney** Margaret and the Pope travel for the first time together away from the Vatican and out of Rome. They go by train to the Umbrian hill town of Assisi, a place of pilgrimage for Christians all over the world who want to remember the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Together they visit the great Basilica named for St. Francis, greet Franciscan friars at the monastery, attend a World Day of Prayer for Peace, meet religious leaders (each, it seems, with a very different hat!) from around the world, and see evidence of the spirit of St. Francis all over town. ©2020 Grade Level 2

***Maybe* by Kobi Yamada** You are the only you there ever has been or ever will be. You are unique in all the universe. Just the odds of you being here at this exact place and this exact time are so great and so rare that it will never happen again. ©2019 Grade Level 2-3

***Two New Years* by Richard Ho** A multicultural family celebrates the traditions of two New Years—the Jewish Rosh Hashanah in the autumn, and the Asian Lunar New Year several months later. Sydney Taylor Gold Medalist and National Jewish Book Award Winner ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Straw* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal** Straw has always had a great thirst for being first, slurping up anything in sight and rushing straight to the finish in every situation. But when his speedy streak gets the best of him, it takes a friend to show Straw how to take his time and drink in the amazing world around him. ©2020 Grade Level 2

***Three Hens, a Peacock, and the Enormous Egg* by Lester L. Laminack** Animals rescue an enormous egg that fell off of a truck. The egg lands on the road in ©2023 Grade Level 2

***There Was a Party for Langston* by Jason Reynolds** Back in the day, there was a heckuva party, a jam, for a word-making man. The King of Letters. Langston Hughes. His ABCs became drums, bumping, jumping, thumping like a heart the size of the whole country. They sent some people yelling and others, his word-children, to write their own glory. Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Watercress* by Andrea Wang** While driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's Chinese immigrant parents spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. They stop the car, grabbing rusty scissors and an old paper bag, and the whole family wades into the mud to gather as much as they can. Caldecott Medal Winner, Newbery Honor Book, and APALA Award Winner ©2021 Grade Level 2-3

# *The World Belonged to Us* by Jacqueline Woodson It's getting hot outside, hot enough to turn on the hydrants and run through the water--and that means it's finally summer in the city! Released from school and reveling in their freedom, the kids on one Brooklyn block take advantage of everything summertime has to offer: Freedom from morning till night to go out to meet their friends and make the streets their playground--jumping double Dutch, playing tag and hide-and-seek, building forts, chasing ice cream trucks, and best of all, believing anything is possible. ©2022 Grade Level 2-3

**SECOND GRADE ENTERING THIRD GRADE**

***Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants: The Questioneers Book #2* by Andrea Beaty** In Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants, Ada must rely on her curious mind, her brave spirit, and her best pals, Rosie Revere and Iggy Peck, to solve a mystery in her own backyard. ©2022 Grade Level 3-4

***Counting in Dog Years and Other Sassy Math Poems* by Betsy Franco** A great fit for children who enjoy playful, imaginative poetry and want to have fun exploring math concepts through relatable, real-life situations and whimsical illustrations. ©2022 Grade Level 2-3

***Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott** When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's not his grandmother--but she is a witch! She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. There are two rules when it comes to the dragons: don't let them out of the bag, and don't feed them anything sweet. Ala-Alsc Notable Children's Book and Npr Best Book Of The Year ©2018 Grade Level 3-4

***Finding My Dance* by Ria Thundercloud** At four years old, Ria Thundercloud was brought into the powwow circle, ready to dance in the special jingle dress her mother made for her. As she grew up, she danced with her brothers all over Indian country. Then Ria learned more styles--tap, jazz, ballet--but still loved the expressiveness of Indigenous dance. ©2022 Grade Level 3

***Halfway to Harmony* by Barbara O'Connor** Walter Tipple is looking for adventure. He keeps having a dream that his big brother, Tank, appears before him and says, "Let's you and me go see my world, little man." But Tank went to the army and never came home, and Walter doesn't know how to see the world without him. ©2022 Grade Level 3-4

***The Haunted Hotel (A to Z Mysteries)* by Ron Roy** There’s a ghost in Green Lawn! Strange sounds and even stranger sights are terrifying guests at the Shangri-la Hotel. More and more people are being scared away. Will Green Lawn turn into a ghost town? Or can Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose stop this spook? ©1999 Grade Level 3-4

***How to Be Cool in the Third Grade* by Betsy Duffey** It's not easy to seem cool when the whole class knows you wear superhero underwear and your mom still kisses you goodbye at the bus stop. But Robbie York has a plan. 1) Get rid of the name Robbie. 2) Get jeans. 3)Avoid bullies like Bo Haney. If only it were that simple! ©1999 Grade Level 3-4

***J.D. and the Great Barber Battle* by J. Dillard** J.D. has a big problem--it's the night before the start of third grade and his mom has just given him his first and worst home haircut. When the steady stream of insults from the entire student body of Douglass Elementary becomes too much for J.D., he takes matters into his own hands and discovers that, unlike his mom, he's a genius with the clippers. ©2021 Grade Level 3-4

***Mac Saves the World (Mac B., Kid Spy #6)* by Mac Barnett** The Queen of England calls on her trusty spy, Mac B., once again. This time, Mac must navigate secret tunnels beneath the Berlin Wall in order to retrieve cheat codes from a Soviet scientist. Floppy disk in hand, **our hero finds** himself trapped in East Germany, stuck between the wall and the Stasi. How will he escape? Well it is 1989, and walls do fall down. ©2021 Grade Level 3-4

***Me and the Sky: Captain Beverley Bass, Pioneering Pilot* by Beverley Bass** When Beverley Bass was a young girl in the late 1950s, she told her parents she wanted to fly planes--and they told her that girls couldn't be pilots. Still, they encouraged her, and brought her to a nearby airport to watch the planes take off and land. ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

***My Head Has a Bellyache* by Chris Harris** A collection of poems that ranges from short haikus to full pages of rhymes, packed with silliness, absurdities, and demonstrative illustrations. There are irreverent riddles and nonsense words, offbeat characters, real places with unique names, and wacky ideas occasionally paired with heartfelt thoughts. 2024 ALA-ALSC Notable Book for Children, Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 3-4

***Remember* by Joy Harjo** This timeless poem paired with magnificent paintings makes for a picture book that is a true celebration of life and our human role within it. American Indian Library Association Honor Book, Boston Globe–Horn Book Honor Award ©2023 Grade Level 3

***Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal* by Karyn Parson** Before Garrett Morgan became a successful inventor and saved countless lives with his creations, he was a little boy with a head full of ideas on how to make life better for everyone. At a tumultuous time filled with racism and discrimination, Garrett became a prominent businessman and skilled inventor who produced the traffic signal, a gas mask, and other objects still used today. ©2021 Grade Level 3

***Stella* by McCall Hoyle** Ever since she was a puppy, Stella was trained to use her powerful beagle nose to sniff out dangerous chemicals and help her handler keep people safe. But during a routine security inspection, Stella misses the scent of an explosive. The sound of the blast is loud and scary. Unable to go back to work because of her anxiety, Stella is retired as a working dog. ©2022 Grade Level 3-4

***Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid* by Megan McDonald** Every morning, Judy Moody measures Stink and it's always the same: three feet, eight inches tall. Stink feels like even the class newt is growing faster than he is. Then, one day, the ruler reads — can it be? — three feet, seven and three quarters inches! Is Stink shrinking? He tries everything to look like he’s growing, but wearing up-and-down stripes and spiking his hair aren't fooling anyone into thinking he's taller. If only he could ask James Madison, Stink's hero, and the shortest person ever to serve as President of the United States. ©2021 Grade Level 3-4

***The Third Grade Reader: 12 Short Stories for Kids in 3rd Grade* by Curious Bee** Each terrific chapter of The Third Grade Reader is its own world of fantasy, fiction, and fun. Every story can be completed in one sitting, has an unexpected twist or quirk, and will keep every young reader engaged for hours. ©2023 Grade Level 3-4

***Three Strike Summer* by Skyler Schrempp** When the skies dried up, Gloria thought it was temporary. When the dust storms rolled in, she thought they would pass. But now the bank man’s come to take the family farm, and Pa’s decided to up and move to California in search of work. They’ll pick fruit, he says, until they can save up enough money to buy land of their own again. ©2023 Grade Level 3-4

***Too Small Tola and the Three Fine Girls* by Atinuke** Too Small Tola lives in an apartment with her clever sister, Moji; her big brother, Dapo; and Grandmommy, who is very bossy. In the first of three endearing new adventures, Tola is sized just right to wriggle under the bed and rescue Grandmommy’s prized possession when it goes missing. Her savvy and math skills save the day when Grandmommy gets sick, and when the family can’t afford new clothes, industrious Tola finds a way—with a little help from Grandmommy to be just as fine as the three fine girls she so greatly admires. ©2023 Grade Level 3-4

***When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller** When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, and The Asian/Pacific American Award For Children's Literature ©2023 Grade Level 3-5

***Wild Summer* by James DuBern** Rosie’s donkey sanctuary isn’t very popular. People want to see lions and gorillas, not rescue ponies and a washed-up race horse. With the bank manager threatening to repossess their home, Rosie and her mum come up with a wild idea; to turn it into a zoo. ©2022 Grade Level 3-5

**THIRD GRADE ENTERING FOURTH GRADE**

***Alone* by Megan E. Freeman** When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She’s alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. ©2021 Grade Level 4-6

***Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk** Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow’s only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. 2018 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction ©2018 Grade Level 4-6

***Eagle Drums* by Nasuġraq Rainey Hopson** As his family prepares for winter, a young, skilled hunter must travel up the mountain to collect obsidian for knapping―the same mountain where his two older brothers died. When he reaches the mountaintop, he is immediately confronted by a terrifying eagle god named Savik. Savik gives the boy a choice: follow me or die like your brothers. What comes next is a harrowing journey to the home of the eagle gods and unexpected lessons on the natural world, the past that shapes us, and the community that binds us. Newbery Honor Book, American Indian in Youth Literature Award Honor Book, and A NPR Best Book of the Year ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***Elf Dog and Owl Head* by M. T. Anderson** Clay has had his fill of home life. A global plague has brought the world to a screeching halt, and with little to look forward to but a summer of video-calling friends, vying with annoying sisters for the family computer, and tuning out his parents’ financial worries, he’s only too happy to retreat to the woods. Newbery Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 4

***Escape From Chernobyl* by Andy Marino** Alina & Lev are two siblings living in Pripyat, one of the Soviet Union's proud nuclear cities. Both are asleep in their beds. Their cousin, Yuri, is a custodian at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, where he's fiercely attacking a spill in the hallway with a mop. Alina's best friend, Sofiya, sleeps just a few doors down. Her father is an engineer at the plant, a fact that has always filled her with pride. ©2021 Grade Level 4

***Ferris* by Kate DiCamillo** It’s the summer before fifth grade, and for Ferris Wilkey, it is a summer of sheer pandemonium: Her little sister, Pinky, has vowed to become an outlaw. Uncle Ted has left Aunt Shirley and, to Ferris’s mother’s chagrin, is holed up in the Wilkey basement to paint a history of the world. ©2024 Grade Level 4-5

***Finally Seen* by Kelly Yang** When ten-year-old Lina Gao steps off the plane in Los Angeles, it’s her first time in America *and* the first time seeing her parents and her little sister in five years! She’s been waiting for this moment every day while she lived with her grandmother in Beijing, getting teased by kids at school who called her “left behind girl.” ©2024 Grade Level 4-5

***Full of Beans* by Jennifer L. Holm** Grown-ups lie. That’s one truth Beans knows for sure. He and his gang know how to spot a whopper a mile away, because they are the savviest bunch of barefoot conchs (that means “locals”) in all of Key West. Not that Beans really minds; it’s 1934, the middle of the Great Depression. With no jobs on the island, and no **money anywhere, who** can really blame the grown-ups for telling a few tales? Scott O'Dell Award ©2018 Grade Level 4-5

***Grasshopper Summer* by Ann Turner**In 1874, eleven-year-old Sam White and his family are moving from Kentucky to the Dakota Territory. These hardy pioneers know it will be hard work, but they don't expect the devastating plague that comes like an unstoppable force to sweep away all their hopes for the future. They will cope. ©2000 Grade Level 4-5

***How Do You Spell Unfair?:MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee* by Carole Boston** In 1936, eighth grader MacNolia Cox became the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio, spelling bee. And with that win, she was asked to compete at the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, where she and a girl from New Jersey were the first African Americans invited since its founding. Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 4

***Just a Girl: A True Story of World War II* by Lia Levi** During Mussolini’s reign, Lia and her family leave their home because of the persecution of Jews. Based on her adult memoir, Levi retells her story through the eyes of a child experiencing racism and hatred of Jews during the period. Mildred L. Batchelder Award ©2022 Grade Level 4

***Tle Last Mapmaker* by Christina Soontornvat** 12-year-old Sai has been working hard and saving every penny she can as an assistant to the kingdom's most illustrious mapmaker, Paiyoon. But if Paiyoon, or anyone else, ever found out the truth about Sai and her father, her chance of escaping poverty would disappear forever. Newbery Honor Book, Walter Dean Myers Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer L. Holm** Bell is just like any other kid. He loves cats, eats all kinds of cake, and is curious about everything. Oh, and he lives on another planet! Living on Mars comes with a ton of rules. Like don’t go outside without a buddy. Always keep a glow stick in your pocket. And no contact with the kids in the other settlements. ©2022 Grade Level 4-6

***The Lost Library* by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass** When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change. ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***Love from Your Friend, Hannah* by Mindy Warshaw Skolsky** Hannah's best friend, Aggie, moves away and doesn't answer a single one of her letters. Determined to find a new pen pal, Hannah picks an address from a box on her teacher's desk. It's a boy, but his first letter is so dopey, Hannah isn't even going to answer it. Instead, she writes to President Roosevelt. Before long, Hannah has a whole lot of pen pals--and finally discovers the perfect friend, in the most unlikely place. ©1999 Grade Level 4-5

***Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee** Maizy has never been to Last Chance, Minnesota until now. Her mom’s plan is just to stay for a couple weeks, until her grandfather gets better. But plans change, and as Maizy spends more time in Last Chance and at the Golden Palace the restaurant that’s been in her family for generations—she makes some discoveries. Newbery Honor Award, National Book Award Finalist, and Asian/Pacific American Award For Youth Literature ©2022 Grade Level 4-6

***Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga** Jude never thought she’d be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. Newbery Honor Book ©2021 Grade Level 4-6

***Something Like Home* by Andrea Beatriz Arango** So when Laura finds a puppy, it seems like fate. If she can train the puppy to become a therapy dog, then maybe she’ll be allowed to visit her parents. Maybe the dog will help them get better and things will finally go back to the way they should be. Newbery Honor Award ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly** From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be. Schneider Family Book Award ©2019 Grade Level 4-5

***We Are Family* by LeBron James and Andrea Williams** Jayden Carr has been training all summer to be ready for Hoop Group—the free after school basketball program where his hero, NBA superstar Kendrick King, got his start. But when his beloved coach tells him there’s not going to be a Hoop Group this year, Jayden is heartbroken. ©2021 Grade Level 4-5

**FOURTH GRADE ENTERING FIFTH GRADE**

***Bandy* by Craig R. Hipkins** Isaac, with Joy, escape into the backwoods of Virginia. Discovering passages of the Underground Railroad, stowing away in carriages, hiding in churches, and outwitting the mercenaries hired by Jericho, the two teens fight tooth and nail to make it to Boston before they’re caught. Will Joy be taken from this life by sickness before she’s found freedom? On their journey, they learn a lot about each other. Isaac promises to bring Joy to Bandy's pond, a heavenly place where peace and serenity reign. ©2024 Grade Level 5-7

***Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* by Alda P. Dobbs** It is 1913, and 12-year-old Petra witnesses the tragedies of the Mexican Revolution. Her mother is dead, her father is missing, and Petra must look after her elderly grandmother, her younger sister, and her little brother. Their only hope is to make it to the U.S. border and find a way to cross the Rio Grande. Soldiers, broken infrastructure, and the desert stand in their way. 2022 Pura Belpré Honor Book, NYPL Best Book of 2022, Texas Bluebonnet Master List Selection, and NPR Best Book of 2022 ©2022 Grade Level 5-6

***The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman** On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna. In their new lives in Leningrad, they begin to learn what it means to trust another person. National Jewish Book Award Winner, Sydney Taylor Middle Grade Honor Book ©2021 Grade Level 5-6

***The Eyes and the Impossible* by Dave Eggers** Johannes, a free dog, lives in an urban park by the sea. His job is to be the Eyes—to see everything that happens within the park and report back to the park’s elders, three ancient Bison. His friends—a seagull, a raccoon, a squirrel, and a pelican—work with him as the Assistant Eyes, observing the humans and other animals who share the park and making sure the Equilibrium is in balance. Newbery Medal ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

***The Firefly Summer* by Morgan Matson** For as long as Ryanna Stuart can remember, her summers have been spent with her father and his new wife. Just the three of them, structured, planned, and quiet. But this summer is different. This summer, she’s received a letter from her grandparents—grandparents neither she nor her dad have spoken to since her mom’s death—inviting her to stay with them at an old summer camp in the Poconos. ©2023 Grade Level 5-6

***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

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# *The Girl Who Looked Beyond The Stars* by L. B. Anne Sheena Meyer is the girl who brings an extra lunch to school each day just in case someone doesn't have lunch. She's also the girl who questions and investigates everything, driving her parents and teachers nuts. She spends most days waiting for some grand event to happen and change her life, but she won't have to wait much longer. ©2019 Grade Level 5–7

***I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day** All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn’t have any answers.

Until the day when she and her friends discover a box hidden in the attic—a box full of letters signed “Love, Edith,” and photos of a woman who looks just like her. ©2019 Grade Level 5-6

***Lasagna Means I Love You* by Kate O’Shaughnessy** Nan was all the family Mo ever needed. But suddenly she’s gone, and Mo finds herself in foster care after her uncle decides she’s not worth sticking around for. ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

***The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine* by Katherine Marsh** Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His journalist dad is stuck overseas indefinitely, and his mom has moved in with his one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother to ride out the pandemic, adding to his stress and isolation. But when Matthew finds a tattered black-and-white photo in his great-grandmother’s belongings, he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past, one that will lead to a life-shattering family secret. Jane Addams Children’s Book Award, Notable Social Studies Trade Book ©2023 Grade Level 5-8

***Not an Easy Win* by Chrystal D. Giles** Nothing’s gone right for Lawrence since he had to move from Charlotte to Larenville, North Carolina, to live with his granny. When Lawrence ends up in one too many fights at his new school, he gets expelled. The fight wasn’t his fault, but since his pop’s been gone, it feels like no one listens to what Lawrence has to say. ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

***Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park** A girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend. Hanna, a half-Asian girl in a small town in America's heartland, lives in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. ©2020 Grade Level 5–6

***Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca** Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she’s the only Indian American student, and home, with her family’s traditions and holidays. But Reha’s parents don’t understand why she’s conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn’t meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma. Although their names are linked—Reha means “star” and Punam means “moon”—they are a universe apart. ©2021 Grade Level 5-7

***The Seventh Wish* by Kate Messner** When Charlie Brennan goes ice fishing on her town's frozen lake, she's hoping the fish she reels in will help pay for her dream: a fancy Irish dancing dress for her upcoming competition. But when Charlie's first catch of the day happens to be a talking fish offering her a wish in exchange for its freedom, her world quickly turns upside down, as her wishes go terribly and hilariously wrong. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

***Shadow Jumper* by J M Forster** The truth is out there somewhere but how far is Jack willing to jump to find it? Jack Phillips's allergy to sunshine confines him to the shadows, leaving him lonely and at risk of life-threatening burns every time he steps into the light. Shadow jumping on the rooftops at dusk makes him feel alive. And free. But Jack's condition is suddenly worse than ever and only his missing scientist dad can save him. ©2014 Grade Level 5-7

***The Superteacher Project* by Gordon Korman** Oliver Zahn, spitball champion and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as “pupils.” The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It’s time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the new teacher who’s boss. ©2023 Grade Level 5-6

***Wildoak* by C. C. Harrington Maggie** Stephens's stutter makes school especially hard. She will do almost anything to avoid speaking in class or calling attention to herself. So when her unsympathetic father threatens to send her away for so-called "treatment," she reluctantly agrees to her mother's intervention plan: a few weeks in the fresh air of Wildoak Forest, visiting a grandfather she hardly knows. Schneider Family Book Award ©2022 Grade Level 5-7

***The Worlds We Leave Behind* by A.F. Harrold** Hex doesn’t know why he does the things he does―why he sometimes stands up in class to look out the window or ask an unrelated question or do a little dance. He also doesn’t know why he threw the rock that day in the woods. He didn’t *mean* for the girl to fall and break her arm. But he’s blamed anyway. ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

***Wretched Waterpark* by Kiersten White** Meet the Sinister-Winterbottoms: brave Theo, her timid twin, Alexander, and their older sister, Wil. They’re stuck for the summer with their Aunt Saffronia, who doesn’t know how often children need to eat and can’t use a smartphone, and whose feet never quite seem to touch the floor when she glides er walks. ©2022 Grade Level 5-7

**FIFTH GRADE ENTERING SIXTH GRADE**

***The Clockwork Crow* by Catherine Fisher** Orphan Seren Rhys is on her way to a new life at the remote country mansion of Plas-y Fran when she is given a package by a stranger late at night in an empty train station. The package contains a crotchety, mechanical talking crow, which Seren reluctantly brings to her new home. But when she gets there, the happy Christmas she had hoped for turns out to be an illusion—the young son of the house, Tomos, has been missing for almost a year, rumored to have been taken by the fairies. ©2020 Grade Level 5-6

***Clues to the Universe* by Christina Li** The only thing Rosalind Ling Geraghty loves more than watching NASA launches with her dad is building rockets with him. When he dies unexpectedly, all Ro has left of him is an unfinished model rocket they had been working on together. Benjamin Burns doesn’t like science, but he can’t get enough of *Spacebound*, a popular comic book series. When he finds a sketch that suggests that his dad created the comics, he’s thrilled. Too bad his dad walked out years ago, and Benji has no way to contact him. ©2021 Grade Level 6-7

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# *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Vermont Golden Dome Book Award ©2013 Grade Level 5-7

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## *Greystone Secrets #2: The Deceivers* by Margaret Peterson Haddix Until their mother vanished, the Greystone kids—Chess, Emma, and Finn—knew nothing about the other world. Everything is different there. It’s a mirror image, except things are wrong. *Evil*. Their mother tried to fix it, but she and an ally got trapped there along with Ms. Morales, their friend Natalie’s mom. Now the four kids—brave Chess, smart Emma, kind Finn, and savvy Natalie are determined to rescue everyone. ©2020 Grade Level 5-7

***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

***A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll** Ever since Ms. Murphy told us about the witch trials that happened centuries ago right here in Juniper, I can’t stop thinking about them. Those people weren’t magic. They were like me. Different like me. I’m autistic. I see things that others do not. I hear sounds that they can ignore. And sometimes I feel things all at once. ©2021 Grade Level 5-7

# *The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams* by Daniel Nayeri This is the tale of an exciting journey along the Silk Road with a young Monk and his newfound guardian, Samir, a larger than life character and the so-called “Seller of Dreams”. The man is a scammer; his biggest skill being the ability to talk his way into getting what he wants. Newbery Honor Award ©2023 Grade Level 6-7

# *The Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S. (as told to his brother)* by David Levithan Aidan disappeared for six days. Six agonizing days of searches and police and questions and constant vigils. Then, just as suddenly as he vanished, Aidan reappears. Where has he been? The story he tells is simply. . . impossible. But it's the story Aidan is sticking to.His brother, Lucas, wants to believe him. But Lucas is aware of what other people, including their parents, are saying: that Aidan is making it all up to disguise the fact that he ran away. ©2021 Grade Level 6-7

# *The Star That Always Stays* by Anna Rose Johnson Growing up on Beaver Island, Grand-père told Norvia stories—stories about her ancestor Migizi, about Biboonke-o-nini the Wintermaker, about the Crane Clan and the Reindeer Clan. He sang her songs in the old language, and her grandmothers taught her to make story quilts and maple candy. On the island, Norvia was *proud* of her Ojibwe heritage. NPR Best Book of the Year ©2022 Grade Level 6-7

# *Stay* by Bobbie Pyron Piper’s life is turned upside down when her family moves into a shelter in a whole new city. She misses her house, her friends, and her privacy—and she *hates* being labeled the homeless girl at her new school. ©2019 Grade Level 6-7

# *Simon Sort of Says* by Erin Bow Simon O’Keeffe’s biggest claim to fame should be the time his dad accidentally gave a squirrel a holy sacrament. Or maybe the alpaca disaster that went viral on YouTube. But the story the whole world wants to tell about Simon is the one he’d do anything to forget: the one starring Simon as a famous survivor of gun violence at school. Newbery Honor Award Schneider Family Book Award Honor ©2023 Grade Level 6-7

# *They Threw Us Away: The Teddies Saga* by Daniel Kraus Buddy wakes up in the middle of a garbage dump, filled with a certain awareness: he’s a teddy bear; he spent time at a Store waiting for his future to begin; and he is meant for the loving arms of a child. Now he knows one more thing: Something has gone terribly wrong. ©2020 Grade Level 6-7

# *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez* by Adrianna Cuevas All Nestor Lopez wants is to live in one place for more than a few months and have dinner with his dad. When he and his mother move to a new town to live with his grandmother after his dad’s latest deployment, Nestor plans to lay low. He *definitely* doesn’t want anyone to find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals. Pura Belpré Honor Book ©2020 Grade Level 6-7

***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 Unlikely Story of a Pig in the City* by Jodi Kendall J**osie Shilling’s family is too big, their cramped city house is too small, and she feels like no one’s ever on her side. Then, on Thanksgiving Day, her older brother, Tom, brings home a pink, squirmy bundle wrapped in an old football jersey—a piglet he rescued from a nearby farm. Her name is Hamlet. ©2018 Grade Level 6-7

***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

***The Windeby Puzzle: History and Story* by Lois Lowry** Estrild is not like the other girls in her village; she wants to be a warrior. Varick, the orphan boy who helps her train in spite of his twisted back, also stands apart. In a world where differences are poorly tolerated, just how much danger are they in? ©2023 Grade Level 6-7

***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat** All light in Chattana is created by one man — the Governor, who appeared after the Great Fire to bring peace and order to the city. For Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison, the magical lights represent freedom, and he dreams of the day he will be able to walk among them. But when Pong escapes from prison, he realizes that the world outside is no fairer than the one behind bars. The wealthy dine and dance under bright orb light, while the poor toil away in darkness. Worst of all, Pong’s prison tattoo marks him as a fugitive who can never be truly free. Newbery Honor Book ©2020 Grade Level 6-7

***Word of Mouse* by James Patterson** What makes Isaiah so unique? First, his fur is as blue as the sky--which until recently was something he'd never seen but had read all about. That's right--Isaiah can read and write. ©2016 Grade Level 5-7

**SIXTH GRADE ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE**

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### *1919 The Year That Changed America* by Martin W. Sandler 1919 was a world-shaking year. America was recovering from World War I and black soldiers returned to racism so violent that that summer would become known as the Red Summer. The suffrage movement had a long-fought win when women gained the right to vote. Laborers took to the streets to protest working conditions; nationalistic fervor led to a communism scare; and temperance gained such traction that prohibition went into effect. Each of these movements reached a tipping point that year. National Book Award Winner ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

### *All Battles End at Sunset* by Jared Acuña Twelve-year-old orphan boy Marcel finds himself caught up in the action when he joins legendary sea captain Jean Ribault and his crew of French Freedom fighters known as the Huguenots, searching for a haven for the persecuted of Europe. Together, they set sail for Florida — where mysterious Native Timucuans watch from the palm trees, and dragon like alligators lurk in the swamps only to be hunted down by the life Marcel and the Huguenots all thought they could escape. ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

***The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho** Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago, who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. NBDB National Book Awards Nominee for Translation, Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle for roman, Premio Grinzane Cavour for Narrativa Straniera, Corine Internationaler Buchpreis for Belletristik ©2014 Grade Level 7-8

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# *Among The Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. ©1998 Grade Level 7-8

***Beverly, Right Here* by Kate DiCamillo** Beverly Tapinski has run away from home plenty of times, but that was when she was just a kid. By now, she figures, it’s not running away. It’s leaving. Determined to make it on her own, Beverly finds a job and a place to live and tries to forget about her dog, Buddy, now buried underneath the orange trees back home; her friend Raymie, whom she left without a word; and her mom, Rhonda, who has never cared about anyone but herself. Beverly doesn’t want to depend on anyone, and she definitely doesn’t want anyone to depend on her. ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

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# *Everything Sad Is Untrue: (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri "A patchwork story is the shame of the refugee," Nayeri writes early in the novel. In an Oklahoman middle school, Khosrou (whom everyone calls Daniel) stands in front of a skeptical audience of classmates, telling the tales of his family's history, stretching back years, decades, and centuries. At the core is Daniel's story of how they became refugees—starting with his mother's vocal embrace of Christianity in a country that made such a thing a capital offense, and continuing through their midnight flight from the secret police, bribing their way onto a plane-to-anywhere. Anywhere becomes the sad, cement refugee camps of Italy, and then finally asylum in the U.S. Implementing a distinct literary style and challenging western narrative structures, Nayeri deftly weaves through stories of the long and beautiful history of his family in Iran. Michael L. Printz Award, Christopher Award Winner ©2020 Grade Level 8-9

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson** It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse.South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee ©2002 Grade Level 8-9

***Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz** September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive -- and escape? September 11, 2019, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz -- and put herself and her family in mortal danger? ©2021 Grade Level 7-8

***Homecoming* by Cynthia Voigt Liza** Tillerman leaves her children in a mall parking lot, telling the three younger ones to mind Dicey, the oldest at 13. They wait in their car overnight, but when their mother doesn’t return, Dicey decides they must walk some sixty miles to find an aunt, the only relative they know of. National Book Award Finalist ©2012 Grade Level 7-8

***Loyalty* by Avi** When his father is killed by rebel vigilantes, Noah flees with his family to Boston. Intent on avenging his father, Noah becomes a spy for the British and firsthand witness to the power of partisan rumor to distort facts, the hypocrisy of men who demand freedom while enslaving others, and the human connections that bind people together regardless of stated allegiances. ©2022 Grade Level 6-7

***The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity* by Nicholas Day** Travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris. Walk its backstreets. Meet the infamous thieves—and detectives—of the era. And then slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the Mona Lisa, through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. Discover the secret at the heart of the Mona Lisa—the most famous painting in the world should never have existed at all. Sibert Medal Winner ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

***Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow* by Jessica Townsend Morrigan** Crow is cursed. Having been born on Eventide, the unluckiest day for any child to be born, she's blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks--and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on her eleventh birthday. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor. ©2017 Grade Level 7-8

***The Night Diary*** **by Veera Hiranandani** It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Newbery Honor Book, Walter Dean Myers Honor Winner ©2018 Grade Level 7-8

***The Radium Girls : The Scary But True Story of the Poison That Made People Glow in the Dark* by Kate Moore** Amid the excitement of the early twentieth century, hundreds of young women spend their days hard at work painting watch dials with glow-in-the-dark radium paint. The painters consider themselves lucky―until they start suffering from a mysterious illness. As the corporations try to cover up a shocking secret, these shining girls suddenly find themselves at the center of a deadly scandal. ©2020 Grade Level 7-8

***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

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# *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt Delsie loves tracking the weather--lately, though, it seems the squalls are in her own life. She's always lived with her kindhearted Grammy, but now she's looking at their life with new eyes and wishing she could have a "regular family." Delsie observes other changes in the air, too--the most painful being a friend who's outgrown her. ©2019 Grade Level 6-7

***Strongheart Wonder Dog of the Silver 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

***Troublemaker* by John Cho** It’s 1992 in Glendale, California, and Jordan’s life is coming apart: He’s been suspended from school for cheating. He’s banned from seeing Mike, his impulsive church friend. Sarah, his adored older sister, is always busy—and so perfect that he looks even more disappointing by comparison. Appa and Umma, burdened with financial worries, are constantly working at their liquor store. Jordan’s family immigrated 9 years earlier, but the bright American future they sacrificed so much for seems questionable. Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Book ©2022 Grade Level 7-8

***We Dream of Space* by Erin Entrada** Kelly Cash, Fitch, and Bird Nelson Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle *Challenger*, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties. Cash, who loves basketball but has a newly broken wrist, is in danger of failing seventh grade for the second time. Fitch spends every afternoon playing *Major Havoc* at the arcade on Main and wrestles with an explosive temper that he doesn’t understand. And Bird, his twelve-year-old twin, dreams of being NASA’s first female shuttle commander, but feels like she’s disappearing. Newbery Honor Book ©2020 Grade Level 6-7

**SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE**

***Absolutely Truly* by Heather Vogel** Frederick Truly Lovejoy is accustomed to change. Her father’s military career means they move often. But the kind of change that comes when her father loses an arm in Afghanistan and decides to move the family to middle-of-nowhere Pumpkin Falls to take over the family bookstore is a little more than Truly can handle. ©2014 Grade Level 7-8

***Ali Cross* by James Patterson** Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

***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

***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

***Deadly Aim: The Civil War Story of Michigan's Anishinaabe Sharpshooters* by Sally M. Walker** More than 20,000 American Indians served in the Civil War, but their stories have seldom appeared in history books. This book explores the remarkable service of Michigan’s Anishinaabe sharpshooters and is filled with photographs, diagrams, and maps. ©2021 Grade Level 7-9

***Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin** The Cold War game grows more precarious as weapons are pointed towards each other, with fingers literally on the trigger. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third―and final―world war. Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

***Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith** All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II, and the Army forms the WASP-Women Airforce Service Pilots. ©2010 Grade Level 8-9

***Goodbye, Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea** Jeffrey, Alexia, Anna, Danielle, Luke, Peter, and Jessica are thrilled to have their beloved teacher, Mr. Terupt, back for the school year as their biweekly adviser. They still rely on him for guidance on so many things, including these dilemmas. ©2020 Grade Level 7-8

***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 7-8

***Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Europe* by Steve Sheinkin** It is 1944. A teenager named Rudolf (Rudi) Vrba has made up his mind. After barely surviving nearly two years in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, he knows he *must* escape. Even if death is more likely. Sydney Taylor Book Award Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

***A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen** With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old 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, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. ©2015 Grade Level 7-8

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz** Historical novel that braids the stories of three young refugees in three different time periods and settings: 1938 Berlin, 1994 Cuba, and 2015 Syria. The circumstances of all the kids and families are dire, and their journeys are fraught with imminent danger. ©2017 Grade Level 7-8

***Restart* by Gordon Korman** Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again. South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee ©2017 Grade Level 7-9

***Rez Ball* by Byron Graves** When Jaxon's former teammates on the varsity team offer to take Tre under their wing, he sees this as his shot to represent his Ojibwe rez all the way to their first state championship. This is the first step toward his dream of playing in the NBA, no matter how much the odds are stacked against him. American Indian Youth Literature Award, William Morris Debut Award ©2023 Grade Level 8-9

**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

***Ruby Lost and Found* by Christina Li** After Ruby gets in major trouble at school, her parents decide she has to spend the summer at a local senior center with her grandmother, Nai-Nai, and Nai-Nai’s friends for company. APALA Youth Literature Award ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

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# *They Went Left* by Monica Hesse Germany, 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over, but nothing feels over to eighteen-year-old Zofia Lederman. Her body has barely begun to heal, her mind feels broken. And her life is completely shattered: Three years ago, she and her younger brother, Abek, were the only members of their family to be sent to the right, away from the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Everyone else her parents, her grandmother, radiant Aunt Maja—they went left. ©2020 Grade Level 8-10

***Walls* by L. M. Elliott** Drew is an army brat in West Berlin, where soldiers like his dad hold an outpost of democracy against communist Russia. Drew’s cousin Matthias, an East Berliner, has grown up in the wreckage of Allied war bombing, on streets ruled by the secret police. ©2021 Grade Level 8-10

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# *We Are Not Free* by Traci Chee A story about fourteen teens united by their bonds to each other and their struggles with identity, it is an emotional story of harassment, enemies and resilience. This historical fiction novel examines racism, the ways they are forcibly removed, forced to navigate two halves of themselves. The racism and the fear of harassment was incredibly emotional to read, especially as a fellow person of color (and especially considering the growing Anti-Asian sentiment experienced during the pandemic even though these are in no way similar experiences). ©2020 Grade Level 8-9

***We Had To Be Brave* by Deborah Hopkinson** Ruth David was growing up in a small village in Germany when Adolf Hitler rose to power in the 1930s. Under the Nazi Party, Jewish families like Ruth's experienced rising anti-Semitic restrictions and attacks. Just going to school became dangerous. By November 1938, anti-Semitism erupted into Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, and unleashed a wave of violence and forced arrests. ©2020 Grade Level 8-9