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#### Ada Twist, Scientist

By Andrea Beaty

Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.

IL: K-3 RL: 3.1

#### **Bad Boy: A Memior**

By Walter Dean Myers

In a memoir that is gripping, funny, and ultimately unforgettable, New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers travels back to his roots in the magical world of Harlem during the 1940s and 1950s. Here is the story of one of the most distinguished writers of young people's literature today. L: 970 IL: YA

#### The Bear And The Piano

By David Litchfield

A bear finds a piano in the woods, learns to play it, and travels to the big city to become rich and famous, but ultimately discovers that his old friends in the forest back home are still the best audience of all.

L: 620 IL: K-3 RL: 3.6

# **Billy's Booger**

By William Joyce

Billy's wild imagination gets him into trouble at school, but a creative writing contest could be the perfect opportunity for him to shine.

L: 750 IL: K-3 RL: 4.9

# **The Boys Who Challenged Hitler**

By Phillip Hoose

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not.

L: 970 IL: YA

# **Coasting Casey**

By Shannon Anderson

Coasting at school gets Casey into trouble until he finds a way to use his talents and passions to turn underachievement upside down.

L: 660 IL: K-3 RL: 1.7

### The Advantures Of Beekle

By Dan Santat

An imaginary friend waits a long time to be imagined by a child and given a special name, and finally does the unimaginable--he sets out on a quest to find his perfect match in the real world.

L: 480 IL: K-3 RL: 3.3

#### **Bamboo People**

By Mitali Perkins

Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.

L: 680 IL: YA

#### **Big Game**

By Stuart Gibbs

Someone is trying to hunt FunJungle's Asian greater one-horned rhinoceros, and twelve-year-old Teddy Fitzrov is on the case.

L: 740 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.4

### **Booked**

By Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

L: 660 IL: 5-8 RL: 3.9

# **Change Up**

By Derek Jeter

Young Derek Jeter is excited when his father becomes coach of his baseball team, but things don't go as he had planned.

L: 800 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.8

# **Cody Harmon, King Of Pets**

By Claudia Mills

Cody Harmon loves animals – he even has nine pets - so when he hosts a pet show fundraiser, it should be his time to shine.

L: 790 IL: K-3 RL: 2.0

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#### **The Contract**

By Derek Jeter

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, eight-year-old Derek Jeter, who dreams of playing for the New York Yankees, learns what it takes to be a champion on and off the field.

L: 770 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.2

#### A Dance Like Starlight

By Kristy Dempsey

A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s, whose mother cleans and stitches costumes for a ballet company, dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day, and is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina.

L: 1100 IL: K-3 RL: 6.0

#### The Dot

By Peter Reynolds

Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind. L: 500 IL: K-3 RL: 2.0

### Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale Of A Virtuosa

By Andrea Davis Pinkney

A brief recounting of the career of this jazz musician in the voice of "Scat Cat Monroe".

L: 520 IL: K-3 RL: 3.0

#### **Fast Break**

By Mike Lupica

Since his mother's death, Jayson, twelve, has focused on basketball and surviving but he is found out and placed with an affluent foster family of a different race, and must learn to accept many changes, including facing his former teammates in a championship game.

L: 840 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.1

#### **Field Trip**

By Gary Paulsen

Ben and his twin classmates, Charlotte and Jacob, are missing a school field trip so Ben's father takes them, his new apprentice Brig, and the dogs on an adventure. Ben manages to try out for a hockey academy against his parents' wishes and the twins turn the road trip into a learning experience. L: 780 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.0

#### **Currents**

By Jane Petrik Smolik

In 1854 eleven-year-old Bones is a slave in Virginia who sends a bottle holding her real name and a trinket from her long-lost father down the James River--the currents carry it far away, ultimately uniting the lives of three young girls.

L: 860 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.1

### **Defining Duclie**

By Paul Acampora

When sixteen-year-old Dulcie's father dies, her mother makes a decision to move them to California, where Dulcie makes an equally radical decision to steal her dad's old truck and head back home.

L: 650 IL: YA

#### **Eddie Red Undercover**

By Jacqueline Kelly

Sixth grader Edmund Xavier Lonnrot, codename "Eddie Red," has a photographic memory and talent for drawing anything he sees. When the NYPD is stumped by a mastermind art thief, Eddie becomes their secret weapon to solve the case.

L: 710 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.7

#### **Enchanted Air**

By Margarita Engle

Offers an account of the first fourteen years of the author's life in poems, telling of her time spent between her mother's native Cuba and her home in Los Angeles, until the revolution in Cuba dramatically alters relations between the two countries she loves. L: 1120 IL: YA

#### **Feel The Fear**

By Lauren Child

When a ghostly foe begins stealing from the highest buildings in Twinford, Ruby Redfort is ready to defy death one more time to capture the bandit. L: 850 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.4

#### **Finding Fortune**

By Delia Ray (Iowa Author)

Angry with her mother, twelve-year-old runaway Ren finds an unusual boarding house in a nearby ghost town, Fortune, where she meets some interesting people and learns of a forgotten treasure.

L: 800 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.5

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#### Fly Away Home

By Eve Bunting

Andrew and his father are homeless; they live in an airport. In order to survive they must avoid notice, so they keep to themselves, change terminals every night, and sleep sitting up.

L: 450 IL: K-3 RL: 4.3

## **Full Cicada Moon**

By Marilyn Hilton

In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider.

L: 790 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.8

#### **Fuzzy Mud**

By Louis Sachar

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

L:700 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.8

## **Going Places**

By Peter H. Reynolds

Rafael has looked forward to the Going Places contest and builds his go-cart from a kit in record time, but his neighbor, Maya, has a much more interesting and creative idea for her entry and Rafael decides to help. L: 480 IL: K-3 RL: 3.4

# **Harlem Renaissance Party**

By Faith Ringgold

Lonnie and his uncle journey back in time to the Harlem Renaissance. Includes A Harlem Renaissance glossary in back of book.

IL: K-3 RL: 3.1

# Hit & Miss

By Derek Jeter

Young Derek Jeter's friendship with a new student puts him at odds with his friends and seems to be hurting his baseball swing, plus he gets in trouble for confronting a student who is bullying his sister, in violation of the contract with his parents.

L: 750 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.6

#### Frederick's Journey

By Doreen Rappaport

Shares the life of the abolitionist, including his life as a slave, how he learned to read even though it was illegal for him to do so, and his work speaking out against slavery.

L: 770 IL: K-3 RL: 4.3

## **Full Of Beans**

By Jennifer L. Holm

Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, Florida, engages in various schemes to earn money while "New Dealers" from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn run down Key West into a tourist resort.

L: 490 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.0

#### The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

By Mark Pelt and Gary Rubenstein Beatrice is so well-known for never making a mistake that she is greeted each morning by fans and reporters, but a near-error on the day of the school talent show could change everything. L:520 IL:K-3 RL: 2.9

## **Going Where It's Dark**

By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

A coming-of-age novel about a boy whose daily life is difficult because he stutters but who discovers enormous courage when he goes on heart-pounding cave adventures.

L: 900 IL: 5-8 RL: 6.7

## **The Hired Girl**

By Laura Amy Schlitz

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new. better life for herself.

L: 810 IL: YA

# **The House That Jane Built**

By Tanya Lee Stone

Presents the story of Jane Addams, founder of the children's charity known as Hull House, and the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

L: 810 IL: K-3 RL: 4.3

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#### I Want To Go To The Moon

By Tom Saunders

From the time Neil Armstrong took his first small steps and said his first words, he wanted to travel in space. Although everyone told him it was impossible, he never gave up.

IL: K-3 RL: 2.1

### **Imprisoned**

By Martin W. Sandler

While Americans fought for freedom and democracy abroad, fear and suspicion towards Japanese Americans swept the country after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. This book gives an in-depth account of their lives before and during their imprisonment, and after their release. L: 1240 IL: 5-8 RL: 8.9

# <u>Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter</u>

By Beth Fantaskey

In the 1920s, a ten-year-old newsgirl who aspires to be a reporter at the Chicago Tribune investigates the murder of a gangster.

L: 840 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.5

### Jacky Ha Ha

By James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein

Twelve-year-old Jacky "Ha-Ha" Hart is a class clown with a penchant for pranking--and when she's required to act in the school play to appease her frustrated teachers, she must conquer her stutter.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.2

### John Lincoln Clem: Civil War Drummer Boy

By E.F. Abbott

A fictional retelling of the legend of John Clem, who ran away from his Ohio home to become a drummer boy during the Civil War, and became famous when he was captured in 1863 and was exchanged after a short stay in Andersonville prison.

L: 680 IL: 3-6 RL: 3.7

### The Library

By Sarah Stewart

Elizabeth Brown loves to read more than anything else, but when her collection of books grows and grows, she must make a change in her life.

IL: K-3 RL: 3.3

#### Iggy Peck, Architect

By Andrea Beaty

Ever since he was a baby, Iggy Peck has built towers, bridges, and buildings, which comes in handy when his second grade class is stranded on an island during a picnic.

L: 850 IL: K-3 RL: 4.1

#### In The Shadow Of Blackbirds

By Cat Winters

In San Diego in 1918, as deadly influenza and World War I take their toll, sixteen-year-old Mary Shelley Black watches desperate mourners flock to séances and spirit photographers for comfort. Despite her scientific leanings, she must consider if ghosts are real. L: 800 IL: YA

# It Ain't So Awful, Falaful

By Firoozeh Dumas

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

L: 730 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.9

### <u>Jingle</u>

By Gordon Korman

Griffin and friends are not happy to find that they will be elves at the Holiday Spectacular at Colchester Mansion. During an electrical outage, a valuable antique known as the Star of Prague disappears from the giant Christmas tree, and the friends set out to find who took it. IL: 3-6 RL: 5.9

### Liberty

By Kirby Larson

In 1940s New Orleans, Fish Elliot is a polio-survivor with a knack for inventing and building things, and his African American neighbor Olympia is a girl with a talent for messing things up, but they are united in an effort to save a starving stray dog they call Liberty. IL: 3-6

# The Life And Times Of Bernetta Wallflower

By Lisa Graff

After her supposed best friend implicates her in a cheating and blackmail scam, twelve-year-old Bernie loses her private school scholarship. With the help of a new friend, she spends the summer earning tuition money and to get revenge.

L: 650 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.2

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#### **Little Melba And Her Trombone**

By Katheryn Russell-Brown

A biography of African American Musician Melba Doretta Liston, a virtuoso musician who played the trombone and composed and arranged music for many of the great jazz musicians of the twentieth century.

L:720 IL: K-3 RL: 3.7

### **Making Friends With Billy Wong**

By Augusta Scattergood

In 1952 eleven-year-old Azalea is sent to Paris Junction, Arkansas, to help out her grandmother who has injured her foot. Billy Wong is a Chinese-American boy whose uncle owns the local grocery store, in town to attend the "white" school. Over the summer the two begin to forge a friendship. L: 640 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.0

#### Moo

By Sharon Creech

Follows the efforts of twelve-year-old Reena, who has recently moved to rural Maine, to adjust to a new environment while unexpectedly bonding with an ornery cow.

IL: 3-6 RL: 6.3

# **The Most Magnificent Thing**

By Ashley Spires

A little girl has a wonderful idea. With the help of her canine assistant, she is going to make the most magnificent thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. But making the most magnificent thing turns out to be harder than she thinks. L: 380 IL: K-3 RL: 2.9

#### The Nazi Hunters

By Neal Bascomb

Recounts how, sixteen years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann, in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust.

L:1000 IL: YA

## Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story

By Nora Raleigh Baskin

Relates how the lives of four children living in different parts of the country intersect and are affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

L: 730 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.6

#### **Looking Back**

By Lois Lowry

Using family photographs and quotes from her books, the author provides glimpses into her life. L: 840 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.5

#### The Meaning Of Maggie

By Megan Jean Sovern

After her supposed best friend implicates her in a cheating and blackmail scam, twelve-year-old Bernie loses her private school scholarship and spends the summer using her knowledge of magic to earn the \$9,000 in tuition money and to get revenge. L: 690 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.0

#### **Most Dangerous**

By Steve Sheinkin

The story of Daniel Ellsberg and his decision to steal and publish secret documents about America's involvement in the Vietnam War.

L: 890 IL: YA

# **Mother Bruce**

By Ryan T. Higgins

Bruce is a grumpy bear who likes no one and nothing but cooked eggs, but when some eggs he was planning to boil hatch and the goslings believe he is their mother, he must try to make the best of the situation.

L: 570 IL: K-3 RL: 2.7

#### **Night On Fire**

By Ronald Kidd

When thirteen-year-old Billie Sims learns that the Freedom Riders group will be traveling through Anniston, Alabama, she thinks change could be coming to her town,

L: 600 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.0

# The Odds Of Getting Even

By Sheila Turnage

Desperado Detectives--aka Mo Lo Beau and her best friend Dale, along with newly-appointed intern, Harm Crenshaw--must take on a new case when Dale's daddy goes on the lam just before his trial is about to start.

L: 540 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.3

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### Of Beetles & Angels

By Mawi Asgedom

An autobiography of a boy who, at the age of three, fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a scholarship to Harvard University. Includes recipes and discussion questions. IL: 5-8 RL: 6.9

### **Ordinary People Change The World**

By Brad Meltzer

What makes a hero? Brad Meltzer answers that question, one great role model at a time.

IL: K-3 RL: 3.1

#### **Out Of The Ballpark**

By Alex Rodriguez

Although Alex is nervous about his role in the approaching baseball playoffs and championship game, he soon figures out how to fix his mistakes and become a better ball player.

L: 590 IL: K-3 RL: 2.8

### **President Of The Whole Fifth Grade**

By Sherri Winston

To gain leadership skills needed to run a cupcakebaking empire when she grows up, Brianna runs for president of the fifth grade--expecting little competition--until a new girl enters the race.

L: 730 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.2

#### **Rhyme Schemer**

By K.A. Holt

A novel in verse about Kevin's journey from bully to being bullied, as he learns about friendship, family, and his talent for poetry.

L: 520 IL: 5-8 RL: 3.9

#### Salt To The Sea

By Ruta Sepetys

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

L: 560 IL: YA

#### **Orbiting Jupiter**

By Gary D. Schmidt

Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen.

L: 740 IL: YA

#### **Our Eleanor**

By Candace Fleming

From securing safe, low-cost housing for Kentucky's poor, to helping her grandchildren hang a tire swing on the White House's south lawn, to representing America as the first female delegate to the United Nations, Eleanor rarely kept a second of her life for herself. L: 1040 IL:5-8 RL: 6.8

### Penelope Perfect

By Shannon Anderson

This rhyming picture book speaks to kids who live with perfectionism and other forms of anxiety.

L: 600 IL: K-3 RL: 2.2

### **President Of The Whole Sixth Grade**

By Sherri Winston

Brianna Justice is the president of her Detroit middle school's sixth grade, but she is finding the position a real headache.

IL: 3-6 RL: 5.0

#### Salt In His Shoes

By Deloris Jordan

Young Michael Jordan, who is smaller than the other players, learns that determination and hard work are more important than size when playing the game of basketball.

L; 460 IL: 3-6 RL: 3.6

#### Save Me A Seat

By Sarah Weeks

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together.

L: 780 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.8

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# **Saving Wonder**

By Mary Knight

Curley Hines lives with his grandfather in the Appalachian Mountains of Wonder Gap, Kentucky--but when the mining company prepares to destroy their mountain he must use the words his grandfather has taught him to save Red Hawk Mountain, even if it means losing the life he loves. L: 870 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.7

#### Serafina's Promise

By Ann E. Berg

In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor.

L: 590 IL: 5-8 RL: 3.8

#### Simon Ellis, Spelling Bee Champ

By Claudia Mills

Simon Ellis and the rest of the third grade Franklin School Friends participate in a spelling bee where Simon's competitive spirit takes over until he realizes that sometimes the best way to win is to take a chance and let other people shine.

L: 790 IL: K-3 RL: 4.9

#### **Spaced Out**

By Stewart Gibbs

In 2041 twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is a resident of Moon Base Alpha, and at the moment he is faced with a number of problems.

L: 750 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.2

## **Sweet Home Alaska**

By Carole Estby Dagg

In 1934, eleven-year-old Terpsichore's father signs up for President Roosevelt's Palmer Colony project, uprooting the family from Wisconsin to become pioneers in Alaska, where Terpsichore refuses to let rough conditions and first impressions get in the way of her grand adventure. L: 870 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.5

#### Ten Days A Madwoman

By Deborah Noyes

A biography of Nellie Bly, the pioneering journalist whose showy but substantive stunts skyrocketed her to fame.

L: 1210 IL: 5-8

## **The Scandal**

By John Grisham

When an anonymous tip leads the school board to investigate a suspicious increase in scores at another local middle school, Theo finds himself thrust in the middle of a cheating scandal.

L: 770 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.0

#### The Seventh Most Important Thing

By Shelley Pearsall

In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects.

L: 760 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.6

#### Some Writer: The Story Of E.B. White

By Melissa Sweet

Melissa Sweet mixes White's personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own exquisite artwork to tell his story, from his birth in 1899 to his death in 1985.

L: 1030 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.5

#### The Story Of Ruby Bridges

By Robert Coles

For months six-year-old Ruby Bridges must confront the hostility of white parents when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960.

IL: K-3 RL: 4.4

#### **Sybil Luddington, Revolutionary War Rider**

By E.F. Abbott

fictionalized account of the sixteen-year-old girl, trained to handle a musket, who rode alone over forty miles in New York to bring out the militia before the Battle of Ridgefield.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.5

## **Ten Things I Hate About Me**

By Randa Abdel-Fattah

Lebanese-Australian Jamilah, known in school as Jamie, hides her heritage from her classmates and tries to pass by dyeing her hair blonde and wearing blue-tinted contact lenses.

L: 720 IL: YA

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# **The Thing About Jellyfish**

By Ali Benjamin

Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

L: 740 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.6

# This Is The Story Of Archibald Frisby

By Michael Chesworth

Archibald Frisby, mad about science and wise beyond his years, is sent to camp to have fun and ends up broadening the horizons of the fellow campers.

IL: K-3

#### Tru & Nelle

By Greg Neri

In their small town of Monroeville, Alabama, in 1930, misfits Tru and Nelle strike up a friendship and find a mystery to solve when someone breaks into the drugstore and steals some candy and a fancy brooch. L: 690 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.2

## **Violet The Pilot**

By Steve Breen

Luc is an orphan, living in debt slavery in Gabon, until he meets a Professor who claims to be studying chimpanzees, and they head off into the jungle – but when the Professor disappears, Luc has to fend for himself and join forces with the chimps to save their forest. L: 740 IL: K-3 RL: 4.2

#### Waylon!

By Sara Pennypacker

Waylon, a boy with the mind of a scientific genius and the vulnerable heart of an eight-year-old, is trying to understand his older sister and deal with changes among the kids at school.

L: 680 IL: 3-6 RL: 5.3

#### Whoosh!

By Chris Barton

Chronicles the life and achievements of the NASA engineer and inventor, from his childhood to his accidental invention of the Super Soaker water gun.

L: 820 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.9

(Illustrated by Don Tate from Des Moines)

#### This Is Sadie

By Sara O'Leary

Sadie is a little girl with a big imagination. She has been a girl who lived under the sea and a boy raised by wolves. She has had adventures in wonderland and visited the world of fairytales.

IL: K-3 RL: 2.2

# 5 Times Revenge

By Lindsey Eland

Adam, Perk, Pearl, Ray and Dutch are all gifted in different ways. They are fed up with Hill Parmar, the school bully, and his dad, their school principal who's always turning a blind eye.

L: 700 IL: 3-6 RL: 6.0

#### 50 Unbelievable Women

By Saundra Mitchell

A compilation of short biographies profiling some of the most extraordinary women in history and today. Including athletes, comedians, TV personalities, world leaders, political figures, activists and more

IL: 5-8 RL: 6.8

## **Voice Of Freedom**

By Carole Boston Weatherford

Presents a collage-illustrated treasury of poems and spirituals inspired by the life and work of civil rights advocate Fannie Lou Hamer. Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950's until her death in 1977.

L: 820 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.6

#### What Do You Do With An Idea?

By Kobi Yamada

This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens

L: 340 IL: K-3 RL: 2.5

#### **Word Nerd**

By Susin Nielson

When some bullies at his new school almost kill him by slipping a peanut into his sandwich, friendless nerd Ambrose, forced to be home-schooled by his overprotective mother, coerces his neighbor Cosmo into taking him to the West Side Scrabble Club, where people accept him for who he is.

L: 800 IL: 5-8 RL: 5.1

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#### **Words In The Dust**

By Trent Reedy

Zulaikha, a thirteen-year-old girl in Afghanistan, faces a series of frightening but exhilirating changes in her life as she defies her father and secretly meets with an old woman who teaches her to read, her older sister gets married, and American troops offer her surgery to fix her disfiguring cleft lip. L: 670 IL: 5-8 RL: 4.8

### Write This Down

By Claudia Mills

Twelve-year-old Autumn wants more than anything to be a real author, but when she wins a contest by writing something too personal about her brother, she has to decide if her dreams are more important than their relationship.

IL: 5-8 RL: 5.6

### **The Worst Night Ever**

By Dave Barry

Wyatt Palmer is just another undersized freshman hoping to fit in at high school, but when his best friend Matt Diaz's pet ferret ends up in the hands of the Bevins, the most popular boys at Coral Cove High, Wyatt and Matt try to get the animal back.

L: 650 IL: 3-6 RL: 4.8

### **Your Fantastic Elastic Brain**

By JoAnn Deak

Provides information about the human brain, discussing what it is, it's different parts, how it grows, and its role in controlling various parts and functions of the body.

L: 870 IL: K-3 RL: 3.1

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