

# Everything I Learned About Gifted Kids I Found In Children's Literature

Jennifer Schiltz, M.A.E. & Christie McConathy, M.S.E.

## Novel Conversations List 1

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

By Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. L: 600 IL: YA

### **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**

By Mark Twain

By witnessing a murder, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn find themselves in a series of adventures that lead them to some frightening situations. L:950 IL: YA

### **The Alchemist**

By Michael Scott

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. L: 890 IL: 6-9

### **Applewhites at Wit's End**

By Stephanie Tolan

Great changes are in store for the highly creative and somewhat eccentric Applewhite family when money problems force them to open a summer camp for gifted children, while a mysterious interloper watches from the woods. L: 840 IL: 5-8

### **The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing**

By M.T. Anderson

Ocatvian Nothing is raised by a group of rational philosophers known only by numbers. Octavian begins to question the purpose behind his guardians' fanatical studies after he opens a forbidden door and learns the hideous nature of their experiments. IL: YA

### **Between Shades of Gray**

By Rita Sepetys

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family. L: 490 IL: YA

### **Bird in a Box**

By Andrea Davis Pinkney

In 1936, three children meet at the Mercy Home for Negro Orphans in New York State. Not all three are orphans but are dealing with grief and loss which together, along with the help of a sympathetic staff member and boxing matches of Joe Louis, they manage to overcome. L: 670 RL: 4.2 IL: 3-6

### **Blue Jasmine**

By Kashmiri Sheth

When twelve-year-old Seema moves to Iowa City with her parents and younger sister, she leaves friends and family behind in her native India but gradually begins to feel at home in her new country. L: 740 RL: 5.4 IL: 3-6

### **Boot Camp**

By Todd Strasser

After ignoring several warnings to stop dating his teacher, Garrett is sent to Lake Harmony, a boot camp that uses unorthodox and brutal methods to train students to obey their parents. He won't be able to leave until he's admitted his "mistakes". L: 750 IL: YA

### **Brain Jack**

By Brian Faulkner

In a near-future New York City, fourteen-year-old computer genius Sam Wilson manages to hack into the AT&T network and sets off a chain of events that have a profound effect on human activity throughout the world. L: 810 IL: YA

### **The Breadwinner**

By Deborah Ellis

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. L: 630 RL: 5.0 IL: 5-8

### **Bridge To Terabithia**

By Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death by trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. L: 810 RL: 5.0 IL: 5-8

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### **The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z**

By Kate Messer

Gianna has to complete her leaf project soon if she wants to compete in the upcoming cross-country sectionals, but procrastination, disorganization, and her grandmother’s declining health seem destined to keep her from finishing. L: 710 RL: 4.2 IL:3-6

### **The Calder Game**

By Blue Balliett

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village – along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn – his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him. L: 830 RL: 5.8 IL: 5-8

### **Chasing Vermeer**

By Blue Balliett

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. L: 770 RL: 5.4 IL: 3-6

### **Come Sing, Jimmy Jo**

By Katherine Paterson

This is the story of Jimmy Jo, an eleven-year-old country music singer. When Jimmy Jo’s talent brings fame to his family, he suddenly becomes a target for fans – and a man who insists he’s Jimmy Jo’s real father. L: 760 RL: 4.9 IL: 5-8

### **The Danger Box**

By Blue Balliett

In small-town Michigan, twelve-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box and find family secrets and a more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits. L: 750 RL: 5.2 IL: 5-8

### **Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra**

By Wendy Lichtman

Tess has always loved math, and she uses mathematical concepts to help her understand things in her life, so she is dismayed to find out how much math – and life-can change in eighth grade. L: 1050 RL: 5.9 IL: 5-8

### **Bud, Not Buddy**

By Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father – a renowned band leader. L:950 RL: 5.5 IL: 5-8

### **Celeste’s Harlem Renaissance: A Novel**

By Eleanora E. Tate

In 1921, thirteen-year-old Celeste leaves North Carolina to stay with her glamorous Aunt Valentina in Harlem, where she discovers the vibrant Harlem Renaissance in full swing, even though her aunt’s life is not exactly what she was led to believe. L: 780 RL: 5.7 IL: 3-6

### **Chomp**

By Carl Hiaasen

When the difficult star of the reality TV show “Expedition Survival” disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane’s family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him. L: 800 RL: 7.0 IL: 5-8

### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

By Mark Haddon

Narrated by a fifteen-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions. L: 1180 IL: Adult

### **Dead End in Norvelt**

By Jack Gantos

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax and twisted promises. L: 920 RL: 6.0 IL: 5-8

### **The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes**

By Marlane Kennedy

Eleven-year-old Charlotte is not a dog person but does not like that the rest of her family neglects their Saint Bernard puppy, and so with a lot of determination and a little sneakiness, she works on finding a good home for the gentle giant. L: 790 RL: 6.2 IL: 3-6

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### **Ella Enchanted**

By Gail Carson Levine

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

L: 670 RL: 4.2 IL: 3-6

### **Ender's Game**

By Orson Scott Card

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race. L: 780 IL: Adult

### **Evil Genius**

By Catherine Jinks

Child prodigy Cadel Piggot, an antisocial computer hacker, discovers his true identity when he enrolls as a first-year student at an advanced crime academy.

L:720 IL: YA

### **Extra Credit**

By Andrew Clements

As letters flow back and forth – between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides – sixth grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other. L: 830 RL: 5.2 IL: 3-6

### **Flush**

By Carl Hiaasen

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abby, must gather evidence that the owner of his floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. L: 830 RL: 5.0 IL: 5.8

### **The Fourth Stall**

By Chris Rylander

Sixth-graders Mac and Vince operate a business charging schoolmates for protection from bullies and for help to negotiate conflicts peacefully, with amazing challenges and results.

L: 760 RL: 5.1 IL: 3-6

### **Encyclopedia Brown, Super Sleuth**

By Donald Sobol

Idaville's secret weapon against lawbreakers, ten-year-old Leroy "Encyclopedia" Brown, helps the police force solve ten new cases, the solutions to which are found in the back of the book.

L: 630 RL: 4.5 IL: 3-6

### **Everything For a Dog**

By Ann M. Martin

In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes. Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own. L: 890 RL: 5.4 IL: 3-6

### **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**

By Jacqueline Kelly

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from her three older brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the later which leads to an important discovery. L:830 RL: 5.3 IL:5-8

### **Flight of the Raven**

By Stephanie S. Tolan

Elijah, a nine-year-old African American with unusual mental powers and a special ability to reach into the natural world, becomes a hostage of a terrorist militia group and finds himself in a world of violence.

L: 930 IL: YA

### **Flyte**

By Angie Sage

When Princess Jenna is pursued by a dark wizard, it is the apprentice, Septimus Heap, who must save her while enduring such terrors as a night in the Forest with hungry wolverines and carnivorous trees.

L: 950 RL: 6.0 IL: 3-6

### **The Fourth Stall II**

By Chris Rylander

Sixth graders Mac and Vince, who operate an advice and assistance service for fellow students, face new dangers when a strict administrator is hired to clean up the school and a strange and dangerous girl asks for their help to have a teacher fired. RL: 4.9 IL: 3-6

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### **Freak the Mighty**

By Rodman Philbrick

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend, Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

L: 1000 RL: 6.3 IL: 5-8

### **Frindle**

By Andrew Clements

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

L: 830 RL: 4.8 IL: 3-6

### **Ghetto Cowboy**

By G. Neri

Twelve-year-old Cole's behavior causes his mother to drive him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with a father he has never known. Cole soon is involved with a group of African-American "cowboys" who rescue horses.

L: 660 RL: 4.8 IL: 5-8

### **Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story**

This is the true story of an angry, young boy from an inner city who, through faith and determination, grew up to become one of the world's leading pediatric neurosurgeons.

L: 950 IL: YA

### **The Gollywhopper Games**

By Jody Feldman

Twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling from Golly Toy and Game Co.

L: 590 RL: 4.0 IL: 5-8

### **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**

By J.K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry.

L: 880 RL: 5.3 IL: 5-8

### **Freaky Fast Frankie Joe**

By Lutricia Clifton

Twelve-year-old Frankie Joe Huckaby, forced to live with the father he never knew, a stepmother, and four half-brothers in Illinois, starts a delivery service to finance his escape back to his mother in Texas.

L: 600 RL: 3.9 IL: 3-6

### **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E.**

#### **Frankweiler**

By E.L. Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

L: 700 RL: 5.2 IL: 3-6

#### **Gifted: A Novel**

By Nikita Lalwani

Gifted explores just how far one person will push another, and how much can be endured, in the name of love.

IL: Adult

### **The Girl Who Could Fly**

By Victoria Forester

When homeschooled farm girl Piper McCloud reveals her ability to fly, she is quickly taken to a secret government facility to be trained with other exceptional children, but she soon realizes that something is very wrong and begins working with brilliant and wealthy Conrad to escape.

L: 920 RL: 6.0 IL: 3-6

### **Harriet, The Spy**

By Lousie Fitzhugh

Harriet, world-be writer and avid observer of life, records everything she sees and hears. But what is she to do after her treasured notebook falls into the wrong hands?

L: 760 RL: 4.5 IL: 5-8

### **Hatchet**

By Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning to survive his parents' divorce.

L: 1020 RL: 6.0 IL: 5-8

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### **Hattie Big Sky**

By Kirby Larson

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe. L: 700 IL: YA

### **Hound Dog True**

By Linda Urban

Mattie, a shy fifth-grader, wants to hide out at her new school by acting as an apprentice to her Uncle Potluck, the custodian, but her plan falls apart when she summons the courage to speak about what matters most and finds a true friend. L: 710 RL: 4.3 IL: 3-6

### **The Hunger Games**

By Suzanne Collins

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. L: 810 IL: YA

### **Inkdeath**

By Cornelia Funke

Caught between the covers of a cursed story ever since the extraordinary events of Inkspell, when the enchanted book drew Meggie and her father, Mo, into its chapters, life in the Inkworld has been more tragic than magical. L: 830 RL: 5.9 IL: 5-8

### **Inkspell**

By Cornelia Funke

When he finds a crooked storyteller with the ability to read him back into Inkspace, Dustfinger leaves behind his young apprentice Farid and plunges into the medieval world of his past.

L: 890 RL: 5.6 IL: 5-8

### **Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth**

By E.L. Konigsburg

This Newbery Honor Book explores a lonely girl's friendship with a classmate who claims to be a witch.

L: 680 RL: 4.5 IL: 3-6

### **Hoot**

By Carl Hiaasen

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.

L: 760 RL: 5.1 IL: 5-8

### **How to Steal a Dog**

By Barbara O'Connor

Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina is desperate to improve their situation through an elaborate scheme to steal a dog and claim reward. L: 700 RL: 4.0 IL: 3-6

### **Ida B.: And her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World**

By Katherine Hannigan

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and plays in her family's apple orchard until her mother's illness causes Ida B to go to public school. L: 970 RL: 6.3 IL: 3-6

### **Inkheart**

By Cornelia Funke

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

L: 780 RL: 5.9 IL: 5-8

### **Island of the Blue Dolphins**

By Scott O'Dell

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life. L: 1000 RL: 5.4 IL: 5-8

### **The Last Holiday Concert**

By Andrew Clements

Life is usually easy for popular sixth-grader Hart Evans, but when his music teacher puts him in charge of the holiday concert, Hart must use all of his leadership to unite the other students.

L: 800 RL: 5.1 IL: 3-6

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### **Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo**

By Obert Skye

When fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven and thirteen-year-old Winter together, they discover that for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and dreams needs to be found and demolished.

L: 850 RL: 5.6 IL: 3-6

### **Lunch Money**

By Andrew Clements

Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

L: 840 RL: 5.4 IL: 3-6

### **Masterpiece**

By Elise Broach

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. L: 700 RL: 5.3 IL: 5-8

### **May B.: A Novel**

By Caroline Starr Rose

When a failed wheat crop nearly bankrupts the Betterly family, Pa pulls twelve-year-old May from school and hires her out to a couple new to the Kansas frontier.

L: 680 RL: 3.7 IL: 3-6

### **Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25**

By Richard Paul Evans

To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is nothing special, just the kid with Tourette's syndrome. But in truth, Michael Vey is extremely special -he has electric powers.

L: 500 IL: YA

### **Millicent Min: Girl Genius**

By Lisa Yee

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

L: 800 RL: 5.7 IL: 3-6

### **The Lions of Little Rock**

By Kristin Levine

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

L: 630 RL: 3.9 IL: 5-8

### **Magyk**

By Angie Sage

After learning that she is the Princess, Jenna is whisked from her home and carried toward safety by the Extraordinary Wizard, those she always believed were her father and brother, and a young guard known only as Boy 412 - pursued by agents of those who killed her mother ten years ago. L: 640 RL: 6.1 IL: 3-6

### **Matilda**

By Roald Dahl

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

L: 840 RL: 5.2 IL: 3-6

### **The Maze of Bones**

By Rick Riordan

At the reading of their grandmother's will, Dan and Amy Cahill are given the choice of receiving a million dollars or uncovering the 39 clues hidden around the world that will lead to the source of the family's power.

L: 610 RL: 4.5 IL: 3-6

### **The Mighty Miss Malone**

By Christopher Paul Curtis

With love and determination befitting the "world's greatest family", twelve-year-old Deza Malone, her older brother Jimmie, and their parents endure tough times in Gary, Indiana, and later Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression. L: 750 RL: 3.8 IL: 3-6

### **Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children**

By Ransom Riggs

Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive.

L: 890 IL: YA

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### **Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller**

By Sarah Miller

At age twenty-one, partially blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. L: 890 RL: 5.8 IL: 5-8

### **More Adventures of the Great Brain**

By John D. Fitzgerald

In 1896 the Great Brain of Adenville, Utah, is almost twelve years old and more mischievous than ever in his practical jokes and schemes against everyone in town. L: 850 RL: 5.3 IL: 3-6

### **The Mysterious Benedict Society**

By Trenton Lee Stewart

Presents puzzles, riddles, and brainteasers, related to the mysterious Benedict Society, and profiles the society's members and their adventures.

L: 840 RL: 5.6 IL: 3-6

### **Never Say Genius**

By Dan Gutman

As their cross-country journey with their parents continues through the midwest, twins Coke and Pepsi, now thirteen, again face strange assassins at such places as the first McDonald's restaurant and Cedar Point amusement park. L: 720 IL: 3-6

### **Olivia Bean Trivia Queen**

By Donna Gephart

After overcoming a number of obstacles, Olivia is on her way to Hollywood to appear on Jeopardy! And, she hopes, to reunite with her father who left her family two years ago.

L: 680 RL: 5.9 IL: 3-6

### **The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place**

By E.L. Konigsburg

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.

L: 840 RL: 5.5 IL: 5-8

### **Mission Unstoppable**

By Dan Gutman

On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files. L: 730 RL: 4.8 IL: 3-6

### **My Side of the Mountain**

By Jean Craighead George

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

L: 810 RL: 6.7 IL: 5-8

### **Niagra Falls or Does It?**

By Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver

Fourth-graders Hank, Ashley, and Frankie are excitedly preparing for a magic show at the Rock 'N Bowl when Hank's creative alternative to an English essay lands him in detention and grounded the week of the show.

L: 610 RL: 4.0 IL: 3-6

### **No More Dead Dogs**

By Gordon Korman

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve the play and his life as well.

L:610 RL: 4.9 IL: 3-6

### **Out Of My Mind**

By Sharon M. Draper

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

L: 700 RL: 4.3 IL: 5-8

### **The Pact**

By Monica McKayhan

Indigo Summer breaks up with her boyfriend for the summer while they are on summer vacation. He heads to Texas to spend time with his estranged mother and she goes to Chicago to spend time with her seventeen-year-old cousin who lives on her own.

L: 750 IL: YA

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### **Parvana's Journey**

By Deborah Ellis

In this sequel to "The Breadwinner", the Taliban still control Afghanistan, but Kabul is in ruins. Twelve-year-old Parvana's father had just died, and her mother, sister, and brother could be anywhere in the country. Parvana sets out alone to find them.

L: 640 RL: 4.9 IL: 5-8

### **Pictures of Hollis Woods**

By Patricia Reilly Giff

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

L: 650 RL: 6.4 IL: 5-8

### **The Reinvention of Edison Thomas**

By Jacqueline Houtman

Eddy prefers disassembling machines, gathering scientific facts, and practicing Morse code, but when the local crossing guard position is eliminated, he invents a device to keep the intersection safe.

L: 780 RL: 5.6 IL: 3-6

### **Ruby Holler**

By Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

L: 660 RL: 4.8 IL: 3-6

### **Scat**

By Carl Hiaasen

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

L: 810 RL: 5.5 IL: 5-8

### **Showoff**

By Gordon Korman

Accused of ruining a champion dog's career after an unfortunate incident at a mall show, Luthor is sent to the pound, prompting a skeptical Griffin to hatch a daring plan involving a sinister saboteur, a reclusive trainer, and large supply of red dye.

L: 740 RL: 6.4 IL: 3-6

### **The Phantom Tollbooth**

By Norton Juster

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers and provides a cure for his boredom.

L: 1000 RL: 6.7 IL: 5-8

### **The Puzzling World of Winston Breen**

By Eric Berlin

Puzzle-crazy, twelve-year-old Winston and his ten-year-old sister Katie, find themselves involved in a dangerous mystery involving a hidden ring. Puzzles for the reader to solve are included throughout the text.

L: 670 RL: 4.2 IL: 3-6

### **Rowan of Rin**

By Emily Rodda

Because only he can read the magical map, young, weak, and timid Rowan joins six other villagers to climb a mountain and try to restore their water supply, as fears of a dragon and other horrors threaten to drive them back.

L: 660 RL: 4.7 IL: 3-6

### **Ruby Redford: Look into my Eyes**

By Lauren Child

Ruby Redford is a genius code-cracker, a daring detective, and a gadget-laden special agent who just happens to be a thirteen-year-old girl. She and her slick side-kick butler, Hitch, foil crimes and get into loads of scrapes with evil villains.

L: 880 RL: 5.3 IL: 3-6

### **The Secret Tree**

By Natalie Standiford

Sixth-grader Minty and her new friend, Raymond, discover the Secret Tree, a tree with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of the people in their neighborhood. They begin to watch their neighbors, to solve the mysteries of the secrets and to undo a curse.

L: 510 RL: 4.4 IL: 3-6

### **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio**

By Peg Kehret

The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome the debilitating effects.

L: 890 RL: 5.2 IL: 3-6



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### **Snowflake Bentley**

By Jacqueline Briggs Martin

A biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations.

L: 830 RL: 4.4 IL: K-3

### **Sticks**

By Joan Bauer

With the help of his grandmother, his dead father's best friend, a math genius, ten-year-old Mickey prepares to compete in the most important pool championship of his life, despite his mother's reservations.

L: 750 RL: 4.8 IL: 3-6

### **Swindle**

By Gordon Korman

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palamino's store and steal it back.

L: 710 RL: 4.9 IL: 3-6

### **Theodore Boone: The Abduction**

By John Grisham

When his best friend disappears from her bedroom in the middle of the night, thirteen-year-old Theo uses his legal knowledge and investigative skills to chase down the truth and save April. L: 830 RL: 5.8 IL: 5-8

### **Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer**

By John Grisham

With two attorneys for parents, thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone knows more about the law than most lawyers do. But when a high profile murder trial comes to his small town and Theo gets pulled into it, it's up to this amateur attorney to save the day.

L: 790 RL: 5.2 IL: 5-8

### **The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet**

By Erin Dionne

Hamlet's attempts to be a "normal" eighth grader become increasingly difficult when her genius seven-year-old sister and her eccentric Shakespeare scholar parents both begin to attend her school.

L: 750 RL: 5.4 IL: 5-8

### **Solving Zoe**

By Barbara Dee

Zoe's sixth-grade year at a Brooklyn school for gifted students is marked by changing relationships with her fellow students and teachers, recognition of her talent for cryptography, and a greater awareness of her passion.

L: 640 RL: 4.3 IL: 3-6

### **Surviving The Applewhites**

By Stephanie S. Tolan

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.

L: 820 RL: 5.7 IL: 5-8

### **Taking Sides**

By Gary Soto

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.

L: 750 RL: 5.7 IL: 5-8

### **Theodore Boone: The Accused**

By John Grisham

When Theodore Boone, kid lawyer, is accused of robbery, he vows to do whatever it takes to prove his innocence.

L: 840 RL: 5.5 IL: 5-8

### **To Kill a Mockingbird**

By Harper Lee

A young girl growing up in an Alabama town in the 1930's learns of injustice and violence when her father, a widowed lawyer, defends a black man falsely accused of rape.

L: 870 IL: YA

### **Touching Spirit Bear**

By Ben Mikaelson

After his anger erupts into violence, 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. L: 670 RL: 6.7 IL: 5-8

# Everything I Learned About Gifted Kids I Found In Children's Literature

Jennifer Schiltz, M.A.E. & Christie McConathy, M.S.E.

## Novel Conversations List 1

### **Trackers**

By Patrick Carman

When the mysterious Glyphmaster tricks Adam into solving a puzzle and then hacks his computers. Adam, Finn, Lewis, and Emily are pulled into a mystery that is more trouble than they ever imagined.

L: 810 RL: 6.1 IL: 5-8

### **The View From Saturday**

By E.L. Konigsburg

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. L: 870 RL: 4.8 IL: 3-6

### **We The Children**

By Andrew Clements

Sixth-grader Ben Pratt's life is full of changes that he does not like - his parents' separation and the plan to demolish his seaside school to build an amusement park. Ben is drawn into an effort to keep the school from being destroyed. L: 860 RL: 5.2 IL: 3-6

### **The Westing Game**

By Ellen Raskin

When an eccentric millionaire dies mysteriously, sixteen very unlikely people are gathered together for the reading of the will... and what a will it is!

L: 750 RL: 5.8 IL: 5-8

### **Wonder**

By R.J. Palacio

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, which entails enduring taunting and fear of his classmates.

L: 790 RL: 5.1 IL: 3-6

### **A Wrinkle in Time**

By Madeleine L'Engle

One stormy night a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother, Charles Wallace and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and fantastic journey that will threaten their lives and our universe. L: 740 RL: 5.8 IL: 4-7

### **Ungifted**

By Gordon Korman

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for the gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school. RL: 6.2 IL: 5-8

### **Warp Speed**

By Lisa Yee

Marley Sandelski has always felt invisible at school when he is not facing bullies, but a series of unexpected events gives him a taste of popularity and insights into some classmates, well-liked or greatly feared.

L: 620 RL: 5.2 IL: 3-6

### **Welcome to the Ark**

By Stephanie S. Tolan

When four child prodigies transfer from a center for research and rehabilitation to an experimental group home, they face another way of connecting with their world.

L: 850 RL: 5.9 IL: 5-8

### **A Wind in the Door**

By Madeleine L'Engle

With Meg's help, the dragons her six-year-old brother saw in the vegetable garden play an important part in his struggle between life and death. It's up to Meg, Proginoskes and Calvin to save Charles Wallace's life.

L: 790 RL: 5.3 IL: 5-8

### **The Wright 3**

By Blue Balliett

In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth-graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished. L: 870 RL: 5.7 IL: 5-8

### **Zoobreak**

By Gordon Korman

After a class trip to a floating zoo where animals are mistreated and Savannah's missing pet monkey is found in a cage, Long Island sixth-grader Griffin Bing and his band of misfits plan a rescue.

L: 700 RL: 4.9 IL: 3-6