**Fiction**

**KEY**
- mystery; ♥ - romantic; 🌐 - scary/creepy; 🆑 - sci fi;
- 🏀 - sports; 🌞 - spies; 🎬 - artsy; 🎥 - there’s a movie based on the book;
- 🌑 - spooky; 🌑 - promotes peace; 📚 - historical fiction; 🌚 - sad;
- 💥 - violent; 💣 - bloody; 😊 - funny; ☥ - fantasy; 🎵 - contemporary realistic

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women.* In picturesque nineteenth-century New England, tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war. A classic. 📚 ♥ ☾

Bauer, Joan. *Close to Famous.* “The smartest thing I ever did in sixth grade was give Mrs. Ritter a cupcake. I think it might be why I passed sixth grade,” says Foster, the main character of this heart-warming book about a girl with many problems and a dream—to have her own TV cooking show. 🎵 😊

Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.* A quick and entertaining read. Decide which you like better—the book or the movie. See how the filmmakers changed the ending, changed the shoes, and left out some quirky characters. Then, try one of the sequels. ☥ ☾

Boyce, Frank Cottrel. *Cosmic.* Liam is 12, but he looks 30. He decides to pose as an adult, and is chosen as the chaperone on the first spaceship to take children into space. But things go wrong up in the stars—and it’s his job to get the kids home safely. Luckily he has the problem-solving skills he developed playing World of Warcraft…. By the author of *Millions* (another great book). 🌒 ☾

Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece.* An artistic beetle who craves adventure teams up with a lonely 11-year-old boy. Together, they work to track down the thief who has stolen a priceless Albrecht Durer print from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. If you like *Masterpiece,* try *Shakespeare’s Secret,* another mystery by the same author. 🌒 ☥ ☾
Christie, Agatha. Murder on the Orient Express. When a wealthy American is found dead on the Orient Express train while traveling from Istanbul to Paris, Belgian Detective Hercule Poirot suspects that one of thirteen passengers may have committed the crime. A classic! 🍀

Curtis, Christopher Paul. The Mighty Miss Malone. Have you read Bud, Not Buddy? If so, you might remember a smart girl that Bud meets named Deza Malone. This funny, sometimes sad book tells Deza’s story—how she and her close-knit family get through the Great Depression. It’s funny and heartwarming, and is filled with fascinating details about life for African Americans during one of the toughest periods in American history. 📚 😊

Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book. Nobody Owens (friends call him Bod) is a normal boy—except that he lives in a graveyard, and is being raised by ghosts. Why doesn’t Bod leave? There’s the little matter of Jack, who has already killed Bod’s family and is now after him. 🐠 🌟

Gantos, Jack. Dead End in Norvelt. In this semi-autobiographical yet crazily unbelievable novel, a kid named Jack Gantos spends his summer grounded and forced to write obituaries for the eclectic people in his historic town. There may be a murder! Winner of the 2012 Newbery Medal. 📚 🌟

Gidwitz, Adam. A Tale Dark and Grimm. “Are there any small children in the room?” the narrator asks near the start of this compellingly terrifying book. “If so, it would be best if we just...hurried them off to bed. Because this is where things start to get, well...awesome. In a horrible, bloody kind of way.” Gidwitz—a former Saint Ann’s teacher—creates a novel out of the most twisted Grimm’s fairy tales and casts Hansel and Gretel as the heroes. Just try to put it down. 📚 🌟

Gier, Kerstin. Ruby Red. Sixteen-year-old Londoner Gwyneth Shepherd comes from a family of time travelers. The gene was supposed to have skipped Gwen, but the ability hits her unexpectedly at school one day and hurls her back to the 1700s. There she meets a time-traveling boy named Gideon who tries to help her solve a mystery. 📚 🌟 🌟

Hale, Shannon. Princess Academy. While attending a strict school for princesses in training, Mira uncovers secrets about her past and discovers special talents. A perfect fantasy—a cut far above the usual princess fare. 📚 ❤️

Hiaasen, Carl. Chomp. The high-maintenance star of a reality TV show called “Expedition Survival” disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades. The animals for the show come from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane’s family, so Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him—while avoiding Tuna’s gun-happy father. Another hilarious eco-mystery from the author of Hoot, Flush, and Scat. (They’re also lots of fun.) 😊 🦜 🌟
Jacobson, Jennifer. **Small as an Elephant.** Abandoned by his mentally-ill mother in the wilderness of Maine, Jack tries to make his way back to Boston before anyone figures out what is going on. His only company is a small toy elephant—luckily Jack loves elephants.

Juster, Norton. **The Phantom Tollbooth.** “It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time,” says Milo, the main character. He is so wrong. If you haven’t read this one-of-a-kind book, do it this summer. A classic guaranteed to keep you out of the doldrums. 😊

Konigsberg, E.L. **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.** Claudia runs away from her annoying Connecticut life, taking her little brother with her. They secretly spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art—and get involved in a mystery that could change the face of art history. A kids’ classic. 🎟️

Levine, Gail Carson. **A Tale of Two Castles.** Elodie makes her way to the town of Two Castles to become an actress. That doesn’t work out so well, but when she becomes the apprentice to a genius dragon who moonlights as a detective, things start to look up...sort of...if you overlook that ogre.... From the brilliant author of *Ella Enchanted, Fairest*, and *Ever*. 🎟️

Lowry, Lois. **Gathering Blue.** If you liked *The Giver*, try this companion book. Because of a great disaster, there is no technology and society is controlled by merciless authorities. The story centers on a kid given the responsibility of preserving the culture’s memory—as in *The Giver*. After this, read Lowry’s *The Messenger*, which ties the two books together. 😊

Lu, Marie. **Legend.** In a dark future when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-old Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant teen soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. **Warning:** Contains real violence. 🎥

Lupica, Mike. **Hero.** High-octane action! When his father is killed in a secret government operation, 14-year-old Billy sets out to find out who did it and why. As he investigates, he learns something he never imagined: His father had superpowers. Billy has inherited the powers—and he must use them for good or watch disaster unfold. The author is a sports writer, and his sports novels—including *Heat* and *Travel Team*—are also great. 🎥

Mass, Wendy. **11 Birthdays.** Leo and Amanda celebrated their same-day birthdays together for nine years. After a disagreement on their 10th birthday led to a yearlong fight, they prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthdays separately. But peculiar things begin to happen. The day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again, until...? 🎉

McMann, Lisa. **The Unwanteds.** On the day of the Purge in the totalitarian world of Quill, 13-year-olds are sorted into one of three categories: Wanted (they attend college), Necessary (they tend the land), or Unwanted (they’re purged by execution). Without a good-bye from his identical twin brother (who is “Wanted”), Alex Stowe boards a bus to travel to the Death Farm. But is it really a death farm? Expect magic. 🎆
Meloy, Colin. **Wildwood.** Do you like Narnia? If so this book will hit the spot for you. When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, 12-year-old Prue has no choice but to venture into the Impassable Wilderness. There she finds herself embroiled in a war between creatures whose existence she’d never dreamed of. And don’t forget the baby! ☃️عالم

Meloy, Maile. **The Apothecary.** Alchemy and magic meet the Cold War in this mystery set in the 1950s. Janie’s parents are victims of the Hollywood blacklist, so the family leaves sunny California for bleak London. There, Janie meets a spy-obsessed son of an apothecary—and the game is afoot. ☀️타임스

Mulligan, Andy. **Trash.** In an unnamed poverty-filled city, Raphael and his friend Gardo are “trash boys”—kids who sift through the garbage at a dump, looking for anything of value. One day they find a bag that holds a wallet, money, a map, and a key, which sends the boys on a dangerous quest. 📖

Myers, Walter Dean. **Game.** Drew is counting on basketball to get him into college and out of the poor neighborhood where he lives. When his coach brings in two white players (Drew is African-American) and puts them in positions that clearly threaten his game, Drew struggles to stay cool. Intense and a bit grown-up, but great. 🏀

Ness, Patrick. **A Monster Calls.** The story of a boy dealing with his mother’s very serious illness—with the aid of a parable-telling monster. If you like sad, intense, emotional books this one’s for you. ☃️👻😊

O’Connor, Barbara. **The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis.** A perfect small-town summer tale—with tons of heart. Popeye is nearly bored to death; then he and his new friend Elvis (who has just named Popeye vice-president of the Spit and Swear Club) discover secret messages floating down the river in tiny boats. Who’s sending them? And why? 📖🔍🏆

Palacio, R.J. **Wonder.** What would you do if you came to school in the fall and next to you was a kid whose face was so deformed it made you gasp when you looked at him? This book is about Auggie—that kid—who enrolls in a private New York City middle school after having been home schooled for his whole life. How will it go? The story is told first from Auggie’s point of view, then from others’. This is an amazing book. *Not* depressing. 📖😊🏆

Raskin, Ellen. **The Westing Game.** Who will solve the puzzle and inherit the mysterious Mr. Westing’s $200 million fortune? All the residents of an apartment building join a befuddling, dangerous contest to become the rich man’s true heir. 📖
Roth, Veronica. **Divergent.** Imagine a society divided into factions: Abnegation, Candor, Dauntless, Erudite and Amity. Each faction values one quality above all others. Abnegation favors selflessness, for Candor it is honesty, Dauntless favors bravery, for Erudite it is intelligence, and Amity favors peace. Everyone chooses a faction to join when they turn sixteen. Which faction will Beatrice choose? Does she fit in anywhere? **Warning:** Contains real violence. The Sequel: *Insurgent* 🌼

Smith, Betty. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.** Eleven-year-old Francie lives in a cramped apartment in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn where she joyfully strives to rise above poverty and family tragedy. You will love her and feel sad to say goodbye when you turn the last page of this classic. 🍃 🌼

Smith, Dodie. **The 101 Dalmatians.** The classic British adventure story starring brave and noble dogs. FYI—much more mature than the movie versions. ☹️

Stead, Rebecca. **When You Reach Me.** In Manhattan in 1978, life seems fine for 12-year-old best friends Miranda and Sal. Then things get disturbing. Sal is punched by a new kid for no apparent reason. He cuts Miranda out of his life. And Miranda finds a mysterious note scribbled on a scrap of paper: *I am coming to save your friend’s life, and my own. I must ask two favors. First, you must write me a letter.* Winner of the 2010 Newbery Medal. 🌼

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **Treasure Island.** Sorting through the belongings of a guest who died at his mother’s inn, Jim finds a mysterious treasure map. Long John Silver comes into the story, and things really start to swashbuckle. The perfect pirate tale. 🌼

Ursu, Anne. **Breadcrumbs.** A modern-day fantasy inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Snow Queen.” Hazel and Jack, both fifth-graders, are best friends—until Jack turns against Hazel and follows a wicked woman made of ice into the forest. ☹️

Vanderpool, Clare. **Moon Over Manifest.** In this Depression-era tale, Abby has spent her life riding the rails with her father. When she turns 12, her dad decides she needs a home, so he sends her to the tiny town of Manifest, Kansas to live with an old friend (and current pastor and former bootlegger) named Shady Howard. Then, looking for clues to her father’s past, she stumbles on a true mystery. Winner of the 2011 Newbery Medal. 🌼

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **One Crazy Summer.** It’s 1968, and three African-American sisters fly from Brooklyn to Oakland, California. They’re spending the summer with their mother, a poet who had left them with their father years before to join the Black Panthers. Mystery, humor, and history combine with compelling characters to make this a must-read! 🌼
Yancey, Rick. **The Monstrumologist.** Do you like super-gory, gothic horror stories? If so, this book is for you. It’s a mystery featuring the 12-year-old assistant to a monstrumologist, a scientist who studies (and often kills) monsters. **Sequel:** *The Curse of Wendigo* ♦ ♦

**Series**

*Summer can be the perfect time to work your way through a fantastic series. Spend June, July, and August with characters that you love!*

Birney, Betty G. **Humphrey the Hamster.** You can learn lots about life by observing another species. That’s what Humphrey, a golden hamster, comes to realize through his adventures as a class pet. Un squeakably cute and funny! **The Series:** *The World According to Humphrey, Friendship According to Humphrey, Trouble According to Humphrey, Surprises According to Humphrey, Adventure According to Humphrey, Summer According to Humphrey, School Days According to Humphrey*

Blume, Judy. **Fudge Series.** About a typical New York kid named Peter Hatcher and his annoyingly cute little brother whose nickname is Fudge. Is it the best kids’ series ever? You be the judge. **The Series:** *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Superfudge, Fudge-a-Mania, Double Fudge*

Bosch, Pseudonymous. **The Secret Series.** It’s a mystery. It’s funny. If we told you any more we’d have to kill you. **The Series:** *The Name of this Book is Secret, If You’re Reading This, It’s Too Late, This Book is Not Good For You, This Isn’t What it Looks Like, and You Have to Stop This (Secret)*

Buckley, Michael. **The Sisters Grimm Series.** Sabrina and Daphne Grimm discover that they’re descendants of the Brothers Grimm, that the famous fairy tales are actually case files, and that it’s their destiny to become fairy-tale detectives—solving mysteries in the magical world. **The Series:** *The Fairy-Tale Detectives, The Unusual Suspects, The Problem Child, Once Upon a Crime, Magic and Other Misdemeanors, Tales from the Hood, The Everafter War, The Inside Story, and The Council of Mirrors*

Dashner, James. **Maze Runner Trilogy.** Thomas awakens in an elevator and remembers nothing except his own name. When the door opens, he finds himself with a bunch of other teenage boys in a huge maze guarded by horrifying monsters. A new boy arrives every month. None of them knows how they got there; nobody can figure a way out. Then a comatose girl arrives with a strange message. **Warning:** Truly scary. **The Series:** *The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials, and The Death Cure*

Grabenstein, Chris. **The Haunted Mystery Series.** With some books, you just have to read the first line, and you’re hooked. From *Crossroads*, the first book in this series: “Have you ever seen a face hidden in the bark of a tree and known that the man trapped inside wanted to hurt you?” It is written from the point of view of 11-year-old Zack, a likable kid you’ll relate to. The best kind of ghost stories: frighteningly believable and filled with adventure. **The Series: The Crossroads, The Hanging Hill, The Smoky Corridor, and The Black Heart Crypt**

LaFevers, R.L. **The Theodosia Series.** History, fantasy, magic, and a quirky protagonist you’d like to hang out with: Theodosia Throckmorton, whose father is curator of the Museum of Legends and Antiquities in London. But it’s Theo herself who has to stay alert for—and deal with—the ancient curses and black magic lurking around the place. **The Series: Theodosia and the Serpent of Chaos, Theodosia and the Staff of Osiris, Theodosia and the Eyes of Horus, and Theodosia and the Last Pharaoh.**

Morgan, Melissa J. **Camp Confidential.** Each book spotlights a different girl at Camp Lakeview. What is Natalie’s secret? Will Janna be able to emerge from the shadow of her twin? Lots of fun, especially if you’re reading them at camp! **The Series:** Natalie’s Secret, Jenna’s Dilemma, Grace’s Twist, Alex’s Challenge, TTYL, RSVP, Second Time’s the Charm, Wish You Weren’t Here, and many more!

Muchamore, Robert. **Cherub.** Cherub is a top-secret branch of the British Security Service that employs orphans as agents. For official purposes, these children do not exist. The challenge is to turn the pages fast enough to keep up with their missions. The books are packed with adventure, but they also manage to squeeze in plenty of compelling drama about the agents’ friendships and rivalries. **The Series:** The Recruit, The Dealer, Maximum Security, The Killing, Divine Madness, Man vs. Beast, The Fall, Mad Dogs, The Sleepwalker, The General, Brigands M.C., and Shadow Wave

Riordan, Rick. **The Kane Chronicles.** By the author of the wildly popular Percy Jackson books (if you haven’t read them, start now with *The Lightning Thief*), this fast-paced adventure series features siblings who have a mysterious connection to ancient Egyptian gods—which is great except when magical creatures chase you across the globe and try to kill you. It’s exciting, it’s funny, and it’s set partly in Brooklyn! **The Series:** The Red Pyramid, The Throne of Fire, and The Serpent’s Shadow.
Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The Mysterious Benedict Society Series.** “Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?” The four main characters respond to an odd newspaper ad posing this question, pass a bizarre test, and become part of a parentless crew forced to work together and occasionally save the world—under the kind tutelage of the eccentric, narcoleptic Mr. Benedict. The Series: *The Mysterious Benedict Society, The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey, The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner’s Dilemma, The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict* (a prequel)

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Margaret and Maizon Trilogy.** The relationship between two best friends growing up together in Brooklyn changes as one’s father dies and the other goes to boarding school. A great realistic friendship series. The Series: *Last Summer With Maizon, Maizon at Blue Hill, and Between Madison and Palmetto.*

**Graphic Novels & Illustrated Books**

Deutsch, Barry. **Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword.** Mirka, an 11-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl, isn’t interested in knitting (her stepmother wants her to do it), finding a husband (despite her sister’s hints), or really anything other than fighting dragons. When a witch offers her the chance to win a sword—the book jumps between realism and fantasy—the story really takes off. Try it.

Hale, Shannon and Dean. **Calamity Jack.** Jack and the Beanstalk—if Jack were a somewhat bumbling criminal mastermind who had a very close friend named Rapunzel, who could do amazing things with her braids. Read it! And if you haven’t read *Rapunzel’s Revenge* by the same authors, read that too.

Kibuishi, Kazu. **Amulet (Volumes 1-4).** Part manga, part fantasy. Emily and her brother are transported to a different world by a mysterious amulet. Will it help them find their mother—who is now lost in the same world? Is the amulet’s power all for good? A continuing series.

Patterson, James. **Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life.** Sixth-grader Rafe Khatchadorian has a very tough life on pretty much every front—but this illustrated book about how he deals with it all is hilarious and also quite moving. (You’ll especially like the part where he and his friend create a school-rule breaking game!) The Sequel: *Middle School: Get Me Out of Here.*

Santiago, Wilfred. **21: The Story of Roberto Clemente.** An illustrated biography of Puerto Rico’s greatest baseball player. A fun way to learn about this amazing man, as remarkable for his humanitarian work and strong stance against racism in baseball as he was for his athletic skill. The baseball action scenes leap off the page.
Selznick, Brian. **Wonderstruck.** From the author of *The Adventures of Hugo Cabret.* A boy and girl separated in time by 50 years find themselves on similar quests at the American Museum of Natural History. Their parallel stories, one told in prose and the other in pictures, eventually intersect.

Smith, Jeff. **Bone Series.** A hilarious *Lord of the Rings*-style epic featuring blobby creatures who stumble into a valley peopled with supernatural beings, and find themselves dragged into a struggle for power and money. Hilarious and totally original. The Series: *Out from Boneville, The Great Cow Race, Eye of the Storm, The Dragonslayer, Rock Jaw, Old Man’s Cave, Ghost Circles, Treasure Hunters, Crown of Horns*

Tegelmeier, Raina. **Smile.** Through artwork showing the details, the reader shares Raina’s pain as the angst of middle school is exacerbated by her disfiguring dental mishap.

Phelan, Matt. **Around the World.** The true stories of three 19th Century adventurers who set out to circle the globe: miner Thomas Stevens (by bike), sea captain Joshua Slocum (by boat), and reporter Nellie Bly (by any means). All three were inspired by a literary sensation of their day: Jules Verne’s *Around the World in 80 Days.*

**Nonfiction**

Beals, Melba Patillo. **Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock’s Central High** The true story of the nine brave African-American students who stood up to hate and violence to integrate Little Rock High School in 1957, told by one of the nine. Intense and sometimes disturbing.

Claybourne, Anna. **100 Most Dangerous Things on the Planet.** Learn how to survive the situations you fear—from bear attacks to asteroid strikes.

Dubosarsky, Ursula. **The Word Snoop.** Where did the alphabet come from? Why does English have all those pesky psilent letters? This fun and fascinating book takes readers on a tour of the English language, from the earliest days up through text messaging and twitter. Also includes lots of word-related puzzles, jokes, riddles.

Fleming, Candace. **Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart.** The story of the most famous aviator ever. Chapters about Amelia’s life (from childhood to her ill-fated last flight) alternate with chapters about the search for her and her missing plane. Illustrated with amazing period photos and documents.
Hoose, Phillip M. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**. In this compelling biography, learn about the 15-year-old African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus—nine months before Rosa Parks’s history-making protest. Find out why Claudette’s story is so little known, even though she was part of the landmark court case that integrated Montgomery’s buses.

Jackson, Donna M. **Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses**. Does ESP exist? Can some people really sense what others are feeling? Do animals have “super-senses”? How can some dogs detect cancer by smell? Check out this book, and learn the answers to these questions and more.

Macy, Sue. **Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)**. Susan B. Anthony said that the bicycle “has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world.” This fun, fascinating book shows how the bike helped propel the suffrage movement and gave many women their first taste of freedom by giving them the power to get up and go.

Marrin, Albert. **Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy**. A new account of the devastating 1911 New York City factory fire that killed 146 people—and launched the workers’ rights movement. Illustrated with compelling period photos and documents.

Tack, Karen and Richardson, Alan. **Hello Cupcake: Irresistibly Playful Creations Anyone Can Make**. Impress (and feed) your friends with Van Gogh’s Starry Night cupcakes, kids-in-sleeping-bag cupcakes, or cupcakes that look like spaghetti and meatballs but taste like...cupcake. Yum!


Sheinkin, Steve. **The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery**. He’s famous because he was a traitor. (In fact, his name has come to mean “traitor.”) But did you know he was also a hero of the American Revolution? Brings Arnold’s story—and the Revolutionary War—to life.

**Happy Reading!**

With love from your librarians: Denise, Ragan, and Hannah

The Saint Ann’s summer reading lists from this year and years past can be found online at: [http://www.saintannnsny.org/depart/library/publib.html](http://www.saintannnsny.org/depart/library/publib.html)