

Ardsley Middle School Recommended Reading List

Students are required to read **two** books over the summer; the following titles are just **suggestions**.

More challenging books most appropriate for our older readers are indicated with an asterisk



Each book on the list is linked to AMS's digital library, [Sora](#), which can be found through Panthers Link or downloaded for free onto any device from an app store. The Westchester Public Library System can be linked to Sora, as well, adding to the many reading possibilities!

[Watch the Sora tutorial here!](#)

You may also find digital books using [Hoopla](#) or the New York Public Library's [SimplyE](#) free reader.

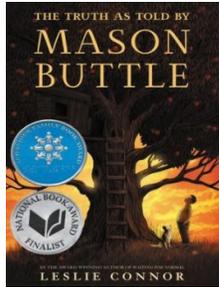
As you explore the list, click on the book covers to find out more about the author or story, and **click on the titles to check its availability on Sora**.

Ardsley Public Library will support your reading through its challenge. Earn badges and points as you read! For more information and to register, go to [Ardsley Library's READsquared](#) page.

Happy reading!

Realistic Fiction: Windows and Mirrors to the World

Click on a title to check out the ebook!



[The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle](#),

by Leslie Connor

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. He's an easy target for the school bullies, especially after his best friend Benny dies on Mason's family's property.

15 months later, Mason is still being investigated for Benny's death, and the bullies are still at it, but when Mason meets Calvin his rotten lock starts turning around.

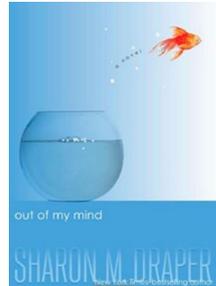
Or does it? (Ages 8-12)

[The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise](#),

by Dan Gemeinhart

Five years. That's how long Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation.

Coyote hasn't been home in all that time, but when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished, she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state in four days...without him realizing it. (Ages 9-14)



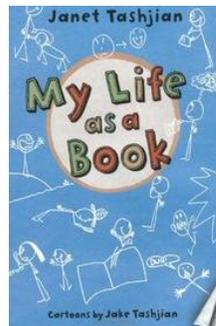
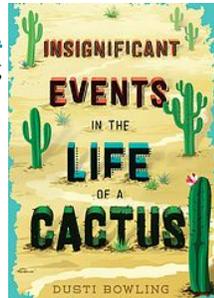
[Out of My Mind](#), by Sharon Draper

From Amazon: "Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow." (Fiction. 9-12)

[Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus](#),

by Dusti Bowling

Thirteen-year-old Aven Green, the heroine of Bowling's sensitive and funny novel, was born without arms due to a rare genetic condition. When her adoptive parents take jobs at an Arizona theme park, Aven leaves behind her comfortable social life, starting over with new peers and teachers to stare at her. (Ages 9-13)



[My Life as a Book](#), by Janet Tashjian, illustrations by Jake Tashjian

From Goodreads: "Summer's finally here, and Derek Fallon is looking forward to pelting the UPS truck with water balloons, climbing onto the garage roof, and conducting investigations. But when his parents decide to send him to Learning Camp, Derek's dreams of fun come to an end. Ever since he's been labeled a "reluctant reader," his mom has pushed him to read "real" books-something other than his beloved Calvin & Hobbes.

As Derek forges unexpected friendships and uncovers a family secret involving himself (in diapers! no less), he realizes that adventures and surprises are around the corner, complete with curve balls." Available on [NYPL's simplyE](#) (Fiction. 9-14)

[Front Desk](#), by Kelly Yang

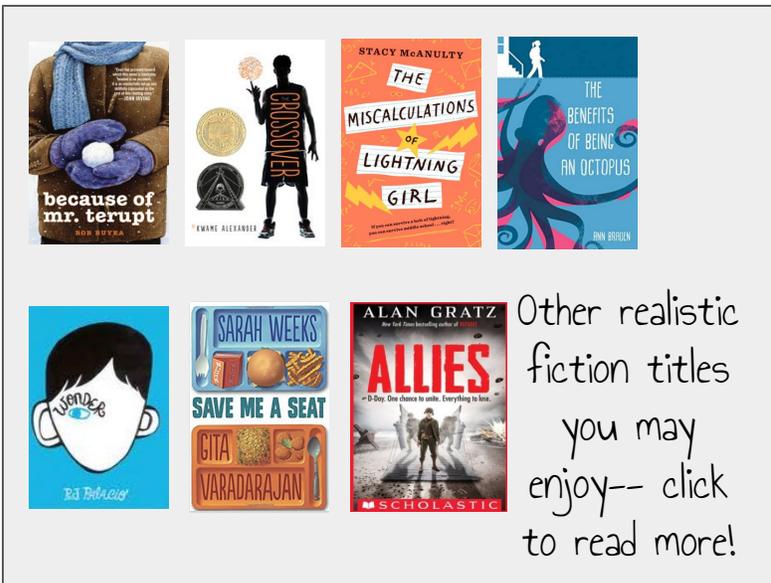
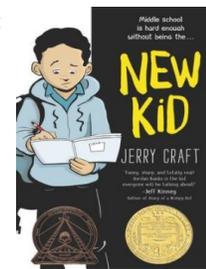
From Kirkus: "A small room behind the office of the Calivista Motel is home for 10-year-old Mia and her parents. Hired by the rich, coal-hearted Mr. Yao, the family works bone-numbing hours cleaning rooms, fixing problems, and managing the front desk. Troubles check in from every direction: at home, where her mom belittles her love of writing; at school, where bullies and lies surround her; and especially at the motel, where the family battles financial ruin. Yet along the seemingly endless roller coaster of poverty, hope appears in small places." (Historical fiction. 8-12)



[New Kid](#), by Jerry Craft

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, 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.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself? **Winner of the 2020 Newbery Award.** Watch Mr. Craft's response to winning the award [here!](#) (Ages 8-12)



Other realistic fiction titles you may enjoy-- click to read more!

[Mercy Suarez Changes Gears](#), by Meg Medina

Mercy navigates the challenges of being a scholarship kid at a posh South Florida private school and the expectations of and responsibilities to her intergenerational family. **Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award.** (Fiction 9-13)



Out of this World Sci-Fi and Fantasy Books

Click on a title to check out the ebook!

Asterisks indicate content more appropriate for our older readers



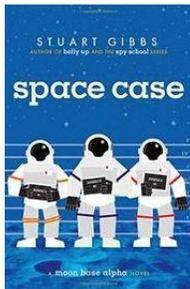
[Dragon Pearl](#), by Yoon Ha Lee

A sci-fi adventure novel about Min, a teenage fox spirit, who runs away to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother while assuming the identity of a Space Force soldier. **From Kirkus:** "A high-octane, science-fiction thriller painted with a Korean brush and a brilliant example of how different cultures can have unique but accessible cosmology and universal appeal. (pronunciation guide) (*Science fantasy. 8-12*)"

[The Last Last Day of Summer](#), by Lamar Giles



Cousins Otto and Sheed are enjoying summer and their summertime gig as local sleuths way too much for school to start up again. They get their wish for summer to last just a little bit longer when a stranger with the ability to stop time appears in their small town, but they also get sucked into a high-stakes time war that could stop time forever! (*Fantasy. 10-12*)



[Space Case](#), by Stuart Gibbs

When Dr. Holtz's body is discovered just outside the lunar colony, everyone assumes he made a mistake putting on his spacesuit—but 12-year-old Dashiell "Dash" Gibson has reason to believe this was no accident. (*Mystery. 9-12*)

For more about the book, including a short excerpt, and for other Stuart Gibbs suggestions, [click here!](#)

[A Wrinkle in Time](#), by Madeleine L'Engle

From Goodreads: "It was a dark and stormy night."

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure - one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

Winner of the 1963 Newbery Medal, *A Wrinkle in Time* is the first book in Madeleine L'Engle's classic Time Quintet."



[Children of Blood and Bone](#), by Tomi Adeyemi*

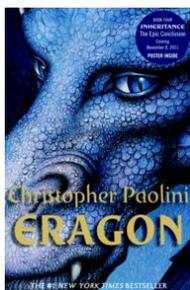
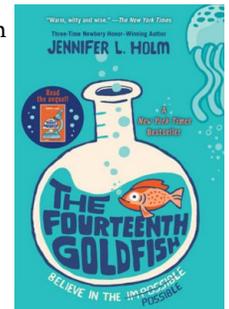
From Kirkus: "Seventeen-year-old Zélie and companions journey to a mythic island seeking a chance to bring back magic to the land of Orisha, in a fantasy world infused with the textures of West Africa. (*Fantasy. 12+*)"

[The Fourteenth Goldfish](#), by Jennifer L. Holm

From Goodreads: "Galileo. Newton. Salk. Oppenheimer."

Science can change the world . . . but can it go too far?

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?" (*Science fiction. 10-14*)



[Eragon](#), by Christopher Paolini

From the author's website: "Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy—until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire." (*Fantasy. 10+*)

Need more? Click on these covers to learn about some other science fiction and fantasy titles, and click on the titles below to check out the books from Sora!



[Artemis Fowl](#), by Eoin Colfer

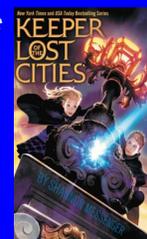
Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius—and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories—they're dangerous! Full of unexpected twists and turns, *Artemis Fowl* is a riveting, magical adventure. (*Fantasy. 10-14*)



[The Lightning Thief](#)



[Cinder*](#)



[Keeper of the Lost Cities](#)



[The Land of Stories](#)

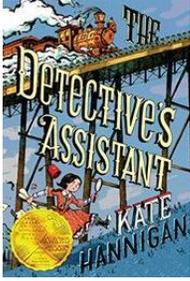


[Amulet](#)

Action, Adventures, and Feats of Survival

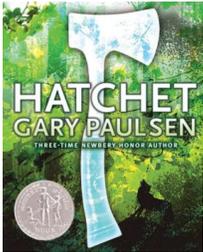
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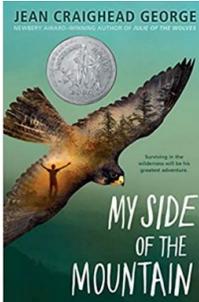
[The Detective's Assistant](#), by Kate Hannigan

From Amazon: "When orphaned eleven-year-old Nell Warne arrives in Chicago, she is shocked to find that her long-lost aunt is a *detective* working for the famous Pinkerton's National Detective agency! With nation-changing events simmering in the background as Abraham Lincoln heads for the White House, Aunt Kate is working on the biggest case of her life, and Nell quickly makes herself indispensable by cracking codes, wearing disguises, and spying on nefarious criminals. But can she also solve the case of what really happened on the night her best friend disappeared?" (Historical fiction. 9-12)



[Hatchet](#), by Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. This book is also available on [NYPL simplyE](#)

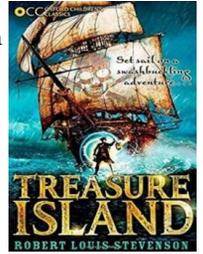


[My Side of the Mountain](#), by Jean Craighead George

From Goodreads: "Every kid thinks about running away at one point or another; few get farther than the end of the block. Young Sam Gibley gets to the end of the block and keeps going--all the way to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions and his wits as his tool for survival. In a spellbinding, touching, funny account, Sam learns to live off the land, and grows up a little in the process." (Fiction. 9-12)

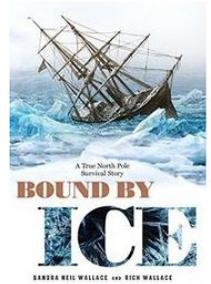
[Treasure Island](#), by Robert Louis Stevenson

On the ultimate treasure hunt, young Jim Hawkins finds himself battling the infamous pirate Long John Silver. Treachery, pirates, ships, and islands, a treasure map with an X marking the spot... the perfect summertime adventure!



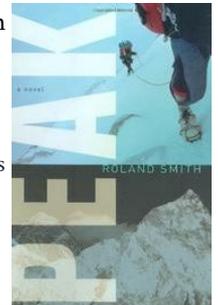
[Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story](#), by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace

From Barnes and Noble: "Some of the most exciting adventures in print are **true stories**. Here's one about the crew of the USS Jeannette, who left San Francisco in the summer of 1879 to find a route through the Arctic oceans to the North Pole. It didn't go well. Their ship became locked in the ice, and drifted, stuck in it, for two years before breaking up. The surviving crew members were forced to set out on foot across the Arctic, with woefully inadequate supplies." This title is available on [NYPL simplyE](#) (Nonfiction. 11-15)



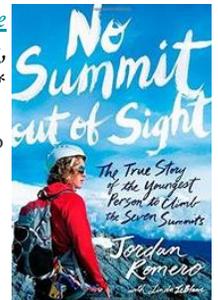
[Peak](#), by Roland Smith

When fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello's long-lost father presents the opportunity for them to summit Everest together, Peak doesn't even consider saying no--even though he suspects there are a few strings attached. Peak is available on [NYPL simplyE](#) (Fiction. 12-15)



[No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits](#), by Jordan Romero*

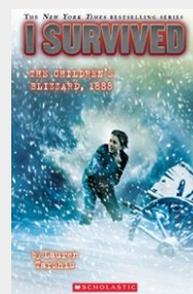
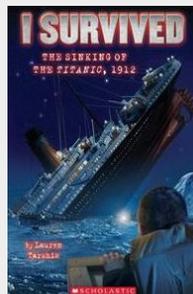
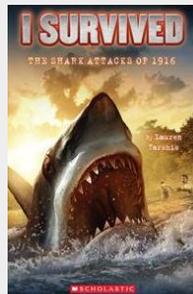
The true story of a 10-year-old who climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and subsequently summited the tallest mountains on the other six continents by the age of 15. (Nonfiction. 12-16)



The [I Survived](#) Series, by Lauren Tarshis

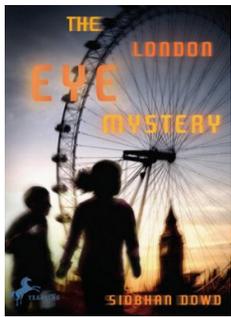
For more titles, click on the above link; for more information about these titles, click on the covers!

These are currently available as audiobooks on [Hoopla](#) and [Sora](#) and are coming soon as ebooks on Sora, and you can find the ebooks on [NYPL's simplyE](#) (Historical fiction. 7-12)



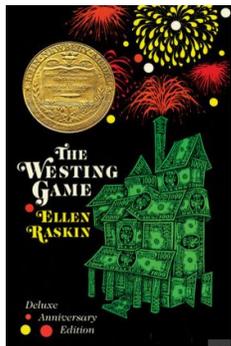
Games, Puzzles, and Mysteries to Keep You Guessing

Click on a title to check out the ebook!



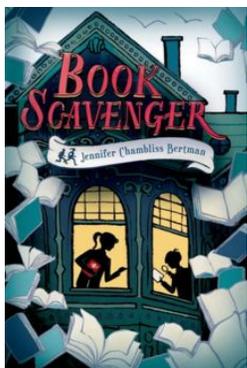
[The London Eye Mystery](#), by Siobhan Dowd

When Ted's cousin Salim visits London, he insists on riding "The London Eye," an immense observation wheel. A stranger gives Salim a free ticket; Salim enters a passenger capsule; 30 minutes later, when the capsule returns from its rotation, Salim has vanished. (Fiction. 9-14)



[The Westing Game](#), by Ellen Raskin

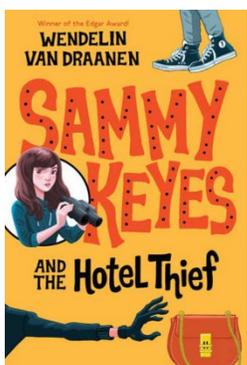
From Goodreads: "A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger - and a possible murderer - to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead... but that won't stop him from playing one last game!" (Fiction. 8-12)



[Book Scavenger](#), by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Twelve-year-old Emily is moving to San Francisco, home of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger, a game where books are hidden all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles. But Emily and her new friend James soon discover Garrison's latest game is his most important yet. (Fiction. 8-12)

Once you have read the book you, too, can be a [book scavenger!](#)

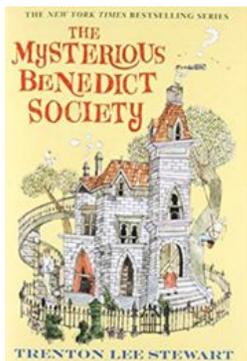


[Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief](#),

by Wendelin Van Draanen

From Goodreads: "Grams always told her those binoculars would get her into trouble. Now Sammy's witnessed a crime at the Heavenly Hotel—a light fingered thief stealing \$4,000 from Madame Nashira, the astrologer with the fire-hazard hair-do. Thing is, while she was watching him, he was watching her, too..."

Fast-paced and funny, packed with menacing suspects and clever clues, the Sammy Keyes mysteries keep you guessing to the last riveting page." The ebooks are available on [NYPL's simplyE](#) (Fiction. 10-13)



[The Mysterious Benedict Society](#), by Trenton Lee Stewart

From Goodreads: "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" begins an ad that attracts dozens of kids for mind-bending tests readers may try. Only two boys and two girls succeed for a secret mission, undercover and underground into hidden tunnels. At the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, the only rule is - there are no rules." (Fiction. 11-13)

[Hoot](#), by Carl Hiaasen

Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and—here's the odd part—wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail. The chase introduces him to potty-trained alligators, a fake-fart champion, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes with unnaturally sparkling tails. (Fiction. 10-14)

[Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#), by Christopher Grabenstein

From Brightly: "Twelve kids are invited to spend a night in the town's new library created by legendary gamemaker, Luigi Lemoncello. Adventure and fun are nonstop as the kids work to solve the clues and escape from the library. Perfect for kids who liked *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *Night at the Museum*." (Mystery. 9-13)

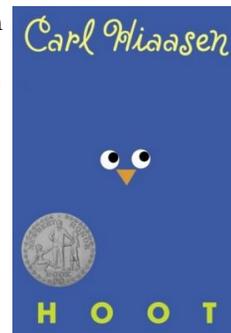
[The 39 Clues Series](#), by various authors (including Rick Riordan!)

From Brightly: "This series by Rick Riordan and various authors takes you on a journey around the world with Amy and Dan Cahill. They compete with other family members to unravel the clues to a mystery set up by their beloved grandmother, the matriarch of the world's most powerful family. The audiobooks are available on [Hoopla](#) through the public library, and the ebooks can be found on [NYPL's simplyE](#) (Novelty/Fiction. 9-14)

[The Name of this Book is Secret](#), by Pseudonymous Bosch

From Goodreads: "Warning: this description has not been authorized by Pseudonymous Bosch."

As much as he'd love to sing the praises of his book (he is very vain), he wouldn't want you to hear about his brave 11-year old heroes, Cass and Max-Ernest. Or about how a mysterious box of vials, the Symphony of Smells, sends them on the trail of a magician who has vanished under strange (and stinky) circumstances. And he certainly wouldn't want you to know about the hair-raising adventures that follow and the nefarious villains they face. You see, not only is the name of this book secret, the story inside is, too. For it concerns a secret. A Big Secret." (Fiction. 9-12)



Norman Vincent Peale

OV BBI WBH IVR ZBBQ. RPRQ

SW MBK ZSOO, MBK'AA AEQU

EZBQN IVR OIEHO.

Can you crack this cryptogram?

Favorite Authors

..but don't take our word for it!

Click on the author's names for their websites, or on any book to check availability in Sora.
 Don't forget the asterisk denotes content more appropriate for our older readers

Kate DiCamillo



Marie Lu*

Raina Telgemeier



Jason Reynolds

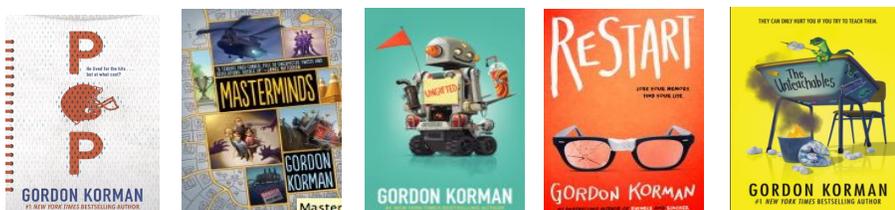


Steve Sheinkin

Mike Lupica



Gordon Korman



AMS 2020 Printable Suggested Summer Reading List

Realistic Fiction

Allies, Alan Gratz
Because of Mr. Turtur, Rob Buyea
Front Desk, Kelly Yang
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus, Dusti Bowling
Mercy Suarez Changes Gears, Meg Medina
My Life as a Book (series), Janet Tashjian
New Kid, Jerry Craft
Out of My Mind, Sharon Draper
Save Me a Seat, Gira Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks
The Benefits of Being an Octopus, Ann Braden
The Crossover, Kwame Alexander
The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl, Stacy McAnulty
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, Dan Gemeinhart
The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle, Leslie Connor
Wonder, R.J. Palacio

Sci-Fi and Fantasy

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engel
Amulet, Kazu Kibuishi
Artemis Fowl, Eoin Colfer
Children of Blood and Bone, Tomi Adeyemi*
Cinder, Marissa Meyer*
Dragon Pearl, Yoon Ha Lee
Eragon, Christopher Paolini
Keeper of the Lost Cities, Shannon Messenger
Space Case, Stuart Gibbs
The Fourteenth Goldfish, Jennifer L. Holm
The Land of Stories, Chris Colfer
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The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

Favorite Authors

Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo
Flora and Ulysses, Kate DiCamillo
Louisiana's Way Home, Kate DiCamillo
Raymie Nightingale, Kate DiCamillo
The Tale of Despereaux, Kate DiCamillo
Ghosts, Raina Telgemeier
Guts, Raina Telgemeier
Smile, Raina Telgemeier
The Babysitters Club, Raina Telgemeier
Legend, Marie Lu*
The Young Elites, Marie Lu*
Warcross, Marie Lu*
All American Boys, Jason Reynolds*
Ghost, Jason Reynolds
Long Way Down, Jason Reynolds*
Look Both Ways, Jason Reynolds
Miles Morales, Jason Reynolds*
Bomb, Steve Sheinkin
King George: What Was His Problem?, Steve Sheinkin
Lincoln's Grave Robbers, Steve Sheinkin
Fast Break, Mike Lupica
Heat, Mike Lupica
QB1, Mike Lupica
Masterminds, Gordon Korman
Pop, Gordon Korman
Restart, Gordon Korman
The Unteachables, Gordon Korman
Ungifted, Gordon Korman