

C.C. Mellor Memorial Library

Recommended Reading List

Grade 5 and 6

***Books in YA section are marked with an asterisk.**

- Adler, C. S. *One Unhappy Horse*. Clarion, 2001. Things are difficult for twelve-year-old Jan and her mother after her father's death, and when it turns out that her beloved horse needs an operation, Jan reluctantly gets money from an elderly woman whom she has befriended.
- Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. First published 1975. A family discovers the "fountain of youth" and others try to uncover their secret.
- Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer*. Scholastic Press, 2004. When seemingly unrelated and strange events begin occurring and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
- Barron, T. A. *The Lost Years of Merlin*. Philomel, 1996. A young boy with no memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of adventures. *Lost Years of Merlin Series*
- Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes*. Scholastic, 1999. The author recounts the story of the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960, when she was six year old.
- Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004. A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Newbery Honor
- Creech, Sharon. *Heartbeat*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2004. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*. Delacorte, 1999. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father: the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. Newbery Medal.
- DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. Candlewick, 2003. The

- adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. Newbery Medal.
- *Hannigan, Katherine. *Ida B: ...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World*. Greenwillow Books, 2004. In Wisconsin, Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
- Ibbotson, Eva. *Island of the Aunts*. Dutton, 2000. Three aging aunts who need help caring for their magical animals resort to kidnapping suitable young people and taking them to their secluded island home.
- Kerley, Barbara. *Walt Whitman: Words for America*. Scholastic Press, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief at Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.
- Konigsberg, E.L. *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place*. Atheneum, 2004. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.
- Lasky, Kathryn. *The Man Who Made Time Travel*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Describes the need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea and the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.
- Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Houghton Mifflin, 1989. Annemarie learns about bravery when her family shelters a young Jewish friend from the Nazis during the German occupation of Denmark in World War II. Newbery Medal
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Saving Shiloh*. Atheneum, 1997. Marty and his family try to help Judd Travers change his mean ways, even though his neighbors continue to expect the worst of him. Mark Twain Award. Previous books in the *Shiloh* trilogy are: *Shiloh* and *Shiloh Season*.
- Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. First published 1977. During a storm, Jess' new friend Leslie meets an unexpected tragedy while trying to reach their secret kingdom of Terabithia. Newbery Medal.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*. Bradbury, 1987. After his plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness, thirteen-year-old Brian must survive with only the aid of a hatchet. Newbery Honor Companion titles are *The River*, *Brian's Winter*, and *Brian's Return*.

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