

BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR	SYNOPSIS
Required Reading		
The Devil's Arithmetic	Jane Yolen	Hannah is bored of hearing her family's history at the Passover Seder. Mysteriously she finds herself transported to Nazi-occupied Poland. How will she survive?
Fiction		
Singing Hands	Delia Ray	Twelve-year-old Gussie, the rebellious, hearing daughter of deaf parents, confronts the difficulties and prejudices encountered by the deaf community in 1948 Birmingham, Alabama, while searching for her own identity within the worlds of "Ears" and the deaf.
The Breadwinner	Ellis	Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan under Taliban rule. When her father is arrested, Parvana disguises herself as a boy - girls cannot work under the Taliban - in order to find work and support her
Diamond Willow	Frost	In a remote part 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 ancestors who care for her.
The Goddess of Yesterday	Cooney	The dramatic and action-packed <i>Iliad</i> as told through the eyes of a 13-year old girl.
Yoon and the Christmas Mitten	Helen Recorvits	After learning about Santa Claus in school, Yoon, a young Korean immigrant, desperately wants a visit from this traditional American icon, and struggles as her parents wish to retain Korean traditions.
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	Having had enough of bad treatment in orphanages, Bud runs away in search of his father whom he has never seen. Bud finds adventure and trouble in this heartwarming and hilarious story.
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants	Ann Brashares	They were an ordinary pair of thrift store jeans and four girls took turns trying them on. The four close friends are different sizes, yet the jeans fit each one perfectly! Over the summer, the pants come to represent the support of the sisterhood in the face of love and death.
The Princess Diaries	Meg Cabot	Mia is just a New York City girl living with her artist mom while her dad is prince of Genovia. She must take "princess lessons" from her royal grandmother, but there's no way she's leaving Manhattan to live in Genovia.
The Skin I'm In	Sharon G. Flake	This is one of those stories where you can see things going from bad to worse in front of your very eyes. Maleeka is in a difficult situation and there doesn't seem to be anyone she can turn to. She makes some pretty bad mistakes before she finally realizes that the new English teacher, the outspoken Miss. Saunders, really is on her side.
The Breadwinner	Deborah Ellis	Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan under Taliban rule. When her father is arrested, Parvana disguises herself as a boy ... girls cannot work under the Taliban ... in order to find work and support her family.

Crash	Jerry Spinelli	Crash Coogan is a cocky seventh-grade super jock. He torments Penn Webb, the Quaker kid who is everything that Crash is not ... friendly, small, and a pacifist. Through the eyes of Crash, get a glimpse into the life of a bully in this story about stereotypes and the surprises that life can bring.
The Bracelet	Yoshiko Uchida	In 1942 America, seven-year-old Emi and her Japanese-American family are forced to leave their home, a situation that becomes even more devastating when she loses a precious gold bracelet, a gift from her best friend.
The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles, Book 1)	Riordan	Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.
Keeping Corner	Sheth	In India in the 1940s, twelve-year-old Leela's happy, spoiled childhood ends when her husband since age nine, whom she barely knows, dies, leaving her a widow whose only hope of happiness could come from Mahatma Ghandi's social and political reforms.
Unwind	Shusterman	In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.
The Bronze Bow	Speare	A young Jewish boy seeks revenge against the Romans for killing his parents, but is turned away from vengeance by Jesus.
Leviathan	Westerfeld	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.
Zorgamazoo	Weston	Imaginative and adventurous Katrina eludes her maniacal guardian to help Morty, a member of a vanishing breed of zorgles, with his quest to uncover the fate of the fabled zorgles of Zorgmazoo as well as of other creatures that seem to have disappeared from the earth.
Feathers	Woodson	When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.
American Born Chinese	Yang	Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.
McCaughrean	Gilgamesh: The Hero	A retelling, based on seventh-century B.C. Assyrian clay tablets, of the wanderings and adventures of the god king, Gilgamesh, who ruled in ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in about 2700 B.C., and of his faithful companion, Enkidu.
Nonfiction		
7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens	Sean Covey	This fun-filled guide will show you how to be a winner in middle school and life itself.
Wild Lives: A History of the People & Animals of the Bronx Zoo	Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld	A thought provoking exploration of the Bronx Zoo, presenting a history of the zoo's development and discussions surrounding the plight of animals and the fight to preserve native habitats. It poses the question: what roles do zoos play in the modern world? Stunning photographs.
The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body	Macaulay	In this comprehensive and entertaining resource, David Macaulay reveals the inner workings of the human body as only he could.

Belly-Busting Worm Invasions! Parasites That Love Your Insides!	Thomasine E. Lewis Tilden & Franklin Watts.	Imagine a four-foot-long guinea worm in your leg, or perhaps a pea-shaped tapeworm in your brain. These true-life case studies just might repulse you, but they'll also completely intrigue you! This book includes parasite-related historical information, news, and career possibilities and is part of the 24/7 Science Behind the Scenes Medical Files series.
Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith.	Deborah Heiligman	This lively biography of Charles Darwin focuses on the family life of one of the world's most famous scientists, including the impact differing religious beliefs had on the family's relationships.
Farewell to Manzanar (Autobio-graphy)	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston & James D. Houston	In 1942, seven-year old Jeanne Wakatsuki and her family were sent to the Manzanar internment camp. How could a native-born American be forced to grow up behind a barbed wire fence in her own country? Read this fascinating true story to find out.
Into Thin Air (Personal Account)	Jon Krakauer	<i>Into Thin Air</i> is a riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. In March 1996, <i>Outside</i> magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead. Krakauer's book is at once the story of the ill-fated adventure and an analysis of the factors leading up to its tragic end.
Circulating Life: Blood Transfusion From Ancient Superstition to Modern Medicine.	Cherie Winner	This book is a fascinating account of the roles that blood has played in human medicine throughout history and of current areas of transfusion research. It's an excellent portrayal of ways our understandings change over time. Primary sources, photographs, and sidebars add to the text.
Wild Lives: A History of the People & Animals of the Bronx Zoo	Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld	A thought provoking exploration of the Bronx Zoo, presenting a history of the zoo's development and discussions surrounding the plight of animals and the fight to preserve native habitats. It poses the question: what roles do zoos play in the modern world? Stunning photographs.
Moving North: African Americans and the Great Migration, 1915–1930	Monica Halpern	A compelling and fact-filled text describing the struggle for survival in the post- Civil War decades that led thousands of African Americans to leave the South and head North.
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Adaptation.	Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, & Laura Silverstein Nunn.	Packed full of information, this text describes multiple aspects of adaptation. Specific attention is given to evolution, extreme habitats, seasonal changes, night life, predator/prey relationships, and human adaptations. Examples help illustrate complex concepts. Many readers will find the discussion of human adaptations especially meaningful. It's appropriate for advanced audiences as well.
All Creatures Great and Small (Autobiography)	James Herriot	This is the heartwarming story of the author's first year as a veterinarian.
The Story of My Life (Autobiography)	Helen Keller	Learn about determination and commitment in Helen Keller's autobiography.
No Pretty Pictures (Autobio-graphy)	Anita Lobel	This is a unique survivor's tale of the Holocaust, honest and penetrating in its child's view insights of hiding from the Nazis, then living in and surviving the concentration camps.

Courage in China (Auto-biography)	Ji-Li Jiang	When Ji-Li Jiang turned twelve in 1966, she was an intelligent student with a bright future ahead of her. Then Mao Tse-tung launched the Cultural Revolution in China, and her family's background was revealed. As a result, Ji-Li's friends turned their backs on her, and her family suffered repeated abuse at the hands of Chinese officials. Ji-Li recalls her childhood of bravery and loyalty.
At Her Majesty's Request (Biography)	Walter Dean Myers	Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Sarah Forbes Bonetta, who was saved from death by a British sea captain. As a result, she spent her life in nineteenth-century England, a place where others made life decisions for her. Myers includes newspaper articles and portraits to add to the reality of Bonetta's compelling story.
Montezuma and the Aztecs (History)	Nathaniel Harris	In 1519, Montezuma was the mighty ruler of the Aztecs. He thought he had nothing to fear. One year later he and his people were ambushed and overcome by a troop of Spanish soldiers led by the cunning Hernan Cortes. In Montezuma and the Aztecs, Nathaniel Harris looks at Aztec traditions and discusses Montezuma's leadership of the Aztec empire before it fell to the Spaniards.
The Incas (Historic)	Tim Wood	Tim Wood takes you on a tour of the Inca empire. You visit inside a typical Inca house, a temple to the sun god, the emperor's palace, and more. If you enjoy this book, you may want to read other titles in the "See Through History" series.
The World of King Arthur and His Court (Historic)	Kevin Crossley-Holland	Kevin Crossley-Holland's The World of King Arthur and His Court examines the ideals and customs of Arthurian times. You'll learn how a boy became a knight and was schooled in the specifics of courtly love. Crossley-Holland also compares the legends of King Arthur to actual history. Was Arthur real or fictional? The answer may surprise you.

The Classics

A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Scrooge, a wealthy miser treats everyone with scorn until he is visited by three mysterious spirits on Christmas Eve and sees the error of his evil ways.
Summer of My German Soldier	Greene	A 12-year-old Jewish girl risks everything to befriend a young German prisoner of war at the POW camp in her small Arkansas town during World War II.
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	. A comfortable family dog named Buck is stolen and sold into a harsh life as a sled dog in the 1890s Klondike, where he reverts to his wild nature.
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Smith	Francie Nolan, a young Brooklyn girl both impoverished and mistreated, searches with courage and determination for beauty and truth in an ugly world.
The Time Machine	H.G. Wells	The Time Traveler witnesses the ultimate course of human history and of the earth itself when he travels into the far future.

Poetry/ Short Stories

Howe	13: Thirteen Stories That Capture the Agony and the Ecstasy of Being Thirteen	In this wide-ranging collection, familiar authors for young adults contribute short fiction about 13-year-old characters who are experiencing bewildering feelings, making discoveries, or undergoing the embarrassments typical of the age.
Myers	Amiri & Odette	Presents a modern, urban retelling in verse of the ballet in which brave Amiri falls in love with beautiful Odette and fights evil Big Red for her on the streets of the Swan Lake Projects.
Nelson	Carver: A Life in Poems	By offering glimpses into George Washington Carver's life story through a series of lyrical poems, the structure of Nelson's book is as inspired as its occasional use of black-and-white photographs as illustrations.
Nye	19 Varieties of Gazelle	Naomi Shihab Nye brings together 60 of her poems, which focus on the Middle East and the Arab-American experience.

Nye	What Have You Lost?	A collection of poems that explore all kinds of loss: lost memories, lost relationships, regret-each poem pierces and then releases readers, who pocket a new treasure at the end of each page.
Paulsen	Shelf Life	Ten short stories in which the lives of young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.
Scieszka	Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys	Scieszka has put together a diverse and fast-paced anthology of scribblings and stories from scores of heavyweight authors and illustrators (Walter Dean Myers, Dan Gutman, Dav Pilkey, and others) who all declare you should "read what you like, when you like, whatever that happens to be."