

**SUMMER
READING
2021**

Entering 6

Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Barron, Rena. ***Maya and the Rising Dark******

Twelve-year-old Maya discovers her father is the keeper of the gateway between our world and The Dark, and when he goes missing she'll need to unlock her own powers and fight a horde of spooky creatures set on starting a war.

Blankman, Anne. ***The Blackbird Girls*** **

After the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, classmates and sworn enemies Valentina and Oksana must flee their homes together. The power of true friendship overcomes hatred, intolerance, and oppression in this suspenseful page turner.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***Fighting Words*** ***

This is not an easy book because of the topics of foster care, drug abuse, depression and inappropriate touching. But it is also an achingly beautiful read about two sisters who survive the chaos around them and develop strong friendships and relationships as they look toward a better future.

Browne, Mahogany. ***Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice*** *

SLJ Best Books of the Year. Collection of inspiring poems by women of color on the topics of social justice, activism, discrimination and empathy. An inspiring read for anyone interested in social justice.

Callender, Kacen. ***King and the Dragonflies*** ***

This book is the 2020 National Book Award winner for Young People's Literature as well as a recipient of the Boston-Globe-Horn Book Award. The setting in the Louisiana Bayou is vividly drawn as we meet our hero who is devastated by the sudden death of his brother. How does a family cope with the loss of a son and brother? The remaining brother, King struggles with his daily life and then becomes involved with a neighborhood boy running from a difficult family situation. Family trauma, foster care and sexual identity are intricately woven in this captivating realistic fiction book.

Cisneros, Ernesto. ***Efrén Divided*** **

Efrén returns home from school one day to find that his mother has been deported to Mexico. While his father works two jobs, Efrén tries to take care of his five year old twin siblings, keep up his friendships and grades at school, all while keeping his mother's deportation a secret from friends and teachers.

Colbert, Brandy. ***The Only Black Girls in Town*** ***

It isn't easy being the only black girl in town...and the daughter of two loving dads. Alberta is a surfer and the surfing backdrop is fun. A new black girl arrives in town and they discover multiple journals of a mysterious young woman of color. The two girls team up to find out the identity of this unknown diarist. The themes of racial identity and skillfully woven into this book.

Gratz, Alan. ***Ground Zero*** ***

Alan Gratz has done it again. A compelling, fast-paced historical fiction book. Alternating chapters focus on a boy who is inside the World Trade Center at the time of the impact on 9/11 while we meet a young Afghani girl coping with the daily interference of war. The larger question about consequences of

the US involvement in Afghanistan is front and center and may inspire readers to investigate further into this political quandary.

Harrell, Rob. ***Wink*** *

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school. This illustrated novel is perfect for Diary of a Wimpy Kids fans.

Henderson, Leah. ***The Magic in Changing Your Stars*** **

After bungling yet another audition, 11-year old aspiring rapper and dancer Ailey is magically transported back to 1930's Harlem where he meets the 12-year old version of his grandfather and legendary tap dancer "Bojangles" Robinson. An uplifting Wizard of Oz infused story of overcoming your fears to change your future.

Higuera, Donna Barba. ***Lupe Wong Won't Dance*** ***

Lupe Wong, future first female pitcher in Major League Baseball and defender of social justice, must earn straight A's in order to meet her favorite pitcher, Fu Li Hernandez, who is Mexican and Chinese, just like her. One thing stands in her way: the new square dancing unit in the gym. A humorous, fast paced novel.

Jamieson, V. and O. Mohamed. ***When Stars Are Scattered*** **

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother. This graphic novel is a touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. ***Black Brother, Black Brother*** **

Two brothers, with two different personalities also have 2 different shades of skin color. They navigate the world very differently. They move to a new community and enter an elite private school. Donte, the darker skinned brother is arrested and suspended. He decides to get revenge by becoming the school's fencing champion.

Sage, Angie. ***Twilight Hauntings*** ***

In a world where Enchantment is illegal, Alex goes on the run from the city of Luma and her foster family when it is found out she has Enchanted cards - the only clue to her identity. Pursued by deadly Hauntings, her escape turns into a mission to save Enchantment and Enchanters, discover who she is, and possibly save the kingdom.

Soontornvat, Christina. ***A Wish in the Dark*** *

2021 Newbery Honor winner. This is a fast-paced fantasy with futuristic elements. Pong escapes from the prison he was born in and discovers that the world is unfair. He has to live on the run since his tattoo identifies him as a fugitive. Meanwhile Nok, the daughter of the prison warden, is intent on tracking him down to help restore her father's honor. Their lives intersect with unexpected complications as they uncover secrets. And readers will discover the meaning of light.

Entering 6

Soontornvat, Christina. ***All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*** ***

2021 Newbery Honor Book. Do you remember when the Wild Boars soccer team got trapped in a cave in 2018? People around the world were captivated by the mission to rescue the team and coach. Miraculously, all thirteen survived during their 17 days in a cave in Thailand. Read this compelling nonfiction book alternating between the lifesaving actions of the coach and the worldwide efforts to rescue them. Amazing photographs and information.

Stone, Nic. ***Clean Getaway*** **

Eleven year old biracial William "Scoob" Lamar and his unconventional grandmother (G'ma) go on an impromptu road trip in her new Winnebago, traveling through the American South. Scoob discovers the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem - his G'ma included.

Take a Look: Picture Books for Older Readers

Craft, Jerry. ***New Kid*** **

In this Newbery Award winning graphic novel, 7th grader Jordan dreams of going to art school, but his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds and not really fitting into either one.

Hale, Dean. ***Rapunzel's Revenge (series)*** *

In this twisted version of the classic fairy tale, Rapunzel teams up with Jack the Beanstalk in a quest to free her mother and the kingdom from the evil queen. Beautiful graphic illustrations and witty text combine for a compelling story.

Hill, Laban Carrick. ***When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop*** *

A biography of DJ Kool Herc, discussing his childhood in Jamaica and New York and his career as a hip hop DJ.

Jenkins, Martin. ***Life: The First Four Billion Years: The Story of Life from the Big Bang to the Evolution of Humans*** **

This nonfiction picture book is an exquisitely illustrated history of evolution. It is in large format and every page is packed with factual information. Learn about the progression of life from the Ice Age to the evolution of humans.

Lewis, John. ***March: Book One (series)*** ***

A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

Mochizuki, Ken. ***Baseball Saved Us*** *

A Japanese American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp during World War II.

Ottaviani, Jim & Maris Wicks. ***Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier*** ***

The U.S. may have put the first man on the moon, but it was the Soviet space program that put the first woman in space. This non-fiction graphic novel tells the story of Soviet Valentina Tereshkova's journey to space and the trailblazing women in Group 9, NASA's first mixed-gender class, who had to convince the powers that be that a woman's place is in space.

Say, Allen. ***Drawing from Memory (series)*** *

In this graphic title Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II, and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.

Wicks, Maris. ***Coral Reefs: Cities of the Ocean (series)*** *

Part of the Science Comics series, Coral Reefs teaches readers all about these tiny sea animals! This absorbing look at ocean science covers the biology of coral reefs as well as their ecological importance.

Too Good to Miss: Classics

Alcott, Louisa May. ***Little Women (series)*** **

This classic chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

L'Engle, Madeleine. ***A Wrinkle in Time (series)*** ***

Meg, her brother and her friend become involved with unearthly strangers as they search for Meg's father, who has disappeared. They must travel behind the shadow of an evil power that is darkening the cosmos, one planet at a time.

Montgomery, L. M. ***Anne of Green Gables (series)*** ***

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Hatchet (series)*** *

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is the only survivor when the single-engine plane crashes. His body battered, his clothes in shreds, Brian must now stay alive in the Canadian wilderness with only a small hatchet as a tool. It will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed to survive.

Raskin, Ellen. ***The Westing Game*** ***

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Treasure Island*** ***

When an old sea captain arrives at the Admiral Benbow Inn with a mysterious sea chest and fearful talk of a man with one leg, the scene is set for one of the most popular adventure stories of all time.

Entering 6

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **One Crazy Summer** ***

In the summer of 1968, Delphine's father decides that it's time the girls get to know their mother. Delphine boards a plane with her sisters to Cecile's home in Oakland. What they find there is far from their California dreams of Disneyland and movie stars.

Short Stories

Bird, Betsy (editor). **Funny Girl! Funniest. Stories. Ever.** **

Presents a collection of humorous stories from over two dozen contemporary female writers, as well as autobiographical essays, comics, poems, and comic strips.

Oh, Ellen (editor). **Flying Lessons & Other Stories** **

Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this anthology of short stories—written by the best children's authors celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

Scieszka, Jon. **Guys Read: The Sports Pages (series)** **

A collection of sports stories featuring everything from fighting to friendship, set everywhere from the tennis court to the hockey rink.

Scieszka, Jon. **Guys Read: True Stories (series)** *

Compiled and edited by Jon Scieszka, this is the fifth installment in the Guys Read series. It is a collection of essays, biographies, how-to guides, and more. Described as "mind-blowing stories proving that the truth is most definitely out there."

White, K. **Beanstalker and Other Hilarious Scary Tales** ***

Snow White is a vampire, Little Red Riding Hood is a zombie, and Cinderella is an arsonist—and that is only some of the mayhem the reader will find in this collection of fractured fairy tales.

Folklore & Mythology

Baptiste, Tracey. **The Jumbies (series)** *

In this story based on Caribbean folklore, Corinne must call on her courage and ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.

Lin, Grace. **Before the Sword** **

Grace Lin's creation of Mulan's backstory. When her sister is bitten by a poisonous spider, Mulan travels with a healer to find a flower from which the antidote can be made to save her sister's life.

McKissack, Patricia. **The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural** *

A collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the Dark-Thirty, the half hour before sunset, when ghosts seem all too believable.

Napoli, Donna Jo. **Treasury of Norse Mythology** **

Contains illustrated retellings of Norse myths that introduce gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters, including the thunder god Thor, the one-eyed god and Allfather Odin, and the trickster god Loki.

O'Connor, George. **Zeus: King of the Gods (series)** **

Fast-paced, high-drama adventures, with monsters, romance, and a few huge explosions. O'Connor's art brings this graphic novel series to life.

Wisniewski, David. **Sundiata** *

The story of Sundiata, who overcame physical handicaps, social disgrace, and strong opposition to rule Mali in the thirteenth century.

Get Real: Nonfiction

Bryant, Howard. **Legends: The Best Players, Games, and Teams in Baseball** **

This nonfiction book tells the story of baseball in short chapters, top ten lists, and includes all the greatest moments in the history of the sport.

Chaikin, Andrew. **Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon** **

Space history from the Mercury missions through Apollo 17 and beyond. This book is illustrated with full-color paintings by astronaut Alan Bean.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific** ***

This nonfiction book tells the story of America's little known war-within-a war -- that of the "silent service" -- U.S. submarine warfare during World War II.

Murphy, Jim. **Breakthrough! How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever** **

This is a compelling nonfiction account of a 1944 groundbreaking operation that repaired the congenital heart defect known as blue baby syndrome. The operation's success brought the surgeon Alfred Blalock international fame and paved the way for open-heart surgery. But the technique had been painstakingly developed by Vivien Thomas, Blalock's African American assistant.

Shetterly, Margot Lee. **Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition** ***

The untold true story of four African-American women who helped launch our nation into space.

Smith, Jr., Charles R. **28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World** *

The author summarizes twenty eight key moments in black history in the form of poems and short essays with biographical information about the people and events that shaped our country. Beautiful collage and oil paintings illustrate this nonfiction book.

Entering 6

Tunnell, Michael O. ***Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"*** **

A little-known post-World War II story of an international campaign to help lighten the suffering of the children of West Berlin. An airlift of food and fuel continued for almost two years; tons of candy were dropped (using tiny parachutes) for the children who waited in the flight path below.

Turner, Pamela S. ***Crow Smarts: Inside the Brain of the World's Brightest Bird (Scientist in the Field series)*** ***

A research team in New Caledonia follow crows in aviaries and in the wild to track their intelligence.

It Could Happen: Realistic Fiction

Allen, Kate. ***The Line Tender*** ***

This realistic fiction book is about loss and family & friend relationships. Lucy lives in coastal Massachusetts with her father and they are grieving the loss of her biologist mother who studied sharks. One day a whale washes onto the shore of Rockport and Lucy gathers significant people around her to complete her mother's research. She also has a best friend Fred who partners with her. But then, something tragic happens.

Applegate, Katherine. ***Home of the Brave*** **

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner. A novel told in verse.

Braden, Ann. ***The Benefits of Being an Octopus*** **

Zoe is in 7th grade and her life is not like her classmates. It's not school drama and the endless school work. Her life is living in a crowded trailer with younger siblings and her mother's evil boyfriend and dealing with no food and not enough money to cover all the bills. How is she supposed to get her homework done when the lights are out for nonpayment? Find out what happens as Zoe learns about commitment and risking everything to save her family.

Connor, Leslie. ***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*** **

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. He struggles with grief after his best friend, Calvin, turns up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. Mason can't understand why the police won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When his new friend goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. Will anyone believe him?

Grimes, Nikki. ***Garvey's Choice*** **

Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading—anything but sports. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. ***Fish in a Tree*** **

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out that despite being in sixth grade she still doesn't know how to read. She has managed to keep it a secret from everyone but Mr. Daniels, her new teacher. Luckily he sees the bright creative kid underneath the troublemaker.

Kadohata, Cynthia. ***The Thing About Luck*** ***

Kouun means "good luck" in Japanese and unfortunately for Summer and her family, this year is the opposite of good luck. Her parents return to Japan to care for relatives and Summer must help her grandparents run the farming business and cope with her brother who has emotional and behavioral challenges.

Korman, Gordon. ***Restart*** **

After falling off his roof, Chase does not remember anything about himself. When he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids—trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase who is being revealed.

Lai, Remy. ***Pie in the Sky*** **

In this funny and touching illustrated novel, Jingwen feels like he's landed on Mars when his family moves to a new country after his father suddenly passes away. School is torture, making friends is impossible, and he's often stuck looking after his extremely irritating little brother. To distract from the loneliness, Jingwen and his brother bake elaborate cakes using his father's recipes, all the while keeping it a secret from their mother.

Magoon, Kekla. ***The Season of Styx Malone*** ***

Caleb Franklin and his younger brother, Bobby Gene, spend an extraordinary summer filled with trouble-making, camaraderie and their new, older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city.

Mass, Wendy. ***A Mango-Shaped Space*** **

Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift.

Medina, Meg. ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears*** **

Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately—forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing.

Negri, Greg. ***Ghetto Cowboy*** **

Inspiration for the film *Concrete Cowboy*. Cole has to go live in Philly with his father he barely knows and discovers the Cowboy way of life.

Entering 6

Peck, Richard. ***The Best Man*** *

Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.

Weeks, Sarah & Gita Varadarajan. ***Save Me a Seat*** **

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: school. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. In the course of a single eventful week the boys find out they have more in common than they thought.

Yang, Kelly. ***Front Desk (series)*** ***

Recent immigrants from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants, not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.

Yee, Lisa. ***Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time*** **

Stanford has to go to summer school and if he doesn't pass, then he won't move up to 7th grade. Most importantly he will not be able to play on the "A" basketball team. Bad enough he has to go to summer school but then he discovers his tutor is the very annoying Millicent Min. Find out how Stanford deals with his very annoying summer.

Life Stories: Biography

Benson, Kathleen. ***Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews*** *

Chronicles the life of the artist Benny Andrews, from his childhood and youth in rural Georgia, through his studies in Chicago and his activism and artistic success in New York City. Images of his art are included.

Blumenthal, Karen. ***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*** ***

Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with a friend. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO and made the world want every product he touched.

Engle, Margarita. ***Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings, A Memoir*** ***

In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle, the first Latina woman to receive a Newbery Honor, tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War.

Hoose, Phillip. ***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*** ***

Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama

high school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. Hoose draws from numerous personal interviews with Colvin in this exceptional title that is part historical account, part memoir.

Kanefield, T. ***Alexander Hamilton: The Making of America*** **

An introduction to the life and accomplishments of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton.

Montgomery, Sy. ***Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows, Embraced Autism and Changed the World*** **

This compelling biography and Temple's personal photos take us inside her extraordinary mind and open the door to a broader understanding of autism.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*** ***

An introduction to Ali's life from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him. Both his talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s brought him notoriety.

Newman, Magdalena & Nathaniel. ***Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey*** **

Did you read the book Wonder? If you enjoyed this book then you must read this memoir by a mother-son team. Nathaniel has Treacher-Collins syndrome (craniofacial condition) and in alternating chapters we learn about his life from birth to the present day which includes numerous hospitalizations, navigating school and friends and even the relationship with his brother. We also learn about his real life connection to the RJ Palacio and the movie Wonder.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery*** ***

This is an engaging, highly readable biography of Benedict Arnold. It brings to life the full story of Arnold who was one of the American Revolution's greatest heroes and also America's first, most notorious traitor. Read pages of personal accounts, vivid Revolutionary battle scenes, and plot twists to experience this adventure tale from history

Silvey, Anita. ***Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall*** **

Along with the story of Jane Goodall's life, this biography explores the ethical issues that surround animal research and shows what has changed in our understanding of Great Apes. What do we know today about these animals in terms of language, speech, tool use, and DNA?

Sotomayor, Sonia. ***The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor (Young Readers Edition)*** **

An adaptation for middle graders based on the adult memoir, My Beloved World, in which the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Sonia Sotomayor details her achievements and the obstacles that she had to confront.

Sweet, Melissa. ***Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White*** **

A beautifully illustrated biography of the author of Charlotte's Web told through personal letters, photos, and Melissa Sweet's own artwork.

Entering 6

Yousafzai, Malala with Patricia McCormick. ***I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (young readers edition)*** ***

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region of Pakistan. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes, so she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause.

Out of This World: Fantasy & Science Fiction

Auxier, Jonathan. ***The Night Gardener*** ***

Two abandoned Irish siblings travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house. But the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious ghost who enters the house each night and an ancient curse that threatens their very lives.

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. ***The Girl Who Drank the Moon*** **

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Cirrone, Dorian. ***The First Last Day*** **

What if you could have a do-over—a chance to relive a day in your life over and over again until you got it right? Would you? Eleven-year-old Haleigh must save the future by restarting time after she realizes that her wish to relive the last day of summer may not have been such a great thing after all.

DuPrau, Jeanne. ***The City of Ember (series)*** **

Lina and Doon live in Ember, an isolated city whose only light comes from the electricity supplied by a huge underground generator, a generator that is beginning to fail. Can Lina and Doon find a way to save themselves and their city.

Farmer, Nancy. ***The Sea of Trolls (series)*** ***

The year is 793, and fierce Vikings pass through a Saxon village and enslave two of its residents: Jack, an 11-year-old apprentice Mage and his 5-year-old sister Lucy. Jack and Lucy must embark on a perilous journey through lands filled with trolls, dragons, giant spiders, and talking crows to get back home.

Flanagan, John. ***The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice series)*** **

The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. Now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, the Rangers fight the battles before the battles reach the people, and as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing.

Giles, Lamar. ***The Last Last-Day-of-Summer*** **

When adventurous cousins Otto and Sheed Alston accidentally extend the last day of summer by freezing time, they find the

secrets between the unmoving seconds are not as much fun as they expected. This science fiction novel, full of the zany and absurd, is perfect for Phantom Tollbooth fans or anyone who has found the reality of being away from school not as ideal as what they imagined.

Haddix, Margaret. ***Under Their Skin*** ***

This book is the 2020 National Book Award winner for Young People's Literature as well as a recipient of the Boston-Globe-Horn Book Award. The setting in the Louisiana Bayou is vividly drawn as we meet our hero who is devastated by the sudden death of his brother. How does a family cope with the loss of a son and brother? The remaining brother, King struggles with his daily life and then becomes involved with a neighborhood boy running from a difficult family situation. Family trauma, foster care and sexual identity are intricately woven in this captivating realistic fiction book.

Hagen, George. ***Gabriel Finley & the Raven's Riddle*** ***

Gabriel Finley finds he has a special bond with a raven named Paladin. Together Paladin, Gabriel, and two of Gabriel's friends work to find Gabriel's father who has been missing for some time. This slightly scary fantasy novel will make you wish for a sequel.

Kessler, Liz. ***The Tail of Emily Windsnap*** *

After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.

Mbalia, K. ***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*** ***

Lots of humor and action in this new "Rick Riordan Presents" fantasy. Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

Messenger, Shannon. ***Keeper of the Lost Cities (series)*** ***

Sophie is 12 and discovers that she is a telepath. She must leave her family to uncover the secret behind her identity. Will Sophie discover the truth in time?

Messner, Kate. ***Wake Up Missing*** **

After suffering a concussion, Cat is attending I-CAN, a clinic in the Everglades that promises to cure her of constant headaches and lost memory. But I-CAN is state-of-the-art in its secrets, too. When Cat and her fellow patients discover the truth, they're in serious danger and must make a daring escape from the clinic to expose the secrets of I-CAN and save its subjects from losing themselves forever.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***The False Prince (series)*** ***

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

Entering 6

Page-turners: Mystery & Adventure

Abrahams, Peter. ***Into the Dark (series)*** **

Thirteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes aficionado Ingrid Levin-Hill tries to clear her grandfather's name when he is accused of murdering an environmental activist found dead on his farm.

Broach, Elise. ***Missing on Superstition Mountain (series)*** **

Simon, Henry, and Jack Barker decide to ignore their parents' warning to stay away from Superstition Mountain in order to search for their missing cat Josie, but they begin to see the wisdom of their mom and dad's advice when they find three human skulls.

Clements, Andrew. ***We the Children (series)*** *

Ben and friends find themselves in danger when they discover the secret history of their Massachusetts school and set out to derail a developer's plan to level the building to make way for an amusement park.

Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery*** ***

While Ted, his sister Kat, and their cousin Salim wait in line to ride the London Eye, a huge ferris wheel, a stranger from the front of the line offers one free ticket and Salim takes it. Ted and Kat see him enter the capsule and follow his ride, but to their shock, he doesn't exit with his fellow riders. It's up to them to find him.

Horowitz, Anthony. ***Stormbreaker (series)*** **

When his uncle and guardian dies in a mysterious accident, fourteen year-old Alex Rider finds out that his uncle was a spy for the MI6, Britain's equivalent of the CIA. Alex is recruited by the agency to continue his uncle's mission, kicking off his career as the youngest-ever international British spy.

Johnson, Varian. ***The Parker Inheritance*** ***

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure, but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow bookworm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.

Ponti, James. ***Framed! (series)*** **

In Washington, D.C., twelve-year-old Florian Bates, a consulting detective for the FBI, and his best friend Margaret help thwart the biggest art heist in United States history.

Springer, Nancy. ***Case of the Missing Marquess (series)*** ***

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. ***Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief (series)*** **

Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the

investigation of a robbery at the hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.

Walden, Mark. ***H.I.V.E. (series)*** **

Otto ends up at the Higher Institute of Villainous Education with other kids who are equally talented and elite. When they realize they are trapped, they hatch a plan to escape. Can it be done?

Play Ball!: Sports Books

Alexander, Kwame. ***The Crossover (series)*** **

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Bauer, Joan. ***Soar*** **

Jeremiah loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach.

Green, Tim. ***Football Genius (series)*** ***

Troy White can predict any football play before it happens. And when his single mom gets a job with the Atlanta Falcons, Troy knows it's his big chance to help them out of their slump and finally prove his football genius. But unless Troy can convince the star linebacker that he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship and Troy's mom's job are in serious jeopardy.

Gutman, Dan. ***Ray and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure (series)*** **

Joe can travel back in time using baseball cards with magic powers. This time, Joe goes back to try to save Ray Chapman, the only player in major league history to get hit by a pitched ball and die.

Lupica, Mike. ***Batboy*** ***

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a batboy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

Lupica, Mike. ***Shoot-Out: Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids (series)*** *

What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets soundly beaten.

Reynolds, Jason. ***Ghost (Track series)*** *

Ghost is recruited by Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist, who sees in Ghost a natural talent. In order to stay on the elite middle school track team Ghost has to stay out of trouble and deal with the problems in his past.

Entering 6

Shang, Wendy Wan-Long. ***The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*** **
Eleven-year-old aspiring basketball star and interior designer Lucy Wu is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit and Lucy will have to share a room with her for several months, shattering her plans for a perfect sixth-grade year.

Simon, Eddy. ***Pelé, the King of Soccer*** *
Examines the life and career of the renowned soccer player from Brazil.

Wittenstein, Barry. ***Waiting for Pumpsie*** *
Did you know that the Boston Red Sox were the last major baseball league team to integrate? In 1959 Bernard is a young Red Sox fan, troubled by the lack of black players in major league baseball, especially as there are none at all on his favorite team, but change is coming in the form of a rookie named Pumpsie Green.

Way Back When: Historical Fiction

Behar, Ruth. ***Lucky Broken Girl*** **
In 1960s New York, fifth-grader Ruthie, a Cuban-Jewish immigrant, must rely on books, art, her family, and friends in her multicultural neighborhood when an accident puts her in a body cast.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***The War That Saved My Life (series)*** **
A young girl with a disability and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Does My Shirts (series)*** **
It's 1935. Moose Flanagan lives on Alcatraz with his family, the other families of the guards, and a few hundred hit men, con men, mad dog murderers and a handful of bank robbers too.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Finding Langston (series)*** **
Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

Draper, Sharon M. ***Stella by Starlight*** ***
Stella lives in the segregated South in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact. Some stores she can go into, some stores she can't. Some folks are pleasant, others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination.

Gratz, Alan. ***Refugee*** ***
Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is

torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge.

Hood, Susan. ***Lifeboat 12*** ***
In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***A Bandit's Tale*** ***
Eleven-year-old Rocco is an Italian immigrant working as a street musician when he meets the boys of the infamous Bandits' Roost, who teach him the art of pickpocketing. Turns out, he's very good at it. But, when he meets a strong-hearted Irish girl who's determined to help the horses of New York City, things begin to change.

Kadohata, Cynthia. ***A Place to Belong*** **
Newbery Award winning author Cynthia Kadohata has written another memorable historical fiction book set in Japan and the United States post WWII. A Japanese American family returns to Japan following their internment and discovers that Japan has been ravaged by the effects of the atomic bomb. How will Hanako adjust to her new home in an unfamiliar place?

Klages, Ellen. ***The Green Glass Sea (series)*** ***
In 1943, eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lived with her scientist father in Los Alamos, New Mexico, as he worked on a top-secret government program. The mystery and tension surrounding what Dewey knows only as "the gadget" trickles down to the kids in the compound who often do without adult supervision.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***A Night Divided*** **
With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone in search of work, cannot return home from the western side. Gerta realizes her father wants her and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted.

Park, Linda Sue. ***Prairie Lotus*** **
Readers of *The Little House on the Prairie* or *The Birchbark House* will enjoy this historical fiction book about a Chinese girl in the Dakotas in 1880. Period details and description bring this book to life while also addressing the prejudice directed at Asians and Indians. Readers will identify with the multi-talented Hanna as she tries to accomplish her professional goals of dressmaking while building relationships with a town of people who are resistant to her presence.

Preus, Margi. ***Village of Scoundrels*** *
If you like WWII Historical Fiction - this book is for you. This is a fictionalized account of a small town in France that works together to help people escape the Nazis by helping them cross over to Switzerland. Fast paced and a quick read will have you glued to your seat. Back matter includes biographical information about the people in the town who aided in the escapes and escapades.

Entering 6

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Riding Freedom*** *

In this fast-paced story, readers adventure with Charlotte Parkhurst as she finds work as a stable hand, becomes a famous stage-coach driver (performing brave feats and outwitting bandits), and ultimately settles out west on the farm she'd dreamed of having since childhood. It wasn't until after her death that anyone discovered she was a woman.

Schmidt, Gary D. ***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*** ***

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers and Turner's want to change into a tourist spot.

Wolk, Lauren. ***Beyond the Bright Sea*** **

Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny piece of the Elizabeth Islands off the coast of Massachusetts. Rescued from a tiny skiff as an infant, she never questions her origins until a mysterious fire appears across the water at the site of a former leper hospital. Mystery, danger, treasure, and the meaning of family are all part of the adventure that follows.

Just for Fun: Humor

Bragg, Georgia. ***Caught! Nabbing History's Most Wanted*** **

Do you like reading nonfiction in short chapter form? This humorous book uncovers the truth about the capture of famous criminals over time. Fourteen most wanted such as Joan of Arc, Al Capone and the timely Typhoid Mary are just some of the notables covered in this breezy, informative book.

Donoghue, Emma. ***The Lottery Plus One*** **

Two couples with Jamaican, Mohawk, Indian, and Scottish roots win the lottery and purchase a big house where all of them, four adults and seven adopted and biological children, live together in chaotic harmony. Everything is great until a disagreeable, disapproving grandfather comes to stay.

Gantos, Jack. ***Heads or Tails: Stories From the Sixth Grade (series)*** **

Jack's diary helps him deal with his problems which include dog-eating alligators, a terror for an older sister, a younger brother who keeps breaking parts of himself, and next-door neighbors who are really weird.

Grabenstein, Chris. ***Mr. Lemoncello's Library (series)*** **

Mr. Lemoncello has invited teams from all across America to compete in the first ever Library Olympics. But something suspicious is going on, with books missing from Mr. Lemoncello's library. Is someone trying to censor what the kids are reading? In between figuring out mind-boggling challenges, the kids will have to band together to get to the bottom of this humorous mystery.

Korman, Gordon. ***Ungifted (series)*** **

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker and major prankster Donovan is sent to a special program for gifted and talented students. It's a goofy adventure with robot fights, live

experiments, and statue-toppling pranks as everyone tries to discover what Donovan's gifts are.

Levy, Dana Alison. ***The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher (series)*** **

With four brothers, a dog, a cat, school projects, soccer matches, and a grumpy neighbor, the Fletchers are your typical American family with two dads, and siblings who are adopted kids from various ethnic backgrounds.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Masters of Disaster*** *

Twelve-year-old Henry's grand adventures spell disaster for best chums Riley and Reed, who always seems to land in a pile of "smelly goo."

Scieszka, Jon (editor). ***Guys Read: Funny Business*** **

A collection of humorous stories featuring a teenage mummy, a homicidal turkey, and the world's largest pool of chocolate milk.

A Way With Words: Poetry

Burg, Ann E. ***All The Broken Pieces: A Novel in Verse*** **

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Carlson, Lori Marie. ***Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States*** *

Poems celebrate themes and moods from Hispanic-American teenage life, from the passion of learning English to the pain of ethnic prejudice.

Holt, K.A. ***House Arrest*** **

Timothy, sentenced to house arrest for stealing, keeps a journal into which he documents his fears and frustrations.

Kennedy, Caroline. ***A Family of Poems*** **

An anthology of poems celebrating poetry's ability to connect us like family.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It: False Apology Poems*** *

Inspired by William Carlos Williams's famous poem, "This Is Just to Say," a collection of ironic apology poems imagines how tricksters really feel about the mischief they make.

Lewis, J. Patrick. ***Voices from the March on Washington*** **

A collection of poems telling the story of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Rose, Caroline Starr. ***May B.: A Novel*** ***

In this historical verse novel, Pa pulls twelve-year-old May, who struggles to read because of dyslexia, from school and hires her out to a couple new to the Kansas frontier.

Sidman, Joyce. ***Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*** *

Poems and lush illustrations celebrate the shape of a spiral in nature, from rushing rivers to flower buds and even the shape of an ear.