OLDIES BUT GOODIES

ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY. **LITTLE WOMEN.**

Tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war. (Publisher)

BAGNOLD, ENID. **NATIONAL VELVET.**

A fourteen-year-old English girl wins a horse in a raffle and is determined to race it in the world’s greatest horse race. (Publisher)

BRADBURY, RAY. **SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES.**

The carnival rolls in sometime after midnight, ushering in Halloween a week early. The shrill siren song of a calliope beckons to all with a seductive promise of dreams and youth regained. In this season of dying, Cooger & Dark’s Pandemonium Shadow Show has come to Green Town, Illinois, to destroy every life touched by its strange and sinister mystery. And two boys will discover the secret of its smoke, mazes, and mirrors; two friends who will soon know all too well the heavy cost of wishes...and the stuff of nightmare. (Publisher)

BURNETT, FRANCES HODGSON. **A LITTLE PRINCESS.**

Sara Crewe, an exceptionally intelligent and imaginative student at Miss Minchin’s Select Seminary for Young Ladies, is devastated when her adored, indulgent father dies. Now penniless and banished to a room in the attic, Sara is demeaned, abused, and forced to work as a servant. How this resourceful girl’s fortunes change again is at the center of *A Little Princess*, one of the best-loved stories in all of children’s literature. (Publisher)

FARLEY, WALTER. **THE BLACK STALLION.**

A boy is shipwrecked on an island with a magnificent stallion. (Publisher)

GEORGE, JEAN CRAIGHEAD. **MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.**

Sam Gribley runs away from his family’s crowded New York apartment to the mountains, where he builds a tree house and learns to live off the land. (Goldberg)
GOLDING, WILLIAM. LORD OF THE FLIES.

William Golding's compelling story about a group of very ordinary small boys marooned on a coral island has become a modern classic. At first it seems as though it is all going to be great fun; but the fun before long becomes furious and life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death. As ordinary standards of behaviour collapse, the whole world the boys know collapses with them—the world of cricket and homework and adventure stories—and another world is revealed beneath, primitive and terrible. (Publisher)

LEWIS, C.S. THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE. (SERIES)

When Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy took their first steps into the world behind the magic wardrobe, little do they realize what adventures are about to unfold. (Publisher)

Note: The first volume of the series, The Magician’s Nephew, is the one in which you discover the origins of the wardrobe. (Publisher)

MONTGOMERY, LUCY MAUD. ANNE OF AVONLEA. (SERIES)

Anne's dream of finding a home had come true. But now she is a young woman, with new dreams, She has a teaching job in the city, with a chance to become a published magazine writer.

And an even greater adventure awaits: Anne is about to begin her first romance—with a handsome Boston millionaire whose dreams are very different from hers.... (Publisher)

PEARCE, PHILLIPA. TOM’S MIDNIGHT GARDEN.

Tom is furious. His brother, Peter, has measles, so now Tom is being shipped off to stay with Aunt Gwen and Uncle Alan in their boring old apartment. There'll be nothing to do there and no one to play with. Tom just counts the days till he can return home to Peter. Then one night the landlady's antique grandfather clock strikes thirteen times leading Tom to a wonderful, magical discovery and marking the beginning of a secret that's almost too amazing to be true. But it is true, and in the new world that Tom discovers is a special friend named Hatty and more than a summer's worth of adventure for both of them. Now Tom wishes he could stay with his relatives and Hatty -- forever.... (Publisher)

TOLKEIN, J.R.R. THE HOBBIT. (SERIES)

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellars. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum. (Publisher)
WEBSTER, JEAN. **DADDY LONG LEGS** and **DEAR ENEMY**.

One of the great novels of American girlhood, Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs* (1912) follows the adventures of an orphan named Judy Abbott, whose letters to her anonymous male benefactor trace her development as an independent thinker and writer. Its sequel, *Dear Enemy* (1915), also told in letters, follows the progress of Judy's former orphanage now run by her friend Sallie McBride, who struggles to give her young charges hope and a new life. Full of irrepressible female characters that both recall Alcott's Jo March and anticipate the popular heroines of contemporary literature, Webster's novels are witty, heartfelt, and delightfully modern. (Publisher)

**MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE**

BEIL, MICHAEL. **THE RED BLAZER GIRLS**.

Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years ago. (Goldberg)

BOSCH, PSEUDONYMOUS. **THE NAME OF THIS BOOK IS SECRET**. (SERIES)

Cassandra and Max find a missing magician's notebook and start to investigate the fire which burnt down his house and his mysterious "symphony of smells." (Publisher)

BRADLEY, ALAN. **THE SWEETNESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIE**. (SERIES)

Flavia de Luce has it rough. Her mother is dead and her stepsisters have taken to locking her in the closet with her hands tied. Fortunately, Flavia is as good at untying knots as she is at chemistry. Thanks to some of her eccentric forbears, she even has her own in-house chemistry lab – one she uses to mess with her sister's make-up when they've been particularly cruel. When someone leaves a dead bird with a postage stamp impaled upon its beak on the doorstep, and a dead body shows up in the family garden, she knows it is her destiny to become a detective. (Goldberg)

CHRISTIE, AGATHA. **AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**.

A Chapin favorite. A group of people – none of whom know each other – receive a mysterious invitation to Indian Island – a remote place off the coast of England famous for its luxurious, ultramodern mansion. When they arrive, their host is nowhere to be found. Later, when they gather for cocktails, one of the guests puts on a phonograph record he sees lying around – a record that recites each guest’s name – and an ugly secret he or she was hoping to hide.

That night, the first person among them drops dead – a seeming accident until the second night, when another person drops dead, and then another. When the survivors realize these accidents are really murders, they form alliances to determine which person(s) are behind the killings. Can they do so before there are none?

Note: this book was written in 1940, when racism and anti-Semitism were all too common. Be forewarned about encountering language/stereotypes that you might find upsetting. (Goldberg)
DOWD, SIOBHAN.  **THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY.**
Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye. But after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the

GUTMAN, DAN.  **GETTING AIR.**
After foiling a terrorist hijacking aboard their airplane, fourteen-year-old Jimmy, his younger sister, and two skateboarding friends crash-land the plane and try to survive in a forest wilderness until help arrives. (Publisher)

KING, LAURIE K.  **THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE.**  (SERIES)
15-year old American Mary Russell has recently lost her parents in a dreadful car accident. She’s been sent to live with her evil aunt in England, a money-grubbing woman who detests Mary but longs to control her fortune. As the book opens up, Mary has gone for a walk in the country when she literally trips over the feet of Mr. Sherlock Holmes. Holmes, who has retired from his practice at 221B Baker Street, has been living in the boonies and studying bees of all things. From their initial meeting, he is convinced that Mary has what it takes to be the next big name in sleuthing and proceeds to train her in all the necessary skills—skills she soon needs to apply to solve the kidnapping of a little girl named Jessica. (Goldberg)

PULLMAN, PHILLIP.  **THE RUBY IN THE SMOKE.**  (SERIES)
Sally Lockhart isn’t like other girls, which is probably why halfway through this book, she winds in a sleazy opium den trying to track down her father’s killer. She’s fearless, yes, but that doesn’t mean that she’s averse to receiving help from her cute friend Phillip (read the follow up books in the series for more of their romance!). In this opening book to the Sally Lockhart trilogy, Sally is in a race against time and an evil blackmailer to find out who killed her father and why. It’s a journey that takes her through the worst slums in town, with twists and turns sure to delight (and baffle) even the most sophisticated readers. (Goldberg)

RASKIN, ELLEN.  **THE WESTING GAME.**
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. (Publisher)

SACHAR, LOUIS.  **HOLES.**
Camp Green Lake is like no other camp anywhere. It is a bizarre, almost otherworldly place that has no lake and nothing that is green. Nor is it a camp, at least not the kind of camp kids look forward to in the summertime. It is a place that once held “the largest lake in Texas,” but today it is only a scorching desert wasteland, dotted with countless holes dug by the boys who live at the camp. (Publisher)
SCHLITZ, AMY. **A DROWNED MAIDEN’S HAIR.**

A feisty eleven-year-old orphan is adopted by three spinster sisters who work as mediums – that is, people who can supposedly contact the dead!

Will she reveal to the authorities that they are really phonies? Find out in this cool and creepy book! (Goldberg)

STEWART, TRENTON LEE. **THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY.** (SERIES)

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (Publisher)

STEAD, REBECCA. **WHEN YOU REACH ME.**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The $20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. (Publisher)

**SCIENCE FICTION / DYSTOPIAN**

COLLINS, SUZANNE. **THE HUNGER GAMES.** (SERIES)

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen lives Panem, in one of 12 districts controlled by the Capitol and its evil President Snow. Every year, President Show reminds the districts who’s boss by forcing each district to send two child tributes (one boy, one girl) to fight to the death in a televised event/reality-show called The Hunger Games.

When Katniss’s tiny sister Prim is picked as her district’s female tribute, Katniss volunteers to go in her sister’s place even if it means certain death. Peeta, a boy Katniss barely knows, is the male tribute from the same district. Katniss and Peeta are fiercely competitive with one another at the beginning of the Games, until Katniss realizes the audience is rooting for them to fall in love. Starved for food and hoping for audience donations, she decides to give the audience what it wants and begins to act lovestruck around Peeta. Will her love become real? There can be only one winner of The Hunger Games. Will one of them die to save the other? (Goldberg)

CONDIE, ALLY. **MATCHED.** (SERIES)

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is her ideal mate... until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. (Publisher)

DUPRAU, JEANNE. **CITY OF EMBER.** (SERIES)

In the city of Ember, 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. (Publisher)
FARMER, NANCY. **THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION.**

Matt lives in a future society controlled by an evil and all-powerful drug lord named El Patron. What he doesn’t know – yet – is that he and El Patron share the same DNA. In fact, Matt was made in a laboratory as a perfect clone of El Patron, a clone El Patron could use for organs as his own body decayed. What El Patron didn’t bank on was that Matt was every bit as smart as he was, and capable of figuring it all out to escape with his life. (Goldberg)

HADDIX, MARGARET PETERSON. **FOUND.** (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. (Publisher)

L'ENGLE, MADELEINE. **A WRINKLE IN TIME.** (SERIES)

It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. “Wild nights are my glory,” the unearthly stranger told them. “I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I’ll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract.” A tesseract (in case the reader doesn’t know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin. (Publisher)

PATTERSON, JAMES. **THE ANGEL EXPERIMENT.** (SERIES)

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it’s like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the “flock”—Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel—are just like ordinary kids—only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the “School” where she and the others were experimented on by a crew of whack jobs. (Publisher)

PFEFFER, SUSAN BETH. **LIFE AS WE KNEW IT.**

A terrifying book! Miranda’s disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun? As summer turns to Arctic winter, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove. (Publisher)

REEVE, PHILIP. **LARKLIGHT.**

Arthur (Art) Mumsby and his irritating sister Myrtle live with their father in a huge and rambling house called Larklight...that just happens to be traveling through outer space. When a visitor called Mr. Webster arrives for a visit, it is far from an innocent social call. Before long Art and Myrtle are off on an adventure to the furthest reaches of space, where they will do battle with evil forces in order to save each other—and the universe. A fantastically original Victorian tale set in an outer space world that might have come from the imaginations of Jules Verne or L Frank Baum, but has a unique gravitational pull all its own... (Publisher)
WESTERFELD, SCOTT. LEVIATHAN.

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts. (Publisher)

FANTASY

CLARE, CASSANDRA. CITY OF BONES: THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS SERIES.

When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she hardly expects to witness a murder -- much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. Then the body disappears into thin air. It's hard to call the police when the murderers are invisible to everyone else and when there is nothing -- not even a smear of blood -- to show that a boy has died. Or was he a boy? (Publisher)

COOPER, SUSAN. OVER SEA, UNDER STONE. (SERIES)

Simon, Jane, and Barney find an ancient map in their uncle's attic with the secret to summon forces of Light in order to defeat the Darkness. There's a problem, though. As they try to figure out the map's secrets, will they be able to keep one another safe from the evil forces in their town that constantly trail them and invade their uncle's house? (Goldberg)

NIX, GARTH. SABRIEL. (SERIES)

Sent to a boarding school in Ancelstierre as a young child, Sabriel has had little experience with the random power of Free Magic or the Dead who refuse to stay dead in the Old Kingdom. But during her final semester, her father, the Abhorsen, goes missing, and Sabriel knows she must enter the Old Kingdom to find him. (Publisher)

A great choice for fans of Eragon and Harry Potter! (Goldberg)

PAOLINI, CHRISTOPHER. ERAGON. (SERIES)

Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save-or destroy-the Empire. (Publisher)

PATTOU, EDITH. EAST.

Rose has always felt out of place in her family, a wanderer in a bunch of homebodies. So when an enormous white bear mysteriously shows up and asks her to come away with him--in exchange for health and prosperity for her ailing family--she readily agrees. (Publisher)
PULLMAN, PHILIP. THE GOLDEN COMPASS. (SERIES)
Lyra sets out for the top of the world in search of her kidnapped playmate, Roger, bearing a rare truth-telling instrument, the compass of the title. All around her children are disappearing—victims of so-called "Gobblers"—and being used as subjects in terrible experiments that separate humans from their daemons, creatures that reflect each person's inner being. And somehow [the people closest to her] are involved. (Publisher)

STEAD, REBECCA. WHEN YOU REACH ME.
By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, like the local grocery store, and they know whom to avoid, like the crazy guy on the corner.

But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda’s mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note… (Publisher)

THOMPSON, KATE. THE NEW POLICEMEN.
Who knows where the time goes? There never seems to be enough time in Kinvara, or anywhere else in Ireland for that matter. When J.J.’s mother says that what she really wants for her birthday is more time in her day, J.J. decides to find her some. But how can he find time for her, when he barely has enough time to keep up with school and his music? And where will he get time to find out if the shocking rumor is true—that his great-grandfather was a murderer? It seems as though J.J.’s given himself an impossible task. But then a neighbor reveals a secret to him—there is a place where time stands still. (Publisher)

ZEVIN, GABRIELLE. ELSEWHERE.
Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver’s license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she’s dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn’t want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward? This moving, often funny book about grief, death, and loss will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned. (Publisher)

HISTORICAL FICTION
AVI. CRISPIN.
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.
BLACKWOOD, GARY.  *THE SHAKESPEARE STEALER.* (SERIES)

Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play "Hamlet"—or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform. (Publisher)

CHOLDENKO, GENNIFER.  *AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS.* (SERIES)

Today I moved to a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There's my sister, Natalie, except she doesn't count. And there are twenty-three other kids who live on the island because their dads work as guards or cooks or doctors or electricians for the prison, like my dad does. Plus, there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we have are the kind other prisons don't want. I never knew prisons could be picky, but I guess they can. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to. (Publisher)

FRIESNER, ESTHER.  *SPHINX'S PRINCESS.* (SERIES)

She was far more than just a pretty face. . . . Although Nefertiti is the dutiful daughter of a commoner, her inquisitive mind often gets her into situations that are far from ordinary, like receiving secret lessons from a scribe. And her striking beauty garners attention that she'd just as soon avoid, especially when it's her aunt, the manipulative Queen Tiye, who has set her sights on Nefertiti. The queen wants to use her niece as a pawn in her quest for power, so Nefertiti must leave her beloved family and enter a life filled with courtly intrigue and danger. (Publisher)

GRIMES, NIKI.  *JAZMIN'S NOTEBOOK.*

Jazmin, a fourteen-year-old girl living in Harlem with her sister, Ce-Ce, has found an outlet for her emotions: she writes about everything she sees, hears, and experiences in her daily life. Recorded in her notebook as prose or poetry, Jazmin sits on the stoop of her apartment in the heart of the ghetto providing readers with an introspective look at the sights, sounds, dangers, and desires that await her. (Publisher)

KELLY, JACQUELINE.  *THE EVOLUTION OF CALPURNIA TATE.*

Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. With a little help from her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist, she figures out that the green grasshoppers are easier to see against the yellow grass, so they are eaten before they can get any larger. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century. (Publisher)

KLAGES, ELLEN.  *THE GREEN GLASS SEA.*

While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers. (Publisher)
LOWRY, LOIS. NUMBER THE STARS.
It’s 1943 Copenhagen and the Jews of Denmark are being “relocated,” so Annemarie Johansen’s best friend, Ellen, moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. When Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission, she must find the courage to save her friend’s life. (Publisher)

MEYER, L.A. BLOODY JACK: BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF MARY “JACKY” FABER, SHIP’S BOY.
Life as a ship’s boy aboard HMS Dolphin is a dream come true for Jacky Faber. Gone are the days of scavenging for food and fighting for survival on the streets of eighteenth-century London. Instead, Jacky is becoming a skilled and respected sailor as the crew pursues pirates on the high seas. There’s only one problem: Jacky is a girl. And she will have to use every bit of her spirit, wit, and courage to keep the crew from discovering her secret. This could be the adventure of her life—if only she doesn’t get caught. . . . (Publisher)

MEYER, CAROLYN. MARY, BLOODY MARY.
The story of Mary Tudor’s childhood is a classic fairy tale: A princess who is to inherit the throne of England is separated from her mother; abused by an evil stepmother who has enchanted her father; stripped of her title; and forced to care for her baby stepsister, who inherits Mary’s rights to the throne. (Publisher)

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ. PAINT THE WIND.
Maya is a captive. In Grandmother's house in California every word and action is strictly monitored. Even memories of her mother have been erased except within the imaginary world she has created. A world away, in the rugged Wyoming wilderness, a horse called Artemisia runs free. She embodies the spirit of the wild and she holds the key to Maya's memories. How Maya's and Artemisia's lives intertwine, like a braided rein, is at the heart of this richly drawn adventure about freedom and captivity, about holding on and letting go. (Publisher)

SCHMIDT, GARY D. THE WEDNESDAY WARS.
Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn’t like Holling—he’s sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself. (Publisher)

SELZNICK, BRIAN. WONDERSTRUCK.
Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures. (Publisher)
READING LIST FOR GIRLS GOING INTO CLASS 6 (2012)

WELLS, ROSEMARY. RED MOON AT SHARPSBURG.

When the Civil War breaks out, life in the South is transformed and nothing remains the same. India Moody must summon the courage she didn't know she had to plunge into one of the war's most tragic and terrifying events—the Battle of Antietam, known in the South as Sharpsburg—in order to get medicine to her desperately sick father. As she struggles for survival during the Union's brutal occupation, India gets an education in love and loss, the senseless devastation of war, and the triumph of hope in the face of despair. (Publisher)

WILLIAMS-GARCIA, RITA. ONE CRAZY SUMMER.

It is 1968, and three black sisters from Brooklyn have been put on a California-bound plane by their father to spend a month with their mother, a poet who ran off years before and is living in Oakland. Delphine, 11, remembers her mother, but after years of separation she's more apt to believe what her grandmother has said about her, that Cecile is a selfish, crazy woman who sleeps on the street. At least Cecile lives in a real house, but she reacts to her daughters' arrival without warmth or even curiosity. Instead, she sends the girls to eat breakfast at a center run by the Black Panther Party and tells them to stay out as long as they can so that she can work on her poetry. Over the course of the next four weeks, Delphine and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, spend a lot of time learning about revolution and staying out of their mother's way. With memorable characters (all three girls have engaging, strong voices) and a powerful story, this is a book well worth reading and rereading. (School Library Journal)

REALISTIC FICTION

BIRDSALL, JEANNE. THE PENDERWICKS OF GARDAM STREET. (SERIES)

The second book of one of Chapin's most beloved series—and my favorite. (Goldberg)

The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him. (Publisher)

CREECH, SHARON. WALK TWO MOONS.

"How about a story? Spin us a yarn." Instantly, Phoebe Winterbottom came to mind. "I could tell you an extensively strange story," I warned. "Oh, good!" Gram said. "Delicious!" And that is how I happened to tell them about Phoebe, her disappearing mother, and the lunatic.

As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold—the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother. (Publisher)

COLE, BROCK. THE GOATS.

Stripped and marooned on a small island by their fellow campers, a boy and a girl form an uneasy bond that grows into a deep friendship when they decide to run away and disappear without a trace. (Publisher)

DRAPER, SHARON. OUT OF MY MIND.

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people—her teachers and doctors included—don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows... but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't
write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind—that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. (Publisher)

FREDERICK, HEATHER VOGEL. THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB. (SERIES)

When the mothers of four sixth-grade girls with very different personalities pressure them into forming a book club, they find, as they read and discuss "Little Women," that they have much more in common than they could have imagined. (Publisher)

HENKES, KEVIN. OLIVE'S OCEAN.

"Olive Barstow was dead. She'd been hit by a car on Monroe Street while riding her bicycle weeks ago. That was about all Martha knew."

Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends. But they weren't — and now all that is left are eerie connections between two girls who were in the same grade at school and who both kept the same secret without knowing it.

Now Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. A family summer on Cape Cod should help banish those thoughts; instead, they seep in everywhere. And this year Martha's routine at her beloved grandmother's beachside house is complicated by the Manning boys. Jimmy, Tate, Todd, Luke, and Leo. But especially Jimmy. What if, what if, what if, what if? (Publisher)

HAN, JENNY. SHUG.

Annemarie "Shug" Wilcox, facing junior high school, disgruntled with her appearance, and confused by changing relationships, decides there is nothing worse than being twelve-years-old. (Publisher)

HOWE, JAMES. TOTALLY JOE.

Meet Joe Bunch. Lovable misfit and celebrity wannabe from Paintbrush Falls, New York. Like his longtime best friends Addie, Skeeze, and Bobby, Joe's been called names all his life. So when he's given the assignment to write his alphabiography -- the story of his life from A to Z -- Joe has his doubts. This whole thing could be serious ammunition for bullying if it falls into the wrong hands. But Joe discovers there's more to the assignment -- and his life -- than meets the eye. Especially when he gets to the letter C, which stands for Colin Briggs, the coolest guy in the seventh grade (seriously) -- and Joe's secret boyfriend.

By the time Joe gets to the letter Z, he's pretty much bared his soul about everything. And Joe's okay with that because he likes who he is. He's Totally Joe, and that's the best thing for him to be. Here is an exuberant, funny, totally original story of one boy's coming out -- and coming-of-age. (Publisher)

IGNATOW, AMY. THE POPULARITY PAPERS: RESEARCH FOR THE SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND GENERAL BETTERMENT OF LYDIA GOLDBLATT AND JULIE GRAHAM-CHANG. (SERIES)

Two best friends embark on a project to study the behavior and taste of the popular girls at their elementary school so that by the time they get to middle school they too will be in the right crowd and record their findings in the form of a scrapbook. (Publisher)
KONIGSBURG, E.L. THE OUTCASTS OF 19 SCHUYLER PLACE.

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her great-uncles have been building in their backyard for more than forty years. (Publisher)

KORMAN, GORDON. SCHOOLED.

Homeschooled on an isolated "alternate farm commune" that has dwindled since the 1960s to 2 members, 13-year-old Cap has always lived with his grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent—like a lamb to slaughter—to middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced (he learned to drive on the farm, but he has never watched television), long-haired Cap soon becomes the butt of pranks. He reacts in unexpected ways and, in the end, elevates those around him to higher ground. From chapter to chapter, the first-person narrative shifts among certain characters: Cap, a social worker (who takes him into her home), her daughter (who resents his presence there), an A-list bully, a Z-list victim, a popular girl, the school principal, and a football player (who unintentionally decks Cap twice in one day). Korman capably manages the shifting points of view of characters who begin by scorning or resenting Cap and end up on his side. (Carolyn Phelan / Booklist)

LORD, CYNTHIA. RULES.

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"—in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of-friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal? (Publisher)

MASS, WENDY. A MANGO-SHAPED SPACE.

Mia Winchell seems to be a typical teenager, but she's keeping a huge secret from everyone who knows her: sounds, numbers, and words appear in color for her. Mia has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. When trouble in school forces Mia to reveal her condition, her friends and family can't relate to her, and she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation for her gift. (Publisher)

MCKAY, HILARY. CADDY EVER AFTER.

Love is in the air for the Casson family! Four hilarious, endearing tales unfold as Rose, Indigo, Saffy, and Caddy each tell their intertwining stories. Rose begins by showing how she does special with her Valentine's card for Tom in New York. Not to be outdone, Indigo has his own surprise in store for the Valentine's Day disco at school. For her part, Saffy has an unusual date in a very, very dark graveyard, and is haunted by a balloon that almost costs her her best friend. But it is Caddy who dares everything -- as she tells all about love at first sight when you have found the Real Thing. Unfortunately the Real Thing is not darling Michael. What is Rose going to do? (Publisher)

PEARSALL, SHELLEY. ALL OF THE ABOVE.

Based on a true story, All of the Above is the delightful and suspenseful story of four inner city students and their quest to build the world's largest tetrahedron. Weaving together the different personal stories of the kids, their teacher, and the community that surrounds them, award-winning author Shelley Pearsall has written a vividly engaging story about the math, life and good-
tasting barbecue. (Publisher)

SPINELLI, JERRY. STARGIRL.

From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of “Stargirl, Stargirl.” She captures Leo Borlock’s heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. (Publisher)

VAN DRAANEN, WENDELIN. FLIPPED.

A tale of two kids, and two very different fathers, told in alternating points of view of the children. (Goldberg)

WHelan, Gloria. HOMELESS BIRD.

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India’s tradition or find the courage to oppose it. (Publisher)

WEEKS, Sarah. SO B. IT.

Heidi’s mother only knows 23 words, total. So how, Heidi wonders, did she come into the world? Who’s her father? All Heidi knows is that twelve years ago, her mother showed up on Bernie’s doorstep with a baby in her arms. Since then, Heidi’s been raised and homeschooled by Bernie. Now that she’s 12, Heidi has more questions than ever before. Can she piece together the clues to find out the truth? Her mother keeps repeating the word, soof. It’s one of the 23 words she uses, along with her name “So B. It.”. Could that word soof unlock the truth about her birth? (Goldberg)

YEE, Lisa. MILICENT MIN, GIRL GENIUS.

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child genius Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother’s departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer. (Publisher)

NON-FICTION / GRAPHIC NOVELS / POETRY

BRYANT, MEGAN E. SHE’S ALL THAT: A LOOK-IT-UP GUIDE TO THE GODDESSES OF MYTHOLOGY.

Looks at what Greek goddesses would be like if they lived in modern times. Includes Facebook-like profiles for each goddess listing their “friends” and “relationship status”. Hilarious. (Goldberg)
FLEMING, CANDACE. **AMELIA LOST: THE LIFE AND DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART.**

In alternating chapters, Fleming deftly moves readers back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup). (Publisher)

FRANK, ANNE. **DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL.**

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. (Publisher)

HERRIOTT, JAMES. **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL.**

Delve into the magical, unforgettable world of James Herriot, the world's most beloved veterinarian, and his menagerie of heartwarming, funny, and tragic animal patients. For decades, Herriot roamed the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye. In All Creatures Great and Small, we meet the young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from the sterile setting of veterinary school. (Publisher)

HOOSE, PHILIP M. HOOSE. **CLAUDETTE COLVIN: TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE.**

On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South. (Publisher)

JACKSON, DONNA M. **BONE DETECTIVE.**

It's said that "dead men tell no tales"—yet their bones have some interesting stories to reveal. That's what police depend on when the only clues to a crime are the bones of the victim. Then it's time to call in the "bone detectives". Following forensic anthropologist Dr. Michael Charney step-by-step through an investigation, this book shows how a person's sex, race, age, height, and weight can be determined from studying his or her bones and teeth; how markings on bones can be "read" to establish cause of death; how a sculptor uses clay to reconstruct a face from a skull so it can be publicized in the media and possibly recognized; and how all of this in information can be used to help crack a case. (Publisher)

JAMESZKO, PAUL B. **THE PLACE MY WORDS ARE LOOKING FOR: WHAT POETS SAY ABOUT AND THROUGH THEIR WORK.**

Paul B. Janeczko says, "poetry will always be something of a mystery to me. When I read poetry, when I write a poem, I always wonder how poetry happens, and I imagine that many of you wonder, too. Happily, the poets in this book have agreed to share their poems as well as their thoughts about writing poetry." (Publisher)
JIANG, JI-LI. **RED SCARF GIRL: A MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.**

It's 1966, and twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, tons of friends, and a bright future in Communist China. But it's also the year that China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution—and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart. Over the next few years, people who were once her friends and neighbors turn on her and her family, forcing them to live in constant terror of arrest. When Ji-li's father is finally imprisoned, she faces the most difficult dilemma of her life. (Publisher)

JURMAIN, SUZANNE. **THE SECRET OF THE YELLOW DEATH: A TRUE STORY OF MEDICAL SLEUTHING.**

Red oozes from the patient's gums. He has a rushing headache and the whites of his eyes look like lemons. His tongue may soon turn black. He will likely die within days. Here is the true story of how four Americans and one Cuban tracked down a killer, one of the world's most vicious plagues—yellow fever. (Publisher)

MAH, ADELINE YEN. **CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER.**

Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for—the love and understanding of her family. (Publisher)

SCHLOSSER, ERIC AND CHRIS WILSON. **CHEW ON THIS: EVERYTHING YOU DON’T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FAST FOOD.**

Find out what really goes on at your favorite restaurants—and what lurks between those sesame seed buns. (Publisher)

WALKER, SALLY M. **WRITTEN IN BONE: BURIED LIVES OF JAMESTOWN AND COLONIAL MARYLAND.**

On a hot summer day in 2005, Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution peered into an excavated grave, carefully examining the fragile skeleton that had been buried there for four hundred years. “He was about fifteen years old when he died. And he was European,” Owsley concluded. But how did he know? Scientists discovered this grave inside the remains of James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia. They were excavating the site with the goal of better understanding the Europeans and Africans who lived in Jamestown and the Chesapeake Bay area during the 1600s and 1700s. Who were these people? How did they live? And how did they die? (Publisher)

WARRICK, KAREN CLEMENS. **SANDRA CISNEROS: INSPIRING LATINA AUTHOR.**

Sandra Cisneros began her career as an author by writing about her childhood memories. She used language she heard every day in her neighborhood. She mixed English with Spanish words and phrases. Through her stories, she learned to speak out loud. She learned to laugh. She used language she heard every day, yet she wrote with a voice all her own. Cisneros has overcome many hardships, including poverty and racism, to become a unique voice of Mexican-American literature. She now encourages other women and members of minority groups as both a writer and activist to achieve their full potential in life. (Publisher)