1. Albee, Sarah. *Dog Days of History*. National Geographic Children's Books. Nonfiction. Gr 4+. 112 pages. Dogs are a person’s best friend, and this book follows the history of our relationships with the four-legged friends. From ancient times to present day, dogs have been by our side for it all. Even cat people will enjoy the interesting and humorous way the author presents the information about our furry friends.

2. Arden, Katherine. *Small Spaces*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers. Mystery. Gr 5+. 218 pages. Eleven year-old Ollie discovers a crying woman down by the river. When she realizes the woman is about to throw a book into the water, Ollie snatches it and runs home. The book, “Small Spaces” is a creepy tale about a girl and the two boys who love her, and a creepy character known as the “Smiling Man” who turns children into scarecrows who become his servants. When Ollie’s class visits the Misty Valley Farm on a field trip, she discovers that the owner of the farm is the crying woman by the river and the book is all about what happened on the farm years ago! On the ride home, the school bus breaks down, and Ollie and her friends begin their escape from the Smiling Man.

3. August, John. *Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire*. Roaring Brook Press. Fantasy. Gr 4+. 318 pages. Arlo moves to his mom's old town and joins the Rangers. This club is for young people who want to learn outdoor survival skills-and magic!. For Arlo, the magic is new but gets him into trouble with a dark magic that wants to kill him. Can Arlo get control of his new magic in time to fight against the dark magic?

4. Blake, Ashley Herring. *Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. Realistic fiction. Gr 5+. 320 pages. Ivy’s life is thrown into upheaval when her family’s home is destroyed by a tornado. She does her best to settle back in to the routine of school, babysitting, and homework while navigating a burgeoning crush. Meanwhile her notebook that contains her deepest darkest secrets is missing, and Ivy fears someone may have their hands on it.

5. Braden, Ann. *Benefits of Being an Octopus, The*. Sky Pony. Realistic fiction. Gr 6+. 256 pages. Zoey is in 7th grade and she lives in poverty. She and her family have lived in many places and none of them have been nice. Zoey’s family is now living with Lenny, an emotionally abusive and controlling man. As Zoey’s English class starts to learn about debating and debate strategies, Zoey starts to notice more how Lenny uses some of those tactics to make her mother stay. Things really start to escalate when Zoey confronts her mother about his abuse. The family is really stuck between a rock and a hard place. Where will they live and where would they be safe if they leave Lenny?

6. Carelli, Anne O'Brien. *Skylark and Wallcreeper*. Yellow Jacket. Historical fiction. Gr 5+. 398 pages. It's 2012 and Superstorm Sandy is hitting New York City, specifically the nursing home where Lily's grandmother is living. When the call comes to evacuate, Lily's grandmother gives her a fountain pen and asks her to take care of it. But what's so important about it? And...how can she get it back when she loses it? She has no idea that the pen dates back to 1944 in southern France when two girls - Collette and Marguerite, Skylark and Wallcreeper, play an integral role in the Resistance.

7. Coakley, Lena. *Wicked Nix*. Harry N. Abrams. Fantasy. Gr 4-6. 103 pages. Wicked Nix calls himself the foulest of fairies. He is left all alone to protect the forest when the Fairy Queen and all the other fairies
disappear to the Summer Country. When a human arrives at a cottage in the forest, Nix does everything he can to scare him off. But the man refuses to leave! Nix soon discovers that things are not always what they seem.

8. Fletcher, Susan. **Journey of the Pale Bear.** Margaret K. McElderry Books. Historical fiction. Gr 5+. 304 pages. Arthur is always running away. Life is hard and his stepfather and stepbrothers are unkind. When he receives a letter from relatives in Wales, he decides to try and find them. Along the way he meets a polar bear. This bear is intended to be a gift for the king of England and Arthur seems to be the only one who can calm the bear down. The two develop a great relationship that results in them rescuing each other. Based on actual events!

9. Ford, Michael. **Forgotten City.** HarperCollins. Science fiction. Gr 5+. 291 pages. Kobi and his dad have been surviving on their own for a long time. Kobi is immune to the Waste that now plagues Earth, but his dad is not, although he is working on a cure. When his dad is gone longer than he should be, Kobi sets out to find him and discovers there are more people around than he knew, there are also kids like him, and it seems like his dad has been lying to him his whole life. But who can Kobi really trust and what is really going on?

10. Frank, Steven B. **Class Action.** HMH Books for Young Readers. Realistic fiction. Gr 5+. 252 pages. In this book, a sixth grade student, Sam, is fed up with the amount of homework he has to do and ends up filing a lawsuit to make it illegal. During the process the reader learns about the working of government and the law - all the way to the Supreme Court. What will the highest law of the land say about the injustice of homework? Readers will be excited to find out!

11. Gino, Alex. **You Don’t Know Everything, Jilly P!** Scholastic Inc. Realistic fiction. Gr 4+. 256 pages. Jilly loves to read and is often in an online chat room discussing her favorite fantasy series. When her baby sister Emma is born deaf, she seeks the advice of “Profound”, a boy in the chat room who is also deaf. They meet in person at a support group for families with deaf children and become friends. Derek, his real name, also happens to be Black and Jilly learns much from him when her extended family shows signs of being racist.

12. Greenfield, A.B. **Ra The Mighty: Cat Detective.** Holiday House. Mystery. Gr 4-6. 216 pages. Ra is the Pharaoh’s cat and does nothing but sleep and eat. But when young Tedimut, a servant, gets accused of stealing jewelry from the Pharaoh, Ra decides to help solve the mystery of who did it with the help of a dung beetle friend.

13. Greenwald, Tommy. **Game Changer.** Harry N. Abrams. Sports. Gr 5+. 304 pages. A 13-year-old boy is in a coma after the “Rookie Rumble”—incoming freshmen who want to play high school football play a scrimmage with each other with the older students coaching. When Teddy collapses after the game, he’s rushed to the hospital. Through a social media post, it’s soon discovered that this wasn’t from heat exhaustion but from another team player hitting Teddy as hard as he could. The players try to keep the events secret, but one question starts to unravel everything.

14. Hitchcock, Shannon. **One True Way.** Scholastic Press. Historical fiction. Gr 5+. 207 pages. Seventh graders Allie and Sam are more than just friends. Allie is new in town and develops an instant bond with Sam. The girls are met with scorn and disgust from others, even people in their own families. The girls look to others for advice, but in the end, her Reverend helps Allie she’s the only one who can decide what’s right for herself.
15. Hiranandani, Veera. Night Diary, The. Penguin. Historical fiction. Gr 5+. 272 pages. It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is more perilous than Nisha expects. Will they survive the desert heat as well as the dangers from other travelers?

16. Hollingsworth, Alyssa. Eleventh Trade, The. Roaring Brook Press. Realistic fiction. Gr 5+. 288 pages. After the death of most of his family in Afghanistan, Sami and his grandfather have made their way to Boston. They do not have much - some clothes, a bit of money from relief agencies, and his grandfather's rebab - a traditional instrument that his grandfather played professionally but now plays in the T stations for money. One day, while playing the instrument himself, the rebab is stolen right out of his hands. Sami is able to locate it in a pawnshop but must pay $700 to get it back. How? Sami's idea is to trade items for it. Can Sami make enough money to get the rebab back?

17. Hood, Susan. Lifeboat 12. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. Poetic narrative. Gr 5+. 336 pages. This is the gripping story of a boy who was on a cruise ship fleeing England during WWII. Midway, they are torpedoed and struggle to survive in a tiny lifeboat with minimal resources. Inclement weather, sharks, and hypothermia are just a few of the struggles they encounter. Will they reach land alive?

18. Jarrow, Gail. Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and the War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America. Calkins Creek. Nonfiction. Gr 6+. 139 pages. On the night of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What appeared to be breaking news about an alien invasion was, in fact, a radio drama based on H. G. Wells' War of the Worlds, performed by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre players. Some listeners became angry once they realized they had been tricked, and the reaction to the broadcast sparked a national discussion about fake news, propaganda, and the role of radio. (from Goodreads)

19. Johnson, Varian. Parker Inheritance, The. Arthur A. Levine Books. Mystery. Gr 5+. 331 pages. Twelve year old Candice Miller and her mother have just moved into the home that once belonged to her late Grandmother, the former City Manager of Lambert, South Carolina. In the old house, Candice discovers a letter addressed to her grandmother. This is the same letter that had her grandmother digging up the city tennis courts in search of a hidden treasure. The letter alludes to a decades old injustice concerning African American Siobhan Washington and her family. Candice loves puzzles, and with the help of her new friend and neighbor Brandon Jones, they follow the clues to find the inheritance and to clear her grandmother's name.

20. Klages, Ellen. Out of Left Field. Viking Books for Young Readers. Sports. Gr 4+. 276 pages. Every boy in the neighborhood knows Katy Gordon is their best pitcher, even though she's a girl. But when she tries out for Little League, it's a whole different story. Girls are not eligible, period. It is a boy's game and always has been. It's not fair, and Katy's going to fight back. And she fights back in the best possible way! She uses all the resources at her disposal, including her local library, as she researches women in baseball and writes/interviews former players in her tenacious and methodical approach to fighting her Little League ban.

Styx is older and has all sorts of crazy plans, including how to take a bag of potentially stolen fireworks and, through a series of trades, end up with a moped. But their mom is a bit worried about Styx's influence on the boys. Will their friendship survive the consequences of their actions?

22. Magras, Diane. *Mad Wolf's Daughter, The*. Kathy Dawson Books. Adventure/Survival. Gr 4+. 288 pages. Drest lives in 13th century Scotland with her father the Mad Wolf. Her father and brothers are captured and have been thrown into a dungeon so they can by hanged for crimes they committed. Drest avoids capture and sets off to rescue them with the help of a knight that she isn't sure she can trust. Set in Scotland and filled with happenings of that time, this book is an action-packed page turner from the start.

23. Mass, Wendy and Stead, Rebecca. *Bob*. Feiwel & Friends. Fantasy. Gr 4-6. 208 pages. Livy returns to Australia to visit her grandmother after being away for five years. She discovers a creature in the closet named Bob who has been waiting for her to return. The two rekindle their friendship, but there are many questions. Is Bob an imaginary friend? Can others see him? What kind of creature is he?

24. Mattick, Lindsay and Greenhut, Josh. *Winnie's Great War*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. Historical Fiction. Gr 4-6. 246 pages. Readers will be enthralled by the story behind the real life bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh. Winnie was adopted by a soldier at a train station and was heading to war as a mascot. Winnie the bear got to see more of the world than many humans do! Read to find out how Winnie inspired the soldiers as well as future generations of readers.

25. McAnulty, Stacy. *Miscalculations of Lightning Girl, The*. Random House Books for Young Readers. Realistic Fiction. Gr 4+. 293 pages. Lucy Callahan’s life was changed forever when she was struck by lightning when she was 8 years old. With part of her brain rewired, she became a genius at math. She’s too smart for regular school, so she was homeschooled and her only friends are those she meets online on math forums and tutoring websites. Now that she is 12, she is ready for college. But her Nana wants her to experience middle school first for 1 year. She wants her to make 1 friend, join 1 activity, and read 1 book that doesn’t pertain to math! She discovers that middle school is not about being smart, it’s about survival!

26. Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*. Candlewick. Realistic fiction. Gr 4+. 355 pages. Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between: being a scholarship student at a fancy prep school, the changes in the family dynamics that she can't explain and the navigating the social waters of 6th grade. Although Merci doesn't realize it immediately, her beloved grandfather is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and the changes in her family life and relationship with her grandfather as a result are the backbone of this story.

27. O'Connor, Sheila. *Until Tomorrow, Mr. Marsworth*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers. Historical fiction. Gr 5+. 348 pages. Reenie, Billy and Dare Kelly's young mother has died of cancer so they have to move in with their grandma while their dad finds work in another state. To earn money, Reenie takes a paper route. But that money isn't for her, it's to help her brother Billy pay for college so he doesn't have to be drafted into the Vietnam War. Avoiding the draft makes many of the town's people angry and ignites hurtful towards the entire family. But Reenie doesn't care, she'll do anything it takes to protect Billy from the draft as she tells Mr. Marsworth, a recluse on her paper route and her pen-pal.

discovers Inkling, and they become fast friends. As Inkling devours the ink from books, magazines, and newspapers, he develops his own thoughts, words, and ideas. When Inkling is discovered by a competitive classmate, things start to go very wrong and Inkling's life is at stake. But who does Inkling belong to? If it's alive, can it belong to anyone?

29. Ormsbee, K.E. *House in Poplar Wood, The*. Chronicle Books. Fantasy. Gr 5+. 344 pages. Death, Memory and Passion are Shades and they need apprentices to work for them. Lee and Felix Vickery are twins. Because of an Agreement, the boys lead separate lives. Lee with his mother who serves Memory, and Felix with his his father who serves Death. Essie Hastings’ mother serves Passion. Apprentices trained their children to follow in their footsteps. When the children turn 16, they are expected to sign their own contract to serve their Shade. The boys are determined to find a way to break the Agreement! When a local girl is found dead in a ravine, some suspect she was murdered. This gives them the opportunity to work together to uncover the truth and break the Agreement once and for all!

30. Saeed, Aisha. *Amal Unbound*. Nancy Paulsen Books. Realistic fiction. Gr 4+. 240 pages. Through a series of unfortunate events and really bad luck, Amal ends up a house servant to pay off her family’s debts to the town’s cruel landlord. Suddenly Amal’s dreams of continuing school and becoming a teacher are gone. She holds onto the hope that her family might be able to come up with the money to pay for her freedom. In the meantime, she serves the landlord’s mother, tries to fit in with the long-time servants, and finds some comfort in reading the books she sneaks from the landlord’s library. Finally things start to look up when she is allowed to attend the new literacy center. Could Amal be brave enough to overthrow the landlord?

31. Sanderson, Brandon. *Skyward*. Delacorte Press. Science fiction. Gr 6+. 513 pages. Spensa lives on a planet that is being constantly attacked by aliens. The planet’s only defense against them is to send up their own pilots to shoot them down. Spenca wants to become a pilot but her dad, a former pilot, left his squad and died a coward, which is what many people feel she will do if she becomes a pilot. With determination and an accidental discovery, Spenca may be able to make a name for herself yet.

32. Schmitt, Adam P. *Speechless*. Candlewick. Realistic fiction. Gr 5+. 293 pages. Jimmy's cousin Patrick has passed away. Jimmy has been asked to give the eulogy. Not only does public speaking terrify him, but he also cannot think of anything positive to say because Patrick ruined everything for Jimmy whenever they were together. As he tries to get through the wake while wearing too tight pants, Jimmy starts to wonder if maybe there was a lot more going on in Patrick's mind that no one was paying attention to. No one was listening.

33. Sell, Chad. *Cardboard Kingdom*. Knopf Books for Young Readers. Graphic novel. Gr 4+. 281 pages. Cardboard is magical material because it can be transformed into almost anything! In the Cardboard Kingdom, the kids in the neighborhood become monsters, heroes, and anything else their imagination can conjure. The allure of cardboard even helps convert the neighborhood bully into a playmate and ally.


37. Wang, Jen. *Prince and the Dressmaker, The*. First Second. Graphic novel. Gr 6-8. 290 pages. A young prince wants to wear dresses. He finds a dressmaker to do that for him but has to keep it a secret from everyone else. Frances is just the girl for the job. Her dream is to become a dressmaker, but will she be able to achieve her dreams while keeping the most important secret in the kingdom?

38. Weissman, Elissa Brent. *Length of a String, The*. Dial Books. Realistic fiction. Gr 5+. 379 pages. Two year-old Imani is adopted. As her Bat Mitzvah gift she wants to find her birth family. When her great grandmother Anna dies, Imani discovers her 1941 diary in which Anna details how she was sent, alone, to New York to escape the Nazi. Imani develops a whole new perspective of her own life as an adoptive black girl growing up in a Jewish family.

39. White, J.A. *Nightbooks*. Katherine Tegen Books. Fantasy. Gr 4+. 294 pages. Alex is sick and tired of being teased about his love of scary things, so he decides to get rid of all his writing once and for all. But on his way to the basement incinerator he is lured to an apartment by the dialogue from his favorite horror movie. Suddenly he finds himself trapped in a magical apartment by a witch. The only way he can stay alive is by appeasing her and the apartment with his scary stories. Is there any way that he and the girl Yasmin who is also trapped can escape?

40. Whitman, Emily. *Turning, The*. Greenwillow Books. Fantasy. Gr 5+. 385 pages. Aran belongs with the Selkies and someday he will turn. It just hasn't happened yet... But any day now the Moon will call to him, his fingers will start to web, and he will finally have his pelt. He will finally be able to swim and keep up with the rest of his clan when they are in seal form. He won't hold them back, he won't hold his mom back. But then he finds out that he isn't a full Selkie. His dad was human, which means he may never change. Eventually his mother and the rest of the clan decide to go far north to some ancient Selkies to see if they can find a way for him to turn. But to do that his mom decides to leave him with a human woman. How can he survive in that strange environment? Will he ever get his pelt and be who he longs to be?