



## Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Compiled by:

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### Best Fiction

**Amato, Mary. *Snarf Attack, Underfoodle and the Secret of Life: The Riot Brothers Tell All* , 2004.**

Prankster siblings Orville and Wilbur Riot, plot to catch a crook, search for treasure and design a catapult capable of defeating a bully, with hilarious results.

**Ardagh, Philip. *The House Called Awful End* , 2002.**

With tongue firmly in cheek, Ardagh tells the tale of Eddie Dickins, who is shipped off to live with Mad Uncle Jack and Even Madder Aunt Maud and ends up in St. Horrid's Horrible Home for orphans. (Sequels: *Dreadful Acts* and *Terrible Times* .)

**Armstrong, Jennifer. *Black-Eyed Susan* , 1995.**

Susie and her father love living in the sod house on the prairie in the Dakota Territory, but her mother longs for her life in Ohio . Concerned that her mother never laughs or smiles any more, Susie searches for ways to share her joy.

**Bauer, Marion Dane. *Runt* , 2002.**

Runt, the smallest wolf cub of the litter, struggles mightily to prove his worth to his father and his pack.

**Black, Holly. *The Field Guide (The Spiderwick Chronicles, Book 1)* , 2003.**

The Grace siblings, Mallory, Jared and Simon, move with their mother into their Aunt Lucinda's old house and discover a host of hidden magical creatures. (Sequels: *The Seeing Stone* ; *Lucinda's Secret* ; *The Ironwood Tree* and *The Wrath of Mulgarth* .)

**Blume, Judy. *Double Fudge* , 2002.**

The mischievous, five-year-old Fudge, drives his brother crazy with his antics as the family takes a trip to Washington, D. C. and unexpectedly meets up with their cousins from Hawaii . (Previous titles: *Fudge* and *Superfudge* ; see also: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* .)

**Bowditch, Lynea. *Brooklyn , Bugsy and Me* , 2000.**

In 1953 nine-year-old Sam moves with his mother from West Virginia to Brooklyn and finds that his grandfather, a well-liked neighborhood character nicknamed Bugsy, does not seem to want him in his life.

**Brisson, Pat. *Sky Memories* , 1999, o.p.**

When ten-year-old Emily learns that her mother has cancer, the two of them begin a ritual that will help Emily remember her mother after she is dead.

**Bruchac, Joseph. *Skeleton Man* , 2001.**

When Molly's parents disappear and Social Services turns her over to a great-uncle she's never met, Molly relies on visions of a Mohawk legend to unravel the mystery in order to save her parents' lives and her own.

**Butler , Dori. *Trading Places with Tank Talbott* , 2003.**

Jason, who would rather work on his horror movie screenplay than learn to swim, finds an unlikely ally in Tank, the class bully, who is being forced to take ballroom dance lessons.

**Burgess, Melvin. *The Copper Treasure* , 2000.**

In Victorian England, three boys set out to retrieve the copper pipe at the bottom of the Thames , but their struggle has unforeseen consequences.

**Byars, Betsy. *The Keeper of the Doves* , 2002.**

In late 1800s Kentucky , Amie, the youngest of six daughters, lives with her family on a farm. Amie is afraid of and fascinated by the strange Mr. Tominski who cares for their doves. When her sisters' cruelty has dire consequences, Amie, the family writer, commemorates his life with a poem. (See also: *Me Tarzan* , *Tornado* and *The Seven Treasure Hunts* .)

**Carbone, Elisa. *Starting School with an Enemy* , 1998.**

Ten-year-old Sarah has just moved from Maine to Maryland . All she wants to do is make new friends, but accidentally, she makes an enemy of Eric, her next door neighbor, and things go down hill from there.

**Clements, Andrew. *Frindle* , 1996.**

When Nicholas Allen's fifth grade Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Granger, insists that people determine what words wind-up in the dictionary, he decides to invent a new word for pen-frindle, which he sticks with, an action that has repercussions beyond his small town and school. (See also: *The Laundry News* ; *School Story* and *The Report Card* .)

**Coman, Carolyn. *What Jamie Saw* , 1996.**

Waking in the middle of the night, Jamie witnesses his mother's boyfriend, Van, picking up his baby sister and throwing her against the wall. His mother catches her and then rushes both children away from this brutal life. Fear haunts them as they struggle to rebuild a secure environment together.

**Coman, Carolyn. *The Big House* , 2004.**

When Ivy and Ray's parents are sent to jail, and left in the custody of their parent's accusers, they decide to look for evidence that will "spring" their parents.

**Cowell, Cressida. *How to Train Your Dragon* , 2004.**

Young Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III must go forth and capture a dragon to train like the rest of the lads in his Viking tribe. He brings home the scrawniest of the lot, named Toothless, but with training, he and his sidekick save the day.

**DeFelice, Cynthia. *The Ghost of Fossil Glen* , 1998.**

When the ghost of Lucy Stiles saves Allie from falling off a cliff in Fossil Glen, Allie becomes determined to solve the mystery of her murder. (Sequels: *The Ghost and Mrs. Hobbs* and *The Ghost of Cutler Creek* .)

**DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie* , 2000.**

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni finds friends in her new home of Naomi , Florida , when she adopts the endearing dog who knows how to smile that she met in a grocery store.

**Dickinson, Peter. *Chuck and Danielle* , 1996.**

Danielle's pet whippet, Chuck, is terrified of absolutely everything, but Danielle is sure that Chuck is going to save the universe one day.

**Doyle, Roddy. *The Giggler Treatment* , 2000.**

A talking dog, the Mack children, and the small elf-like Gigglers themselves must try to stop the prank that the Gigglers have mistakenly set in motion to punish Mr. Mack for being mean to his children. (Sequels: *Rover Saves Christmas* and *The Meanwhile Adventures* .)

**Easton, Patricia. *Davey's Blue-Eyed Frog* , 2003.**

Davey finds a talking frog that claims to be a princess and plans to take her to school to show off, until he begins to consider the consequences of his actions.

**Gorman, Carol. *Dork in Disguise* , 1999.**

Jerry Flack is smart enough to know that when he starts school in a new town he can escape the label of "Dork," by acting cool, but he soon finds he would rather hang out with the kids on the science team. (Sequel: *Dork on the Run* .)

**Gutman, Dan. *The Million Dollar Shot* . 1997.**

Eleven-year-old Eddie gets a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the National Basketball Association finals. (Sequels: *The Million Dollar Kick* ; *The Million Dollar Strike* and *The Million Dollar Goal* .)

**Hest, Amy. *The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11* , 1996.**

In a series of journal entries and letters to a pen pal, Katie relates her feelings about her father's death in World War II, her mother's remarriage, and the family's move from New York City to Texas . (Sequel: *The Great Green Notebook of Katie Roberts: Who Just Turned 12 on Monday* .)

**Hobbs, Valerie. *Charlie's Run* , 2000.**

Hoping to stop his parents' impending separation and keep them from getting a divorce, eleven-year-old Charlie runs away from their home in inland California and finds a ride to the coast.

**Hoffman, Mary. *Starring Grace* , 2000.**

Grace and her friends have all sorts of adventures during their summer vacation--going to the circus, taking an imaginary safari, making friends with an elderly neighbor, pretending to be astronauts, and calling the paramedics when her grandmother has an accident. (Sequels: *Encore, Grace!* and *Bravo, Grace!* .)

**Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Mister and Me* , 1998.**

In a small Louisiana mill town in 1940, Jolene does not want her Momma to marry the logger who is courting her, but it seems that even her most defiantly bad behavior cannot make him go away.

**Howe, James. *Bunnacula Strikes Again* , 1999.**

When Bunnacula the rabbit starts acting strangely, the Monroe dogs and cat renew their suspicions that he is a vampire. (Previous titles: *Bunnacula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery* ; *Howlday Inn* , *Celery Stalks at Midnight* ; *Nighty-Nightmare* and *Return to Howlday Inn* .)

**Hurwitz, Johanna. *Fourth Grade Fuss* , 2004.**

Julio and his best friend Lucas are having a blast in fourth grade until they must prepare for the end of the year tests. (Previous titles: *Class Clown* , *Teacher's Pet* , *School's Out* and *Starting School* .)

**King-Smith, Dick. *A Mouse Called Wolf* , 1997.**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse, the runt of the litter, is a mouse whose talent for singing eventually comes in handy.

**Kurtz, Jane. *I'm Sorry Almira Ann* , 1999.**

Eight-year-old Sarah's high spirits help make her family's long journey from Missouri to Oregon more bearable, though they do cause both her and her best friend Almira Ann some problems.

**Lowry, Lois. *Zooman Sam* , 1999.**

Four-year-old Sam's appearance as a zookeeper at his nursery school's Future Job Day leads him to a number of exciting activities and discoveries, including reading. (Previous titles: *All about Sam* , *Attaboy, Sam* and *See You Around, Sam* .)

**Maguire, Gregory. *One Final Firecracker* , May 2005.**

A giant spider and several other odd creatures from the earlier books in the Hamlet Chronicles return as the small Vermont town celebrates a grammar school graduation, Miss Earth's wedding, and the Fourth of July. (Last in a series which began with *Seven Spiders Spinning* .)

**Mahy, Margaret. *The Horribly Haunted School* , 1997, o.p.**

Monty is allergic to ghosts; if there's one around, he sneezes. When he discovers a ghost named Lulu haunting his home, his mother sends him away to Brinsley Codd School for Sensible Thought, where she hopes he will learn that there are no such things as spirits. But Monty has only been inside the school a minute when he starts to sneeze.

**Mead, Alice. *Junebug* , 1996.**

Junebug, a ten-year-old African-American, lives in the projects in New Haven and takes care of his little sister while his mother is at work. He struggles to avoid the older boys who want to lure him into gang life and dreams of becoming a boat captain. (Sequels: *Junebug and the Reverend* and *Junebug in Trouble* .)

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Starting with Alice* , 2002.**

The first in a trilogy of prequels about Alice (the main character in the series that begins with *The Agony of Alice* ), Alice moves with her brother and father from Chicago to Maryland and has trouble finding friends in her new school. (Sequels: *Alice in Blunderland* and *Lovingly Alice* .)

**Pullman, Philip. *I Was a Rat!* 2000.**

A little boy turns life in London upside down when he appears at the house of a lonely old couple and insists that he was a rat.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Riding Freedom* , 1998.**

A fictionalized account of the life of Charley (Charlotte) Parkurst who ran away from an orphanage in the 1860s, disguised herself as a boy, moved to California and fooled everyone by her appearance.

**Rylant, Cynthia. *Gooseberry Park* , 1995.**

When a storm separates Stumpy the squirrel from her newborn babies, her animal friends come to the rescue.

**Shreve, Susan. *The Formerly Great Alexander Family* , 1995.**

Ten-year-old Liam is stunned to learn that his perfect family is about to be ruined when his parents announce that they are getting a divorce.

**Snicket, Lemony. *The Bad Beginning* , 1999.**

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune. (First in the *Series of Unfortunate Events* which includes: *The Reptile Room* ; *The Wide Window* ; *The Miserable Mill* ; *The Austere Academy* ; *The Ersatz Elevator* ; *The Vile Village* ; *The Hostile Hospital* ; *The Carnivorous Carnival* , *The Slippery Slope* , and *The Grim Grotto* .)

**Taylor, Mildred. *The Well: David's Story* , 1995.**

In Mississippi in the early 1900s ten-year-old David Logan's family generously shares their well water with both white and black neighbors in an atmosphere of potential racial violence.

**Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman: Secret Identity* , 2004.**

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity-Shredderman! (Sequels: *Attack of the Tagger* , *Meet the Gecko* , and *Enemy Spy* .)

**Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Hannah of Fairfield* , 1999.**

For almost nine-year-old Hannah Perley of Fairfield , Connecticut , growing up means facing new challenges, both great and small-from saving the life of a baby lamb to helping the family prepare to send her brother Ben to join the colonial soldiers in the American Revolutionary War. (Sequels: *Hannah's Helping Hands* and *Hannah's Winter of Hope* .)

**Van Velde, Vivian. *Smart Dog* , 1998.**

Fifth grader Amy finds her life growing complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent, talking dog that has escaped from a university lab.

**Wallace, Carol. *That Furball Puppy and Me* , 1999.**

Gray, a young cat, is dismayed when Christmas brings a Scottish terrier into the house, but he changes his mind when the new pet needs his help.

**Weeks, Sarah. *Regular Guy* , 1999.**

Because he is so different from his eccentric parents, Guy is convinced he has been switched at birth with a classmate whose parents seem more normal. (Sequels: *Guy Time* , *My Guy* and *Regular Guy* .)

**Williams, Vera. *Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart* , 2001.**

A series of narrative poems tells how two sisters help each other deal with life while their mother is working and their father has been sent to jail.

**Winkler, Henry. *Niagara Falls or Does It?* 2003.**

Fourth-graders Hank, Ashley and Frankie are excitedly preparing for a magic show when Hank's creative alternative to an English essay lands him in detention and he is grounded the week of the show. (First in the *Hank Zipzer* series which includes: *I Got a "D" in Salami* , *Day of the Iguana* ; *The Zippety Zinger* ; *The Night I Flunked My Field Trip* ; *Holy Enchilada*; *Help! Somebody Get Me Out of Fourth Grade* and *Summer School! What Genius Thought That Up?* )

**Yep, Laurence. *The Imp That Ate My Homework* , 1998.**

Jim teams up with his grandfather, who is known as the meanest man in Chinatown , to defeat a powerful demon.