

Parent & Child Book Clubs

Suggested Titles

The library has discussion questions
for the books in this list.



Park Ridge Public Library
Children's Services
(847) 825-4527

| Title | Summary | Grades | Lexile |
|---|--|-----------|---------|
| 100 Year-Old Secret by Barrett (Book 1 of Sherlock Files series) | Xena and Xander Holmes, an American brother and sister living in London for a year, discover that Sherlock Holmes was their great-great-great grandfather when they are inducted into the Society for the Preservation of Famous Detectives and given his unsolved casebook, from which they attempt to solve the case of a famous missing painting. | 4th - 6th | 650 |
| Airborn by Oppel | A young cabin boy aboard an airship and a wealthy young girl team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. | 6th - 9th | 760 |
| All Capone Does My Shirts by Choldenko | A twelve-year-old boy moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. | 5th - 8th | 600 |
| Among the Hidden by Haddix (Book 1 of Shadow Children series) | A government decree allows each family only two children. For Luke, a third child, this has meant a lifetime of hiding. Could a stray glimpse of a child hiding in the house across the way lead to freedom? | 5th - 8th | 800 |
| Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker by DeFelice | In 1849 a boy becomes a doctor's apprentice after losing his family to "consumption." | 4th - 7th | 830 |
| Balto and the Great Race by Kimmel | Recounts how the sled dog Balto saved Nome, Alaska, in 1925 from a diphtheria epidemic by delivering medicine through a raging snowstorm. | 3rd - 6th | 870 |
| Because of Winn-Dixie by DiCamillo | Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. | 4th - 6th | 610 |
| Book of Coupons by Morgenstern | Elderly Monsieur Noel, the very unconventional new teacher, gives coupon books for such things as dancing in class and sleeping late, which are bound to get him in trouble with the military discipline of Principal Incarnation Perez. | 3rd - 6th | 790 |
| Bridge to Terabithia by Paterson | Ten-year-old Jesse Aarons, who has lived all his life on a farm in Virginia, becomes friends with Leslie Burke, a "city girl" who has moved into a farmhouse down the road and opens doors to culture and imaginative play. But then tragedy strikes. | 4th - 6th | 810 |
| Boy Who Saved Baseball by Ritter | The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato. | 5th - 8th | 660 |
| Breadwinner by Ellis (Book 1 of Breadwinner series) | Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. | 5th - 8th | 630 |
| Bud, Not Buddy by Curtis | Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. | 4th - 7th | 950 |
| Capital Mysteries (series) | An early chapter book mystery series featuring fun facts and famous sites from Washington, D.C. | 1st - 3rd | 460-630 |
| Castle in the Attic by Winthrop | A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest. | 4th - 6th | 750 |

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| Chasing Vermeer by Balliett | When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. | 5th - 8th | 770 |
| Chicken Doesn't Skate, The by Korman | Wild things happen at the South Middle School when Milo's science project, Henrietta the chicken, becomes the hockey team's mascot and their only chance for a winning season. | 4th - 6th | 710 |
| Christmas Memory by Capote | A reminiscence of a Christmas shared by a seven-year-old boy and a sixtyish childlike woman cousin, with enormous love and friendship between them. | 3rd & up | 660 |
| Chronicles of Narnia by Lewis (series) | Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. (Book 1 - The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe) | 4th & up | 790-970 |
| City of Ember by DuPrau (Book 1 of Books of Ember series) | In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. | 4th - 7th | 680 |
| Clementine by Pennypacker (series) | 8 year-old Clementine is precocious and loquacious, but she has a big heart. This series follows her as she stumbles through 3rd grade. | 2nd - 4th | 600-790 |
| Close to Famous by Bauer | Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother escape from her mother's abusive boyfriend and end up in the small town of Culpepper, West Virginia, where they use their strengths and challenge themselves to build a new life, with the help of the friends they make there. | 5th - 8th | 540 |
| Clumsy Crocodile, The by Everett | When Cassy the clumsy crocodile gets a job at Everglades Department Store, she certainly makes things happen, but not in the way she hopes. She leaves a trail of destruction behind her in every department she visits. However, in the end, Cassy's clumsiness saves the day and turns her into a hero. | 1st - 3rd | 410 |
| Cricket in Times Square by Selden | A country cricket falls into a picnic basket and ends up in New York City. | 1st - 4th | 780 |
| Crooked River by Pearsall | When thirteen-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca, witnessing the town's reaction to the Indian, struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death. | 5th - 8th | 910 |
| Danger at the Zoo - American Girl - Kit | While working as a reporter during her summer vacation in 1935, Kit uncovers a mystery at the Cincinnati Zoo involving suspected break-ins at the monkey house. | 3rd - 6th | 710 |
| Defiance by Hobbs | While vacationing in the country, eleven-year-old Toby, a cancer patient, learns some important lessons about living and dying from an elderly poet and her cow. | 5th - 7th | 640 |
| Dial-A-Ghost by Ibbotson | A family of nice ghosts protects a British orphan from the diabolical plans of his evil guardians. | 3rd - 6th | 850 |
| Diamond Willow by Frost | In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her. | 5th - 8th | 670 |

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| Doing Time Online by Siebold | After he is involved in a prank that led to an elderly woman's injury, twelve-year-old Mitchell must make amends by participating in a police program in which he chats online with a nursing home resident. | 4th - 6th | 510 |
| Don't Tell Anyone by Kehret | Twelve-year-old Megan does not realize that feeding a group of feral cats living in a field near her house will involve her as a witness to a traffic accident and in the dangerous plan of an unstable criminal. | 4th - 6th | 670 |
| Don't You Know There's a War On? By Avi | In wartime Brooklyn in 1943, eleven-year-old Howie Crispers mounts a campaign to save his favorite teacher from being fired. | 3rd - 6th | 500 |
| Dovey Coe by Dowell | When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother. | 4th - 6th | 980 |
| Dying to Meet You by Klise (43 Old Cemetery Road series) | In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author I. B. Grumly gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer. This is the first book in a series. | 3rd - 6th | 730 |
| Qwerty Stevens Back in Time: Edison Mystery by Gutman | Thirteen-year-old Robert "Qwerty" Stevens uses the time machine he finds in his back yard to visit Thomas Edison's workshop in 1879, and there helps develop the electric light bulb, but then needs his sister's help to return to his own time. | 4th - 6th | 670 |
| Eragon by Paolini (Book 1 of Inheritance Cycle series) | In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. | 6th - 12th | 710 |
| Everything on a Waffle by Horvath | Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea. | 5th - 7th | 950 |
| Fever, 1793 by Anderson | In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. | 6th - 10th | 580 |
| Fireworks at the FBI (Book 6 of Capital Mysteries series) | As they leave a Fourth of July celebration with the President of the United States, KC and Marshall see unauthorized fireworks at the FBI Building and decide to unmask the culprit and his plans for blackmail. | 1st - 3rd | 610 |
| Flipped by Van Draanen | In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. | 5th - 9th | 720 |
| Found by Haddix (Book 1 of The Missing series) | When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time. | 4th - 8th | 750 |
| Frindle by Clements | When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control. | 3rd - 6th | 830 |

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| Funny Business by Stern (Frankly Frannie) | When Frannie and her mother accompany her father on a business trip to Florida, Frannie would rather help him at the conference hotel than go with her mother to Princessland theme park. | 1st - 3rd | 680 |
| Gathering Blue by Lowry (Book 2 of The Giver series) | Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians. | 6th - 9th | 680 |
| Giver, The by Lowry (Book 1 of The Giver series) | Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. | 6th - 9th | 760 |
| Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! By Schlitz | A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor. | 4th - 8th | N/A |
| Graduation of Jake Moon by Park | Fourteen-year-old Jake recalls how he has spent the last four years of his life watching his grandfather descend slowly but surely into the horrors of Alzheimer's disease. | 4th - 6th | 680 |
| Graveyard Book by Gaiman | Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. | 5th - 9th | 820 |
| Great Turkey Walk by Karr | In 1860, a somewhat simple-minded fifteen-year-old boy attempts to herd one thousand turkeys from Missouri to Denver, Colorado, in hopes of selling them at a profit. | 5th - 8th | 700 |
| Gregor the Overlander by Collins (Book 1 of the Underland Chronicles series) | When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. | 4th - 8th | 630 |
| Grumpy Pumpkin by Delton (Book 5 of the PeeWee Scouts series) | The Pee Wee Scouts listen to Mrs. Peters, their troop leader, tell them all about the Halloween party plans. | 1st - 3rd | 400 |
| Half Magic by Eager | Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes. | 3rd - 6th | 830 |
| Hana's Suitcase by Levine | A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her. | 5th - 8th | 730 |
| Heir Apparent by Vande Velde | While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself. | 6th - 9th | 820 |
| Higher Power of Lucky by Patron | Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life. | 4th - 6th | 1010 |
| Holes by Sachar | As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. | 5th - 9th | 660 |

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| How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found by Nickerson | With a swimming medal, the key to a mansion, and a comic book about a half-man/half-rat as her only clues, a twelve-year-old girl seeks the true story of her father's mysterious death four years earlier. | 5th - 9th | 720 |
| Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The by Twain | Huckleberry Finn, an abused outcast, rafts with Jim, a runaway slave, down the Mississippi River, where they have a variety of experiences. | 6th & up | 810 |
| Incarceron by Fisher | To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape. | 7th - 12th | 600 |
| Invention of Hugo Cabret, The by Selznick | When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. | 4th - 9th | 820 |
| Jackie's Wild Seattle by Hobbs | Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle. | 5th - 8th | 660 |
| Jacob Have I Loved by Paterson | Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity. | 5th - 8th | 880 |
| Just for Elephants by Buckley | Tells the true story of Shirley, an elephant who was taken from her zoo to the Elephant Sanctuary, including the details of her trip there, her first days there, and her reunion with an elephant from the circus in which she had been a member. | 2nd - 6th | 950 |
| Kidnapped at the Capital (Capital Mysteries) | KC's mother and the clone of the President of the United States are kidnapped by disgruntled astronauts who want to take over the International Space Station. | 1st - 3rd | 500 |
| Last Book in the Universe by Philbrick | After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future. | 5th - 8th | 740 |
| Last Treasure by Anderson | Thirteen-year-old Ellsworth leaves his father to visit the relatives he has never met and eventually joins forces with Jess, his distant cousin, to uncover family secrets and search for their ancestor's hidden treasure. | 4th - 8th | 660 |
| Listening for Lions by Whelan | Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital. | 5th - 8th | 900 |
| Lives of Christopher Chant by Jones (Book 4 of The Chronicles of Chrestomanci series) | Young Christopher Chant, in training to become the next Chrestomanci or head controller of magic in the world, becomes a key figure in a battle with renegade sorcerers because he has nine lives. | 5th - 8th | N/A |
| Long Way From Chicago by Peck | A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. | 4th - 8th | 750 |
| Love That Dog by Creech | A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, and an appearance at his school by Walter Dean Myers, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem. | 4th - 8th | 1010 |

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| Mercy Watson to the Rescue by DiCamillo | After Mercy the pig snuggles to sleep with the Watsons, all three awaken with the bed teetering on the edge of a big hole in the floor. | K - 2nd | 450 |
| Mermaid Mary Margaret by Hazen | Mary Margaret takes a cruise through the Greek Isles with her recently widowed grandmother and keeps a journal of her adventures. | 3rd - 5th | N/A |
| Mick Harte Was Here by Park | Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident. | 4th - 6th | 730 |
| Midnight Magic by Avi | In Italy in 1491, Mangus the magician and his apprentice are summoned to the castle of Duke Claudio to determine if his daughter is indeed being haunted by a ghost. | 4th - 7th | 660 |
| Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by DiCamillo | Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories. | 3rd - 6th | 700 |
| Niagara Falls, or Does It? By Winkler (Book 1 of Hank Zipzer series) | Fourth-graders Hank, Ashley, and Frankie are excitedly preparing for a magic show at the Rock 'N Bowl when Hank's creative alternative to an English essay lands him in detention and grounded the week of the show. | 3rd - 5th | 610 |
| Mystery at the Washington Monument (Book 8 in Capital Mysteries series) | When KC and Marshall see lights flickering at night in the Washington Monument, their investigation turns up a monkey, a hole in one of the monument stones, and a hundred-year-old mystery. | 1st - 3rd | 530 |
| No More Dead Dogs by Korman | Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. | 5th - 7th | 610 |
| Olive's Ocean by Henkes | On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer. | 5th - 8th | 680 |
| Olivia Kidney by Potter (Book 1 in Olivia Kidney series) | Twelve-year-old Olivia explores her new apartment building and finds a psychic, talking lizards, a shrunken ex-pirate, an exiled princess, ghosts, and other unusual characters. | 4th - 6th | 720 |
| Once Upon a Marigold by Ferris | A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father. | 5th - 9th | 840 |
| Out of the Dust by Hesse | In a series of poems, fourteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression. | 5th - 8th | N/A |
| Overboard by Fama | Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith. | 5th - 8th | 690 |
| Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Hatkoff | Simple text and photographs introduce the special bond shared by Owen, an orphaned hippo, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise. | K - 5th | 920 |
| Penderwicks: a Summer Tale of Four sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Birdsall (Book 1 of The Penderwicks series) | While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. | 4th - 6th | 800 |

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| People of Sparks by DuPrau (Book 2 of Books of Ember series) | Having escaped to the Unknown Regions, Lina and the others seek help from the village people of Sparks. | 4th - 9th | 760 |
| Pepins and Their Problems by Horvath | The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow who creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor. | 3rd - 6th | 920 |
| Peter and the Starcatchers by Barry | Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island. | 5th - 9th | 770 |
| Phantom Tollbooth by Juster | A bored young boy, Milo, drives his small electric car through a toy tollbooth and finds himself in the Land Beyond. A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom. | 4th - 6th | 1000 |
| Pippi Longstocking by Lindgren | Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey--but without any parents--at the edge of a Swedish village. | 4th - 6th | 870 |
| Poppy by Avi Book 2 in Poppy & Friends series) | Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. | 3rd - 5th | 670 |
| Prince Caspian by Lewis (Book 4 of The Chronicles of Narnia series) | Four children help Prince Caspian and his army of Talking Beasts to free Narnia from evil. | 4th - 8th | 870 |
| Princess Academy by Hale | While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. | 5th - 9th | 890 |
| Ravenmaster's Secret by Woodruff | The eleven-year-old son of the Ravenmaster at the Tower of London befriends a Jacobite rebel being held prisoner there. | 4th - 7th | 750 |
| Redwall by Jacques | When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. | 4th - 8th | 800 |
| Regarding the Fountain by Klise | When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results. | 4th - 6th | 830 |
| Running Out of Time by Peterson | When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children. | 5th - 8th | 730 |
| Runt by Bauer | Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father King and the rest of the pack and to earn a new name. | 4th - 6th | 690 |
| Sahara Special by Codell | Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates. | 3rd - 6th | 660 |

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| Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief by Ban Drannen (Book 1 of The Sammy Keyes Mysteries series) | Seventh grader Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother. | 4th - 7th | 840 |
| Sarah, Plain and Tall by MacLachlan | When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. | 3rd - 6th | 560 |
| Secret of Platform 13 by Ibbotson | Odge Gribbie, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son who had been stolen as an infant. | 4th - 6th | 910 |
| Shiloh by Naylor | When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. | 4th - 7th | 890 |
| Shredderman - Secret Identity #1 by Ban Dranen (Book 1 of Shredderman series) | Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman! | 3rd - 6th | 520 |
| Silverfin by Higson | Prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces the young James when he is just starting boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure. | 5th - 8th | 900 |
| Skeleton at the Smithsonian (Book 3 of Capital Mysteries series) | KC and her friend Marshall explore the Smithsonian, the most famous museum in the world. The money to build it was given to Washington, D.C., over a hundred years ago, but now one man is claiming that money should be his. KC and Marshall think they can prove Mr. Fisher is a big liar. But if they are wrong, the Smithsonian will belong to him! | 1st - 3rd | 540 |
| Spy in the Whitehouse (Book 4 of Capital Mysteries series) | KC wants the day to be perfect, but someone keeps leaking wedding secrets. They newspapers have even printed where the president and his bride are going on their honeymoon. To save the wedding, KC and Marshall have to track down the spy in the White House! | 1st - 3rd | N/A |
| Squire's Tale by Morris | In medieval England, fourteen-year-old Terence finds his tranquil existence suddenly changed when he becomes the squire of the young Gawain of Orkney and accompanies him on a long quest, proving Gawain's worth as a knight and revealing an important secret about his own true identity. | 5th - 9th | 700 |
| Stand Tall by Bauer | Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school. | 5th - 8th | 520 |
| Storm Warriors by Carbone | In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections. | 5th - 9th | 890 |
| Straw Into Gold by Schmidt | Pursued by greedy villains, two boys on a quest to save innocent lives meet the banished queen whose son was stolen by Rumpelstiltskin eleven years earlier, and she provides much more than the answer they seek. | 5th - 8th | 800 |

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| Tale of Despereaux by DeCamillo | The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. | 3rd - 6th | 670 |
| Thief and the Beanstalk by Catanese | Hearing rumors of the riches that Jack possesses after his journey up the beanstalk, Nick the orphan teams up with Finch the thief to break into Jack's castle and get some valuables for themselves. | 4th - 6th | 780 |
| Thieves of Ostia by Lawrence (Book 1 of Roman Mysteries series) | In Rome in the year 79 A.D., a group of children from very different backgrounds work together to discover who beheaded a pet dog -- and why. | 5th - 7th | 720 |
| Thin Wood Walls by Patneaude | When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, Joe Hamada and his family face growing prejudice, eventually being torn away from their home and sent to a relocation camp in California, even as his older brother joins the United States Army to fight in the war. | 6th - 9th | 620 |
| Three Cups of Tea by Mortenson | Traces how Mortenson, having been rescued and resuscitated by Himalayan villagers after a failed attempt to climb K2, worked to build schools that would benefit the young girls who were forbidden an education by Taliban restrictions. | 6th - 8th | 910 |
| Till Death Do Us Bark by Klise | In this story told mostly through letters, Noah Breth's feuding children come to Ghastly, Illinois, to follow a trail of limericks to their inheritance, while Seymour tries to convince Iggy and Olive to let him keep Mr. Breth's dog. | 3rd - 6th | 710 |
| Touching Spirit Bear by Mikaelson | After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. | 6th - 9th | 670 |
| Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle by Elliott | After eating constantly at the fast food restaurant known as Gussy's, ten-year-old Roscoe finds himself turning into a giant bug. | 3rd - 5th | 940 |
| Travel Far, Pay No Fare by Linderbergh | When twelve-year-old TV addict Owen, son of famous children's book author Nan-Ellen Noonan, finds that his nine-year-old cousin Parsley has a magic bookmark, he joins her in entering different stories hoping to prevent their parent's upcoming marriage. | 5th - 8th | 700 |
| Trolls by Horvath | Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history. | 3rd - 6th | 810 |
| Trouble at the Treasury (Book 7 of The Capital Mysteries series) | KC and Marshall take a tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and when they discover that someone has been stealing bricks of newly printed money, they resolve to find the thief. | 1st - 3rd | 530 |
| Twenty and Ten by Bishop | Twenty school children hide ten Jewish children from the Nazis occupying France during World War II. | 5th - 8th | 630 |
| View From Saturday by Konigsburg | Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. | 5th - 7th | 870 |
| Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 by Curtis | The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. | 5th - 8th | 1000 |

| Title | Summary | Grades | Lexile |
|--|---|-----------|--------|
| Waiting for Normal by Connor | Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. | 5th - 8th | 570 |
| War of the Worlds by Wells | The ultimate tale of Earth's invasion, written by one of the fathers of the science fiction genre. They came from a depleted, dying planet. Their target: the riches of a moist, green Earth. With horrifyingly advanced machines of destruction, they began their inexorable conquest. The war for Earth seemed destined to be ... but was it? | 5th - 9th | 670 |
| Water Balloon by Vernick | With her best friends pulling away from her, her newly-separated parents deciding she should spend the summer at her father's new home, and a babysitting job she does not want, Marley's life is already as precarious as an overfull water balloon when a cute boy enters the picture. | 5th - 8th | 630 |
| Weasel by DeFelice | Alone in the frontier wilderness of Ohio in the winter of 1839 while his father is recovering from an injury, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as Weasel and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge. | 4th - 7th | 870 |
| When My Name Was Keoko by Park | With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely. | 5th - 9th | 610 |
| Whipping Boy by Fleischman | A bratty prince and his "whipping boy" have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. | 5th - 7th | 570 |
| Who Broke Lincoln's Thumb? (Book 5 of Capital Mysteries series) | When they discover that one of the thumbs has been broken off the statue in the Lincoln Memorial, KC and Marshall set out to learn what happened and restore the thumb before a ceremony honoring the sculptor. | 1st - 3rd | 630 |
| Who Cloned the President? (Book 1 of Capital Mysteries series) | KC discovers that the President of the United States has been replaced by a clone and sets out with her friend Marshall on a dangerous mission to set things right. | 1st - 3rd | 340 |
| Wild Man Island by Hobbs | After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive, encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America. | 5th - 9th | 690 |
| Wright 3, The by Balliett | In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth-graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished. | 5th - 8th | 870 |
| Zach's Lie by Smith | When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian and a Basque girl, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Elko, Nevada, after entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down. | 5th - 9th | 580 |