Abdel-Fattah, Randa. **Ten Things I Hate About Me**
Jamilah or Jamie? At her Australian school she is Jamie, a sophomore girl with dyed blonde hair and blue contact lenses, while at home she is Jamilah, a Lebanese-Muslim girl who expertly plays the daraburka at her madrasa. Caught between two worlds, Jamilah needs to figure out just who she is.

Alexie, Sherman. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**
Arnold Spirit lives on a reservation in Wellpinit, Washington. He is dorky and smart—a real target for bullies. Luckily he has some skill in basketball as well as a desire to do something different with his life and get off the reservation. Arnold decides to go to the white high school in Reardan. As one can imagine, this is rife with problems! This book is not to be missed.

Bray, Libba. **Going Bovine**
No one really notices Cameron Smith. Well, not until he starts having uncontrolled behavior issues and crazy visions which turn out to be caused by mad cow disease. Cameron decides to go on a road trip with his friend Gonzo (a hypochondriac dwarf) to find Dr. X, a missing physicist who supposedly has the ability to cure Cameron. The thing about mad cow disease is that the tissue in the brain slowly breaks down. What’s real in this wacky journey and what’s a dream? Winner of the 2010 Printz Award for Excellence Young Adult fiction.

Cashore, Kristen. **Graceling**
Only certain people are born with a "grace." Those with graces, special skills in anything from swimming to fighting, can be identified by their different colored eyes. Katsa was born with a killing grace and her uncle, King Randa, makes her use it to his political advantage. Eventually Katsa takes her destiny into her own hands and joins forces with Po, another graceling fighter. If you liked **Graceling**, read **Fire**, the prequel (although published later).

Dashner, James. **The Maze Runner**
Thomas wakes up in an elevator with no memory of how he got there. When the doors open he finds himself in a place called the Glade. He joins a gang of boys who spend their days trying to figure out a way to escape the maze which surrounds them. Every thirty days a new boy arrives. However, the day after Thomas gets there, a girl arrives, the only girl in the Glade. Perhaps the message she carries is the answer to their escape.
Doctorow, Cory. **Little Brother**
Marcus (aka W1n5t0n) is out on the streets with his friends when they are caught in the middle of a terrorist attack. The Department of Homeland Security takes them in for questioning as possible suspects. They are interrogated for days. In the aftermath of the attacks, the DHS take over San Francisco, turning it into a police state. Privacy is a thing of the past—Marcus decides that he has to do something about it.

Elliot, Zetta. **A Wish After Midnight**
Genna lives in Brooklyn in the 20th century; she’s just trying to survive in her tough neighborhood and do something with her life. One day at the Botanic Garden she makes a wish on a penny in the fountain. Things go amiss and she finds herself transported back in time to Civil-War era Brooklyn. Will she survive?

Friesner, Ester. **Nobody’s Princess**
Although the young Helen of Troy is a beautiful princess, she wants more out of life. Helen sets out to get what she wants with steely determination and a sassy attitude. That same attitude makes Helen a few enemies—such as Theseus, the self-proclaimed "son of Zeus"—but it also intrigues and charms those who become her friends, from the huntress Atalanta to the Oracle of Delphi. The sequel is *Nobody’s Prize*.

Goldman, Steven. **Two Parties, One Tux and a Very Short Film About the Grapes of Wrath**
Mitchell is not athletic, has no girlfriend prospects in sight and has a best friend named David. They are friends because they hang out together— but how well do they really know each other? Apparently not that well because it is a surprise when David comes out to him at lunch one day. This is a window into one boy's life—where he learns how to actually act like a friend, he hands in an offensive claymation film, and he gets a little action. Hilarious.

Haddix, Margaret Petersen. **Found** (*The Missing, Book 1*)
A plane arrives at an airline gate unnoticed by radar. There are no flight attendants, no pilot, in fact, no adults at all. There are 36 passengers—all infants. Jonah and Chip were on that plane and thirteen years later in Ohio, they begin receiving ominous messages declaring that they are among “the missing” and that someone is coming to find them. The adopted boys begin a search for their real identities. *Sent* is the sequel.

Jinks, Catherine. **The Reformed Vampire Support Group**
Nina is a 15-year-old vampire; but she’d been 15 since 1973. She isn’t glamorous, sexy or super strong—just basic survival is a struggle. She lives with her human mother and spends her time going to vampire support groups and only drinking guinea pig blood. But then one of her kind is staked and she and her friends have to discover who is responsible.

Kantor, Melissa. **The Amanda Project. Book 1: invisible**
Callie is called to the vice principal’s office with Hal and Nia. Their classmate, Amanda, painted the vice principal's car with graffiti, left clues on their lockers, and then disappeared. The girls decide to follow the clues and solve her disappearance. But things are never that easy... The first in a new series.
Lichtman, Wendy. **Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra**  
Tess embarks on an investigation after she begins to suspect that her mom’s friend has murdered his wife. What will she unearth? The sequel is *The Writing on the Wall*.

Lockhart, E. **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**  
Frankie is a sophomore at a swanky boarding school and she is dating the very cool senior, Matthew Livingston. Writing in a confessional style, Frankie describes the semi-criminal activities she committed in her attempts to disrupt the all-male secret society at school called The Loyal Order of the Basset Hounds. Totally fun.

Lupica, Mike. **The Batboy**  
Brian has his dream summer job working as a batboy for the Detroit Tigers. It gets even better when Hank Bishop, a baseball legend, shows up to play for the Tigers in a final effort to redeem himself after a steroid scandal. But Bishop is unfriendly and Brian’s dad, who is coaching baseball in Japan, is still ignoring his attempts to communicate. Can Brian turn his summer around? Like Lupica? Try *Travel Team, Million Dollar Throw or The Big Field*.

Magoon, Kekla. **The Rock and the River**  
Sam’s father is a civil-rights leader who works with Dr. King and is committed to non-violent protest. It’s 1968 in Chicago and after King is assassinated Sam is not so sure about the non-violence thing. The Black Panthers, whose philosophy is anything but non-violence, look pretty enticing. Sam and his rebellious older brother join the Panthers, much to their father’s dismay. Then their father is stabbed. Will the boys retaliate with violence?

McCaughrean, Geraldine. **The White Darkness**  
Sym has a rich imaginary life where she actually talks regularly to Captain Lawrence Oates, who was part of Robert Scott’s failed expedition to the South Pole in 1911. Sym knows everything there is to know about Antarctica because she has been obsessed with the topic for years. When Uncle Victor offers to take her and her mum to Paris for a few days, Sym jumps at the chance. However, things are not always as they appear and Sym finds herself in the middle of her own Antarctic expedition and fight for survival.

McCormick, Patricia. **Purple Heart**  
Private Matt Duffy wakes up in an army hospital in Iraq. He has suffered a traumatic brain injury and can’t remember exactly what happened. Matt is honored with a Purple Heart, but he doesn't exactly feel like a hero. A child died during the attack when Matt was injured and Matt remembers only a few fuzzy details. Could Matt somehow be responsible for the child’s death?

Ness, Patrick. **The Knife of Never Letting Go**  
Todd Hewitt lives on a planet where war with the natives has killed all of the women and infected the men with a germ that broadcasts their thoughts aloud for all to hear. These thoughts are known as **Noise**. Todd discovers a secret about the **Noise** and is forced to flee his settlement. (*The Ask and The Answer* is the sequel.)
Ostow, Micol. **So Punk Rock: And Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother**
Seamlessly combining prose and graphics, this book is hilarious. Ari Abramsom has always dreamed of hipster rock glory. His band, *The Tribe*, is made up of four suburban teens from their wealthy Jewish school. After a gig at a friend’s Bar Mitzvah where they performed their “skā” version of “Hava Nagilah,” their band gets noticed. Is Ari cool enough to handle the indie rock egos and elitism he encounters?

Pellegrino, Marge. **Journey of Dreams**
Tomasa and her family escape with their lives when the military burn their Guatemalan mountain village in the late 1980s. This is the story of her perilous journey as they make their way first to the capital and then north to Mexico City and across another border to Arizona.

Perkins, Mitali. **Monsoon Summer**
Jazz’s mom announces that the whole family will be moving to Pune, India, for the summer because she received a grant to work at the orphanage where she lived as a child. Jazz is not thrilled about the trip—she will have to leave her best friend Steve (with whom she is secretly in love) and the small business that she has worked so hard to establish! Mitali Perkins spoke to the 6th grade last year!

Riordan, Rick. **The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles, Book 1)**
*Was Percy Jackson and the Olympians* a favorite of yours? Try Riordan’s new series featuring Carter and Sadie and the Egyptian god, “Set” who is determined to wreak havoc on the world.

Schmidt, Gary D. **Trouble**
Henry is the youngest of three and comes from an upper class New England family. After his brother is hit by a car driven by a Cambodian immigrant, his life is turned upside down. Racial tension in the town escalates and Henry decides to flee, planning to fulfill his dream of climbing Mt. Katahdin in Maine, something he and his brother always planned to do together. Is he up for the challenge?

Sharenow, Robert. **My Mother the Cheerleader**
Louise Collins, who is white, never really thought about segregation—it's just the way things were in 1960 in New Orleans. But things have been different ever since Ruby Bridges, a young African-American girl, enrolled at her school. Louise's mother won't let her go to school, but her mom, along with a bunch of other ladies, goes to the school every morning and heckles Ruby Bridges as she enters the building. When Morgan Miller from New York comes to town, Louise gets to thinking—and things will never be the same.

Shusterman, Neal. **Unwind**
In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways are on the run from the system that would “unwind” them.
Stockett, Kathry. **The Help**
This is an adult book—but try it, you might like it! A page-turner with a lot of suspense and humor, *The Help* tells the story of the relationship between white women and their black maids in Jackson, Mississippi in the 1960s. Yes, there is even a good poop joke.

Stolarz, Laurie Faria. **Deadly Little Secret**
Camelia’s life is fairly ordinary until Ben comes to town. Rumored to be somehow responsible for his ex-girlfriend’s accidental death, Ben is immediately ostracized by everyone; except for Camelia. When Camelia starts receiving eerie phone calls and threatening notes, Ben says he can help her. Should she trust him? Folks say *Twilight* lovers will like this.

Stratton, Allan. **Borderline**
Sami Sabiri lives in upstate New York and has a close group of neighborhood friends. Things are not so smooth sailing at the prep school that his parents send him to. There, Sami’s Muslim background marks him as different and he is the victim of ruthless bullying. Caught between his father’s seemingly endless rules and the more lenient world of his peers, Sami locks horns with his father. When Sami’s father cancels a weekend father-son trip, Sami gets suspicious. What’s his father up to? When his dad is arrested as a suspected terrorist, things go from bad to worse.

Stork, Francisco X. **Marcelo in the Real World**
Marcelo has Asperger’s syndrome and plans to spend the summer before his senior year training the therapeutic-riding ponies at Paterson, his special education school. Marcelo’s father, however, has other plans for him and insists that Marcelo spend the summer in the *real world*, working in the mail room of his law firm. Mystery, romance, friendship—this book has it all.

Vaught, Susan. **Big Fat Manifesto**
Jamie Carcaterra is fat, not just plump, but fat. She is also a senior in high school, has a couple of really good friends, a boyfriend named Burke, and writes a column called *Fat Girl* for her school newspaper. When Burke, who is also overweight, decides to have gastric bypass surgery, Jamie decides to document the experience in her *Fat Girl* column.

Yancey, Rick. **The Monstrumologist**
A cross between Mary Shelley (author of *Frankenstein*) and Stephen King, this Victorian gothic horror novel might give you nightmares! It is late 19th century New England and Will Henry is apprentice to Pellinore Warthrop, a brilliant and self-absorbed monstrumologist—a scientist who studies monsters. A grave robber delivers the corpse of an Anthropophagi (a headless, shark-toothed biped) to Warthrop’s lab, but the action soon moves outside of the lab...

Yang, Gene Luen. **American Born Chinese** (graphic novel)
Three stories in one: the efforts of the Chinese folk hero Monkey King to shed his humble roots and be revered as a god; the struggles faced by Jin Wang, a lonely Asian-American middle school student who would do anything to fit in with his white classmates; and the sitcom plight of Danny, an All-American teen so shamed by his Chinese cousin Chin-Kee that he changes schools.
Charles Darwin: Special Section
This November marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. Celebrate by reading one of these great titles:

Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma: The Darwins’ Leap of Faith*
Charles Darwin is trying to decide whether or not he should marry his first cousin, Emma, so he makes a list of pros and cons. The pros win out and he marries Emma. They have ten children and she becomes his comforter, editor and sparring partner. They didn’t see eye-to-eye about all things, especially when it came to God and evolution. Illness and death were never too far off in Victorian England where Charles and Emma lived, playing out their own version of survival of the fittest.

Keller, Michael & Rager Fuller. *Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species: A Graphic Adaptation*
Arriving home in 1836 after five years of exploration aboard the *Beagle*, Darwin is asked to explain what he learned. Thus the structure of this graphic novel is established. Through his voice, readers learn about his discoveries and observations, his correspondence with other scientists who helped him formulate his theories, as well as his personal life. The animal illustrations are gorgeous.

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*
Callie has an aversion to needlework and cooking, which is a problem when you’re growing up with six brothers in rural Texas in 1899. She prefers to spend her time exploring the river, observing animals, and keeping notes on what she sees; an interest she shares with her grandfather (an amateur naturalist). After they discover an unknown species of vetch, he attempts to have it officially recognized. A beautiful book about scientific, as well as self-discovery.

Sís, Peter. *The Tree of Life*
Glorious illustrations comprise this visual biography of Darwin. Sís incorporates phrases, lines, and paragraphs of text into the artwork to help tell the story of Darwin’s youth and his life of scientific study and observation which led to the publication of *On the Origin of the Species*.

**Series** *(Sometimes the perfect series will get you through the summer.)*

Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*
This is one heck of a televised reality show! In the country of Panem, two children between the ages of 12 and 18 are chosen from each district every year to compete in the Hunger Games, a fight to the death with only one victor. Katniss is chosen to represent District 12. Needless to say, this is not a game that most want to play. Don’t miss this one! **The Series:** *The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, Mockingjay* (coming out this August)
Delaney, Joseph. **The Last Apprentice**
The Spook and his apprentice are monster hunters who wrangle ghosts, witches and boggarts. Expect menacing villains, violence and gore. **The Series:** Revenge of the Witch, Curse of the Bane, Night of the Soul Stealer, Attack of the Fiend, Wrath of the Bloodeye, Clash of the Demons

DuPrau, Jeanne. **Books of Ember**
You might have seen the movie, but there is so much more to this series! Follow the story of the inhabitants of the city of Ember, as they discover a way out of their dying underground city and emerge into the harsh new reality that awaits them. **The Series:** The City of Ember, The People of Sparks, The Prophet of Yonwood, The Diamond of Darkhold

Flanagan, John. **Ranger’s Apprentice**
Rejected for training as a warrior-knight, Will ends up becoming an apprentice ranger on Choosing Day when each of the 15-year-old wards of Castle Redmont are assigned to a different master. He learns archery, knife-throwing, tracking people and concealing weapons—all in preparation to battle evil magic forces. **The Series:** The Ruins of Gorlan, The Burning Bridge, The Icebound Land, The Battle for Skandia, The Sorcerer of the North, The Siege of Macindaw, Erak’s Ransom, The Kings of Clonmel

Kostick, Conor. **Epic**
On New Earth, violence is banned and any conflicts are resolved in the arena of a fantasy computer game called Epic. If you win, you have the chance to fulfill your dreams; if you lose, your life both in and out of the game is worth nothing. When Erik dares to subvert the rules of Epic, he and his friends must face the Committee... The action is nonstop. **The Series:** Epic, Saga

Meyer, L.A. **Bloody Jack Adventures**
A penniless orphan at the end of the 18th century in London, Mary joins a gang of street kids in order to survive. When the leader of her gang is killed, she takes his clothes, changes her name and heads out to sea as a ship’s boy. Pretending to be a boy aboard a ship for two years is no easy feat, but "Jacky" manages quite skillfully. **The Series:** Bloody Jack, Curse of the Blue Tattoo, Under the Jolly Roger, In the Belly of the Bloodhound, Mississippi Jack, My Bonny Light Horseman

Nix, Garth. **The Keys to the Kingdom**
Arthur Penhaligon is not supposed to be a hero. He is supposed to die an early death. But his life is saved by a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock—and the adventure begins. **The Series:** Mister Monday, Grim Tuesday, Drowned Wednesday, Sir Thursday, Lady Friday, Superior Staurday, Lord Sunday

Novik, Naomi. **Temeraire Series**
Taking place during the Napoleonic Wars, this epic fantasy involves breeds of talking, thinking dragons. Each nation has its own breeds, but none are so jealously guarded as the mysterious dragons of China. That’s why Captain Will Laurence of the British Navy is shocked when his crew captures an egg from a French ship and it hatches a Chinese dragon. **The Series:** His Majesty’s Dragon, Throne of Jade, Black Powder War, Empire of Ivory, Victory of Eagles
Oppel, Kenneth. **Airborn**
Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard the luxury passenger airship *Aurora*. The ship encounters a battered hot air balloon with a dying man aboard who claims to have seen beautiful creatures swarming in the air over an uncharted island. One year later Matt meets Kate, the man’s granddaughter, when she boards the *Aurora*. Together they discover that the creatures weren’t the hallucinations of a dying man. **The Series: Airborn, Skybreaker, Starclimber**

Patterson, James. **Maximum Ride**
Bred in a science lab, six kids endured scientific experiments that rendered them 98% human and 2% avian. They are now fugitives, running from the Erasers who have orders to kill them so the world will never find out they exist. **The Series: The Angel Experiment, School’s Out—Forever, Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports, The Final Warning, Max, Fang, Angel**

Pullman, Philip. **His Dark Materials**
In this parallel universe, daemons and winged creatures live side by side with humans. There’s this mysterious substance called Dust that just might have the power to unite the universes—if it isn’t destroyed first. Never read it? Try it now! **The Series: The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass**

Scott, Michael. **The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel**
Sophie and Josh Newman take summer jobs: she at a coffee shop, he at a bookstore owned by Nick and Perry Fleming. Thugs take Perry hostage and steal a rare book called the *Codex*, an ancient text of magical wisdom. Nick Fleming is really Nicholas Flamel, the 14th-century alchemist who could turn base metal into gold, and make a potion that ensures immortality. **The Series: The Alchemyst, The Magician, The Sorcerer, The Necromancer**

Westerfeld, Scott. **The Uglies**
In this futuristic society everyone remains ugly until age sixteen when an operation transforms them into a “pretty.” Pretties live together and just party all the time. A few months before she turns sixteen, Tally meets Shay who introduces her to another world, a world where people live free, a world where she learns the truth about the pretty world—and it’s not that pretty! **The Series: Uglies, Pretties, Specials, Extras**

**Nonfiction, Memoir & Essays**

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, as told by one of the nine.

Fleming, Candace. **The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum**
Full of bearded ladies and dog-faced boys, suckers and showmen, the life of the extraordinary P.T. Barnum makes for good reading. Simultaneously repugnant and compelling, Barnum is portrayed as an infinitely interesting complex character.
Nagorski, Tom. **Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack**
A British passenger liner was attacked by a Nazi submarine with 90 children aboard. Passengers rushed to lifeboats in the icy sea, but rescuers were nowhere to be seen. The author’s great uncle was among the survivors and this book is based largely on eye-witness accounts.

Pollan, Michael. **The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids: The Secrets Behind What You Eat**
Journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes to write about what exactly we are eating for dinner. From fast food to organic farming, this adaptation of Pollan’s now famous book will get you thinking about what you eat.

Satrapi, Marjane. **Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood**
A memoir about growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Descended from the last Emperor of Iran, Satrapi is nine when fundamentalist rebels overthrow the Shah. While Satrapi’s radical parents and their community initially welcome the ouster, they soon learn a new brand of totalitarianism is taking over. The sequel is **Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return**

Sedaris, David. **Me Talk Pretty Some Day**
These are scathing, hilarious vignettes of Sedaris’ life. Written in a dead-pan tone, his observations of his wacky family, friends and acquaintances are very entertaining. All of Sedaris’ books are worth reading!

Spiegelman, Art. **Maus: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History** (graphic novel)
The incredible story of Vladek Spiegelman, who lived through the Holocaust, as told by his cartoonist son, who tries to grasp what happened to his dad. The characters are depicted as mice and cats. A classic.

Spelman, Lucy H. & Ted Y. Mashima (editors). **The Rhino with Glue-On Shoes**
Zoo veterinarians write about their patients. A goldfish who receives cancer treatment, dung beetles with mites, a giraffe with an injured leg and a homesick eel are just a few examples. Prepare to be charmed.

Walls, Jeanette. **The Glass Castle**
Much of Jeanette’s early childhood was spent out west in small desert towns, sleeping under the stars at times, living in small dusty towns, and doing the "skedaddle" when the urge struck her parents. When the family finally did settle down, it was to a life of extreme poverty in a small West Virginia mining town. Plucky, resourceful and endearing, Jeanette’s is a story you don’t want to miss!
Hands-On

Haden, Christen. *Creepy Cute Crochet*
Who can resist crocheting a grim reaper figure, a ninja or a robot?

Tack, Karen & Alan Richardson. *What’s New Cupcake: Ingeniously Simple Designs for Every Occasion*
Make a chocolate moose cupcake, or a race car, or how about a robot?

Vitcus, Jessica. *AlternaCrafts: 20+ Hi-Style Lo-Budget Projects to Make*
Make things out of recycled items: like a shaggy rug out of old tee-shirts, or a hat out of an old sweater. Lots of ideas.

Zenon, Paul. *Street Magic: Great Tricks and Close-up Secrets Revealed*
Learn the secrets of the masters and impress your friends!

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How About a Classic?

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
*The Hunchback of Notre Dame* by Victor Hugo
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
*The Lord of the Rings series* by J.R.R. Tolkien
*Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
*The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas

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**Happy Reading!** Love, Ragan, Maria, Denise and Eva