

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

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

## **Ada's Violin**

By Susan Hood

The true tale of an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash called the 'Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay'.

IL: K-3 RL: 4.0 L:820

## **All Thirteen**

By Christina Soontornvat

Looks at the cave rescue of the twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach in northern Thailand.

IL: 5-8 RL: 5.9 L: 1020

## **Archibald Frisby**

By Michael Chesworth

Archibald gets his camp mates involved in his passion--the love of science--even though he is supposed to be at summer camp for "fun".

IL: K-3

## **Barefoot Dreams Of Petra Luna**

By Alda P. Dobbs

Based on a true story, the tale of one girl's perilous journey to cross the U.S. border and lead her family to safety during the Mexican Revolution.

IL: 4-6 RL: 4.8 L: 730

## **Bear Bottom**

By Stuart Gibbs

Henry the Hippo dies from not-so-natural causes, and Teddy suspects foul play. It's just the first of many mysteries to unfold at FunJungle.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.7 L: 820

## **Becoming Muhammed Ali**

By James Patterson & Kwame Alexaner

A biographical novel tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.

IL: 3-7 RL: 3.9 L: 1010

## **Alien Superstar**

By Henry Winkler & Lin Oliver

Buddy Burger escapes his home planet, lands in Hollywood, and is cast in a new television series, but must pretend his six eyes and suction-cup feet are the costume and his human skin, real.

IL: 3-6 RL: 6.4 L: 690

## **The Amelia Six: An Amelia Earhart Mystery**

By Kristin Gray

Eleven-year-old Millie and five other girls, snowed in at Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, are on a scavenger hunt when the lights go out and Amelia's aviator goggles go missing.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.4 L: 570

## **Barakah Beats**

By Maleeha Siddiqui

It's Nimra Sharif's first time going to public school. Nimra's nervous, but as long as she has her best friend, Jenna, by her side, she figures she can take on just about anything.

IL: 4-6 RL: 4.1 L: 650

## **Bea Is For Blended**

By Lindsey Stoddard

Soon after her mother marries a man with three sons, sixth-grader Bea Embers fights to form a girls' soccer team at school, despite discrimination and setbacks.

IL: 4-7 RL: 5.3

## **The Beatryce Prophecy**

By Kate DiCamillo

Beatryce, a girl with no memory aside from her name, a girl who can read and write despite laws prohibiting such a thing, a girl about whom Father Edik believes he may have written in his order's prophetic Chronicles of Sorrowing.

IL: 3-6

## **Before The Ever After**

By Jacqueline Woodson

ZJ's friends help him cope with his father, a professional football player, who suffers from severe headaches that could end his career.

IL: 4-8 RL: 4.5 L: 780

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## **BenBee And the Teacher Griefer**

By K.A. Holt

Four summer school classmates band together to save their teacher and their academic futures after Ms J.'s unorthodox teaching methods are questioned.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.3 L: 980

## **Beverly, Right Here**

By Kate DiCamillo

Beverly doesn't want to depend on anyone, and she definitely doesn't want anyone to depend on her. But despite her best efforts, she can't help forming connections with the people around her-- and gradually, she learns to see herself through their eyes. IL: 5-8 RL: 3.8 L: 480

## **The Boy Who Failed Dodge Ball**

By Jordan Sonnenblick

Sixth grade is the worst... and also the best, as Jordan rides the ups and downs of middle-school life in hilarious fashion.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.6 L: 850

## **Bye-Bye Blue Creek**

By Andrew Smith

Twelve-year-old Sam Abernathy, nervous about leaving Texas soon for an Oregon boarding school, has one last adventure with friends when possible vampires move into the town's haunted house.

IL: 3-6 RL: 5.6 L:1030

## **Charlie Thorne And The Curse Of Cleopatra**

By Stuart Gibbs

In an adventure that takes her across the globe, Charlie must fight for her life against ruthless enemies, match wits with Cleopatra, and solve the two-thousand-year-old mystery to prevent the most powerful treasure of the ancient world from falling into the wrong hands. IL: 5-8 RL: 6.3

## **Chester Keene Cracks The Code**

By Kekla Magoon

As Chester and Skye get closer to their final clue, they discover the key to their spy assignment: they have to stop a heist! But cracking this code may mean finding out things are not always what they seem.

IL: 4-7 L: 540

## **Best Nerds Forever**

By James Patterson & Chris Grabenstein

Rendered a ghost by a bicycle accident, young Finn McAllister teams up with fellow spirit Isabella Rojas to commit invisible pranks on the living, before discovering that they cannot move on to the afterlife.

IL: 4-7 RL: 4-7

## **Black Brother, Black Brother**

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

IL: 5-8 RL: 3.4

## **The Boy Who Failed Show And Tell**

By Jordan Sonnenblick

Based on the author's childhood, this story is about young Jason who has to deal with several issues at school while trying to become a drummer.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.6 L: 890

## **The Canyon's Edge**

By Dusti Bowling

A year after the death of her mother in a restaurant shooting, Nora is left struggling to stay alive when a climbing trip with her father goes terribly wrong.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.8

## **Charlie Thorne And The Lost City**

By Stuart Gibbs

In a daring adventure that takes her across South America, Charlie must crack Darwin's 200-year-old clues to track down his mysterious discovery-- and stay ahead of the formidable lineup of enemies who are hot on her tail.

IL: 5-8 RL: 6.8

## **Chirp**

By Kate Messner

Moving to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, a young gymnast hides a secret as she makes new friends and investigates her grandmother's claim that someone is trying to destroy her cricket farm.

RL: 5.4

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## **The Christmas Pig**

By J.K. Rowling

An adventure about one child's love for his most treasured thing, and how far he will go to find it. A tale for the whole family to fall in love with.

RL: 6.3 L: 850

## **City Spies Forbidden Cities**

By James Ponti

Five well-trained secret agents between 12 and 15 years old, whose current mission for MI6 is to enable the defection of a North Korean nuclear scientist and his son, a brilliant chess player, before a sinister, criminal network abducts them.

IL: 3-7 L: 790

## **Dancing Hands**

By Margarita Engle

Tells the story of Teresa Carreno, a child prodigy who played piano for Abraham Lincoln.

IL:K-3 RL: 5.0 L: 1260

## **Dear Sweet Pea**

By Julie Murphy

Flora leaves for a trip and asks Sweet Pea to forward her the letters for the column. Sweet Pea happens to recognize the handwriting on one of the envelopes. What she decides to do with that letter sets off a chain of events.

IL: 5-8 RL: 5.1

## **The Downstairs Girl**

By Stacey Lee

By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for 'the genteel Southern lady'. IL: YA L: 810

## **Dress Coded**

By Carrie Firestone

An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.8 L: 760

## **City Spies**

By James Ponti

Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.3 L: 750

## **Clean Getaway**

By Nic Stone

For the life of him, William 'Scoob' Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble. So when G'ma asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say freedom.

IL: 5-8 RL: 5.0 L: 780

## **Dear Student**

By Elly Schwartz

Autumn is chosen by her teacher to be the anonymous voice behind "Dear Student," the school newspaper's advice column.

IL: 3-6 L: 610

## **Defending Champ**

By Mike Lupica

When the girls soccer team learns it has been canceled due to budget cuts, they come up with a plan to raise the necessary funds through a face-off with the boys' team, which is led by sneering superstar Chase Gwinn.

RL: 5.6 L: 770

## **Drawn Together**

By Minh Le

A boy and his grandfather cross a language and cultural barrier using their shared love of art, storytelling, and fantasy.

IL: K-3 RL: 2.8 L: 310

## **Dry**

By Jerrod & Neal Shusterman

A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a warzone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive.

IL: YA L: 790

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## **A Duet For Home**

By Karina Yan Glaser

Two children live in a homeless shelter. As their friendship grows over a shared love of classical music, June and Tyrell confront a new housing policy that puts homeless families in danger.

IL: 3-6 RL: 6.5

## **Falling Short**

By Ernesto Cisneros

Isaac and Marco already know sixth grade is going to change their lives. But it won't change things at home--not without each other's help.

IL: 3-6

## **Finding Audrey**

By Sophie Kinsella

Fourteen-year-old Audrey is making slow but steady progress dealing with her anxiety disorder when Linus comes into the picture and her recovery gains momentum.

IL: 5-8 L: 540

## **For Black Girls Like Me**

By Miriama Lockington

Eleven-year-old Makeda dreams of meeting her African American mother, while coping with serious problems in her white adopted family, a cross-country move, and being homeschooled.

IL: 4-7 RL: 3.5 L: 500

## **The Fort**

By Gordon Korman

When a tight-knit group of middle school friends discover a trap door in the woods that leads to a completely intact bomb shelter, they vow to keep the place a secret while sharing their individual secrets to build the safest space possible.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.7

## **From You To Me**

By K.A. Holt

On the first day of eighth grade Amelia finds a letter that her older sister Clara wrote to herself before she drowned, and it contains a list of the things Clara planned to do in her own eighth grade year. So Amelia resolves to complete the list, in the hope that it will bring some closure.

IL: 3-7 RL: 7.0

## **Efren Divided**

By Ernesto Cisneros

While his father works two jobs, seventh-grader Efren Nava must take care of his twin siblings, kindergartners Max and Mia, after their mother is deported to Mexico. Includes glossary of Spanish words.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.5 L: 710

## **Fast Pitch**

By Nic Stone

Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is a legend when it comes to her love of the ball field. Her great-grandfather was nearly in the pros. Her great-uncle Jack recently spilled the beans that the crime that cost Great Grampy his career was a setup! IL: 3-6 L: 790

## **The First Rule Of Punk**

By Celia Perez

Twelve-year-old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code and starts a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

IL: 4-7 RL: 4.5 L: 670

## **The Forgotten Girl**

By India Hill Brown

When eleven-year-old Iris sneaks out at night to make snow angels, she was not expecting to raise the ghost of Avery Moore.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.7 L: 670

## **Free Lunch**

By Rex Ogle

Rex Ogle recounts his first semester in sixth grade in which he and his younger brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies and he was on his school's free lunch program.

IL: 3-7 L: 540

## **The Genius Under The Table**

By Eugene Yelchin

Yelchin describes his 1960s Leningrad childhood in the former Soviet Union, where his entire family crowds into a one-room apartment right next to the resident KGB informer.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.9

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## **The Girl In The Blue Coat**

By Monica Hesse

In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke is tasked with finding a Jewish girl who has seemingly vanished into thin air, and is pulled into a web of resistance activities and secrets as she attempts to solve the mystery and save the missing girl. IL: YA L: 720

## **Glitch**

By Laura Martin

Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason have been enemies since they started training to become Glitchers-- people who travel through time to preserve important historical events. But everything changes when they find a letter from Regan's future self. IL: 5-8 RL: 6.6

## **Goodbye, Mr. Terupt**

By Rob Buyea

To celebrate their remaining time with Mr. Terupt, the students hatch bucket-list type projects to make the school year important, memorable, and way bigger than just the group.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.2 L: 690

## **Guest**

By Mary Downing Hahn

Young Mollie traverses eerie, perilous lands to retrieve her baby brother, Thomas, from the Kinde Folke, malicious sprites who snatched him and left a hideous changeling in his place.

IL: 5-8 L: 660

## **Hide And Geek**

By J.P. Jagger

Eleven-year-old Gina Sparks, aspiring journalist, and her fellow GEEKs, Edgar, Elena, and Kevin, live in Elmwood, New Hampshire, a small town in serious danger of vanishing completely--unless the four friends can find the Van Houten fortune.

IL: 3-6 L: 730

## **How To Train Your Dad**

By Gary Paulsen

Near-teen Carl sets out to cure his single dad of certain embarrassing habits with help from recklessly agreeable friend Pooder Haskell and a puppy-training manual.

IL: 4-6 L: 1200

## **Girl Running: Bobbi Gibb And The Boston**

### **Marathon**

By Annette Bay Pimentel

Bobbi is told she can't run again when she tries to enter the Boston Marathon in 1966, because women are considered not capable of running such a long distance. She sets out to show the world just what a girl can do. IL: K-3 RL: 2.8 L: 580

### **Gone To The Woods**

By Gary Paulsen

A mesmerizing memoir from a literary legend, giving readers a new perspective on the origins of *Hatchet* and other famed survival stories.

IL: 5-8 RL: 6.6 L: 630

## **Ground Zero**

By Alan Gratz

A pulse-pounding and unforgettable take on history and hope, revenge and fear -- and the stunning links between the past and present September 11, 2001, New York City.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.8 L: 690

## **Halfway To Harmony**

By Barbara O'Connor

Ten-year-old Walter Tipple is grieving his beloved older brother, Tank, when a sassy girl named Posey moves in next door and Banjo, a hot-air balloonist, sets the pair on an adventure.

IL: 4-7 RL: 5.7 L: 750

## **How To Code A Sand Castle**

By Josh Funk

Pearl and her trusty rust-proof robot, Pascal, need to build a sandcastle before summer vacation is over, and they're going to do it using code.

IL: K-3 RL: 1.7 L: 530

## **I Am Defiance**

By Jenni L. Walsh

From a young age Brigitte learns to support the Nazi party and attend her League of German Girls meetings, but after reading a forbidden pamphlet from the White Rose she begins to question everything she has been taught.

IL: 3-7 RL: 6.1

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## **Ink And Bone**

By Lisa Unger

Finley Montgomery, a young woman with a psychic gift, crosses paths with a desperate mother searching for her missing daughter.

IL: AD

## **Izzy Gizmo**

By Pip Jones

Izzy Gizmo loves to invent but gets frustrated when her inventions fail to work properly, so when she finds a crow with a broken wing her grandfather urges her to persist until she finds a way to help.

IL: K-3 L:660

## **Just Like That**

By Gary D. Schmidt

A grieving girl and a boy trying to escape his violent past. Both young people gradually dispel their loneliness, finding a way to be hopeful and also finding each other.

IL: 5-7 RL: 5.6

## **Leaving Lymon**

By Lisa Cline Ransome

Raised by his grandparents, first in Mississippi then in Wisconsin, ten-year-old Lymon moves to Chicago in 1945 to live with the mother he never knew, while yearning for his father.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.3

## **Lines Of Courage**

By Jennifer A. Nielsen

From the assassination that triggers World War I in 1914 to Armistice Day in 1918, the story follows the fates of five young people on both sides of the conflict--each facing their portion of the war with courage, until the end of the war brings them together. IL: 3-7 RL: 3.9 L: 740

## **Long Lost**

By Jacqueline West

Feeling lonely and out of place after her family moves to a new town, eleven-year-old Fiona Crane ventures to the local library, where she finds a gripping mystery novel about a small town, family secrets, and a tragic disappearance.

IL: 3-7 RL: 6.1

## **Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero**

By Kelly J. Baptist

Isaiah Dunn needs a hustle like his best friend Sneaky's candy business, something to get him, his mom, and his little sister out of the smoky motel where they've been living.

IL: 3-6 RL: 4.1 L: 700

## **John's Turn**

By Mac Barnett

The story of a kid who finds the courage to show others his talent for dancing.

IL: K-3

## **Key Player**

By Kelly Yang

The Women's World Cup coming to Southern California, everyone is soccer-crazy -- especially Mia Tang! The U.S. is playing China in the finals, and Mia feels like her two identities are finally coming together.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.5 L: 600

## **Lifting As We Climb**

By Evette Dionne

An eye-opening book that tells the important, overlooked story of Black women as a force in the suffrage movement--when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle.

IL: 5-8 RL: 8.8

## **Linked**

By Gordon Korman

The appearance of a swastika splashed onto the wall of a small Colorado town's middle school kicks off instant responses that begin with units of "tolerance education" in school.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.0

## **Look Both Ways**

By Jason Reynolds

A collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school.

IL: 5-9 RL: 4.8 L: 750

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## **Louise Loves Art**

By Kelly Light

After drawing a picture of her cat, a young girl searches for the perfect place to hang her masterpiece.

IL: K-3 RL: 1.4 L: 390

## **Maizy Chen's Last Chance**

By Lisa Yee

11-year-old Maizy first visits her grandparents' home in Last Chance, Minnesota, and their family business, the Golden Palace restaurant, Maizy struggles to understand her mother and her grandparents, observing their interactions and learning about their experiences. IL: 3-7 L: 670

## **Marcus Makes It Big**

By Kevin Hart

After Marcus's movie goes viral and he gets an invite to the Helen show, he experiences the challenges of sudden fame and risks losing the friends who helped him along the way.

IL: 3-7 RL: 3.6

## **Max Einstein Rebels With A Cause**

By James Patterson & Chris Grabenstein

It's hard to save the world when you're trying not to be kidnapped by a greedy corporation that profits when others suffer--and seems to know your every move.

IL: 3-9 RL: 5.0 L: 700

## **The Midnight Children**

By Dan Gemeinhart

When Lonely Ravani Foster discovers his new friend Virginia and her six mysterious runaway companions are in danger, he must fight to keep them safe, or lose the only person who has ever understood him.

IL: 4-8 RL: 3.2

## **Mr. Lemoncello And The Titanium Ticket**

By Chris Grabenstein

Four lucky kids go on a scavenger hunt inside Mr. Lemoncello's Gameworks factory, where they compete for a chance to win a titanium ticket.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.9 L: 710

## **Magic Trash**

By J. H. Shapiro

A picture book biography of urban environmental artist Tyree Guyton, discussing his childhood in 1950s Detroit and the way he used art to transform his decaying, crime-ridden neighborhood into an internationally-recognized exhibit. IL: K-3 RL: 3.3 L: 650

## **Marcus Makes A Movie**

By Kevin Hart

A boy who has big dreams of making a blockbuster superhero film.

IL: 3-6 RL: 3.7 L: 480

## **Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish**

By Pablo Cartaya

After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mother takes him and his younger brother, who has Down syndrome, to Puerto Rico to visit relatives they do not remember or have never met.

IL: 5-8 RL: 3.9 L: 580

## **Max Einstein Saves The World**

By James Patterson & Chris Grabenstein

Max and her friends are back and ready to take on their biggest problem yet: world hunger. Max must also avoid the evil Corp and her nemesis, Dr. Zimm.

IL: 3-9 RL: 5.1 L: 760

## **Merci Suarez Plays It Cool**

By Meg Medina

Meg Medina follows Merci Suarez into an eighth-grade year full of changes--evolving friendships, new responsibilities, and heartbreaking loss.

IL: 4-7 RL: 5.1

## **Mr. Lemoncello's Very First Game**

By Chris Grabenstein

Once upon a time Luigi Lemoncello was a twelve-year-old boy in a large family who dreamed of being a showman. He gets his first chance working for a famous barker at a summer carnival.

IL: 3-7 RL: 6.1

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## **My Own Lightning**

By Lauren Wolk

Annabelle McBride is struck by lightning during a powerful summer storm, leaving her with heightened senses that give her a new understanding of animals and help her learn about compassion and forgiveness.

IL: 5-8 RL: 5.7 L: 710

## **The Night Bus Hero**

By Onjali Q. Rauf

When Hector plays a prank on a homeless man and is seen and shamed by a schoolmate, he reaches a turning point.

L: 840

## **Northwind**

By Gary Paulsen

When sickness decimates his fishing village, an orphan named Leif flees north in a cedar canoe, journeying along a brutal but beautiful coastline.

IL: 5-8 RL: 7.0

## **Notorious**

By Gordon Korman

Told in different voices, on Centerlight Island, halfway between the United States and Canada, middle-schoolers Keenan and ZeeBee team up to seek gold rumored to be hidden there a famous gangster.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.1 L: 740

## **One Time**

By Sharon Creech

Imaginative, eleven-year-old Gina, her mysterious new neighbor, Antonio, and their classmates are inspired by an unusual young teacher to see who they are and envision who they are meant to become.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.8

## **Omar Rising**

By Aisha Saeed

Omar must contend with being treated like a second-class citizen when he gets a scholarship to an elite boarding school.

IL: 5-8

## **New From Here**

By Kelly Yang

Knox works to keep his family together as they move from Hong Kong back to northern California during the initial outbreak of the coronavirus.

IL: 3-7 L: 630

## **No Ordinary Thing**

By G.Z. Schmidt

A mysterious stranger brings to shy, orphaned, twelve-year-old Adam a magical snow globe that sends him on adventures through time, and then returns him to his uncle's New York City bakery.

IL: 4-6 RL: 6.4

## **Not Hungry**

By Kate Karyus Quinn

Free verse provides an introspective voice for a teen struggling with an eating disorder.

IL: YA L: 430

## **One Last Shot**

By John David Anderson

Something about mini golf just clicks for Malcolm. As the final match of the year draws closer, the tension between Malcolm's parents reaches a breaking point, and it's up to him to put the puzzle of his family back together again.

IL: 4-7 RL: 6.1 L: 680

## **Operation Do-Over**

By Gordon Korman

Mason is transported back in time to his seventh-grade year, and he has a chance to redo the mistake he most regrets and create a different future.

IL: 4-7

## **Other Words For Home**

By Jasmine Warga

Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.3 L: 930



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## **Out Of My Heart**

By Sharon M. Draper

Because she loves horses but is scared of them, Melody wants to conquer her fears, so she hopes a summer camp will be the place to welcome someone with cerebral palsy who wants to learn to ride.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.8 L: 700

## **The Paris Project**

By Donna Gephart

Cleveland Rosebud Potts yearns to leave Sassafras, Florida for a rich and cultured life at The American School of Paris, but problems with family, friends, and finances stand in her way.

IL: 4-7 RL: 6.5 L: 740

## **The Perfect Star**

By Rob Buyea

Told from different viewpoints, five eighth-graders who have challenges at home and at school also experience a sad loss as a group and welcome a new addition to their extended family.

IL: 4-7 RL: 5.8 L: 730

## **Pony**

By R.J. Palacio

A modern classic about a boy on a quest to rescue his father, with only a ghost as his companion and a mysterious pony as his guide.

IL: 5-8 RL: 6.8 L: 740

## **Queen Of The Tiles**

By Hanna Alkaf

Fifteen-year-old Najwa Bakri is forced to investigate the mysterious death of her best friend and Scrabble Queen, Trina, a year after the fact when her Instagram comes back to life with cryptic posts and messages.

IL: YA L: 750

## **Room To Dream**

By Kelly Yang

After years of hard work, Mia Tang finally gets to go on vacation with her family--to China! As she roams around Beijing, witnessing some of the big changes China's going through, Mia thinks about the changes in her own life.

IL: 4-7 RL: 4.5 L: 650

## **Paradise On Fire**

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

Bronx middle-grader Addy, who struggles with a family tragedy by drawing maps and studying mazes, joins other city youngsters on a wilderness adventure in California that turns deadly when wildfires erupt.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.7

## **Pax, Journey Home**

By Sara Pennypacker

It has been a year since newly orphaned Peter and his pet fox Pax, now a protective father, have seen each other, but their paths cross again when Pax's kit falls desperately ill forcing him to turn to the one human he knows he can trust.

IL: 4-7 L: 750

## **Planet Earth Is Blue**

By Nicole Panteleakos

Autistic and nearly nonverbal, twelve-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return.

IL: 4-8 L: 740

## **Prairie Lotus**

By Linda Sue Park

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

IL: 5-7 RL: 5.2 L: 730

## **Remarkables**

By Margaret Peterson Haddix

Eleven-year-old Marin and her neighbor Charley hope that by preventing a disaster that occurred twenty years ago, they can save Charley's dad from a future of guilt and self-destructive behavior.

IL: 3-6 RL: 5.2 L: 800

## **Saucy**

By Cynthia Kadohata

When eleven-year-old Becca, a quadruplet, finds a sick piglet on the side of the road, her life is changed forever.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.0 L: 730

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## **The Shape Of Thunder**

By Jasmine Warga

Estranged from the best friend whose brother killed her sister in a school shooting, a grieving Cora receives a message on her twelfth birthday from her friend, asking for her help with creating a time portal to prevent the tragedy.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.2

## **Simon B. Rhymin'**

By Dwayne Reed

Chicago fifth-grader Simon, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, uses his rhymes to help bring his community together.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.6

## **The Smartest Kid In The Universe: Genius Camp**

By Chris Grabenstein

Twelve-year-old Jake McQuade-the smartest kid in the universe-goes to a camp for geniuses, where he goes up against the Virtuoso quantum computer, the smartest machine in the universe.

IL: 3-7 L: 650

## **Solimar: The Sword Of The Monarchs**

By Pam Munoz Ryan

On the eve of her Quinceañera, Princess Solimar discovers that it will take more than magic to save her kingdom and prevent the destruction of the Monarch butterfly.

IL: 3-7

## **Solving For M**

By Jennifer Sevender

Shortly after starting fifth grade, Mika learns that her mother has cancer and uses her math notebook to explore the new changes in her life.

IL: 3-6 RL: 6.2 L: 730

## **Spy School Project X**

By Stuart Gibbs

Superspy middle schooler Ben Ripley races against time and across state lines--traveling by car, train, boat and plane--to track Murray Hill down before Ben's cyber enemies can find him.

IL: 3-7 RL: 7.1

## **Shine!**

By JJ & Chris Grabenstein

When seventh-grader Piper's father is hired by Chumley Prep, a school where every student seems to be the best at everything, she gets the chance to compete for the prestigious Excelsior Award.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.7 L: 650

## **The Smartest Kid In The Universe**

Chris Grabenstein

When seventh-grader Jake McQuade mistakes the world's first ingestible knowledge pills for jelly beans, he suddenly knows all about physics and geometry and can speak Swahili. Can he use his new found brilliance to save their middle school from shutting down? IL: 3-7 RL: 4.7 L: 640

## **Sofie Valdez, Future Prez**

By Andrea Beatty

When her abuelo is injured at the local landfill, second-grader Sofia is determined to transform the dangerous Mount Trashmore into a park, taking on City Hall in the process.

IL: K-2 RL: 2.4 L: 680

## **Solo**

By Kwame Alexander

Seventeen-year-old Blade, who endeavors to resolve painful issues from his past to navigate the challenges of his former rockstar father's addictions, scathing tabloid rumors, and a protected secret that threatens his own identity.

IL: YA L: 640

## **Spy School At Sea**

By Stuart Gibbs

While on a mission aboard the The Emperor of the Seas, Ben Ripley faces off against his arch enemy, Murray Hill, on the high seas and quickly finds himself in hot water as things take a dangerous turn.

IL: 3-7 RL: 6.9

## **Spy School Revolution**

By Stuart Gibbs

With SPYDER apparently defeated, thirteen-year-old Benjamin Ripley is hoping for some peace at spy school, but when the CIA conference room next to where Ben and Alexander are trying to explain everything to Ben's parents is blown up, suspicion falls on fellow trainee Erica.

IL: 3-7 RL: 6.7 L: 820

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## **Squirm**

By Carl Hiassen

Billy Dickens discovers that his mysterious father lives in Montana, so this summer Billy will fly across the country, hike a mountain, float a river, dodge a grizzly bear, shoot down a spy drone, and save his own father.

IL: 5-7 RL: 4.8 L: 740

## **Starfish**

By Lisa Fipps

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.7

## **Struttin' With Some Barbeque**

By Patricia Hruby Powell

This is the true story of Lil Hardin Armstrong: pianist, composer, and bandleader in the early days of jazz. Ahead of her time, Lil made a career for herself--and for Louis Armstrong, her modest, unassuming husband.

IL: 4-7 RL: 4.8 L: 900

## **Swing**

By Kwame Alexander

Noah and his best friend Walt want to become cool, make the baseball team, and win over Sam, the girl Noah has loved for years. When Noah finds old love letters, Walt hatches a plan to woo Sam.

IL: YA L: 610

## **Thirst**

By Varsha Bajaj

A heroic girl in Mumbai fights for her belief that water should be for everyone.

IL: 5-7 RL: 6.7

## **Those Kids From Fawn Creek**

By Erin Entrada Kelly

The twelve kids in the seventh grade at Fawn Creek K-12 have been together all their lives so when graceful Orchid Mason arrives, with exotic clothes and glorious hair, the other seventh graders do not know what to think.

IL: 3-7

## **Strange Birds: A Field Guide To Ruffling Feathers**

By Celia Perez

After Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their sleepy Florida town.

IL: 4-7 RL: 5.0 L: 750

## **Strike Zone**

By Derek Jeter

Derek's season is not off to a good start, with his good friends on a different team and his father unable to coach, and having a girl on his team only complicates things more.

IL: 3-7 RL: 4.8 L: 710

## **Stuntboy: In The Meantime**

By Jason Reynolds

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels the responsibility to save them.

IL: 2-7 RL: 5.4

## **They Went Left**

By Monica Hesse

Zofia, a teenage Holocaust survivor, travels across post-war Europe as she searches for her younger brother and seeks to rebuild her shattered life.

IL: 9-12 L: 730

## **Thirteen Doorways: Wolves Behind Them All**

By Laura Ruby

When Frankie's mother died and her father left her and her siblings at an orphanage in Chicago, it was supposed to be only temporary--just long enough for him to get back on his feet and be able to provide for them once again.

IL: 9-12 L: 770

## **Three Keys**

By Kelly Yang

Mia Tang thinks she's going to have the best year ever. She and her parents are the proud owners of the Calivista Motel, Mia gets to run the front desk with her best friend, Lupe, and she's finally getting somewhere with her writing! But as it turns out, sixth grade is no picnic.

RL: 4.5

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## **Tornado Brain/Paper Heart**

By Cat Patrick

Mere months after her best friend's death, thirteen-year-old Tess spends a summer with family in Wyoming, making friends at art camp while being haunted by Colette and her own anxieties.

IL: 6-9 RL: 4.9

## **Two Degrees**

By Alan Gratz

When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world. IL: 3-7 RL: 6.4

## **The United States VS. Jackie Robinson**

By Sudipta Bardhan Quyalen

The true story of Jackie Robinson's battle against prejudice while serving in the military during World War II, covering his court-martial for refusing to move to the back of an integrated bus.

IL: K-3 RL: 3.5 L: 820

## **The Unusual Suspects**

By Michael Buckley

Although filled with anger over her parents' disappearance, eleven-year-old Sabrina Grimm--along with her grandmother, sister, and several fairy-tale characters--tries to discover who has killed her teacher.

IL: 4-6

## **The Vander Beekers On The Road**

By Karina Yan Glaser

The Vander Beekers depart Harlem to celebrate their dad's birthday. But their surprise road trip turns rocky when the younger kids try to keep their family from ever facing change.

IL: 4-6 RL: 5.4

## **Watercress**

By Andrea Wang

Embarrassed about gathering watercress from a roadside ditch, a girl learns to appreciate her Chinese heritage after learning why the plant is so important to her parents.

IL: K-3 RL: 2.9 L: 610

## **The True Story Of Lyndie B. Hawkins**

By Gail Shepherd

When twelve-year-old Lyndie and her parents must move to her grandparents' home in small-town Tennessee in 1985, having to keep all family problems private only adds to their problems.

IL: 4-7 L: 700

## **Tyrannosaurus Wrecks**

By Stuart Gibbs

The local police prove unhelpful when a 500-pound dinosaur skull vanishes from a secret excavation on Sage's family's ranch, so Teddy and his friends conduct their own investigation.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.7 L: 830

## **Unplugged**

By Gordon Korman

The adventures of a group of youngsters at an electronics-free wellness camp where wealthy, spoiled Jett, leads other campers in trying to stop a criminal.

IL: 3-7 RL: 6.2 L: 750

## **The Vander Beekers Make A Wish**

By Karina Yan Glaser

Excited for Papa's surprise fortieth birthday party, the Vander Beeker children learn more about their mysterious grandparents while waiting for the celebration to start.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.1

## **The Vander Beekers To The Rescue**

By Karina Yan Glaser

The Vanderbeeker children, ages six to thirteen, race to help save their mother's baking business from closure after it fails an inspection.

IL: 4-6 RL: 5.3

## **Ways To Make Sunshine**

By Renee Watson

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.

IL: 3-5 RL: 4.5

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## We Are Not Free

By Traci Chee

For fourteen-year-old budding artist Minoru Ito, his two brothers, his friends, and the other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor was attacked have become a waking nightmare.

IL: YA

## We Own The Sky

By Rodman Philbrick

It's Maine, 1924, and the Ku Klux Klan is on the rise. Davy and Jo Michaud have been recently orphaned. When Davy and Jo cross paths with the Klan, they get tangled up in a terrible revenge plan, and held as hostages. Can they escape with their lives? IL: 3-7 RL: 6.5

## What If

By Samantha Berger

A child who likes to draw and write stories imagines what would happen if there were no pencils, paper, or other tools for being creative.

IL: K-3 RL: 3.5

## When Winter Robeson Came

By Brenda Woods

In August 1965, twelve-year-old Eden's older cousin from Mississippi comes to visit her in Los Angeles, and while the Watts Riots erupt around them, they continue their investigation of the disappearance of Winter's father ten years ago.

IL: 5-8

## Where The Watermelons Grow

By Cindy Baldwin

Twelve-year-old Della Kelly of Maryville, North Carolina, tries to come to terms with her mother's mental illness while her father struggles to save the farm from a record-breaking drought.

IL: 4-7 RL: 7.0 L: 1020

## Wildfire

By Rodman Philbrick

Thirteen-year-old Sam Castine is at summer camp while his mother is in rehab, but when the camp is evacuated ahead of a fast moving wildfire, he makes the mistake of going back for his phone, and finds himself left behind, disoriented, and running for his life, together with a girl, Delphy, from a different camp. IL: 4-7 RL: 4.7 L: 700

## We Dream Of Space

By Erin Entrada Kelly

As the launch of the Challenger approaches, Ms. Salonga gives her students a project; they are separated into spacecraft crews and must create and complete a mission. When the fated day finally arrives, it changes all of their lives and brings them together in unexpected ways. IL: 4-7

## What Comes Next

By Rob Buyea

Twelve-year-old Thea, devastated after seeing her best friend die, begins to open to the possibility of new friendships and forgiveness, and comes to believe in what cannot be fully explained.

IL: 3-7 RL: 5.5

## What Lane?

By Torrey Maldonado

Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends and learns about the Black Lives Matter movement.

IL: 5-8 RL: 4.4

## When You Trap A Tiger

By Tae Keller

When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni.

IL: 3-6 RL: 5.0 L: 590

## Wild River

By Rodman Philbrick

When a dam fails and rushing waters sweep away their adult supervisors, five middle schoolers on a white-water rafting adventure are left alone with few supplies and the opportunity to forge powerful bonds as well as develop dangerous disagreements. IL: 3-7 RL: 4.2 L: 630

## Words On Fire

By Jennifer A. Nielsen

In 1893 twelve-year-old Audra lives on a farm in Lithuania, and tries to avoid the Cossack soldiers who enforce the Russian decrees that ban Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language.

IL: 4-8 RL: 5.8 L: 820

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## World Champions! A Max Einstein Adventure

By James Patterson & Chris Grabenstein

Taking on her biggest challenge yet--preventing climate change from destroying the earth--Max Einstein is pitted against a new evil group that would rather let the whole world crumble than allow her to save the planet.

IL: 3-9 RL: 6.0

## Worser

By Jennifer Ziegler

William Wyatt Orser's life is turned upside down after his mother has a stroke, but the socially awkward, word-loving twelve-year-old finds glimmers of hope when he discovers friends who share his love of wordplay and books.

IL: 4-7 RL: 6.1

## You Owe Me A Murder

By Eileen Cook

On a school trip to London that includes her ex-boyfriend and his new girlfriend, Kim meets risk-taker Nicki, who proposes a diabolical deal.

IL: YA L: 690

Jennifer Schiltz

[Jennifer.Schiltz@dmschools.org](mailto:Jennifer.Schiltz@dmschools.org)

[jennyschiltz77@gmail.com](mailto:jennyschiltz77@gmail.com)

Christie McConathy

[Christie.McCaonathy@dmschools.org](mailto:Christie.McCaonathy@dmschools.org)

[christie.mcconathy@aol.com](mailto:christie.mcconathy@aol.com)