

A Wealth of Reading for Teens



[Best Foot Forward](#)

By Joan Bauer

"I love Joan Bauer's strong characters! Their work ethic, values, and courage are examples I stress when recommending her to readers. Sixteen-year-old Jen never backs down from the challenges her employer and life throw at her. It's a struggle to balance home life, school, and work, and Jen is a model for us all!"-Barbara Wilson, Butterfly Books, De Pere, WI (Available in June.)



[Bras & Broomsticks](#)

By Sarah Mlynowski

"This is the perfect beach book for girls! When Rachel discovers that both her mother and her younger sister are witches, she thinks that navigating high school has just gotten a whole lot easier. Or has it? A lot of fun!"-Kathleen Raymond, Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Memphis, TN



[Claiming Georgia Tate](#)

By Gigi Amateau

"A well-told, honest, and poignant story about a likable young girl who endures personal losses and sexual abuse, yet who still believes in joy and the basic goodness of people. Expect more good things from this new author. (However, because it deals with incest, this is a title for mature readers.)"-Barb Bassett, Amy Nina Baum, The Red Balloon Bookshop, St. Paul, MN (Available in May.)

<http://www.booksense.com/product/info.jsp;jsessionid=a4f9LYSNrcah?isbn=0385902271>

[Girls for Breakfast](#)

By David Yoo

"Nick is determined to get a date before he graduates from high school. Unfortunately, he has a little problem: He is the only Korean-American teenager at his school, and that makes dating very difficult. Find out more in this sarcastically funny story about a boy who will do anything to get a date and not be the biggest loser."-Samantha Haldeman, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY (Available after May 24.)

[I Am the Wallpaper](#)

By Mark Peter Hughes

"First-time novelist Mark Peter Hughes has captured the pitch-perfect voice of 13-year-old Floey Packer as she



describes the trials and triumphs of one very influential summer. The result is an engaging, entertaining romp of a novel that will appeal to any teen who has ever wanted to step out of the background."-Alison Morris, Wellesley Booksmith, Wellesley, MA (Available after May 10.)



[Invisible](#)

By Pete Hautman

"This extremely dark story is riveting and haunting as it reveals the complexity of adolescent grief. Seventeen-year-old Doug's family and community are profoundly inadequate in offering assistance to this smart yet strange young man who is self-destructing. Hautman does a wonderful job of portraying deep adolescent friendship."-Joci Tilsen, Valley Bookseller, Stillwater, MN (Available in June.)



[Looking for Alaska](#)

By John Green

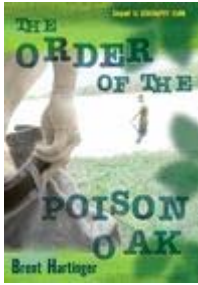
"Silly rivalries and ingenious boarding school pranks are the vehicle for a serious, thoughtful look at teen angst, suicide, and the existence of the soul. This is as fine a cautionary tale as we've seen since The Perks of Being a Wallflower. The sex and drinking behaviors will lend credibility for teen readers, though they'll probably limit the book's use in high school classrooms."-Carol Chittenden, Eight Cousins, Falmouth, MA



[The Minister's Daughter](#)

By Julie Hearn

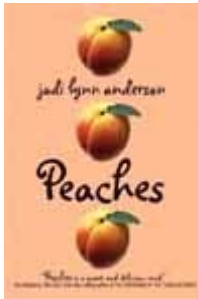
"Set during the time of the Civil War in England, this is the story of a young woman named Nell who is accused of witchcraft by two of a minister's daughters, one of whom is pregnant. An exciting book, with lots of intrigue and tales of fairies and piskies."-Rene Kirkpatrick, All For Kids Books & Music, Seattle, WA (Available in June.)



[The Order of the Poison Oak](#)

By Brent Hartinger

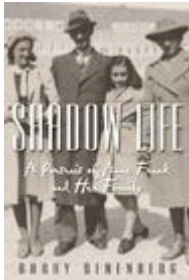
"This sequel to Geography Club finds Russel and his friends as counselors at a summer camp. There, Russel finds a secret society that makes everyone's 'flaws' their strengths and helps them cope with the abuses of life. Both an entertaining read and a good lesson about acceptance-both of others and oneself."-Sweet Pea Flaherty, King's Books, Tacoma, WA



[Peaches](#)

By Jodi Lynn Anderson

"Three very different girls discover the gift of true friendship while working in a peach orchard. This perfect coming-of-age story has angst, humor, and the experience of testing one's limits. A great summer read!"-Holly Frakes, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI (Available in mid-June.)



[Shadow Life: A Portrait of Anne Frank and Her Family](#)

By Barry Denenberg

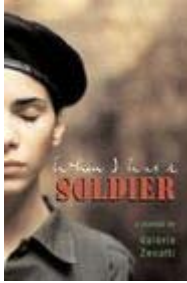
"As I read Shadow Life, I found I could hardly put it down. I learned more about what the Franks ate, what they read, how they lived, and, always, the fear that was part of it all. This is a title I'll enthusiastically sell in my store."-Dorothy Dickerson, Books & More, Albion, MI



[The Sledding Hill](#)

By Chris Crutcher

"As it details the life history of a banned book from a teenager's perspective, The Sledding Hill is a brilliant chronicle about censorship in literature and its effect on personal freedom. But this book speaks to my heart because it's a story about undying friendship and the vast capacity for reasoning in the most unreasonable kids."-Collette Morgan, Wild Rumpus, Minneapolis, MN (Available in May.)



[When I Was A Soldier](#)

By Valerie Zenatti

"All Israelis, young men and young women alike, must serve at least two years in their country's armed forces. This memoir recounts Zenatti's military service, and it thoughtfully illustrates how typical Israeli girls adapt to an experience that many girls elsewhere will never know." -Mary Landrum, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Lexington, KY (Available in May.)



[Wings](#)

By Julie Gonzalez

"This is a compelling and fascinating tale of two brothers-one who believes someday he will sprout wings and fly and the other who must learn to accept his brother's beliefs. A moving tale of family dynamics and friendship spanning the boys' lives. A joy to read." -David Richardson, The Blue Marble Bookstore, Fort Thomas, KY

Source for these recommendations: Book Sense. BookSense.com is a family of independent-bookseller websites. (And it's the e-commerce arm of the American Booksellers Association's Book Sense program.)

AND MORE:

Chocolate Wars

Hatchet

Lord of the Rings

Tom Sawyer

A Wrinkle In Time

Once and Future King

Where the Red Fern Grows

And Then There Were None

The Secret Garden

Harry Potter books

Walk Two Moons

The Little Prince

Ender's Game

This Boy's Life

The Red Pony

Tuck Everlasting

Ella Enchanted

Island of the Blue Dolphins

Parkplace Books Presents Great Summer Reads for Young Adults

The City of Beasts & The Kingdom of The Golden Dragon by Isabelle Allende - Fifteen-year-old

Alexander Cold accompanies his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter for International Geographic, on an expedition to the dangerous, remote world of the Amazon to document the legendary Yeti known as The Beast.

The Fire-Eaters by David Almond - Bobby Burns knows he's a lucky lad. Growing up in sleepy Keely Bay, Bobby is exposed to all manner of wondrous things: stars reflecting

off the icy sea, a friend that can heal injured fawns with her dreams, a man who can eat fire. But darkness seems to be approaching Bobby's life from all sides.

The Sign of The Qin by L.G. Bass - This first novel in a new trilogy draws upon Chinese myth and legend for an epic kung-fu, sword-and-sorcery fantasy is a tour de force of classic storytelling.

Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale by Holly Black - Briskly paced and teeming with angst-ridden teens and capricious fairy folk, this intricate and chilling modern-day fantasy--complete with peer rivalries, sinister seductions, dashing dark heroes, and romance--will keep readers enthralled until the very last page.

Hanging on to Max by Margaret Bechard - It's Sam Pettigrew's last year of high school. And he's spending it figuring out how, at age seventeen, he is supposed to care for his baby son, Max. Trading footballs for diaper bags and college brochures for feeding schedules, Sam gives fatherhood his best shot.

The Prophecy of The Stones by Flavia Bujor - Translated from the original French, this moving and spellbinding first novel from teenage literary sensation Flavia Bujor tells the tale of three teenage girls living in a magical realm who are chosen to fulfill an ancient prophecy.

Summerland by Michael Chabon - Written by a Pulitzer Prize winning author and set in the Pacific Northwest. Summerland is a magical place, where the local Little League gathers to play baseball on a perfectly manicured lawn, and the sun is always shining in a flawless blue sky. However, the small beings known as ferishers, who ensure this perfect weather, are threatened by an ancient enemy and need a hero - a baseball star, in fact - to vanquish their foe.

The Supernaturalist by Eoin Colfer - From the bestselling author of the Artemis Fowl series comes this new, thrilling adventure set in an eerie and captivating world--part futuristic Dickens, part "Blade Runner" and filled with Colfer's high-tech action and humor.

Lion Boy by Zizou Corder - What do you do when you come home one day and discover that your parents have been kidnapped? Well, if you're a brave young guy named Charlie Ashanti, you go off in search of them. And since you speak Cat, your feline friends rally around you, bringing help, advice, and occasional special deliveries.

The Green Man by Ellen Datlow - One of our most enduring, universal myths is that of the Green Man - the spirit who stands for nature in its most wild and untamed form, a man with leaves for hair who dwells deep within the mythic forest. In this collection of stories, poems, and pictures, we have an excellent view into the world of nature, myth and wonder.

This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen - In this entrancing new novel, the author of ***Dreamland*** and ***Keeping the Moon*** introduces a girl who believes her heart is made of stone--and the boy who proves her wrong.

Parkplace Books
(425) 828-6546

348 Parkplace Center
Kirkland, WA 98033

The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen - A long dull summer stretches ahead of Macy while her boyfriend Jason is away at Brain Camp. But sometimes unexpected things can happen - things like the catering job at Wish, with its fun-loving, chaotic crew. As time passes, and Macy ventures out of her shell, she begins to wonder if it is really better to be safe than sorry.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen - Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and-here's the odd part-wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail. The chase introduces him to potty-trained alligators, a fake-fart champion, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes with unnaturally sparkling tails.

Leaving Protection by Will Hobbs - From the author of ***Far North*** comes this adrenaline-pumping story about a 16-year-old boy whose dream of working on a salmon boat on Alaska's outside waters turns into a nightmare.

Eagle Strike & Skeleton Key by Anthony Horowitz - Teen spy Alex Rider faces new challenges and dangers in these two new adventures.

The Merlin Conspiracy by Diana Wynne Jones - Three young people from different worlds meet in one and travel to a myriad of others in an attempt to unseat the false Merlin of Blest and unravel a conspiracy that threatens all of the magic in the multiverse.

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel - Pi, the son of a zookeeper, is marooned aboard a lifeboat with four wild animals. His knowledge and cunning allow him to coexist for 227 days with Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger.

Zazoo by Richard Mosher - Zazoo is Vietnamese by birth but has lived with her adoptive Grand-Pierre in France in an old stone mill since she was two. Then one morning, a young man on a bicycle rides into Zazoo's small village and asks a question from which many stories begin to unfold.

Shooter by Walter Dean Myers - Written as a series of dialogues, reports and journal entries, ***Shooter*** tells the story of the aftermath of a shooting incident at fictitious Madison High School in Harrison County.

The Song of The Magdalene by Donna Jo Napoli - Part history, part love story, part epic, this riveting novel explores the childhood and young womanhood of Mary Magdalene, friend of Jesus.

Blizzard's Wake Phyllis Reynolds Naylor - From the Newbery Medalist comes this thought-provoking, gripping story about grief, determination, and healing, set amidst actual events that took place during the Red River Valley blizzard of 1941.

The Shell House by Linda Newbery - Greg's casual interest in the history of a ruined mansion becomes more personal as he slowly discovers the tragic events that overwhelmed its last inhabitants. Set against a background of the modern day and the First World War, Greg's contemporary beliefs become intertwined with those of Edmund, a foot soldier whose confusion about his sexuality and identity mirrors Greg's own feelings of insecurity.

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel - The author of the Silverwing trilogy creates a new fantasy in which humans fly but the airplane has never been invented. In the early 20th century, a young orphan serves as a cabin boy aboard an airship and is witness to life-and-death battles in the sea and above land.

Parkplace Books
(425)828-6546

348 Parkplace Center
Kirkland, WA 98033

Brian's Hunt by Gary Paulsen - When Brian finds a dog one night, a dog that is wounded and whimpering, he senses danger. The dog is badly hurt, and as Brian cares for it, he worries about his Cree friends who live north of his camp. His instincts tell him to head north, quickly. With his new companion at his side, and with a terrible, growing sense of unease, he sets out to learn what happened. He sets out on the hunt.

The House on Hound Hill by Maggie Prince - Something is not right in Emily's new house in the historic London neighborhood of Hound Hill. And something is not quite right with Emily. Encountering hints to her home's haunted past, she begins to experience distressing symptoms: a headache, a fever, extreme thirst, hallucinations, and, then, a doorway to an earlier period of great distress.

Shadowmancer by G.P. Taylor - Accidentally drawn into a war between good and evil, three young people are brought face to face with the powers of darkness in an epic battle.

Voyage of Ice by Michele Torrey - All Nick ever wanted to be was a whaling captain, like his father before him. What could be more glorious than the life of a whaler, battling mighty sperm whales and returning home rich as Midas? So when his older

brother Dexter signs aboard the *Sea Hawk*, Nick won't stand to be left behind. But life at sea is very different from what either Dexter or Nick expected. They are mercilessly overworked by a cruel and dangerous captain. The officers think nothing of beating the crewmen within an inch of their lives.

Dragon's Blood, Heart's Blood, & A Sending of Dragons by Jane Yolen - Best-selling fantasy author Jane Yolen has done it again with the Pit Dragon Trilogy. Jakkin Stewart is fifteen and a bond servant, which is little better than a slave. His adventure begins when he steals a hatchling and begins to train it to fight for him in the dragon pits.

MORE BOOKS YOU CAN CHOOSE:

Cannibalism in the Cars: the Best of Twain's Humorous Sketches by Mark Twain

One More River to Cross: an African American Photograph Album by Walter Dean Myers

An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy

Alice, I think by Susan Juby

Close to Short: the Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916 by Michael Capuzzo

Sweetblood by Pete Hautman

The Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman

Double Helix by Nancy Werlin (This book is a mystery that addresses issues of gene engineering.)

My Life and Hard Times by James Thurber

Tithe by Holly Black

The Sky so Big and Black by John Barnes

The Year of the Hangman by Gary Blackwood

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer



BOOKS THAT HOOK

list prepared by Dr. Kylene Beers
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
College of Education
University of Houston
713/743-5037 pzuf87c@prodigy.com

A Bad Case of Stripes. David Shannon.

Shannon writes and illustrates this funny and powerful picture storybook that addresses the issue of popularity and the importance of being happy by being who you are.

(Elementary)

A Door Near Here. Heather Quarles.

Fifteen-year-old Katherine tries to hold her family together, but with no father and an alcoholic, out of work mother, that's not easy. Bills don't get paid, food can't be bought, and a younger sister seems on the verge of losing all touch with reality. Katherine doesn't know what to do other than keep telling lies to keep adults from figuring out what's going on. Eventually, the lies collide and Katherine tries to find some help before all is lost. (mature middle school/high school)

A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder. Walter Wick.

With incredible photographs of water, readers learn about ice, rainbows, steam, frost and dew as they read about the amazing properties of water and see it in all its splendor. The book very carefully and clearly explains evaporation, condensation, capillary attraction and surface tension. A must for every science classroom. (upper elementary, middle school)

A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America. Thomas Colchie, editor.

The twenty-six stories included in this collection provide an excellent introduction to the works of Hispanic writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Carlos Fuentes, Isabel Allende, and Jorge Amado. (middle school/high school)

A Fence Away from Freedom. Ellen Levine.

A touching, fascinating account of the Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in the United States after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. (middle school/high school)

A Lesson Before Dying. Ernest Gaines.

The lesson that local teacher Grant Wiggins is supposed to impart to convicted robber Jefferson is one of dignity. (high school)

After the War. Carol Matas.

This powerful historical fiction takes readers to the days after the release of Jewish prisoners from Buchenwald at the end of World War II as fifteen-year-old Ruth begins looking for her family and while doing so helps lead a group of children to safety. (high school, mature middle school)

Ajeemah and His Son. James Berry.

In this story set in the early 1800s, Ajeemah, a native of Ghana and his eighteen-year-old son, Atu, are abducted by fellow Africans as they walk to a neighboring village with a dowry for Atu's bride-to-be. They soon find themselves on a slave ship bound for Jamaica. (middle school)

American Dragons: Twenty-Five Asian American Voices. Laurence Yep, editor.

These twenty-five short stories all help answer the questions of many immigrants: Who am I? How do I fit in? What is the American dream. (middle school/high school)

Among the Hidden. Margaret Peterson Haddix.

Luke is a shadow child, a third child, a wanted but illegal child. Born after the edict of two-children only. Though lonely, bored, and miserable, Luke understands that he must spend his life hidden. Then one day, as Luke is doing what he always does, peering through a small slanted opening in the attic, Luke sees another child behind a window of a house that already has two children. Luke has discovered a third and now he knows he can't stay hidden any longer. (middle school/high school)

Another Way to Dance. Martha Southgate.

An African American teenager finds herself living out her dream of studying ballet in New

York. There, though, she must confront that dream and decide if ballet is the dance for her life. (7th to 9th)

Armageddon summer. Jane Yolen & Bruce Coville.

"The world will end on Thursday, July 27, 2000." That's Reverend Beelson's announcement and Marina's mom and Jed's dad believe him, so fourteen-year-old Marina and sixteen-year-old Jed soon find themselves atop a remote mountain with the other Believers waiting for the world to end. There, the two have to wonder what kind of God would let some perish while others live as they decide if they are true believers. Told in alternating chapters by Marina and Jed, this book can't be put down once you begin. (high school)

At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England. Walter Dean Myers.

While in a rare bookshop in London, Walter Dean Myers discovered a body of letters about Sarah. Fascinated, he researched who this young woman was and unearthed a story well worth telling. And that's what he does in *At Her Majesty's Request*, which reveals the life of Sarah Bonetta, an African princess, who is taken from her West African village to be killed. But a British naval officer rescues her and takes her to England where Queen Victoria oversees her upbringing. (middle school/high school)

Basher Five-Two. Captain Scott O'Grady with Michael French.

True story of captain O'Grady (from Spokane), his plane's crash and his survival behind enemy lines. (middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Belle Prater's Boy. Ruth White.

Haunting and endearing, this Newbery winner will capture readers who enjoy a little mystery, a little fun, and little suspense. When Belle Prater disappears - no footsteps, no clues - her son, Woodrow, goes to live with his grandparents. His girl cousin, Gypsy, lives next door and becomes his instant friend. They spend time together and begin to heal - Gypsy from the traumatic death of her father and Woodrow from the mysterious loss of his mother. (upper elementary, middle school)

Bigfoot Cinderrrrrella. Tony Johnston.

This updated, wacky, in-the-forest-with-weird-creatures version of Cinderella is sure to entertain. (all grades)

Black Hoops. Frederick McKissack, Jr.

This nonfiction account of the history of basketball takes readers through the sport's modest beginnings (shooting a soccer ball through a peach basket sitting on top of a ten foot pole) to its painful times of segregated college and professional play through the difficult times of desegregation, to finally the triumphant times in basketball today. Lively writing and great photographs make this a book even non-basketball fans will want to read. (middle school/high school)

Brian's Return. Gary Paulsen.

We know what happened to Brian once his plane crashed, we know he survived the winter. but what happened once he returned home? Can you really return to civilization once you've lived in the woods, have become a part of the woods, and want the woods with you? (middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Bright Freedmon's Song: A story of the Underground Railroad. Gloria Houston.

This historical novel gives readers a look at how the Underground Railroad helped move slaves to freedom as they watch fifteen-year-old Bright Freedmon help her parents move slaves north. (middle school/high school)

Buddha Stores. Demi.

Demi's gold ink line drawings on indigo paper takes readers back in time as they read some of Demi's favorite Jakatas, the stories of Buddha. This collection of stories is a fine complement to secondary students as they study world history and world religions. (middle school/high school)

Buried Onions. Gary Soto.

Nineteen-year-old Mexican-American Eddie drops out of college and struggles through a difficult time while living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California. (middle school/high school)

Burning Up. Caroline Cooney.

Macey and her friends Grace and Austin, all high school students from a wealthy Connecticut town, discover that their small town isn't so idyllic, isn't so wonderful, and isn't so kind. Racial prejudice exists and persists and Macey wants desperately to do something about it when she comes face to face with the pain that separation by color causes. (middle school/high school)

Calling the Wind: Twentieth Century African-American Short Stories. Clarence Major, editor.

This superb anthology includes stories by Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin and many more. (high school)

Center Court Sting. Matt Christopher.

Another great sports book from Christopher that is sure to hook boys who perhaps are more interested in balls than books. In this book, Daren's problems with another player escalate as vandalism becomes an issue. (upper elementary)

Chicken Doesn't Skate, The. Gordon Korman.

Funny and strange things happen at Milo's middle school when his chicken becomes the hockey team's mascot! (upper elementary/middle school)

CinderHazel. Deborah Nourse Lattimore.

Hazel's not a very good witch - she spends much too much time playing in the soot. Eventually, she is nicknamed CinderHazel. Then she gets left home from the Halloween Ball. All looks lost until her godmother turns her broken broomstick into a flying vacuum cleaner. Then Hazel's off to find her Prince Alarming. Wacky illustrations and crazy situations will keep elementary age kids laughing as they compare this zany version of Cinderella to any of the classic versions. (elementary)

Clockwork. Philip Pullman.

This intricate fantasy is a story within a story within a story that works like, well, clockwork. Each plot's turn causes another plot's turn and each character's life is somehow connected to another. It all begins during the fading light of a snowy winter evening as the apprentice clockmaker Karl worries about the deadline he has missed. In a tale that draws from Faust, Frankenstein, and Pinocchio, a master storyteller has created a fantasy that entertains as it enlightens. (upper middle school/high school)

Cool Salsa. Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States. Edited by Lori M.

Carolson.

Poets including E. J. Vega, Sandra Cisneros, Johanna Vega, Christina Morena, Pat Mora, and Gary Soto write about topics such as hard times, memories, the future, school, home, and the homeland. Some funny, some poignant, all in both English and Spanish, these poems are as tamale hot and teenager cool! (middle school/high school)

Dancing on the Edge. Han Nolan.

Miracle McCloy lives with her grandmother Gigi and lives with the constant reminder that her name is Miracle because she was born, rescued from the womb, after her mother

had been killed. She also lives with the constant reminder that she is expected to be a prodigy, like her father who has recently disappeared. But Miracle also knows something isn't quite right - not right with the family stories and not right with herself. After "accidentally" harming herself in a desperate dance among lit candles, Miracle finally finds the help she's been seeking. (upper middle school/high school)

Danger Zone. David Klass.

High school basketball player forced to deal with racism, fear, and competition on and off the basketball court. Powerful look at racism. (upper middle school/high school)

Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father. Richard Rodriguez.

This collection of autobiographical essays explores what it means to Rodriguez to be the son of immigrants from Mexico. (high school)

Driver's Ed. Caroline Cooney.

This ought to be required reading for every teen! Teens take driver's education but pay little attention the rules. After they steal a stop sign "just for fun" a young mother is killed at the intersection lacking the sign. (middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers.) [Am I my Brother's Keeper? What is my responsibility!!]

Eating the Plates: A Pilgrim Book of Food and Manners. Lucille Recht Penner.

Arriving in America for the Pilgrims meant more than a long boat trip. It also meant arriving to a country with no grocery stores, no planted crops, no systematized way of getting food. How did they eat, what did they eat, and why'd they put that fish in with the corn? (upper elementary/middle school. Good for reluctant readers)

Ella Enchanted. Gail Carson Levine.

A delightful, funny fantasy that explores what happens when one is "blessed" with the gift of perfect obedience. (middle school/high school)

ETs and UFOs: Are They Real? Larry Kettelkamp.

This informational text will engage the most reluctant of readers. (all ages. Great for struggling readers)

Every Shut Eye Ain't Asleep: An Anthology of Poetry by African Americans since 1945. Michael S. Harper and Anthony Walton, editors.

Lucille Clifton and Derek Walcott are among the poets of this splendid anthology who speak in many styles and lyrical voices on themes ranging from family and love to racism. (upper middle school/high school)

Excalibur. Hudson Talbott.

This is a beautifully told and illustrated edition of that classic story of young Arthur and the adventures he faces after he pulls the sword from the stone and becomes the High King of all Britain. (middle school/good for struggling readers in high school who need to read the classic text of King Arthur)

Finding My Voice. Marie G. Lee.

When you are the only Korean-American at your school, when your parents are very strict, when there's a lot of pressure to get good grades, when it is your senior year in high school, and when some of your classmates are prejudiced, life can be hard, Ellen Sung discovers. (middle school/high school)

Fires of Merlin, The. T. A. Barron.

In this 3rd book of *The Lost Years of Merlin* saga, Barron has done again what he does so well - he's given us high adventure, moral dilemma, a worthy hero, and lyrical language all against the backdrop of a land we wish existed in someplace other than our

minds and on the pages of this book. In Fires of Merlin, Merlin not only confronts the fire of a dragon, and the dangers of the dreaded kreelixes, but he faces the fires within himself. Fires of Merlin burns with an intensity that will keep readers turning pages and wanting more - which they'll find in the 4th book, The Mirror of Merlin. (middle school/high school)

Flash Fire. Caroline Cooney.

Teens are caught in a canyon as a flash fire races toward them. (middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Food Fight Janet Bode

This information book takes readers into the world of anorexia. A must read for all preteen and young teen girls who have ever wondered if they wouldn't look better, feel better, be more popular if they were just skinnier. (upper elementary, middle school)

For Your Eyes Only! Joanne Rocklin

When Mr. Moffet makes everyone in his sixth grade write in a journal, Lucy tells him everything while Andy tells him little! Eventually, both Lucy and Andy make important discoveries through their writing. (elementary)

Freak the Mighty Rod Philbrick

Two young boys, each considered freaks, team up and discover not only the power of friendship, but also the power of life. (middle school/high school)

Frozen Stiff Sherry Shahan

Cody and Derek find themselves stranded on an icy glacier when their kayak drifts away from shore. Survival genre at its best. (middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Girl Death Left Behind, The. Lurlene McDaniel.

In one afternoon, Beth's entire world is torn away from her as a car accident claims the life of every member of her family. Starting a new life with her aunt in a new state is much more difficult than she ever imagined. Guilt and remorse and an aching longing for her family threaten her existence. (middle school/high school)

Ghosts of the White House. Cheryl Harness.

While Sara and her class are touring the White House, George Washington leans out of his painting and begins giving Sara her own personal tour of the presidential mansion giving her little known facts. This very informative and highly entertaining book ought to be in every classroom that even thinks about mentioning presidents. Presidents through Clinton are discussed. (all grades)

Great Fire, The. Jim Murphy.

With accuracy and engaging text that Murphy is so well known for, The Great Fire tells another generation of readers about the fire that swept through the heart of Chicago on October 8, 1871. Burning for 31 hours and forcing over 100,000 people to flee the flames, this fire not only destroyed a city, but it changed the lives of many. Murphy tells this tale of terror through the lives of people who were touched by the fire. This is a piece of non-fiction that even the most hard-core fiction readers will love. (all levels)

Great Puzzles of History: Intriguing Cases of the Past. Fred Neff.

Ten historical controversies, including the fate of Marie Antoinette's son, the Anastasia controversy, and the issues surrounding the missing English Princes, are presented in this easy to read book. (middle school/high school. Good for struggling readers.)

Habibi. Naomi Shihab Nye.

Fourteen-year-old Liyana Abboud is not pleased to learn that she must move with her family from Missouri to Jerusalem. There, she learns about her heritage as she stumbles through the present. (middle school)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. J.K. Rowling.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. J.K. Rowling.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. J.K. Rowling.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. J.K. Rowling.

Harry Potter, that wonderful twelve-year-old wizard who is learning all about wizardry at Hogwarts Academy, begins his adventures in The Sorcerer's Stone when he faces down the terrible dark force. But before that, Harry learns about friendship and spell casting and Quidditch playing, dragon raising, invisible cloaks, and broom riding. When you aren't laughing you are certainly encouraging Harry along. Harry's adventures continue in Chamber of Secrets when Harry returns to Hogwarts for his second year. Things are off to a bad start as students begin turning to stone and Harry is accused of causing the problem. Harry and his friends not only have to contend with that problem, but also face Moaning Myrtle (a spirit who haunts the girls' bathroom), Professor Lockheart (a conceited new professor), and Tom Riddle (a boy from Hogwart's past.) The adventures continue in the Prisoner of Azkaban, and in the Goblet of Fire. All books are charming fantasies that readers of all ages will enjoy. (all levels)

Hate You. Graham McNamee.

Alice Silvers writes songs she can never sing because she has a broken "Frankenstein" voice. Years ago her father hurt her, ruining her vocal chords. Now at age 17, Alice has a new life with her songs, her words, her mother, her boyfriend, and still the anger that has burned in her since that night. Choked with bitter anger, Alice must find a way to let go of the pain and anger that she's lived with most of her teen years. (Honor Book in the Delacorte Press Contest for a First Young Adult Novel) (upper middle school/high school)

Haunting, The. Joan Lowery Nixon.

The Grand Dame of mysteries for young adults returns with another winner. This time fifteen-year-old Lia must discover what evil lurks in the family home Graymoss before the evil captures her family. (middle school/high school)

Heaven. Angela Johnson.

Fourteen-year-old Marley thinks her life is heaven as she lives with her mom, dad, and brother in a small town named Heaven. But then a letter comes addressed to Monna and suddenly Marley discovers that her mom and dad aren't her parents at all. Once again, Johnson gives readers a poignant glimpse at life through a remarkable character's eyes. (middle school/high school)

Holes. Louis Sachar.

This 1999 Newbery winner is a must read for kids seventh-grade on up. Partly a story of growing up in the midst of hard times; partly a story of finding your way when all ways seem to point to dead ends; partly a look at how the past affects the present; and mostly a story that will warm your heart.

How Gergie Radbourn Saved Baseball. David Shannon.

This longer picture storybook gives baseball fans a wonderful account of how baseball was saved from the winter that never ended. Baseball fans of all ages will enjoy the story and dramatic art. (elementary)

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents. Julia Alvarez.

Four sisters from the Dominican Republic move with their parents to New York City in the 1960s and find their new way of life difficult. (middle school/high school)

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust. Livia Bitton-Jackson.
Autobiographical account of surviving the Holocaust. (middle school/high school)

If I Forget, You Remember. Carol Lynch Williams.
This funny, touching, and realistic look at a twelve-year-old girl and her relationship with her sister, mother, grandmother, and first boyfriend. (middle school. Great for struggling readers)

If You Come Softly. Jacqueline Woodson.
Jeremiah, a black boy, wonders just what he is doing in the all white high school until he meets Ellie, a Jewish girl who understands what it means to be an outsider. The two are drawn together in a gentle love story until the reality of their world comes crashing in. One of Woodson's finest. (middle school. Great for struggling high school students)

It Happened to Nancy: A True Story from her Diary. Anonymous (edited by Beatrice Sparks)
The diary of a young girl who is date raped by a man with AIDS. She is infected and ultimately dies. This is a powerful book that adolescent girls will want to read. (middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers.)

It's Disgusting and We Ate It! True Food Facts From Around the World. James Solheim.
Illustrated by Eric Brace.
From discovering that during Medieval England a royal course included a soup called garbage ("...made with birds' heads, feet, livers, necks, and gizzards.") to finding out that earthworm soup is a traditional fever medicine in China to learning that most ice cream sold in America contains seaweed, *It's Disgusting...* is a book that your upper elementary and middle school students will beg to see. (all levels)

Journey of the Sparrows. Fran Leeper Buss (with Daisy Cubias)
Nailed into a crate and loaded into the back of a truck, Maria, her younger brother, and pregnant sister make their escape to the United States. Even in Chicago they still must be "invisible," or the immigration officials will return them to their brutal existence in El Salvador. (middle school/high school)

Just Ella. Margaret Peterson Haddix.
In a delightful twist of the classic Cinderella tale, readers see what happens when Ella is a spunky young woman who discovers that Prince Charming isn't the man of her dreams and living in a castle with hundreds of rules of etiquette isn't her idea of "happily ever after." Ella redefines Cinderella as she uses her wit and wisdom and not one whit of magic to find the real man of her heart. (middle school)

Langston Hughes: An Illustrated Edition. Milton Meltzer. Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.
This is the moving biography of a leading poet of the Harlem Renaissance who devoted his life to writing about the black experience in America. (middle school/high school)

Library Card, The. Jerry Spinelli.
Four magical stories of how library cards changed people's lives. (middle school)

Life in the Fat Lane. Cherie Bennett.
High school beauty queen suddenly begins gaining weight and then must face the fact that beauty is what brought her popularity. (middle school/high school)

Love Letters. Arnold Adoff. Illustrated by Lisa Desimini.
Fun love poems that offer everything from compliments (sort of) to a special teacher ("Dear Mrs. McNasty: I almost like you today. Your valentine Avenger.") and declare that first love ("Dear Tall Girl At Front Table:/ I love you more than peanut butter cookies

crumble./ I love you more than yellow bees bumble./ I also love you more than dark thunder clouds rumble....") Sure to be a hit with the middle school crowd. (middle school)

Martin Luther King. Rosemary L. Bray. Illustrated by Malcah Zeldis.

This picture book biography will help 3rd-6th graders not only learn about this important man, but also about the important issues he addressed. (upper elementary)

Max the Mighty. Rodman Philbrick.

In this sequel to Freak the Mighty, Max, still grieving over the loss of his friend Kevin, makes a new friend who is cruelly nicknamed Worm. Adventure is in store for these two misfits as they run away from the abusive lives they live. filled with suspense and heart, Max the Mighty is a mighty book. (middle school/high school)

Mind Riot: Coming of Age in Comix. Edited by Karen Hirsch.

Stories of comix writers. Excellent choice for reluctant readers. (high school. Excellent for struggling readers.)

Mrs. Mack. Patricia Polacco.

This longer picture book gives readers what Polacco does best: a gentle story with rich characters set against the backdrop of excitement and a happily-ever-after ending. (Read aloud to young elementary or use in middle school to teach short story elements)

My Angelica. Carol Lynch Williams.

Fifteen-year-old Sage Oliver decides to write a romance book that will feature her ideal woman. Sage is positive that the world will love her book, her character, and her talent. She'll skip English class and definitely say no to college to instead write books. The only problem: Sage has absolutely no talent! (middle school/high school)

Nobody Else Has to Know. Ingrid Tomez.

Fifteen-year-old Webber thinks his whole life is in front of him until the day that his grandpa lets him drive the car and what ends up in front of him is a little girl he hits who is severely and permanently injured. When Webber wakes up in the hospital after the accident not remembering anything, his grandfather tells him that he, not Webber, was driving so that Webber's life won't be affected by what happened. But little by little Webber remembers and finally realizes that even if nobody else has to know, he knows. This is a great pair with Driver's Ed or Swallowing Stones. (middle school/high school)

North of the Rio Grande: The Mexican-American Experience in Short Fiction. Edward Simmen, editor.

Included in this anthology are stories by Anglos and Mexican American writers, with each group presenting a different perspective on the culture and daily lives of Mexican Americans. Sandra Cisneros, Stephen Crane, Carlos Flores, Willa Cather, Maria Cristina Mena, and other talented writers are a part of this important collection. (high school)

Other Voices, Other Vistas: Short Stories from Africa, China, India, Japan, and Latin America.

Barbara Solomon, editor.

This collection of twenty-five stories from Africa, China, India, Japan, and Latin America not only provides information about these cultures but also offers insight into universal experiences and relationships as well. (upper middle school/high school)

Out of the Dust. Karen Hesse.

This is the award-winning heartfelt story of a young girl who struggles to survive the Dust Bowl years, her mother's death, and her painful relationship with her father. Told in lyrical poems, it is a wonderful tie with the Grapes of Wrath, or if looking at form, Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff. (upper middle school/high school)

Pieces of the Heart. New Chicano Fiction. Gary Soto, editor.

Gary Soto, a well-known Latino poet and novelist, gives us this wonderful collection of sixteen short stories by American writers of Mexican descent. (upper middle school/high school)

P.S. Longer Letter Later. Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin.

These two popular writers team up to create a wonderful story that is told through the letters that two girls write to one another after one moves far away. These two girls - Paula Danziger creates Tara and Ann Martin creates Elizabeth - struggle not only to maintain their friendship via letters, but also struggle with the difficult issues both families face. (upper elementary/middle school)

Puppies, Dogs and blue Northers. Gary Paulsen.

Gary Paulsen relives parts of his life with readers through this autobiographical account of his life running sled dogs. (middle school)

Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief. Wendelin Van Draanen.

While thirteen-year-old Sammy Keyes was looking through her binoculars into one of the windows of the hotel across the street, she saw a man in gloves pawing through a purse. As she stares at the man, she realizes he is staring back at her. The police don't believe her when she tells them what she saw, but the man knows she knows who he is. Sammy Keyes soon finds herself struggling to convince grown-ups that there's a robber out there. (middle school)

Sang Spell. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

After Josh's mom's death in a senseless car accident, Josh knows he'll have to leave his high school to move to Texas to live with an aunt he barely knows. Grief stricken and angry, Josh decides to not use the plane ticket but instead to hitchhike from Boston to Dallas. That's the first of several bad choices he makes that eventually lands him living in a community somewhere along the Appalachia Trail with a group of people who seem caught in time in a place that doesn't seem to exist. Josh searches for a way out of the community but time and time again finds himself trapped in this place where time has stood still. This introspective fantasy will appeal to those students who enjoy asking "what if." (upper middle school/high school)

Sarney: A Life Remembered. Gary Paulsen.

Compelling and satisfying sequel to Paulsen's gripping *Nightjohn*. (upper middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Saving Shiloh. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

This final book in the Shiloh trilogy answers for readers once and for all what happens to Shiloh, Marty, and Judd. A surprise about Judd and a hard decision for Marty keeps readers turning pages as with the other Shiloh books. (upper elementary)

Saving Sweetness. Diane Stanley

Stanley found a sure-fired recipe for success when she created this folktale-like picture storybook. The recipe goes something like this: Start with an antic-filled orphan, add a big-hearted but short-brained sheriff, stir in a mean as rattlesnakes Ms. Sump; top with a Texas twang. Mix together and you've got adventure, laughs, and fun pokes at Tex-isms. Once you've finished this one, pick up the sequel Raising Sweetness.

Searching for Atticus. Jan Marino.

Fifteen-year-old Tessa helps her father, home from Vietnam, find his life again while she continues her search for her Atticus. (upper middle school, high school)

Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through Poems. Nikki Giovanni, editor.
Giovanni celebrates the flowering of black poetry. In her own informal commentary, she connects each poem to her own experience and also to history, biography, and literature. (upper middle school/high school)

Skellig. David Almond.
Powerful. Mesmerizing. You'll hate that it ended. This beautifully written fantasy defies age, so I'm not sure which group to recommend it for. Two children discover a part-angel, part-man, part-owl dying slowly in an abandoned garage. Calling himself Skellig, he tells them what he needs for nourishment. They offer the nourishment and much more - such as the companionship that he needs to survive. Much more happens - but you discover it on your own. (middle school, high school)

Slam! Walter Dean Myers
Again Myers has given us a book that combines the excitement of sports with the realities of life and encourages readers to take a hard look at themselves. (high school)

Slot Machine. Chris Lynch.
Funny account of a boy trying to find his slot as he heads off to high school. (upper middle school/high school)

Space Explained: A Beginner's Guide to the Universe. Robin Scagell
Photos, charts, illustrations, and computer-generated simulations along with interesting text make this short book both fun and informative. (upper elementary through high school)

Smoking, A Risky Business. Laurence Pringle.
Easy text with powerful information about a topic that interests many times: a winning combination. (upper middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Soldier's Heart. Gary Paulsen.
Paulsen's newest takes readers back to the Civil War as a fifteen-year-old decides to lie about his age and join in the fight for freedom for slaves. Several battles later, he returns home, at age nineteen, with a soldier's heart. Told with few words, this book should be required reading for all students who study the Civil War or wonder what the cost of any war really is. (upper middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers.)

Stone Cold. Pete Hautman.
Sixteen-year-old Denn Doyle has a great life: he's got a good grass-cutting business, has his eyes on a used car that will soon be his, and has a great girlfriend. Life seems fine until he sits in one night on a friendly game of poker. The Denn discovers that his life can be great because he's got a gift, a real gift of playing poker. But as Denn gets pulled further and further into the life of a compulsive gambler, the question is whether or not the gift is a gift or a curse. (high school)

Swallowing Stones. Joyce MacDonald.
High school student playing with a rifle kills a fellow student's father by mistake. Wonderful pair with Driver's Ed by Caroline Cooney. (upper middle school/high school. Great for struggling readers)

Talk That Talk: An Anthology of African-American Storytelling. Linda Goss and Marian Barnes, editors.
Nearly 100 stirring stories, from animal tales, legends, raps, and sermons to personal "truth tales" and biographies with commentaries from historians and folklorists. (upper

middle school/high school)

Taking It. Michael Cadnum.

Seventeen-year-old Anna takes things - things that don't belong to her. To her, shoplifting has always been a game, one that she was good at. But suddenly the game isn't fun anymore once Anna discovers things she's taken that she doesn't remember taking. Cadnum keeps readers turning pages with this suspense novel. (high school)

Tangerine. Edward Bloor.

Twelve-year-old Paul is blind in more ways than one - as is his family. But as Paul's eyesight - and memory - improves he begins to see things about his older brother that his family wishes he wouldn't. (middle school/high school. Excellent for struggling readers)

Top 10 of Everything, 1997 and 1998 and 1999. Russell Ash.

Better than the Guinness book of World Records, more fun than Where's Waldo! (all levels)

Toning the Sweep. Angela Johnson.

Three generations come closer together and learn about life all while preparing for the death of the grandmother. (middle school/high school)

Treasures in the Dust. Tracey Porter.

Two eleven-year-old friends live through the depression in Oklahoma fighting the dust storms and the poverty of the time. (upper elementary/middle school)

Tucket's Ride. Gary Paulsen.

Another of the Tucket books that again carries us to the 1800's and a spirited ride with Tucket. (upper elementary through high school. Excellent for struggling readers)

Twelve Shots. Harry Mazer, editor.

An excellent selection of short stories about the choices gun holders constantly must make. Mature readers needed for several stories. (high school)

Using the Internet: 101 Essential Tips. Dorling Kindersley publications.

I've used almost all the tips - they are essential! (middle school/high school)

Voice on the Radio, The. Caroline Cooney.

This long awaited sequel to The Face on the Milk Carton and Whatever Happened to Janie will not disappoint readers. (middle school/high school)

Voices from the Fields: Children of Migrant Farm workers Tell Their Stories. Beth Aiken.

Migrant workers' children living in the Salinas Valley of California recall stories of their families in difficult, painful, joyful, and sad situations. (middle school/high school. Excellent for struggling readers)

Voices of the Heart. Ed Young.

This beautifully illustrated picture book takes readers through 26 Chinese characters each that describes an emotion or feeling. Ability (a strong heart) and laziness (an idle heart) and forgetfulness (the heart loses its sense of purpose) are some of the terms that are shown via Chinese writing and Young's exquisite art.

Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, The. Christopher Paul Curtis.

Kenny and his family travel from Flint, Michigan, to Alabama and encounter the racial problems of the South, including the church bombings that affect Kenny's family when his little sister heads for Sunday School on the morning of a bombing. (middle school.

Excellent for high school struggling readers)

Weather Channel Presents: Hurricanes. Susan Hood.

Weather Channel Presents: Lightning and Thunderstorms! Mike Gaff.

These two informational books give readers an up close look at hurricanes and lightning.

They answer questions such as what the worst hurricane in U.S. history was and what makes lightning appear as a streak sometimes and a flash of light other times.

Photographs enhance these very informative books. (upper elementary. Excellent for older struggling readers)

Welcome to the Ark. Stephanie S. Tolan.

Excellent science fiction in which the brightest children are taken to the "ark" where their talents are nurtured. (high school)

What Child is This? A Christmas Story. Caroline Cooney.

Katie, a foster child, wants a family for Christmas. Once she writes that wish down on the local Christmas Wish Tree, then she's sure that will happen. This beautiful story of wishes that sometimes do come true is a must read. (middle school)

Within Reach: My Everest Story. Mark Pfetzer and Jack Galvin.

This nonfiction account of sixteen-year-old Mark Pfetzer's first attempt to climb Mt. Everest gives readers more information about that May 10, 1996, Everest tragedy. Pfetzer, then the youngest climber ever to attempt Everest, had an amazing climbing career before attempting Everest. This diary account of that climb shows us all that Mark has done to keep this goal of scaling Everest within his reach. (middle school/high school)

Witnesses to War: Eight true-life stories of Nazi persecution. Machael Leapman.

This powerful book shows us eight young people who were persecuted because of their race or religion during World War II. Whether reading about eight-year-old Joseph Steiner and his seventeen-year-old sister or ten-year-old Alexander Michelowski, readers will be haunted by their powerful stories that so clearly show the horrors of this war. (middle school/high school)

World of William Joyce Scrapbook, The. William Joyce.

Author/illustrator William Joyce shares his life's story in this autobiography that is filled with home photographs, sketches for his books, and the wonderful art that is his signature. (middle school/high school)

Wringer. Jerry Spinelli.

Turning ten ought to be fun, but it isn't for Palmer. In Palmer's town turning ten means becoming a wringer - something Palmer never wants to be. (middle school)

You Can't Take a Balloon Into the Metropolitan Museum. Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman and Robin Preiss Glasser.

This rollicking romp through the Metropolitan Museum will have kids reading and re-reading as they won't want to miss one moment of action and probably won't notice there are no words in the book. A true picture book, this one is also a great way to learn about art, history, New York City, and the absolute joy of books. (all levels - a real must for reluctant readers)

Young, Black, and Determined: A biography of Lorraine Hansberry. Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick L. McKissack.

One of the most successful American playwrights of the time Hansberry is probably best known for A Raisin in the Sun. This biography gives insight into this talented playwright. (middle school/high school)

BOOKLIST FOR YOUNG WOMEN READERS

This booklist contains fiction books and non-fiction books of several genre, which are suitable for young adult readers. Some of these books are humorous, some insightful. Some of the books address issues of teen pregnancy, emerging sexuality and sexual identity, cultural identity and traditional role expectations. Many teach important lessons about self-esteem, speaking up for oneself, not discounting one's thoughts and emotions. Many realistically describe what it is like to be a young adult, facing the developmental tasks of adolescence and surviving in today's world. And some offer imagination an opportunity to dream.

Beauty. Robin McKinley (Harper Collins Children's Books, 1978)

Fictional retelling of Beauty & the Beast from Beauty's point of view.

In My Place. Charlayne Hunter-Gault (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1992)

Memoirs by this international news correspondent of her growing up years & entry as the first Black woman at the University of Georgia.

Diary of Latoya Hunter: My First Year in Junior High. Latoya Hunter (Vintage, 1992)

On September 10, 1990, Latoya Hunter began her first year at Junior High School 80 in the Bronx. She also began a diary in which she faithfully set down her thoughts and feelings. In it she recounts her triumphs at school and conflicts at home as her youthful urge for independence grows. She experiences the joys and pangs of her first love and the anxieties of an "extreme crush". She hears the gunshots that herald the death of a neighbor, takes part in her brother's wedding, adores her unmarried sister's newborn son, and travels to her family home in Jamaica and turns thirteen.

Juniper. Monica Furlong (Knopf, 1990)

Science Fiction/Fantasy. Juniper, the only child of King Mark of Cornwall, studies with her godmother. Euny is a harsh but wise woman who teaches the girl about spells, herbs, and the healing arts. Juniper discovers that she must stop a wicked aunt from causing terrible damage to the kingdom and her yet unborn brother.

Wise Child. Monica Furlong (Knopf, 1987)

Science fiction/Fantasy. A decidedly feminist tale in the shape of a medieval Scottish fantasy. Wise Child, abandoned by her parents, is adopted by a sorceress, Juniper, and schooled in herbal lore and magic. Her new life is spartan and her lessons demanding. What Juniper is also teaching is the importance of trusting intuition and preparing for the responsibility that comes with her newfound powers. When Wise Child's mother reappears, using evil magic to try to reclaim her, Juniper's teachings are put to the test in what turns out to be an engaging adventure as well as a lesson in trusting what you know to be right.

Dealing With Dragons. Patricia C. Wrede (Scholastic, 1990)

Cimorene is a princess unlike any of the other princesses in the kingdom of Linderwall; she's fed up with lessons in cultivating such useless skills as the proper way to curtsy for a prince or how loudly to scream when being carried off by a dragon. Bored by embroidery and etiquette, Cimorene covets lessons in fencing, magic, and economics. When finally she runs away to escape marriage to a handsome but particularly vapid prince, she meets her match in Kazul, a smart and sassy dragon who is like a dragon version of a good feminist mom. Supportive without being judgmental, she allows Cimorene free reign to pursue her interests in Latin, dragon history, and magic spells. Along the way, Cimorene befriends another rebel princess and a women sorcerer; together they foil an attempt by a corrupt dragon to usurp the kingdom's throne.

Searching for Dragons. Patricia C. Wrede (Scholastic)

Calling on Dragons. Patricia C. Wrede (Scholastic)

Talking to Dragons. Patricia C. Wrede (Scholastic)

Three sequels in this Science Fiction/Fantasy Series that begins with Dealing With Dragons.

Blue Tights. Rita Williams-Garcia (Bantam, 1989)

A novel about finding both an artistic and a cultural identity. Fifteen-year-old Joyce Collins wants to be a ballet dancer like her mother was and like the two most popular girls at school whose acceptance she covets. When she stumbles upon an African dance group rehearsing a performance for a Kwanzaa celebration, she realizes why the stuffy world of ballet isn't for her - she's long on energy and talent but short on discipline. She also falls in love with the group's drummer, a Muslim so strict he can't look at her while she's dancing. J'had illuminates an entirely different approach to the problem of fitting in.

The Friends. Rosa Guy (Bantam, 1973)

A gritty, gripping story about two high school girls who are each other's best and only

friend. Phyllisia is dealing with the shock of high school in Harlem after an idyllic childhood in the West Indies; Edith, at fifteen, is trying to hold her family together after the death of their mother and the disappearance of their father. Phyllisia, full of anger toward her father and the world, withdraws into herself; only through her friend does she realize that growing up means taking responsibility for your actions.

The Cat Came Back. Hilary Mullins (Naiad, 1993)

An excellent novel exploring the issues facing young lesbians (or those thinking about it) is told in diary form by Stevie Roughgarden, a senior at a tiny Vermont boarding school. She's extracting herself from an affair with Rik, a lecherous and manipulative male teacher, while simultaneously falling in love with her classmate and sister hockey player Andrea. Stevie's diary captures perfectly the combination of terror and elation at acknowledging the power of her feelings for Andrea; the author's language is so frank it's sometimes hard to bear, though it never hits a false note.

Annie on My Mind. Nancy Garden (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1982)

A soft, somewhat romantic novel for young lesbians told by Liza Winthrop from the vantage point of her freshman year in college. It is a reflection on her romance with Annie Kenyon during their senior year in high school. Innocent but not naive, this is an intelligent and well-told story of two smart, capable young women who happen to fall in love with each other.

Weetzie Bat. Francesca Lia Block (Harper Trophy, 1989)

The story of Weetzie, a bleached-blonde-flat-top-and-white-fringe-wearing, roller-skate-traveling denizen of the glitzy city of L.A. In the alienating world of the big city, Weezie creates her own extended family -- her two gay roommates Dirk and Duck, her daughter Cherokee, her boyfriend My Secret Agent Lover Man, their canine companion Slinkster Dog, and their friends Valentine Jah-Love, Ping Chong, and baby Raphael Chong Jah-Love. The humor in Weetzie Bat is inventive and hip, the writing sparkling and poetic. Weetzie Bat is fast paced, entertaining, and accessible, but also weaves in themes of bravery, loyalty, and community with lessons that don't hit the reader over the head.

Witch Baby. Francesca Lia Block (Harper Trophy, 1992)

Witch Baby is the adventure of Weezie's half-witch adopted daughter whose tilted purple eyes allow her to see all the pain in the world and in whose rat's nest hair trouble always seems to snag.

Cherokee Bat and Goat Guys. Francesca Lia Block (Harper Trophy, 1992)

This is a modern fairy tale in which Cherokee forms a "slink-chunk-slam-dunk" rock band and learns a lesson about co-opting spiritual powers for fame and fortune.

Missing Angel Juan. Francesca Lia Block (Harper Trophy, 1993)

Newest in the Weetzie Bat series.

Among the Volcanoes. Omar S. Castaneda (Dell, Yearling, 1991)

Isabel Pacay longs to go to school and become a teacher, but her dream just doesn't seem possible in the small Guatemalan village where she lives. The villagers expect Isabel to follow tradition and marry her boyfriend, handsome Lucas Choy. Her mother is ill, and resists Western medicine, relying on a local healer. As the eldest daughter, all the family burdens seem to fall on Isabel.

Words from three languages other than English are found in the story: Spanish, Tzutujil, and Quiche. The last two are from the language family called Mayan. An introduction in the book instructs the reader about pronunciation and a brief history of the languages.

I Wouldn't Thank You for a Valentine. edited by Carol Ann Duffy (Henry Holt, 1993)

A collection of poems for young feminists edited by Carol Ann Duffy with clever

illustrations by Trisha Rafferty. This brand-new collection includes a variety of well-chosen short works by several dozen poets, including Audre Lorde, Mary Oliver, Alice Walker, Maya Angelou, and Nikki Giovanni. Some sensual, some humorous, some political, some powerfully moving, together they make a many-faceted portrait of what being a woman can mean.

Knee Deep in Thunder. Sheila Moon (Guild for Psychological Studies Publishing House, 1969)
Originally published as a novel for young people, *Knee Deep in Thunder* has emerged as a novel for any reader who is prepared for a long journey and who can sense the universality of spirit.

Sheila Moon has blended her impressive background in Navajo mythology with her own insight into human beings.

The story begins when Maris seeks solitude in her special place of high ground above a long beach. There begins an adventure, akin to *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, in which Maris meets other beings, becomes involved in adventures, discovers new ways of being and is returned, transformed, to her starting place.

Hunt down the Prize. Sheila Moon (Guild for Psychological Studies Publishing House, 1971)

Deepest Roots. Sheila Moon (Guild for Psychological Studies Publishing House, 1986)

Two sequels to *Knee Deep in Thunder* which continue the journey, adventures and the learning of Maris and her companions.

Special thanks to Ellie Knepler, Women and Children First Bookstore in Chicago, Seattle's Elliott Bay Bookstore, and the University of Washington bookstore Children's Books staff.

Biography and Non-Fiction

Caroline Alexander: *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*

Maya Angelou: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Jill Ker Conway: *The Road from Coorain*

Eve Curie: *Madame Curie*

Annie Dillard: *An American Childhood*

Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes: *Lakota Woman*

Jesse Lee Kercheval: *Space*

Mary S. Lovell: *The Sound of Wings: The Life of Amelia Earhart*

Rigoberto Menchu: *I, Rigoberta: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*

Sara Suleri: *Meatless Days*

Rebecca Walker: *Black, White, and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*

Eudora Welty: *One Writer's Beginnings*

William Warner: *Beautiful Swimmers*

Tobias Wolff: *This Boy's Life: A Memoir*

Drama

Karel Copek: *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)*

Moliere: complete works (e.g. *The Doctor in Spite of Himself/Tartuffe*)

George Bernard Shaw: *Pygmalion/Major Barbara*

Richard Sheridan: *The Rivals/School for Scandal*

Tennessee Williams: *The Glass Menagerie*

Novels

Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
Julia Alvarez: *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*
Sherwood Anderson: *Winesburg, Ohio*
Jane Austen: complete works (e.g. *Pride and Prejudice/Persuasion*)
James Baldwin: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Marion Zimmer Bradley: *The Mists of Avalon*
Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*
Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*
Orson Scott Card: *Ender's Game/Ender's Shadow*
Willa Cather: complete works
Cervantes: *Don Quixote*
Tracy Chevalier: *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*
Sandra ' Cisneros: *The House on Mango Street*
Arthur C. Clarke: *The 2001 Series*
Breena Clarke: *River, Cross My Heart*
Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness/Lord Jim*
Stephen Crane: *The Red Badge of Courage/Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*
Margaret Craven: *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*
Charles Dickens: *David Copperfield/Oliver Twist/other works*
Bertie Doherty: *White Peak Farm*
Michael Dorris: *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*
Sharon Draper: *Forged by Fire*
David Anthony Durham: *Gabriel's Story*
Umberto Eco: *The Name of the Rose*
George Eliot: *Silas Marner*
Ralph Ellison: *The Invisible Man*
Leif Enger: *Peace Like a River*
Laura Esquivel: *Like Water for Chocolate*
E.M. Forster: *Passage to India/A Room With a View*
Neil Gaiman: *Stardust*
John Gilstrap: *At All Costs*
Pete Hamill: *Snow in August*
Thomas Hardy: *Return of the Native/Tess of the d'Urbrevilles*
Ernest Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms/The Old Man and the Sea*
S.E. Hinton: *The Outsiders*
Kimberly Willis Holt: *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*
Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Henry James: *Portrait of a Lady*
Angela Johnson: *Heaven*
Daniel Keyes: *Flowers for Algernon*
Rudyard Kipling: *Kim/Captains Courageous*
Ursula LeGuin: *The Earthsea Trilogy*
Juliet Marillier: *Daughter of the Forest*
Victor Martinez: *Parrot in the Oven*
Toni Morrison: *Sula/Bluest Eye*
Walter Dean Myers: *Hoops*
Han Nolan: *Dancing on the Edge*

Grace Paley: *Little Disturbances of Man*
Alan Paton: *Cry, the Beloved Country*
Edgar Allan Poe: *The Gold Bug/Narrative of A. Gordon Pym*
Louis Sachar: *Holes*
Mark Salzman: *Iron & Silk*
Dorothy L. Sayers: any work (mysteries, but real novels in themselves)
Michael Shaara: *The Killer Angels*
Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
Betty Smith: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
Suzanne Staples: *Shabanu*
John Steinbeck: *Grapes of Wrath/Travels with Charley/Of Mice and Men*
James Stephens: *The Pot of Gold*
Robert Louis Stevenson: *Kidnapped/Treasure Island*
Amy Tan: *The Joy Luck Club*
J.R.R. Tolkien: *Lord of the Rings* series
Leo Tolstoy: *Anna Karenina*
Mark Twain: *Huckleberry Finn/Tom Sawyer/A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
Vineeta Vijayaraghavan: *Motherland*
H.G. Wells: *The War of the Worlds/The Time Machine*
Edith Warton: *Ethan Frome*
T.H. White: *The Once and Future King*
Connie Willis: *To Say Nothing of the Dog*
Virginia Woolf: *To the Lighthouse*