

AUTHOR	BOOK TITLE	SYNOPSIS
Fiction		
Alexie, Sherman	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.
Cabot, Meg	Airhead	Sixteen-year-old Emerson Watts, an advanced placement student with a disdain for fashion, is the recipient of a "whole body transplant" and finds herself transformed into one of the world's most famous teen supermodels.
Cooney, Caroline B.	The Goddess of Yesterday	The dramatic and action-packed <i>Iliad</i> as told through the eyes of a 13-year old girl.
Cisneros, Sandra	The House on Mango Street	Enter the heart and mind of Esperanza Cordero, a teenager who lives with her close-knit family in Chicago's Hispanic district.
Ellis, Deborah	The Breadwinner	Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan under Taliban rule. When her father is arrested, Parvana disguises herself as a boy - girls cannot work under the Taliban - in order to find work and support her family.
Flake, Sharon	The Skin I'm In	Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.
Frost, Helen	Diamond Willow	In a remote part of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of ancestors who care for her.
Gaiman, Neil	The Graveyard Book	Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.
Geras, Adèle	Ithaka	The island of Ithaka is overrun with uncouth suitors demanding that Penelope choose a new husband, as she patiently awaits Odysseus' return from the Trojan War. (Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> told from the women's point of view.)
	Troy	Told by the women of Troy, this story portrays the last weeks of the Trojan War, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.
Glatshsteyn, Yankev	Emil and Karl	In Vienna, Austria, in 1940, two nine-year-old boys, one Jewish and one Aryan, are classmates and best friends. Events of the Nazi occupation draw them even closer together as they fight to survive and escape together.
Klages, Ellen	Green Glass Sea	Two girls spend a year in Los Alamos as their parents work on the secret "gadget" that will end WWII.
Law, Ingrid	Savvy	Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy" - a magical power unique to each member of her family - just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

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Lawrence, Caroline	The Thieves of Ostia (and others in Roman Mysteries series)	In Rome in the year 79 A.D., a group of children from very different backgrounds work together to discover who beheaded a pet dog -- and why.
Mikaelsen, Ben	Touching Spirit Bear	After Cole's anger erupts into violence, he agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice. He is sent to a remote Alaskan island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.
Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard	In Ch'ul'po, a potter's village in 12th-century Korea, 10-year-old orphan Tree Ear becomes an apprentice to Min, the town's most talented craftsman.
Preus, Margi	Heart of a Samurai	In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.
Reeves, Philip	Fever Crumb	Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an engineer although females in the future London, England, are not believed capable of rational thought, but at age fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present.
Riordan, Rick	The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles, Book 1)	Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.
Sheth, Kashmira	Keeping Corner	In India in the 1940s, twelve-year-old Leela's happy, spoiled childhood ends when her husband since age nine, whom she barely knows, dies, leaving her a widow whose only hope of happiness could come from Mahatma Ghandi's social and political reforms.
Sonnenblick, Jordan	After Ever After	Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.
Speare, Elizabeth George	The Bronze Bow	A young Jewish boy seeks revenge against the Romans for killing his parents, but is turned away from vengeance by Jesus.
Westerfeld, Scott	Uglies (series)	Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all. (Followed by Pretties, Specials, and Extras)

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Woodson, Jacqueline	After Tupac and D Foster	In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.
Yang, Gene Luen	American Born Chinese	Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.
Nonfiction		
Crossley-Holland, Kevin	The World of King Arthur and His Court	Kevin Crossley-Holland's The World of King Arthur and His Court examines the ideals and customs of Arthurian times. You'll learn how a boy became a knight and was schooled in the specifics of courtly love. Crossley-Holland also compares the legends of King Arthur to actual history. Was Arthur real or fictional? The answer may surprise you.
Halpern, Monica	Moving North: African Americans and the Great Migration	A compelling and fact-filled text describing the struggle for survival in the post-Civil War decades that led thousands of African Americans to leave the South and head North.
Harper, Hill	Letters to a Young Brother	Offering inspirational advice in a down-to-earth style, this unique compilation of letters provides wisdom, guidance, and heartfelt insight to help the reader chart their own path to success.
Heiligman, Deborah	Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith.	This lively biography of Charles Darwin focuses on the family life of one of the world's most famous scientists, including the impact differing religious beliefs had on the family's relationships.
Hoose, Phillip M.	Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice	Created from interviews with Colvin as well as detailed research, Hoose's award-winning biography offers young readers a riveting account of another life at the center of the Montgomery bus boycott.
Jiang, Ji-Li	Red Scarf Girl (Autobiography)	When Ji-Li Jiang turned twelve in 1966, she was an intelligent student with a bright future ahead of her. Then Mao Tse-tung launched the Cultural Revolution in China and everything changed.
Keller, Hellen	The Story of My Life (Autobiography)	Learn about determination and commitment in Helen Keller's autobiography.
Krakauer, Jon	Into Thin Air (Personal Account)	A riveting first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest.
Lobel, Anita	No Pretty Pictures (Autobiography)	This is a unique survivor's tale of the Holocaust, honest and penetrating in its child's view insights of hiding from the Nazis, then living in and surviving the concentration camps.

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Macaulay, David	The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body	In this comprehensive and entertaining resource, David Macaulay reveals the inner workings of the human body as only he could.
McCaughrean, Geraldine	Gilgamesh: The Hero	A retelling, based on seventh-century B.C. Assyrian clay tablets, of the wanderings and adventures of the god king, Gilgamesh, who ruled in ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in about 2700 B.C., and of his faithful companion, Enkidu.
Silverstein, Alvin	Adaptation	Packed full of information, this text describes multiple aspects of adaptation. Specific attention is given to evolution, extreme habitats, seasonal changes, night life, predator/prey relationships, and human adaptations. Many readers will find the discussion of human adaptations especially meaningful. It's appropriate for advanced audiences as well.
Tilden, Thomasine E. Lewis	Belly-Busting Worm Invasions! Parasites That Love Your Insides!	Imagine a four-foot-long guinea worm in your leg or perhaps a pea-shaped tapeworm in your brain! These true-life case studies - complete with parasite-related historical information, news, and career possibilities - just might repulse you, but they'll also completely intrigue you.
Winner, Cherie	Circulating Life: Blood Transfusion From Ancient Superstition to Modern Medicine	A fascinating account of the roles that blood has played in human medicine throughout history and of current areas of transfusion research. It's an excellent portrayal of ways our understandings change over time. Primary sources, photographs, and sidebars add to the text.
Wood, Tim	The Incas	Wood takes you on a tour of the Inca empire. You visit inside a typical Inca house, a temple to the sun god, the emperor's palace, and more.
Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner	Wild Lives: A History of the People & Animals of the Bronx Zoo	A thought provoking exploration of the Bronx Zoo, presenting a history of the zoo's development and discussions surrounding the plight of animals and the fight to preserve native habitats. It poses the question: what roles do zoos play in the modern world? Stunning photographs.
Poetry / Short Stories		
Howe, James	13: Thirteen Stories That Capture the Agony and the Ecstasy of Being Thirteen	In this wide-ranging collection, familiar authors for young adults contribute short fiction about 13-year-old characters who are experiencing bewildering feelings, making discoveries, or undergoing the embarrassments typical of the age.
Myers, Walter Dean	Amiri & Odette	Presents a modern, urban retelling in verse of the ballet in which brave Amiri falls in love with beautiful Odette and fights evil Big Red for her on the streets of the Swan Lake Projects.

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Nelson, Marilyn	Carver: A Life in Poems	By offering glimpses into George Washington Carver's life story through a series of lyrical poems, the structure of Nelson's book is as inspired as its occasional use of black-and-white photographs as illustrations.
Nye, Naomi Shihab	19 Varieties of Gazelle	Naomi Shihab Nye brings together 60 of her poems, which focus on the Middle East and the Arab-American experience.
	What Have You Lost?	A collection of poems that explore all kinds of loss: lost memories, lost relationships, regret-each poem pierces and then releases readers, who pocket a new treasure at the end of each page.
Paulsen, Gary	Shelf Life	Ten short stories in which the lives of young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.
Scieszka, Jon	Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys	Scieszka has put together a diverse and fast-paced anthology of scribbles and stories from scores of heavyweight authors and illustrators (Walter Dean Myers, Dan Gutman, Dav Pilkey, and others) who all declare you should "read what you like, when you like, whatever that happens to be."
Classics		
Dickens, Charles	A Christmas Carol	Scrooge, a wealthy miser treats everyone with scorn until he is visited by three mysterious spirits on Christmas Eve and sees the error of his evil ways.
Greene, Bette	Summer of My German Soldier	A 12-year-old Jewish girl risks everything to befriend a young German prisoner of war at the POW camp in her small Arkansas town during World War II.
London, Jack	The Call of the Wild	A comfortable family dog named Buck is stolen and sold into a harsh life as a sled dog in the 1890s Klondike, where he reverts to his wild nature.
Smith, Betty	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	Francie Nolan, a young Brooklyn girl both impoverished and mistreated, searches with courage and determination for beauty and truth in an ugly world.
Stevenson, Robert Louis	Treasure Island	When Jim Hawkins, an impressionable young cabin boy, discovers a treasure map, he finds himself thrust into an adventure beyond compare.
Wells, H. G.	The Time Machine	The Time Traveler witnesses the ultimate course of human history and of the earth itself when he travels into the far future.