

From *The Autobiography of Malcom X*

I have often reflected upon the new vistas that reading opened to me. I knew right there, in prison, that reading had changed forever the course of my life. As I see it today, the ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive. I certainly wasn't seeking any degree, the way a college confers a status symbol upon its students. My home made education gave me, with every additional book that I read, a little bit more sensitivity to the deafness, dumbness, and blindness that was afflicting the black race in America. Not long ago, an English writer telephoned me from London asking questions. One was, "What's your alma mater?" I told him, "Books." You will never catch me with a free fifteen minutes in which I'm not studying something I feel might be able to help the black man.

From - *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie.

"Look at all these book," he said.

"There aren't that many," I said. It was a small library in a small high school in a small town.

"There are three thousand four hundred and twelve books here," Gordy said. "I know that because I counted them."

"Okay, now you're officially a freak," I said.

"Yes, it's a small library. It's a tiny one. But if you read one of these books a day, it would still take you almost ten years to finish."

"What's your point?"

"The world, even the smallest parts of it, is filled with things you don't know."

Wow. That was huge idea.

Any town, even one as small as Reardan, was a place of mystery. And that meant that Wellpinit, that smaller, Indian town, was also a place of mystery.

"Okay, so it's like each of these books is a mystery. Every book is a mystery. And if you read all the books ever written, it's like you've read one giant mystery. And no matter how much you learn, you just keep on learning there is so much more you need to learn."

Some of my favorites for the At Risk in the Last 10 Years  
And Yes I actually have read them!!!!

For lists of great audio books---

- *Listening Library Audio Books for Children*

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/childrensnoteable/notablechirecord/ncrpa-st/index.cfm>

- *Listening Library Audio Books for Young Adults*

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/amazingaudiobooks/annotations/08audio.cfm>

I read because one life isn't enough and in the page of a book I can be anybody; I read because the words that build the story become mine, to build my life; I read not for happy endings but for new beginnings; I' just beginning myself, and I wouldn't mind a map; I read because I have friends who don't, and young though they are, they're beginning to run out of material; I read because every journey begins at the3 library, and it'' time for me to start packing; I read because one of these days I's going to get out of this town and I'm going to go everywhere and meet everybody and I want to be ready ---Richard Peck

Reading is Political

From Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen "Cause to know things, for us to know things, is bad for them. We get to want and when we get to wanting it's bad for them. They thinks we want what the They got."

### **At-Risk Themes of Character Traits and Emotions**

Honesty/ Dishonesty "Honesty is for the most part less profitable than dishonesty" - Plato  
Loneliness

Vanity/Pride/Conceit/Fame/Snobbishness -What it takes and what we do to be somebody of worth

Faithfulness/Unfaithfulness Loyalty/ Disloyalty  
Courage/

Loss/Fear/Rage/Love/Hate

### **Themes of Life Patterns or the common journey of the human spirit**

Survival in Life from Birth to Death

Growing Up and all the relationships involved in this journey

-Mothers -Daughters -Fathers - Sons ....

*Bucking the system*

Rebellion that is political, economic and religious

Running Away -Running to- Escape

### **Themes of General Truths**

The Eternal Struggle of Good versus Evil Winners & Losers

This is the Code used:

- 2006-2008 dates are designated with an \* or the actual date
- **YA** will be before Books for 8th through 12<sup>th</sup> grade -
- All others range from grades 4 to 8.
- **\*\*\*** Great Audio Books or just recent great books!
- I am sending a favorite list of recent Early Chapter Books 2-3 and Beginning Readers 1-3.

*Poems can inspire and make us think about what it means to be a member of the human race* - Billy Collins Library of Congress Poet Laureate.

## **The Poetry Novel/Biography- A Real Emotional Ride**

**YA Adoff, Jaime.** - *Jimi & me* Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, c2005., RL , 329p

A novel in the form of poems, in which eighth grader Keith James seeks strength in the music of Jimi Hendrix while struggling to cope with his father's violent death, his family's sudden move from Brooklyn to a small town in Ohio, and revelations about his father's past.

**YA Adoff, Jaime.** - *Names will never hurt me* - Dutton Children's Books, c2004., RL , 185p

Several high school students relate their feelings about school, themselves, and events as they unfold on the fateful one-year anniversary of the killing of a fellow student.

**\*Bernier-Grand,-Frida : viva la vida! = long live life!**- A collection of biographical poems about the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, accompanied by reproductions of her paintings. *Cesar si, se Puede* -Tells the life story of Cesar Chavez, whose efforts as a labor leader in the mid-twentieth century brought better working conditions to migrant farmworkers in the U.S **\*Diego Rivera**

**YA \*Bryant, Jennifer** - *Ringside, 1925 : views from the Scopes trial : a novel* - A novel in free verse poems, in which visitors, spectators, and residents of Dayton, Tennessee, in 1925 describe the Scopes "monkey trial" and its effects on that small town and its citizens.

**Creech, Sharon.** - *Heartbeat* -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.

**Creech, Sharon.** - *Love that dog* -- Joanna Cotler Books, c2001., RL 4.1, 86p

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

-*Hate that Cat* -2008 - Narrator Jack (Love That Dog) continues to address Miss Stretchberry in free verse, exploring what makes a real poem. A kitten he gets for Christmas provides the book's dramatic tension when it disappears;

**Engle, Margarita** - *\*Poet Slave of Cuba* - A portrait in poems of Juan Francisco Manzano, the poet who was born a slave in Cuba in 1797.

**\*YA The Surrender Tree -2008** - Between 1868 and 1898, Cuba fought three wars to gain independence. Engle uses these historical events to craft a powerful free-verse narrative told through soliloquies of various revolutionary characters, including folk heroine Rosa la Bayamesa, a former slave and healer.

**Frost, Helen.** -

***Spinning through the universe : a novel in poems from room 214*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, c2004., RL 5.7, 93p

A collection of poems written in the voices of Mrs. Williams of room 214, her students, and a custodian about their interactions with each other, their families, and the world around them. Includes notes on the poetic forms represented.

\* - ***The Braid***- 2006 - Two Scottish sisters, living on the western island of Barra in the 1850s, relate, in alternate voices and linked narrative poems, their experiences after their family is forcibly evicted and separated with one sister accompanying their parents and younger siblings to Cape Breton, Canada, and the other staying behind with other family on the small island of Mingulay.

**YA *Keesha's House*** - 2003 - Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

\* - ***Diamond Willow*** - 2008 - In a remote area 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 dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

**Glenn, Mel.**

***Jump ball : a basketball season in poems*** Lodestar Books, c1997., RL 7.5, 151p Tells the story of a high school basketball team's season through a series of poems reflecting the feelings of students, their families, teachers, and coaches.

**YA *Who killed Mr. Chippendale? : a mystery in poems***

A murder mystery told in free verse poems, describing the reactions of students, colleagues, and others when high school teacher Mr. Chippendale, loved by some, hated by others, is shot as the school day begins.

***Split Image*** - A series of poems reflect the thoughts and feelings of various people-- students, the librarian, parents, the principal, and others-- about the seemingly perfect Laura Li and her life inside and out of Tower High School.

**Grover, Lorie Ann. *Loose threads*** - series of poems describes how seventh-grader Kay Garber faces her grandmother's battle with breast cancer while living with her mother and great-grandmother and dealing with everyday junior high school concerns

**YA \*Hemphill, Stephanie - *Things left unsaid : a novel in poems***- After a lifetime of conforming to the image of what her parents and high school friends want her to be, Sarah must come to terms with her own identity when her destructive best friend tries to commit suicide. Told in the form of free-verse poems.

**Hesse, Karen - *Aleutian sparrow***- An Aleutian Islander recounts her suffering during World War II in American internment camps designed to "protect" the population from the invading Japanese

***Witness*** - A history-inspired novel, told in the voices of eleven characters, about two young girls, one Jewish and the other African-American, who come to the attention of the newly formed Ku Klux Klan in a small Vermont town in 1924.

***Out of the Dust***- (older imprint 1997 but had to mention it) After a lifetime of conforming to the image of what her parents and high school friends want her to be, Sarah must come to terms with her own identity when her destructive best friend tries to commit suicide. Told in the form of free-verse poems.

**Hopkins, Lee Bennett.** - *Been to yesterdays : poems of a life* Wordsong/Boyd's Mills Press , distributed by St. Martin's Press, 1995., RL 3, 64p

Autobiographical poems capture a thirteen-year-old boy's feelings, experiences, and aspirations in one tumultuous year of his life.

**Janeczko, Paul B.** - *Worlds a fire* Candlewick Press, 2004., RL 4.8, 92p

In this novel written as a collection of eyewitness poems, the excitement and anticipation of attending the circus on July 6, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut, turns to horror when a fire engulfs the circus tent, killing nearly 180 people, mostly women and children.

**Johnson, Angela.** - *The other side : shorter poems* - Orchard Books, 2000, , RL 3.8, 44p A collection of poems reminiscent of growing up as an African-American girl in Shorter, Alabama

**Johnson, Lindsay Lee.** - *Soul moon soup* Front Street, c2002., RL 5.5, 134p

After her father leaves and Phoebe and her mother struggle to survive in the city, Phoebe finally goes to the country to live with her grandmother, where she learns family secrets and hopes her mother will return for her.

**YA Koertge, Ronald.** - *The Brimstone journals* -In a series of short interconnected poems, students at a high school nicknamed Brimstone reveal the violence existing and growing in their lives.

**YA Koertge, Ronald.** - *Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* Candlewick Press, 2003

When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

**Lee Wong, Joyce.** - *Seeing Emily* Amulet, 2005., Relates in free verse the experiences of sixteen-year-old Emily, a gifted artist and the daughter of immigrants to the United States, as she tries to reconcile her American self with her Chinese heritage.

**YA \*Mass, Wendy** -*Heaven Looks a lot Like the Mall* -After an accident in gym class puts sixteen-year-old Tessa into a coma, she re-evaluates her life by visiting the mall stores where significant events in her life took place .

**YA \*McCormick, Patricia** - *Sold-* A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India.

**Nelson, Marilyn,** - *Carver, a life in poems*-- Front Street, c2001., RL 8.1, 103p

A collection of poems that combine to provide a portrait of the life of nineteenth-century African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.

**YA Nelson, Marilyn.** - *A wreath for Emmett Till* Houghton Mifflin, 2005., RL , 42p This illustrated poetry collection eulogizes Emmett Till, an African American man who was killed in a brutal, racially motivated lynching in 1955.

**\* YA Sandell, Lisa Ann.** - *The weight of the sky* Viking, 2006., RL , 292p

A sixteen-year-old girl travels to Israel to spend the summer on a kibbutz and discovers who she is and what she wants out of life.

**YA Sones, Sonya.** - *One of those hideous books where the mother dies*

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born. -

***Stop pretending : what happened when my big sister went crazy*** -A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.-

***What my mother doesn't know*** - Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right. \****What My Boyfriend Doesn't Know.***

**Soto, Gary.** *Fearless Fernie : hanging out with Fernie and me* - An illustrated collection of poems about two best friends and the trials of the middle school years.

**Testa, Maria** - *Becoming Joe DiMaggio* -Joseph Paul grows up following the career of baseball great Joe DiMaggio and learning the rules of the game from his grandfather and dreaming of becoming a famous baseball player himself, and somehow healing his grandfather's broken heart.

**Testa, Maria.** - *Almost forever* Candlewick Press, 2003., RL 5.4, 69p

A young girl describes what she, her brother, and their mother do during the year that her doctor father is serving in the Army in Vietnam.

**Testa, Maria.** - *Something about America* Candlewick Press, 2005., RL , 84p

Presents a collection of poems that relate a fictional story, inspired by actual events, where a young girl struggles with the difficulty of growing up in America as an immigrant from Kosova, Yugoslavia.

**Wayland, April Halprin.** - *Girl coming in for a landing : a novel in poems* Knopf , Distributed by Random House, c2002., 134p A collection of over 100 poems recounting the ups and downs of one adolescent girl's school year.

**Wolf, Allan.** - *New found land : a novel* - Candlewick Press, 2004., RL 5.7, 500p

The letters and thoughts of Thomas Jefferson, members of the Corps of Discovery, their guide Sacagawea, and Captain Lewis's Newfoundland dog, all tell of the historic exploratory expedition to seek a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

**YA Wolff, Virginia Euwer.** - *True believer* -Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to

***Make lemonade*** - Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, trying to earn the money for college, takes a job caring for the two children of Jolly, a single teenage mom, and must find the courage to make the right decision for all of them after Jolly is fired.

**Woodson, Jacqueline.** - *Locomotion*-- Putnam's, c2003., RL 6.8, 100p

Inspired by his teacher, eleven-year-old Lonnie begins to write about his life in a series of poems in which he discusses his feelings about his friends, his foster mom, his little sister Lili, and the death of his parents.

## Historical Fiction- We've Always been At-Risk

**YA** \* *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party,* by M.T. Anderson (in Revolutionary-era Boston until learning he's the subject of a chilling science experiment about the nature of race. Ambitious and original, written in pseudo-18th-century prose. Printz Honor Book. 2006 - **YA** *The Kingdom on the Waves* - 2008 - *Continues the search for identity for Octavian Nothing the slave.*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** - *Fever, 1793*

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. \*\*\* *Chains* - 2008 - After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

**Avi,** *Crispin: the Cross of Lead.* - Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. \* *Crispin - to the Edge of the world* - Sequel to: *Crispin, the cross of lead.* Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl.

\* **Cushman, Karen.** - *The Loud Silence of Francine Green* This novel is set in 1949 Los Angeles at the beginning of anti-Communist fever and atom-bomb concerns. Francine, age thirteen, does her best to fly under the radar at her repressive Catholic school. Then she befriends nonconformist Sophie and learns about "free speech and improving the world and not being so afraid of trouble."

**Rodzina** - A twelve-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.

**Matilda Bone Catherine Called Birdy** *The Midwife's Apprentice. Ballad of Lucy Whipple*

\*\*\* **Donnelly, Jennifer.** - *A Northern Light*

Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.

\*\*\* **Draper, Sharon M.** - *Copper Sun,* Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

**Lasky, Kathryn.** - *Beyond the divide*

In 1849, a fourteen-year-old Amish girl defies convention by leaving her secure home in Pennsylvania to accompany her father across the continent by wagon train.

\*\*\* **Larson, Kirby.** - *Hattie Big Sky* - Sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana in 1917 and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe.

**\*Lawrence, Iain, 1955-** - *The Convicts* - His efforts to avenge his father's unjust imprisonment force fourteen-year-old Tom Tin into the streets of nineteenth-century London, but after he is convicted of murder, Tom is eventually sent to Australia where he has a surprise reunion.

*Lord of the nutcracker men* - An English boy during World War I comes to believe that the battles he enacts with his toy soldiers control the war his father is fighting on the front.

- *The smugglers* - In eighteenth-century England, after his father buys a schooner called the Dragon, sixteen-year-old John sets out to sail it from Kent to London and becomes involved in a dangerous smuggling scheme.- *The buccaneers* - In the eighteenth century sixteen-year-old John Spencer sails from England in his schooner, the Dragon, to the Caribbean, where he and the crew encounter pirates, fierce storms, fever, and a strange man who some fear may be cursed.- *The wreckers* - Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the Cornish coastal town where they are stranded

\*\*\* **Meyer, L. A. (Louis A.), 1942-** - *Bloody Jack : being an account of the curious adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, ship's boy PLUS FIVE SEQUELS (* Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates

**Karr, Kathleen.** - *Bone Dry-* In the 1840s, Dr. Asa B. Cornwall, a phrenologist, and his fourteen-year-old assistant, Matthew Morrissey, travel from Paris to Northern Africa to seek the missing skull of Alexander the Great. - *Skullduggery*

In 1839, twelve-year-old Matthew's job as assistant to the phrenologist Dr. Cornwall takes him up and down the Eastern Seaboard and to Europe, as they rob graves and try to find out who is following them and why.

**Park, Linda Sue.** - *When My Name was Keoko*

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.- *A Single Shard* - Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

\*\*\* **(in Spanish, too)Ryan, Pam Munoz.** - *Esperanza rising*

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

\*\*\* **(in Spanish, too)Ryan, Pam Munoz.** - *Becoming Naomi Leon* - Eleven-year-old Naomi's long-absent mother shows up at the trailer park where Naomi, her brother, and their great-grandmother have been happily living for the past seven years. With its quirky characterizations and folksy atmosphere, this engrossing family drama resembles a Sharon Creech novel on the surface, but it has its own uniquely affecting emotional core.

\*\*\* **Schmidt, Gary D.** - *Wednesday Wars* - During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

**\*\*\*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster boy** -- Clarion Books, c2004., RL 6.4, 219p 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.

**Skurzynski, Gloria.** - *Spider's voice*

Because he is a young mute person who can hear, Aran becomes involved in the adventures of Eloise and Abelard, France's most famous lovers, who lived during the twelfth century

**Yolen, Jane.** - *The Devil's Arithmetic*

Hannah resents stories of her Jewish heritage and of the past until, when opening the door during a Passover Seder, she finds herself in Poland during World War II where she experiences the horrors of a concentration camp, and learns why she-- and we--need to remember the past

**Yolen, Jane.** - *Girl in a cage*

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England's King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display.

- *Queen's own fool : a novel of Mary Queen of Scots* When twelve-year-old Nicola leaves Troupe Brufort and serves as the fool for Mary, Queen of Scots, she experiences the political and religious upheavals in both France and Scotland.

**\*\*\*YA Zusak., Markus** *The Book Thief*, Death, a dispassionate collector of souls, describes his moving encounters with Liesel Meminger, a foster child in Nazi Germany who takes to stealing books before they end up in bonfires. Books are her salvation, and they bind her close to Max, the kind, artistic Jew hidden in the basement. A rich, extraordinary read. Printz Honor Book.

## **Focus on the At Risk Profound and The Pithy Authors -**

**Anderson, Laurie Halse** - *Speak* - A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

**\*\*\*YAProm** - 2005- Eighteen-year-old Ash wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ash's involvement transforms her life.

**\*\*\*YATwisted** - 2007 -After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

**\*\*\* Bauer, Joan-Hope was here** - When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

-*Backwater* -While compiling a genealogy of her family of successful attorneys, sixteen-year-old history buff Ivy Breedlove treks into the mountain wilderness to interview a reclusive aunt with whom she identifies and who in turn helps her to truly know herself and her family

More Bauer Books - ***Squashed*** - As sixteen-year-old Ellie pursues her two goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own.

- ***Thwonk*** - A cupid doll comes to life and offers romantic assistance to A.J., a teenage photographer suffering from unrequited love.

***Rules of the road*** - Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.

***Best Foot Forward*** - Between school and Al-Anon meetings, Jenna helps Mrs. Gladstone cope with escalating problems that result from the merger of Gladstone Shoes with Shoe Warehouse Corporation, while managing a new employee with a shoplifting record.

**\*Cooney, Caroline B - *Diamond in the Shadow*** - A middle-class family in Connecticut agrees through their church to shelter an African refugee family, never noticing abundant clues that the Amabos aren't a real family and that they have a dangerous past that has followed them from Africa. **\*Code Orange** - Mitty Blake is searching for his infectious disease report topic. Unfortunately, the search turns into a nightmare when Mitty finds two scabs in an old medical book in his family's weekend house. The scabs are variola major, a virus that has the potential to kill everyone in New York City. While searching on the Internet, Mitty and his friend, Olivia, inadvertently, tip off terrorists about his findings. This leads to Mitty's kidnapping and the terrorists' plans to use him as a human biological weapon against the people of New York. Sympathetic readers will rally around Mitty and his heroic efforts against terrorist in this modern day thriller.--***Driver's Ed, The Terrorist, Face on the Milk Carton*** ..

**Cormier, Robert. - All are pretty much YA**

***The Chocolate War*** - A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

***The rag and bone shop : a novel*** - Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

***Beyond the chocolate war : a novel*** - Dark deeds continue at Trinity High School, climaxing in a public demonstration of one student's homemade guillotine.

***We all fall down*** - As The Avenger searches for the teenage boys who trashed a house in his neighborhood, Buddy, one of the trashers, increases his drinking in order to cope with his parents' separation. . . ***In the middle of the night*** - Sixteen-year-old Denny lives in the shadow of a deadly accident with which his father was connected when he was Denny's age, a disaster for which some of the survivors still blame his father.

***After the first death*** - The hijacking of a bus of children by terrorists is described from the perspectives of a hostage, a terrorist, an Army general involved in the rescue operation, and the general's son who has been chosen as the go-between.

***Frenchtown summer*** - A series of vignettes in free verse in which the writer reminisces about his life as a twelve-year-old boy living in a small town during the hot summer of 1938.

***Tunes for Bears to dance to*** - Eleven-year-old Henry escapes his family's problems by watching the woodcarving of Mr. Levine, an elderly Holocaust survivor, but when Henry is manipulated into betraying his friend he comes to know true evil.

**YA favorite -Crutcher, Chris.** - *Whale talk* - Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

*Chinese handcuffs* - Still troubled by his older brother's violent suicide, eighteen-year-old Dillon becomes deeply involved in the terrible secret of his friend Jennifer, who feels she can tell no one what her stepfather is doing to her.

*Stotan!* -A high school coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.

*Running loose* - Louie, a high school senior in a small Idaho town, learns about sportsmanship, love, and death as he matures into manhood.

Athletic shorts : six short stories -A collection of short stories featuring characters from earlier books by Chris Crutcher.

*Ironman* : a novel -

While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school which leads him to examine his relationship with his father.

*Staying fat for Sarah Byrnes* -The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

Myers, Walter Dean

*Fallen angels* -Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

*Monster* -While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

*Slam!*

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

*Shooter*- Written in the form of interviews, reports, and journal entries, the story of three troubled teenagers ends in a tragic school shooting.

**OTHER great Authors for Teens**

Blume, Judy, *Tiger Eyes*

Hobbs, Will *Downriver, River Thunder, Wild Man Island, Bearstone, The Maze, Far North*

Peck, Richard - *The River Between Us, A Long way from Chicago : a novel in stories A year down yonder and Fair Weather are great for 4<sup>th</sup> grade through 8th.*

Thomas, Rob Rats *Saw God, Satellite Down, Slave Day*

## Odd Couples or Love doesn't Always Work in Ways We Expect

**YA Bechard, Margaret.** - *Hanging on to Max*

When his girlfriend decides to give their baby away, seventeen-year-old Sam is determined to keep him and raise him alone.

**YA Brooks, Martha,** *True confessions of a heartless girl*

A confused seventeen-year-old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly women, and a sad and lonely man, with their own individual tragedies to bear, come together in a small Manitoba town and find a way to a better future.

**YA Dessen, Sarah.** \*\*\***Just Listen** - Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

**YA The truth about forever** -The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

**YA This Lullaby : a novel** Remy, a master at getting rid of boyfriends before any emotional attachments form, finds herself strangely unwilling to free herself from Dexter, a messy, disorganized, impulsive musician who she suspects she has come to love.

**Dreamland** -After her older sister runs away, sixteen-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

**YA Freymann-Weyr, Garret My Heartbeat** -As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, fourteen-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing.

**Green, John. YA Looking for Alaska** - Dutton, c2005. Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. -

\*\*\* **YA Abundance of Katherines** - Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

**Friesen, Gayle.** - *Losing forever* Jes feels her normal life slipping away when her best friend, Dell, falls in love with a jerk, her mother announces plans to remarry, and her soon-to-be stepsister comes to stay for the month before the wedding.

-**Men of Stone** - Ben is having problems making sense of his life and fitting in at his high school, but when his Great-Aunt Frieda comes to visit, her stories about her childhood in Russia help Ben discover who he is and who he wants to be.

-**Janey's girl** Fourteen-year old Claire spends August on the family farm and learns her family's secrets.

**\*\* (These are so fun for mystery fans) Hautman, Pete -*Snatched* -2006** - Too curious for her own good, Roni, crime reporter for her high school newspaper, teams up with Brian, freshman science geek, to investigate the beating and kidnapping of a classmate. ***Scullduggery* - 2007** During a field trip in the local woods, Roni and Brian find the local archaeology professor, Andrew Dart, knocked unconscious in a cave, which leads them to investigate a land development scheme. ***Doppelganger* - 2008** - High school newspaper reporter Roni Delicata finds an age-progressed photo of a missing child that looks just like her sidekick, Brian, throwing the pair into an investigation of Brian's past and family heritage.

**YA Johnson, Angela. - *The first part last***

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter

**Oates, Joyce Carol, - *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl***

When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

**Peters, Julie Anne. - *Define "normal" : a novel***

When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

**\*\*\*Van Draanen, Wendelin. - *Flipped***

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

**Diaryish or Everyday Life is a Roller Coaster**

**Baskin, Nora Raleigh. - *What every girl (except me) knows : a novel***

Twelve-year-old Gabby feels that she needs a mother to help her grow into a woman, so when things between her father and his latest girlfriend do not work out, Gabby set off for the last place she remembers seeing her own mother.

**\*\*\*Brashares, Ann. - *Forever in Blue* - As their lives take them in different directions, Lena, Tibby, Carmen, and Bridget discover many more things about themselves and the importance of their relationship with each other. *The sisterhood of the traveling pants***

Carmen decides to discard an old pair of jeans, but Tibby, Lena, and Bridget think they are great and decide that whoever the pants fit best will get them. When the jeans fit everyone perfectly, a sisterhood and a memorable summer begin. ***The second summer of the sisterhood***

A sequel to "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" in which the four girls, now sixteen, embark on another summer of travels and life lessons charmed by a shared pair of seemingly magical thrift-store jeans. ***Girls in Pants Third Summer***

**Kinney, Jeff. - *Diary of a wimpy kid : Greg Heffley's journal* - Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.**

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid; Roderick Rules** - Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother, Rodrick, from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

**\*\*\*Lubar, David. *Hidden Talents Sleeping Freshman Never Lie*** - As he fumbles through his freshman year of high school, Scott creates a survival manual to pass along to his not-yet-born sibling, wittily cataloging advice while mulling over changes in his family, friends, and social standing. Smart and likable, Scott is an engaging narrator with a penchant for word games and a snappy sense of humor.

**\*\*\*Rennison, Louise. - *Angus, thongs and full-frontal snogging : confessions of Georgia Nicolson*** -Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie

***Dancing in my nuddy-pants : even further confessions of Georgia Nicolson***

An English teenager tries to decide whether her musician boyfriend Robbie, whom she may get the chance to accompany on tour, is her one and only, or if her ex, Dave the Laugh, could fill his shoes. ***Away laughing on a fast camel : even more confessions of Georgia Nicolson***

***Away laughing on a fast camel : even more confessions of Georgia Nicolson*** --And a zillion more Sequels.

**VERY YA \_ Trope, Zoe. - *Please don't kill the freshman : a memoir*** HarperTempest, 2004, c2003., RL , 312p A memoir of the then-fifteen-year-old author's high school experience to that point, in which diary entries reflect her struggles, angst, and rebellion.

### **Disabilities - Myself-My Family -My Friend...**

**\*\*\*Armstrong, Alan W. - *Whittington*** - Random House, c2005., RL 3.8, 191p

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

**\*\*\*Choldenko, Gennifer, 1957- - *Al Capone does my shirts***

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.

**Clements, Andrew, 1949- - *Things Not Seen***

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

**Holt, Kimberly Willis. - *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town***

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

- ***My Louisiana sky*** - Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

**Jordan, Sherryl. - *The Raging quiet***

Suspicious of sixteen-year-old Marnie, a newcomer to their village, the residents accuse her of witchcraft when she discovers that the village madman is not crazy but deaf and she begins to communicate with him through hand gestures.

**YA Koertge, Ronald. - *Stoner & Spaz***

A troubled youth with cerebral palsy struggles toward self-acceptance with the help of a drug-addicted young woman

**Lawrence, Iain, 1955- - *Ghost Boy***

Unhappy in a home seemingly devoid of love, a fourteen-year-old albino boy who thinks of himself as Harold the Ghost runs away to join the circus, where he works with the elephants and searches for a sense of who he is. Includes reading group discussion guide.

\*\*\***Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*** "A boy can take off his shirt to swim, but not his shorts." Twelve-year-old Catherine creates rules for her younger, autistic brother, David in an attempt to normalize his life and her own. But what is normal? Lord's heroine learns to use words to forge connections with David, her workaholic father, and a paraplegic friend..

\*\*\***Martin, Ann M., - *A corner of the universe***

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.

**Mikaelsen, Ben, 1952- - *Petey***

In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

**Trueman, Terry. - *Stuck in Neutral***

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

\*\*\***Woodson, Jacqueline. *Feathers*** - 2007 - When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

**When Earth Becomes Unbearable -**

**Try Other Worlds Fantasy and Science Fiction**

\*\*\* **Appelt, Kathi -*The Underneath*** - 2008 - An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

\*\*\***Anderson, M. T. - *Feed*** (Very unique to listen to on tape- very edgy)

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

Appelt, *The Underneath*

\*\*\***Barry, Dave. -*Peter and the Starcatchers*** Hyperion Books for Children, c2004., RL 6.5, 451p Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

***Peter and the Shadow Thieves*** - Peter must visit London to help his friend Molly and her family of starcatchers locate the missing starstuff, leaving the boys on Mollusk Island at the mercy of Hook. ***Peter and the secret of Rundoon***- Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff.

\*\*\***Card, Orson Scott. - *Ender's game*** -Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

***Ender's shadow*** **Sequel** Bean must overcome his past and prove to the recruiters at the Battle School that he can help save the planet from an alien invasion.

**\*\*Colfer, Eoin. # 1 *Artemis Fowl***

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

**\*\* - # 2 *Artemis Fowl : the eternity code*** -Artemis Fowl creates an extraordinarily powerful computer with stolen fairy technology, but his business deal hopes go sour when a Chicago businessman steals his invention and mortally wounds Artemis's loyal bodyguard.

**\*\*\*# 3 *Artemis Fowl : the Arctic incident*** -Thirteen-year-old criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl must join forces with his nemesis, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon fairy police, in order to save his father--one of the few people in the world Artemis loves--who has been kidnapped by the Russian Mafiya.

**\*\*\* # 4 *Artemis fowl the opal deception***- After having his memory of all things fairy wiped clean, fourteen-year-old Artemis finds himself in the company of elves, dwarves, and pixies who all claim to know him--and one of whom wants him dead.

**\*\*\* - #5 *Artemis Fowl : the lost colony* \*\*\*#6 *Artemis Fowl and Time Paradox 2008* - Eberhardt, Thom. - *Rat Boys : a dating experiment***

Fourteen-year-olds Marci and Summer use a magic ring to turn two rats into cute boys so that they can have dates for the Spring Fling.

**\*\*Farmer, Nancy, *The House of Scorpion***

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. \****Sea of Trolls*** - After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

**\*\*Funke, Cornelia Caroline. - *Inkheart*** -Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story. **\*\*\**Inkspell-Sequel*** - When Dustfinger finds a crooked storyteller who can read him back to Inkscape, he leaves his apprentice Farid behind; but Farid seeks out Meggie and the two follow him back into the enchanted book.

-**\*\*\* *Dragon Rider*** - After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.

**\*\*\*Gaiman, Neil. - *Stardust*** - Young Tristran Thorn, having lost his heart to the lovely but cold Victoria Forester, leaves the safe English town of Wall and sets out into a strange world on a quest to retrieve a fallen star he has promised to his beloved.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson- *Among the Hidden*** -In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

- ***Among the Barons*** (Shadow Children) - ***Among the betrayed*** Thirteen-year-old Nina is imprisoned by the Population Police, who give her the option of helping them identify illegal "third-born" children, or facing death.

- ***Among the impostors*** - In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, third-born Luke has been in hiding for the entire twelve years of his life, until he enters boarding school under an assumed name and is forced to face his fears.

- ***Turnabout*** - Melly and Anny Beth were selected for Project Turnabout and were given an injection to make them grow younger. It worked - but the follow-up shot, which was supposed to stop the unaging process, has killed everyone who has taken it.

\*\*\*-***Found*** - 2008 - When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

\*\*\***Hale, Shannon.** - ***The Goose Girl*** - Bloomsbury, Distributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2003. Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

\*\*\****Princess Academy*** - While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

\*\*\***Hautman, Pete,** - ***Rash*** -2006- In a future society that has decided it would "rather be safe than free," sixteen-year-old Bo's anger management problems land him in a tundra jail where he survives with the help of his running skills and an artificial intelligence program named Bork.

\*\*\***Landy, Derek** - ***Skulduggery Pleasant*** - 2007 - When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

\*\*\***Law, Ingrid** - ***Savvy*** - 2008 - 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.

**Kindl, Patrice.** - ***Goose chase*** - Rather than marry a cruel king or a seemingly dim-witted prince, an enchanted goose girl endures imprisonment, capture by several ogresses, and other dangers, before learning exactly who she is.

**Leonard, Elmore** - ***A Coyote's in the House*** When Antwan, a coyote, chases a mouse into Buddy and Miss Betty's back yard, he ends up moving right in--the idea is that he and Buddy are going to trade experiences, he as a pampered house pet and Buddy as a wild dog of the hills

**Morris, Gerald,** ***The squire's tale*** -In medieval England, fourteen-year-old Terence finds his tranquil existence suddenly changed when he becomes the squire of the young Gawain of Orkney and accompanies him on a long quest, proving Gawain's worth as a knight and revealing an important secret about his own true identity.

-*The princess, the crone, and the dung-cart knight.*

- *The savage damsel and the dwarf*

- *The squire, his knight, & his lady* After several years at King Arthur's court, Terence, as - *Parsifal's page* -

**Nicholson, William.** - *The Wind Singer : an adventure*

After Kestrel Hath rebels against the stifling rules of Amaranth society and is forced to flee, she, along with her twin brother and a tagalong classmate, follow an ancient map in quest of the legendary silver voice of the wind singer, in an attempt to heal Amaranth and its people.

**\*\*\*Nimmo, Jenny.** - *Midnight for Charlie Bone and all the Seven Other Charlie bones*

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking.

**\*\*\*Paolini, Christopher.** - *Eragon* - In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. - *Eldest and Brisingr*

**Pierce, Tamora.** - *First test*

Ten-year-old Keladry of Mindalen, daughter of nobles, serves as a page but must prove herself to the males around her if she is ever to fulfill her dream of becoming a knight.

**\*\*Sandry's book** - Four young misfits find themselves living in a strictly disciplined temple community where they become friends while also learning to do crafts and to use their powers, especially magic. Tris's Book

**\*\* Alanna : the first adventure** - Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, and proves to be capable of high adventure

**\*\*\* #1\*Riordan, Rick.** - *Lightening Thief* Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld **\*\*#2 The Sea of Monsters** Percy and his friends set out to find his best friend, Grover, who is held prisoner on an island somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle, before heading out to save Camp Half-Blood from mythological monsters.

**\*\*\*#3 The Titan's curse**, The disappearance of the goddess Artemis while out hunting a rare, ancient monster, prompts a group of her followers to join Percy and his friends in an attempt to find and rescue her before the winter solstice, when her influence is needed to sway the Olympian Council regarding the war with the Titans.

**#4 The Battle of the Labyrinth** c2008 When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the to Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near.

**#5 The Last Olympian** -

**\*\*\*Pratchett, Terry.** - *The Amazing Maurice and his educated rodents*

A talking cat, intelligent rats, and a strange boy cooperate in a Pied Piper scam until they try to con the wrong town and are confronted by a deadly evil rat king.

- *The Wee Free Men* - Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue toughs, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland.

- *The Bromeliad trilogy* - After generations of existing in the human-sized world, a group of four-inch-high nomes discover their true nature and origin, with the help of a black square called the Thing.

**Rosoff, Meg.** - *How I live now*-- Wendy Lamb Books, c2004., RL 6.9, 194p

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.

**Sleator, William.** - *The boy who couldn't die* When his best friend dies in a plane crash, sixteen-year-old Ken has a ritual performed that will make him invulnerable, but soon learns that he had good reason to be suspicious of the woman he paid to lock his soul away.

*The beasties* - When fifteen-year-old Doug and his younger sister Colette move with their parents to a forested wilderness area, they encounter some weird creatures whose lives are endangered.

**Sleater, William cont.** - *The Boxes* - When she opens two strange boxes left in her care by her mysterious uncle, fifteen-year-old Annie discovers a swarm of telepathic creatures and unleashes a power capable of slowing down time.

*Rewind* - Not long after learning that he was adopted, eleven-year-old Peter is hit by a car and then given several chances to alter events that could lead to his death.

*House of stairs* Five sixteen-year-old orphans of widely varying personality characteristics are involuntarily placed in a house of endless stairs as subjects for a psychological experiment on conditioned human response.

**Boy Who could Die** - 2005 - When his best friend dies in a plane crash, sixteen-year-old Ken has a ritual performed that will make him invulnerable, but soon learns that he had good reason to be suspicious of the woman he paid to lock his soul away.

**Yolen, Jane.** - *Pit Dragon Trilogy: Dragon's Blood*

Jakkin, a bond boy who works as a Keeper in a dragon nursery on the planet Austar IV, secretly trains a fighting pit dragon of his own in hopes of winning his freedom.

**Vande Velde, Vivian.** - *Dragon's bait* Wrongly condemned of witchcraft, fifteen-year-old Alys is tempted to take revenge on her accusers when the dragon to which she has been sacrificed turns out to be an ally. - *Smart dog* -Fifth grader Amy finds her life growing complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent, talking dog who has escaped from a university lab.

\*\*\* #1 **Stroud, Jonathan.** - *The Amulet of Samarkand* -- Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 2004, Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

- \*\*\*#2 *The golem's eye* -- Hyperion Books for Children, c2004., RL 8.9, 562p

In their continuing adventures, magician's apprentice Nathaniel, now fourteen years old, and the djinni Bartimaeus travel to Prague to locate the source of a golem's power before it destroys London.

\*\*\*#3-*Ptolemy's gate* -- Hyperion Books For Children, c2006., RL 6.4, 501p Bartimaeus, Nathaniel, and Kitty face treacherous magicians and an enemy from "The Other Place" that threatens London and the world.

**Vande Velde, Vivian.** *Never trust a dead man*

In the medieval village of Penryth, seventeen-year-old Selwyn sets out to find the real killer of Farold, a young man he has been wrongfully convicted of murdering, with Farold himself as his only companion, brought back to life in the form of a bat by a cave-dwelling witch.

## The Horror of it All or High Anxiety

**Gaiman, Neil.** *Coraline*. -When Coraline steps through the locked doors in her family's new flat, she finds a world which caters to her every whim. But when she wants to leave, things turn unpleasant.

\*\*\**The Graveyard Book* - 2008 - The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.

**Klause, Annette Curtis.** - **She wrote about Vampires before Meyers** - *The Silver Kiss*

A mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's terminal illness. - *Blood and chocolate*

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

**King, Stephen** - *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* - Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland, lost in the woods after she wanders off to escape the bickering between her mom and her brother, boosts her courage by imagining that her hero, Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Tom Gordon, is with her, helping her survive an unknown enemy.

\*\*\***Meyer, Stephanie** *Twilight* Seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, where she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

\*\*\**New Moon* \*\*\**Eclipse* \*\*\**Breaking Dawn* are sequels and great to listen to.

\***Richards, Justin** *Death Collector* -2007 - Four days after his own funeral, Albert Wilkes came home for tea. Three teens and a curator of unclassified artifacts at the British Museum match wits with a madman determined to use unorthodox methods to reanimate the dead, both humans and dinosaurs.

\*\*\***Pfeffer, Susan Beth.** - *Life as We Knew It* - 2007- Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

**YA Prue, Sally.** - *The Devil's Toenail* When he finds a strange weathered stone on the beach, thirteen-year-old Steve decides to pretend that it has mysterious powers that can protect him from bullying and can help him impress the gang he wants to join.

**Shan, Darren.** - *Cirque du freak and Thirteen Sequels*

Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices.

**Vande Velde, Vivian.** -

*Brothers Grim and Sisters Weird* and *The Rumpelstiltskin Problem*

Satire of the famous fairy tales. Excellent for teaching style.

**Vande Velde** - *Magic can be murder* Nola and her mother have unusual abilities that have always set them apart from others, but when Nola sees a murder using her power to call up images using water and a person's hair, she finds herself in the worst danger ever.

- *Companions of the night* When sixteen-year-old Kerry Nowicki helps a young man escape from a group of men who claim he is a vampire, she finds herself faced with some bizarre and dangerous choices.

- *Heir apparent*-While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

\*\*\***Westerfeld, Scott** *So Yesterday*— Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture. \*\*\***Uglies** \*\* *Pretties* \*\* *Specials* These futuristic novels look at what happens to a society when it structures itself to be beautiful, safe, and focused exclusively on entertainment.

**Windsor, Patricia.** *The Bleeding.* When Maris decides she's had enough of her mother's constant picking, a summer au pair job seems like a perfect escape. But she quickly finds that the Forrest house isn't as peaceful as it seems.

**Zindel, Paul.** - *Rats*

When mutant rats threaten to take over Staten Island, which has become a huge landfill, fourteen-year-old Sarah and her younger brother Mike try to figure out how to stop them.

*Night of the bat* - Teenage Jake joins his father on an expedition to study bats in the Brazilian rain forest and finds the project menaced by a giant brain-eating bat.

"**Zindel, Paul**" - *Raptor* Zack and his Ute Indian friend find themselves trapped in a cave with a living dinosaur - the deadly Utahraptor.

\*\*\*He was one of the Original Young Adult Angst Novelist-

\*\*\***Zevin, Gabrielle** *Elsewhere* - After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

## **Surviving My Family...My Dreams...My Religion... My Life**

\*\*\***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 Native American is the school mascot.

**Anderson, M. T.** - *Burger Wuss* -Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O'Dermott's.

\*\***Anderson, Laurie Halse.** - *Catalyst*

Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

**Bardi, Abby.** - *The Book of Fred*

A sheltered fifteen-year-old girl named Mary Fred Anderson is removed from her home in a fundamentalist sect and placed in foster care in a Washington, D.C. suburb, where a violent act upon her new family has an indelible impact on her, making her reexamine her long-held beliefs

**\*\*\*Birdsall, Jeanne. - *The Penderwicks : a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy*** -- Knopf , Distributed by Random House, c2005., RL 5.6, 262p

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. *The Penderwicks on Garden Street* - 2008 -The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.

**Clements, Andrew, *The School Story***

After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novel, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.

**Clements, Andrew. - *A week in the woods***

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

**Clement, Andrew. *The Jacket*** - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2002Sixth-grader Phil comes to an awareness of his own racial prejudice after he sees Daniel, an African-American boy, wearing his brother's one-of-a-kind jacket and leaps to the conclusion that Daniel has stolen the coat.

**Codell, Esme Raji. - *Sahara special*** -- Hyperion Books For Children, c2003., RL 4.6, 175p

Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

**Creech, Sharon. - *Granny Torrelli makes soup***-- Joanna Cotler Books, c2003., RL 4.5, 141p

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

**Creech, Sharon. - *Replay : a new book*** -- Joanna Cotler Books, c2005., RL 5.1, 180p While preparing for a role in the school play, twelve-year-old Leo finds an autobiography that his father wrote as a teenager and ponders the ways people change. Includes the text for the play, "Rumpopo's Porch."

**Coman, Carolyn. *Many stones*** - After her sister Laura is murdered in South Africa, Berry and her estranged father travel there to participate in the dedication of a memorial in her name

**Cumyn, Alan - *The Secret Life of Owen Skye*** Cumyn tells a series of connected stories about young Owen Skye and his two brothers, Andy and Leonard. Their adventures are, by turns, funny, frightening, and genuinely dangerous

**Fama, Elizabeth. - *Overboard***

Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith.

**Friesen, Gayle. - *Men of stone***

Ben is having problems making sense of his life and fitting in at his high school, and when his Great-Aunt Frieda comes to visit, her stories about her childhood in Russia help Ben discover who he is and who he wants to be.

**\*\*\* This is a wonderful reading by Simon Jones Funke, Cornelia Caroline. - *The Thief Lord***

Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children

**\*\*Hannigan, Katherine. - *Ida B-- : and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world--***

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader 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.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson. - *Takeoffs and landings*** An overweight, timid fifteen-year-old boy and his popular fourteen-year-old sister begin to overcome their guilt over their father's death and reconnect with each other and their emotionally-distant mother when they accompany her on a two-week speaking tour

**Nolan, Han. *Dancing on the edge.*** -A young girl from a dysfunctional family creates for herself an alternative world which nearly results in her death but which ultimately leads her to reality

**\*\*\* All of these are great to listen to on Audio Horowitz, Anthony - *Stormbreaker*** - After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. Sequels: ***Point Blank, Scorpio, Eagle Strike Snakehead Skeleton Key Ark Angel***

**Going, Kelly. - *Fat kid rules the world***

Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly three hundred pounds, gets a new perspective on life when Curt, a semi-homeless teen who is a genius on guitar, asks Troy to be the drummer in a rock band.

**\*\*Henkes, Kevin. - *Olive's ocean***

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

**\*\*\*Hiaasen, Carl. - *Hoot*** Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. \*

**\*\*\*Scat** - 2009 -Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

*Flush* is good, too.

**Hoffman, Mary, 1945- - *Stravaganza : city of masks*** While sick in bed with cancer, Lucien begins making journeys to a place in a parallel world that resembles Venice, Italy, and he becomes caught up in the political intrigues surrounding the Duchessa who rules the city.

**Hurwin, Davida, *The Farther You Run***

Even with a new best friend and a new boyfriend, Samantha has a hard time adjusting to life without her best friend Juliana, who died of cancer.

**YA *A time for dancing : a novel***

Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer.

**YA Klass, David. - *Home of the Braves***

Eighteen-year-old Joe, captain of the soccer team, is dismayed when a hotshot player shows up from Brazil and threatens to take over both the team and the girl whom Joe hopes to date.

**YA *You don't know me*** Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful, but shallow classmate, and other problems at school.

**Koja, Kathe. - *Buddha boy* 2003.,**

Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual and artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call Buddha Boy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school.

**Konigsburg, E. L. - *The view from Saturday***

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

- ***Silent to the bone*** - When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.- ***The outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place*** 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.

**\*\*\*Korman, Gordon. - *Son of the Mob*** Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.- **\*YA\* *Jake Reinvented*** - 2004 - Rick becomes friends with the popular new boy, Jake Garrett, football player and host of superlative parties, and in the process discovers the true nature of his schoolmates and uncovers the mystery of Jake's past.**YA\*\*\* *Born to Rock***, c2006-High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

**Lowery, Lois - *The Willoughbys*** - 2008 - A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

**YA \*\*\*McCaughrean, Geraldine. - *The White Darkness : a novel* 2007,**

Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone--a troubled fourteen year old--discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth.

**YA Mackler, Carolyn. - *The Earth, My Butt, and other Big Round Things***

Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, fifteen-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.

**\*\*Martel, Yann. - *Life of Pi : a novel* ALEX AWARD**

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

**Mikaelsen, Ben, YA *Tree Girl*** When, protected by the branches of one of the trees she loves to climb, Gabriela witnesses the destruction of her Mayan village and the murder of nearly all its inhabitants, she vows never to climb again until, after she and her traumatized sister find safety in a Mexican refugee camp, she realizes that only by climbing and facing their fears can she and her sister hope to have a future.- **\*\*\* *Touching Spirit Bear*** -After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.- ***Red midnight*** - After soldiers kill his family, twelve-year-old Santiago and his four-year-old sister flee Guatemala in a kayak and try to reach the United States.

**Na, An, - *A step from heaven***

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

**\*\*\*O'Connor, Barbara. - *How to steal a dog : a novel* 2007.**, Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

**\*\*Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky*.** In the California desert community of Hard Pan (population 43), 10-year-old Lucky Trimble eavesdrops on 12-step program meetings from her hiding place behind Hard Pan's Found Object Wind Chime Museum & Visitor Center. Eccentric characters and quirky details spice up Lucky's life just as parsley embellishes her guardian Brigitte's French cuisine.

**\*Pennypacker, Sara. \*\*\**Clementine*.** Illus. by Marla Frazee. Hyperion. Perceptive text and animated line drawings bring to life third-grader Clementine, who is not an easy child. Despite good intentions, things often go wrong for her; she pays attention, but not to the things that grownups think are important.- ***The Talented Clementine***

Eight-year-old Clementine, convinced that she has no talents, tries to find a way to avoid participating in the class talent show.

**\*\*\*Pixley, Marcella Fleischman. - *Freak*** -- Twelve-year-old Miriam, poetic, smart, and quirky, is considered a freak by the popular girls at her middle school, and she eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had.

**Perkins, Lynne Rae. - *All alone in the universe***

Debbie is dismayed when her best friend Maureen starts spending time with ordinary, boring Glenna.

**\*\*Perkins, Lynne Rae. - *Criss cross*** -- Greenwillow Books, c2005., RL 5.7, 337p

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.

**Plum-Ucci, Carol, YA *The Body of Christopher Creed***

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

**YA- *What happened to Lani Garver***

Sixteen-year-old Claire is unable to face her fears about a recurrence of her leukemia, her eating disorder, her need to fit in with the popular crowd on Hackett Island, and her mother's alcoholism until the enigmatic Lani Garver helps her get control of her life at the risk of his own.

**Sachar, Louis, *Small steps*** -- Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

**\*\* *Holes*** is on every list

**\*\*\* YA Sebold, Alice *High School Lovely Bones*** - Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon, the victim of a sexual assault and murder, looks on from the afterlife as her family deals with their grief, and waits for her killer to be brought to some type of justice

**Spinelli, Jerry. - *Loser*** - Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

- ***Crash***- Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

**\*\* - *Stargirl*** - In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

**\*\*\**LOVE, Stargirl***- Still moping months after being dumped by her Arizona boyfriend Leo, fifteen-year-old Stargirl, a home-schooled free spirit, writes "the world's longest letter" to Leo, describing her new life in Pennsylvania.

**Tolan, Stephanie S. - *Surviving the Applewhites***

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

**Vande Velde, Vivian. - *Alison, who went away*** Three years after the disappearance of her older sister, fourteen-year-old Sibyl and her family struggle to continue their lives, separately and together.

**YA Williams-Garcia, Rita. - *Every time a rainbow dies***

After seeing a girl raped and becoming obsessed with her, sixteen-year-old Thulani finds motivation to move beyond his interest in his birds and his grief over his mother's death.

**YA Wittlinger, Ellen. - *Hard love***

After starting to publish a magazine in which he writes his secret feelings about his lonely life and his parents' divorce, sixteen-year-old John meets an unusual girl and begins to develop a healthier personality.

**YA Woodson, Jaqueline -*Hush*** -Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.***If you come softly*** - After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with peoples' reactions.- ***Razzle*** -When his retired parents buy a group of tourist cabins on Cape Cod, fifteen-year-old Kenyon Baker's days are filled with repair work until he becomes friends with an eccentric girl and makes her the subject of a series of photographs - ***The long night of Leo and Bree***

On the anniversary of his sister's murder, Leo, tormented by his mother's insane accusations and his own waking nightmares, kidnaps a wealthy girl intending to kill her, but instead their long night together helps them both face their futures.

**\*\* \*Werlin Nancy *The Rules of Survival*.** In this gripping page turner, written as a letter to his younger sister, teenager Matt reveals the terror he and an older sister suffered at the hands of their unstable, sadistic mother. Matt, driven to protect his sisters, pegs his hope of rescue on his mother's new boyfriend, Murdoch.

**\*\* \*YA Impossible** - 2008 - When seventeen-year-old Lucy discovers her family is under an ancient curse by an evil Elfin Knight, she realizes that she must perform three impossible tasks before her daughter is born to break the curse and to save them both.

**Yang Gene Luen *American Born Chinese*,** Three story lines filled with humor, adventure and angst intertwine in this fast-paced but meaty graphic novel about a Chinese American boy's struggle to embrace his ethnic identity at a white high school. One story line features an over-the-top, bucktoothed caricature named Chin-Kee, who represents the racist stereotypes that Jin Wang is so desperate to escape. Printz Medal winner.

## **Non-Fiction- It Really Did Happen or It is Really the Truth**

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell.** - *Hitler Youth : growing up in Hitler's shadow* -- Scholastic, c2005., RL 7.2, 176pA photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.

**Blumberg, Rhoda.** - *York's adventures with Lewis and Clark : an African-American's part in the great expedition*- HarperCollins, c2004., RL 5.2, 88p

Relates the adventures of York, a slave and "body servant" to William Clark, who journeyed west with the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806.

**D'Aluisio, Faith *What the World Eats*** / Tricycle Press, 2008 - A collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Ecuador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a weeks worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country.

- *Women in the material world* is from 1996 but has valuable information still pertinent to women in the world.
- *Material World is from 1995* but still has valuable information. However, it really needs an update.

**Deem, James. *Bodies from the ice : melting glaciers and the rediscovery of the past*** - 2008- Examines the science of glaciers and looks at some of the discoveries of the past that have been made as the ice masses move and melt, including the preserved frozen remains of Otzi, the oldest human mummy ever found in ice, believed to be at least 5,300 years old.

**Freedman, Russell.** - *Children of the Great Depression* -- Clarion Books, c2005., RL 6.1, 118p Presents a collection of illustrated archival photographs describing children of the Great Depression, and draws upon memoirs, diaries, letters, and other first-hand accounts that look at the lives of young Americans during the 1930s.

**The Interactive History Adventures** All 2009. /Capstone Press,

Lassieur, Allison. *The Attack on Pearl Harbor : an interactive history adventure* - A brief description of the December 7, 1941, attack on the U.S. military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by Japanese forces from the perspective of a Japanese pilot, a U.S. sailor, and an American nurse. **Other Titles include...Battle of Bunker Hill ..... The Japanese American internment... , The Wild West... The California Gold Rush.....Mexican Immigrants...Irish Immigrants....** There 24 titles from Capstone.

Owen, David. - *Hidden Evidence: Forty True Crime Stories and How Forensic Science Helped to Solve Them.* Explains the scientific procedures that helped crack of 40 infamous headline grabbing crimes, from the gathering of physical clues, to the examination of weapons and bodies and the use of sophisticated scientific analysis. Includes the history of forensic science and the technologies that support it, including such things as gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

Murphy, Jim, 1947- - *An American plague : the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793* Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.

Philbrick, Nat. - *Revenge of the whale : the true story of the whaleship Essex* Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged sperm whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. Based on the author's adult book "In the Heart of the Sea."

Hooper, Meredith. - *The Endurance : Shackleton's perilous expedition in Antarctica* -Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1915 expedition across Antarctica.

Jurmain, Suzanne. - *The Forbidden schoolhouse : the true and dramatic story of Prudence Crandall and her students* Houghton Mifflin, 2005., RL 4.8, 150p

Chronicles the life and struggles of Prudence Crandall who, in the 1830s closed her all-white boarding school for girls in Canterbury, Connecticut, and began admitting African-American students; and describes the intense opposition from the townspeople.

Rogasky, Barbara. - *Smoke and ashes : the story of the Holocaust*

Tells the story of the Holocaust, tracing the origins of Nazi anti-Semitism; following the development of plans for the extermination of the Jews, with discussion of the ghettos, the final solution, deportations, the camps, resistance, rescuers, and other topics; and including responses to claims that the Holocaust never happened.

Myers, Walter Dean, *Now is your time! : the African-American struggle for freedom* A history of the African-American struggle for freedom and equality, beginning with the capture of Africans in 1619, continuing through the American Revolution, the Civil War, and into contemporary times.

## **ALL About Me, Her, Him or**

**Bernall, M. (Misty), *She said yes : the unlikely martyrdom of Cassie Bernall***

Misty Bernall, mother of one of the teenagers killed at Columbine High School, tells the story of her daughter's life, describing how Cassie had, at one point, started down a troubled path before dedicating her life to God, and sharing the details of the moment when Cassie's affirmation of faith resulted in her death.

**Codell, Esme Raji, - *Educating Esme : diary of a teacher's first year***

Presents the diary of teacher Esme Raji Codell's first year in charge of a fifth-grade classroom in an inner-city public school.

**Crutcher, Chris - *King of the Mild Frontier***

Chris Crutcher really brings Cascade, Idaho to life in his book *King of the Mild Frontier*. He explores what it's really like to grow up in a small logging town with a large imagination. Everyone views of his family as "perfect", but Chris takes you behind the scenes of his life and shows you what "perfect" really is.

**Gantos, Jack. - *Hole in my life*** The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

**Hart, Elva Trevino. *Barefoot heart : stories of a migrant child***

The author, born in south Texas to Mexican immigrants, provides an account of her life growing up in a family of migrant farm workers, and tells how she overcame the disadvantages of her youth to attend college and earn a master's degree in computer science/engineering.

**Partridge, Elizabeth. - *This land was made for you and me : the life & songs of Woody Guthrie*** -An illustrated biography of Woody Guthrie, composer of "This Land Is Your Land," and over three thousand other folk songs and ballads, telling about his travels throughout the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century, and discussing how his experiences influenced his music.

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

An illustrated biography of boxing great Muhammad Ali that addresses his politics, his fight against Parkinson's disease, and boxing's dangers.

**Myers, Walter Dean. - *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary***

Chronicles the life of controversial militant leader Malcolm X.

- ***Bad boy : a memoir*** Author Walter Dean Myers describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer.

**Spinelli, Jerry. - *Knots in my yo-yo string***: the autobiography of a

This Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

**Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. - *Ice Story : Shackleton's lost expedition***

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition, when the ship the *Endurance* was crushed in a frozen sea and the men made the perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

**Kostyal, K. M., 1951- - *Trial by ice : a photobiography*** of Sir Ernest Shackleton's life of the South Pole explorer whose ship, the *Endurance*, was frozen in ice and crushed, leaving the captain and crew to fight for survival.

**Partridge, Elizabeth. - *John Lennon : all I want is the truth : a photographic biography*** --

Viking, 2005., RL 6, 232p Presents a biography of musician John Lennon, chronicling his life and times from his troubled childhood in Liverpool, England, through his career writing, recording, and performing as a member of the Beatles. Includes 140 black-and-white photographs