

## Realistic Fiction

### **Tangerine by Edward Bloor**

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness.

### **All the Broken Pieces: A Novel in Verse by Ann E. Burg**

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin lives in a loving, adoptive home in the United States and is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind.

### **Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper**

Considered by many to be mentally challenged, a brilliant and impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

### **Love Among The Walnuts by Jean Ferris**

Born and raised in isolation in a wealthy, eccentric family, Sandy is shocked when he, his parents, and their servants become victims of a vicious plot by his greedy uncles to take their money.

### **Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos**

A novel about an incredible two months for a kid named Jack Gantos, whose plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents.

### **Flush by Karl Hiaasen**

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

### **Silhouetted by the Blue by Traci Jones**

After her mother died in a car crash, seventh-grader Serena, who has gotten the lead in her middle school play, is left to handle the day-to-day challenges of caring for herself and her younger brother when their father cannot pull himself out of his depression.

### **Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg**

When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.

### **Travel Team by Mike Lupica**

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

**The Big Field by Mike Lupica**

When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

**Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock**

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

**Trapped by Michael Northrop**

Seven high school students are stranded at their New England high school during a week-long blizzard that shuts down the power and heat, freezes the pipes, and leaves them wondering if they will survive.

**Cuba 15 by Nancy Osa**

Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of an Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.

**The Best School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson**

The six horrible Herdmans, who are the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

**Zen and the Heart of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick**

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school, he is looking for a way to stand out as takes his knowledge of Buddhism and he becomes a Zen master.

## Historical Fiction

### **The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary L. Blackwood**

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

### **Bull Run by Paul Fleischman**

Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror and the thrill of the first battle of the Civil War.

### **Five Fourths of July by Pat Hughes**

On July 4th, 1777, fourteen-year-old Jake Mallory and his friends are celebrating their new nation's independence, but find that everything is about to change as they fight for America's future.

### **Kira-kira by Cynthia Kadohata**

This is a story of the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

### **Vietnam Book One: I Pledge Allegiance by Chris Lynch**

Enlisting as a group when one of them is drafted into the Vietnam War, best friends Morris, Rudi, Ivan, and Beck pledge their loyalty to one another before reporting to different branches of service.

### **Curse of the Blue Tattoo by L.A. Meyer**

In 1803, after being exposed as a girl and forced to leave her ship, Jacky Faber finds herself attending school in Boston, where, instead of learning to be a lady, she battles her snobbish classmates, roams the city in search of adventure, and learns to ride a horse.

### **The Smile by Donna Jo Napoli**

In Renaissance Italy, Elisabetta longs for romance, and when Leonardo da Vinci introduces her to Guiliano de Medici, whose family rules Florence but is about to be deposed, she has no idea of the romance--and sorrow--that will ensue.

### **The Man From the Other Side by Uri Orlev**

Living on the outskirts of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, fourteen-year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising.

### **Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen**

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his

parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.

**The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt**

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catholic or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of Shakespeare.

**Okay For Now by Gary Schmidt**

It's 1968. The Vietnam War and Apollo 11 are in the background, and between a war in a distant land and a spacecraft heading to the moon, Doug Swieteck starts a new life in tiny Marysville, N.Y. While Doug struggles to be more than the thug that his teachers and the police think him to be.

## Mystery and Suspense

### **The Man Who Was Poe by Avi**

In Providence, R.I., in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a twist.

### **Heist Society Series by Ally Carter**

Fifteen-year-old Kat schemes her way into the best boarding school, hoping to leave the thieving antics of her family behind her, but someone appears on campus to tell Kat that a powerful mobster believes her father stole art from a priceless collection, and in order to save him, Kat will have to recover the paintings.

### **Vanishing Act by John Feinstein**

Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

### **Cover Up by John Feinstein**

Fledgling fourteen-year-old sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie investigate suspicious activities at the Super Bowl after Stevie gets fired from his co-anchor job on a ground-breaking teen sports show.

### **The Name of the Game is Murder by Joan Lowery Nixon**

When she visits her great-uncle, a successful and self-centered author, at his fortress-like home on Catalina Island, fifteen-year-old Samantha becomes involved in his manipulative game that leads to murder.

### **The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin**

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

## Fantasy and Science Fiction

### **Enders Game by Orson Scott Card**

An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes that he is engaged in one more computer war game when, in truth, he is commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's complete destruction.

### **Books of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau, a series**

Lina and Doon are thrilled to see their people join them above ground in the vibrant village of Sparks, but suspicion and prejudice soon turn the villagers and newcomers against each other.

### **The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

### **Fairest by Gail Carson Levine**

In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent, meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.

### **Ever by Gail Carson Levine**

Fourteen-year-old Kezi and Olus, Akkan god of the winds, fall in love and together try to change her fate--to be sacrificed to a Hyte god because of a rash promise her father made--through a series of quests that might make her immortal.

### **Pendragon Series by D.J. MacHale**

Bobby Pendragon is a seemingly normal fourteen-year-old boy. He has a family, a home, and even Marley, his beloved dog. But there is something very special about Bobby. He is going to save the world.

### **Jake Ransom Series by James Rollins**

Connecticut middle-schooler Jake and his older sister Kady are transported by a Mayan artifact to a strange world inhabited by a mix of people from long-lost civilizations who are threatened by prehistoric creatures and an evil alchemist, the Skull King.

### **The Time Machine by H.G. Wells**

A scientist invents a time machine and uses it to travel to the year 802,701 A.D. where he discovers the child-like Eloi and the hideous underground Morlocks.

## Non-Fiction and Biographies

### **George Washington, Spymaster by Thomas B. Allen**

A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

### **Shipwreck at the Bottom of the Ocean by Jennifer Armstrong**

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.

### **Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado by Marc Aronson**

Recounts the adventurous life of the English explorer and courtier who spelled his name "Raleigh" and led many expeditions to the New World.

### **Kids on Strike by Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

Describes the conditions and treatment that drove workers, including many children, to various strikes, from the mill workers strikes in 1828 and 1836 and the coal strikes at the turn of the century to the work of Mother Jones on behalf of child workers.

### **In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle by Madeleine Blais**

Chronicles one basketball season of a girls' high school team in Amherst, Massachusetts.

### **The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party by Marian Calabro**

Materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

### **Give Me Liberty! by Russell Freedman**

Describes the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence as well as the personalities and politics behind its framing.

### **The Mystery of the Mammoth Bones by James Giblin**

Describes the efforts of the artist, museum curator, and self-taught paleontologist, Charles Willson Peale, to excavate, study, and display the bones of a prehistoric creature that is later named "mastodon."

### **The Brothers Grimm: Two Lives, One Legacy by Donald Hettinga**

A biography of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, the two eighteenth-century brothers who collected the fairy tales and legends of the German people.

### **I Have Lived a Thousand Years by Livia Bitton Jackson**

A memoir of Elli Friedmann in which she tells about her experiences at Auschwitz concentration camp where she was taken at the age of thirteen

in 1944 when the Nazis invaded Hungary.

**A Whole New Ball Game by Sue Macy**

Describes the activities of the members of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the women's professional baseball league that existed between 1943 and 1954.

**An American Plague by Jim Murphy**

Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.