



Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

5th Grade

Compiled by:

Susan Fichtelberg, Woodbridge Public Library

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Best Fiction

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Gawgon and the Boy* , 2001.

In Depression-era Philadelphia , when eleven-year-old David is too ill to attend school, he is tutored by the unique Aunt Annie, whose teaching combines with his imagination to send him on adventures exploring the wonders of the world.

Anderson, M. T. *The Game of Sunken Places* , 2004.

When two boys stay with an eccentric relative at his mansion in rural Vermont , they discover an old-fashioned board game that draws them into a mysterious adventure.

Avi. *The Good Dog* , 2001.

McKinley, a malamute, is torn between the domestic world of his human family and the wild world of Lupin, a wolf that is trying to recruit dogs to replenish the dwindling wolf pack.

Avi. *Never Mind: A Twin Novel* , 2004.

Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide.

Avi. *Perloo the Bold* , 1998.

Perloo, a peaceful scholar, who has been chosen to succeed Jolaine as leader of the furry underground people called the Montmers, finds himself in danger when Jolaine dies and her evil son seizes control of the burrow.

Avi. *Poppy* , 1995.

Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. (Sequels: *Poppy and Rye* ; *Ragweed* and *Ereth's Birthday* .)

Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer* , 2004.

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.

Bawden, Nina. *Granny the Pag* , 1996.

Originally abandoned by her actor parents who later attempt to gain custody, Cat wages a spirited campaign to decide her own fate and remain with her grandmother.

Bechard, Margaret. *Star Hatchling* , 1995, o.p.

Hanna accidentally ended up in an escape pod which landed her on a strange planet and now she is being kept as a pet of aliens, Shem and Cheko.

Bode, N. E. *The Anybodies* , 2004.

After learning that she is not the biological daughter of boring Mr. and Mrs. Drudger, Fern embarks on magical adventures with her real father and finally finds "a place that feels like home."

Bonnars, Susan. *Above and Beyond* , 2001.

Jerry befriends the class clown, Danny, and discovers disturbing secrets from the past.

Britton, Bill. *Treekeepers* , 2003.

Searching for her father, Bird joins three other children, Issie, Dren and Stoke, on a journey to the Kingdom of Wen to overthrow the evil Lord Rendarren.

Byars, Betsy. *Disappear Acts* , 2000.

Herculeah stumbles onto the trail of her friend Meat's long-lost father while she and Meat are investigating the disappearance of a dead body from the men's room of a comedy club. (Newest in the *Herculeah Jones Mysteries* which began with: *The Dark Stairs* .)

Carbone, Elisa. *Storm Warriors* , 2001.

In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina , where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections.

Carey, Janet Lee. *Wenny Has Wings* , 2002.

Having had a near-death experience in the accident that killed his younger sister, eleven-year-old Will tries to cope with the situation by writing her letters.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog* , 2001.

Eleven-year-old Ant, stuck in a family that she does not like, copes by pretending that her "real" parents are coming to rescue her, by loving her dog Pistachio, by volunteering at the zoo, and by bending the truth and telling lies. (See also: *Al Capone Does My Shirts* .)

Cleary, Beverly . *Ramona's World* , 1999.

Follows the adventures of nine-year-old Ramona at home with big sister Beezus and baby sister Roberta and at school in Mrs. Meacham's class. (Previous titles: *Beezus and Ramona* ; *Ramona the Pest* ; *Ramona the Brave* ; *Ramona and Her Father* ; *Ramona and Her Mother* ; *Ramona Quimby Age 8* and *Ramona Forever* .)

Clinton, Cathryn. *A Stone in My Hand* , 2002.

Eleven-year-old Malaak and her family are touched by the violence in Gaza between Jews and Palestinians when first her father disappears and then her older brother is drawn to the Islamic Jihad.

Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl* , 2001.

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. (Sequels: *Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident* ; *Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code* ; and *Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception* .)

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander* , 2003.

When Gregor's two-year-old sister, Boots, tumbles down an air duct in the laundry room of their apartment building, he leaps after her. The two wind up in Underland, a place inhabited by humans who have not been " Overland " in centuries, as well as giant-sized rat, bats and cockroaches. Gregor just wants to find a way home until he discovers that his father is a prisoner of the rats. As he searches for a way to free him and keep his sister safe, he finds he may indeed be the Overlander of prophecy. (Sequels: *Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane* , and *Gregor and the Curse of the Wormbloods* .)

Columbis, Audrey. *Getting Near to Baby* , 1999.

Although thirteen-year-old Willa Jo and her Aunt Patty seem to be constantly at odds, staying with her and Uncle Hob helps Willa Jo and her younger sister come to terms with the death of their family's baby.

Coville, Bruce. *Juliet Dove, Queen of Love* , 2004.

Juliet is a shy twelve-year-old who leaves Mr. Elives' Magic Shop with the Helen of Troy amulet. Soon, all the boys in school are swooning after Juliet, and the amulet won't come off. (Newest in the *Magic Shop* quartet which includes: *The Monster Ring* ; *Jennifer Murdley's Toad* and *The Skull of Truth* .)

Creech, Sharon. *Love That Dog* , 2001.

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

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy* , 1999.

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless African-American 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-the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham -1963* , 1997.

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Cushman, Karen. *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* , 1996.

In 1849, twelve-year-old California Morning Whipple, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.

Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice* , 1995.

In medieval England , a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

D'Adamo, Francesco. *Iqbal* , 2003.

A fictionalized account of the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory and went on to help liberate other children like him before being gunned down at the age of thirteen.

Danziger, Paula. *The United States of America* , 2002.

Eleven-year-old aspiring artist Skate experiences many changes when she enters middle school, finds her best friend drifting away from her, and loses her beloved great-uncle. (See also: *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit* , *The Pistachio Prescription* and *This Place Has No Atmosphere* .)

Danziger, Paula and Ann Martin. *P.S. Longer Letter Later* , 1998.

Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state. (Sequel: *Snail Mail No More* .)

De Guzman, Michael. *Melonhead* , 2002.

Tired of living with his uncaring, divorced parents, Sidney, a twelve-year-old boy with an unusually large head, takes a bus trip across the United States which becomes a journey of self-discovery.

DeFelice, Cynthia. *The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker* , 1996.

After his family dies of consumption in 1849, twelve-year-old Lucas becomes a doctor's apprentice. (See also: *Nowhere to Call Home* ; *Weasel* , *Devil's Bridge* ; *Lostman's River* and *Death at Devil's Bridge* .)

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux* , 2003.

Despereaux Tilling has been different from all the other mice from the moment he was born. The large-eared rodent, enjoys reading fairy tales and falls in love with a real live princess, but when the other mice banish him to the dungeon, not only is his own life in danger, but his beloved princess's as well.

Dorris, Michael. *Sees Behind Trees* , 1996.

A Native American boy with a special gift to "see" beyond his poor eyesight journeys with an old warrior to a land of mystery and beauty.

Dowell , Frances . *Dovey Coe* , 2000.

When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember* , 2003.

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. (Sequel: *People of Sparks* .)

Ellis, Sarah. *Out of the Blue* , 1995.

After discovering that she has a 24-year old half-sister, Megan finds the well-defined edges of her life disappearing into confusion.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House*, 1999.

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Farrell, Mame. *And Sometimes Why* , 2001.

Eighth grader Jack is confused when he finds his relationship changing with his best friend, an athletic girl named Chris who has suddenly become attractive.

Fenner, Carol. *Yolanda's Genius* , 1995.

After moving from Chicago to Grand River , Michigan , African-American fifth-grader Yolonda, big and strong for her age, determines to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius. (See also: *The King of the Dragons* .)

Finney, Patricia. *I, Jack* , 2004.

Jack, a Labrador Retriever, tells about his daily life of food, walks, and the "apedogs" and "funny-looking dogs" (cats) in his pack, as well as how everything changes when a pretty girl dog moves into the neighborhood. Includes explanatory footnotes written by the cats.

Flesichman, Paul. *Seedfolks* , 1997.

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

Fletcher, Ralph. *Fig Pudding* , 1995.

Cliff describes the excitement, conflict, and sudden tragedy experienced by his large and boisterous family during his eleventh year.

Freeman, Suzanne. *Cuckoo's Child* , 1996.

Eleven-year-old Mia refuses to believe that her parents are not coming back after they're reported lost at sea.

Fuqua, Jonathan. *Darby* , 2002.

In 1926, nine-year-old Darby Carmichael stirs up trouble in Marlboro County , South Carolina , when she writes a story for the local newspaper promoting racial equality.

Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline* , 2002.

In this chilling tale, Coraline ventures into a mysterious corridor that leads to an alternate reality where her "other" parents are nicer to her than her real parents. But as they gaze at her with their black button eyes, Coraline finds that they want to keep her forever. When they kidnap her real parents, Coraline sets out on a desperate and dangerous journey to set them free.

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* , 1998.

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. (Sequels: *Joey Pigza Loses Control* and *What Would Joey Do?*)

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods* , 2002.

What twelve-year-old artist Hollis Woods wishes for the most is a family. She always runs away from her foster homes until she meets Josie who is as good at carving as Hollis is at drawing. Soon their roles reverse and Hollis is caring for the elderly Josie, as she relives the summer with the Regan family and struggles to find a place to call home. (See also: *All the Way Home* and *Lily's Crossing* .)

Gliori, Debi. *Pure Dead Magic* , 2001.

When their father is kidnapped and danger looms, the Strega-Borgia children, their mysterious new nanny, and a giant tarantula use magic and actual trips through the Internet to bring peace to their Scottish castle. (Sequels: *Pure Dead Wicked* and *Pure Dead Brilliant* .)

Gray, Luli. *Falcon's Egg* , 1995.

While playing in Central Park one day, eleven-year-old Falcon discovers a red-hot egg. Afraid her mother won't let her keep it, she finds a way to hide it, but when it hatches she discovers it's not an unusual bird at all, but a dragon. (Sequel: *Falcon and the Charles Street Witch* .)

Griffin, Adele. *The Other Shepards* , 1998.

Teenage Holland and her younger sister Geneva , having always lived under the shadow of siblings who died before they were born, struggle to establish separate identities and escape from the oppressive weight of their parents' continuing grief.

Grove , Vicki . *Reaching Dustin* , 1998.

Fifth-grader Carly's assignment to interview a reclusive, brooding classmate leads her to discover some of the events that have caused his antisocial and abusive family's negative impact on their Missouri farming community, and Carly's family in particular.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Hidden* , 1998.

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. (Sequels: *Among the Imposters* ; *Among the Betrayed* ; *Among the Barons* ; *Among the Brave* and *Among the Enemy* .)

Hahn, Mary Downing. *The Old Willis Place : A Ghost Story* , 2004.

Diana and Georgie, live in the wild, depending only on each other, until Diana befriends Lissa. But when Lissa leads her into the derelict house she watches over, she unlooses the spirit of an old woman who lived and died there, and more.

Hamilton , Virginia . *Bluish* , 1999.

Ten-year-old African-American Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia is making her pale and causing her to use a wheelchair.

Hannigan, Katherine. *Ida B.* 2004.

Ida B. enjoys her life being home-schooled and playing in the family's apple orchard, but things change drastically when her mother begins treatment for breast cancer.

Hendry, Diana. *Harvey Angell* , 2001.

Henry, an orphan, lives a dismal life in his Aunt Agatha's unhappy boarding house until Harvey Angell uses his special connecting kit to liven things up. (Sequel: *Harvey Angell Beats Time* .)

Hesse, Karen. *The Music of Dolphins* , 1996.

After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* , 1999.

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

Horvath, Peggy. *Everything on a Waffle* , 2001.

Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the predictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Hunter, Erin. *Into the Wild* , 2003.

For generations, four clans of wild cats have shared the forest. When their warrior code is threatened by mysterious deaths, a house cat named Rusty may turn out to be the bravest warrior of all. (First in the *Warriors* series which includes: *Fire and Ice* ; *Forest of Secrets* ; *Rising Storm* ; *A Dangerous Path* and *The Darkest Hour* .)

Ibbotson, Eva. *Island of the Aunts* , 2000.

As they get older, several sisters decide that they must kidnap children and bring them to their secluded island home to help with the work of caring for an assortment of unusual sea creatures. (See also: *Dial-a-Ghost* and *Which Witch?*)

Johnson, Angela. *Songs of Faith* , 1998.

Living in a small town in Ohio in 1975 and desperately missing her divorced father, thirteen-year-old African-American Doreen comes to terms with disturbing changes in her family life.

Joseph, Lynn . *The Color of My Words* , 2000.

When life gets difficult for Ana Rosa, a twelve-year-old would-be writer living in a small village in the Dominican Republic, she can depend on her older brother to make her feel better--until the life-changing events on her thirteenth birthday.

Karr, Kathleen. *The Great Turkey Walk* , 1998.

In 1860, a somewhat simple-minded fifteen-year-old boy attempts to herd one thousand turkeys from Missouri to Denver , Colorado , in hopes of selling them at a profit.

Kerhert, Peg. *Stranger Next Door* , 2002.

A clever cat's heroism helps two twelve-year-old boys become friends after their families, one of which is in a witness protection program, move to neighboring houses in Hilltop, Washington.

Kindl, Patrice. *Goose Chase* , 2001.

Alexandra Aurora Fortunato only wants to take care of her geese, but when she brushes her hair gold dust falls, and her tears become diamonds. This attracts the attention of King Claudio the Cruel and Prince Edmond of Dorloo. Clearly, she must escape, which she does, with the help of the geese. But then, she finds herself in more trouble than she was in the first place. (See also: *Owl in Love* .)

King-Smith, Dick. *The School Mouse* , 1995.

Flora, the world's most educated mouse, saves her family during a crisis. (See also: *Babe: the Gallant Pig* ; *Ace: A Very Important Pig* and *The Water Horse* .)

Klise, Kate. *Regarding the Fountain* , 1998.

When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results. (Sequel: *Regarding the Sink* .)

Konigsburg, E. L. *The View from Saturday* , 1996.

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. (See also: *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and *Up from Jericho Tel* .)

Korman, Gordon. *The Chicken Doesn't Skate* , 1996.

Wild things happen at the South Middle School when Milo 's science project, Henrietta the chicken, becomes the hockey team's mascot and their only chance for a winning season. (See also: *Radio Fifth Grade* ; *The Toilet Paper Tigers* and *No More Dead Dogs* .)

LeFaye, A. *Worth* , 2004.

After breaking his leg, eleven-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in nineteenth-century Nebraska , so when his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted* , 1997.

Lucinda, a foolish fairy, bestows on Eleanor the gift of obedience. Consequently, all her life Ella is compelled to do everything she is told to do. In an attempt to break the spell, Ella ventures out on her own and encounters dwarfs, giants, wicked stepsisters, and her prince charming.

McKay, Hilary. *Saffy's Angel* , 2002.

After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special memento of her past. (Sequel: *Indigo's Star* .)

Mead, Alice. *Soldier Mom* 1999.

Jasmyn gets a different perspective on life when her mother is sent to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the Persian Gulf War, leaving her and her baby half brother behind in Maine in the care of her mother's boyfriend. (See also: *Girl of Kosovo* .)

Nimmo, Jenny. *Midnight for Charlie Bone* , 2003.

Ten-year-old Charlie lives an ordinary life until he starts hearing the people in photographs speaking. His nasty Grandma Bone then insists he attend Bloor's Academy where the endowed (magically gifted) descendants of the Red King all go to school with the rich and talented. The trouble is, some descendents are good, and some are not. (Sequels: *Charlie Bone and the Time Twister* ; *Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy* ; and *Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors* .)

Nix, Garth. *Mister Monday* , 2003.

Arthur Penhaligon is an ordinary boy with asthma until Sneezzer passes him one of the seven keys that leads him to the world of the House. Here he could become Lord Monday, master of the Lower House, if the other denizens don't kill him first. (First of the *Keys to the Kingdom* septet which includes: *Grim Tuesday* and *Drowned Wednesday* .)

Park , Barbara . *The Graduation of Jake Moon* , 2000.

Jake recalls how he has spent the last four years of his life watching his grandfather descend slowly but surely into the horrors of Alzheimer's disease. (See also: *Mick Harte Was Here* .)

Paterson, Katherine. *Preacher's Boy* , 1999.

In 1899, ten-year-old Robbie, son of a preacher in a small Vermont town, gets himself into all kinds of trouble when he decides to give up being Christian in order to make the most of his life before the end of the world. (See also: *The Bridge to Terabithia* , *The Great Gilly Hopkins* , *Park's Quest* , *The Flip-Flop Girl* and *Jip: His Story* .)

Pinkwater, Daniel. *Looking for Bobowicz: A Hoboken Chicken Story* , 2004.

Upon moving to Hoboken , New Jersey , a boy convinces his two new friends to help him track down the mysterious phantom who stole his bicycle, as well as Arthur Bobowicz, owner of a giant chicken that once terrorized local citizens. (Previous title: *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* .)

Pullman, Philip. *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* , 2001.

In a country far to the east, Chulak and his talking white elephant Hamlet help Lila seek the Royal Sulphur from the sacred volcano so that she can become a master maker of fireworks like her father.

Robinson, Barbara. *The Best Halloween Ever* , 2004.

The six Herdman siblings always wreak havoc on Halloween, so the mayor decides that this year he will cancel Halloween. But the Herdman's still have some tricks up their sleeves and turn the worst Halloween into the best ever. (Previous titles: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *The Best School Year Ever* .)

Rodowsky, Colby. *Spindrift* , 2000.

During the summer after seventh grade, Cassie sees her close-knit family life in Bethany Beach, Delaware, changing drastically as her older sister has a baby, reveals the true nature of her husband, and announces the breakup of her marriage.

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* , 1999.

Although he lives with an aunt and uncle who hate him, Harry Potter thinks that he is just an ordinary boy until he gets a letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, inviting him to study to be a wizard. (Sequels: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* ; *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* ; *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* .)

Russell, Ching. *Water Ghost* , 1995.

Living in China during the late 1940s, Ying gives all her hard-earned money to the grandmother of a classmate who has drowned.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising* , 2000.

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

Sachar, Louis. *Holes* , 1998.

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Sage, Angie. *Magyk* , 2005.

In a world populated by wizards both ordinary and extraordinary, Jenna thinks that she is just a normal girl in a family of wizards, until she suddenly discovers that she is a princess and must run for her life. (First in the *Septimus Heap Series* .)

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *The Unseen* , 2004.

Feeling angry and out-of-place in her large family, twelve-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghostly, sometimes frightening, phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly.

Tolan, Stephanie. *Surviving the Applewhites* , 2002.

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.

Vail, Rachel. *Daring to Be Abigail* , 1996, o.p.

During her summer at Camp Nashaquitsa , eleven-year-old Abby tries to reinvent herself, while worrying about her mother, missing her dead father, and getting to know her equally self-conscious bunkmates.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man* , 1998.

On Halloween night, seventh grader Sammy stumbles onto a mystery involving a twenty-year-old family feud and some heirlooms stolen by a man in a skeleton costume. (Sequels: *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* ; *Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy* ; *Sammy Keyes and the Runaway Elf* ; *Sammy Keyes and the Curse of Mustache Mary* ; *Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy* ; *Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes* ; *Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception* and *Sammy Keyes and the Psycho Kitty Queen* .)

Van Velde, Vivian. *There's a Dead Person Following My Sister Around* , 1999.

Ted becomes concerned and intrigued when his five-year-old sister Vicki begins receiving visits from two female ghosts.

Waugh, Sylvia. *Space Race* , 2000.

When he learns that he and his father must soon leave Earth, eleven-year-old Thomas Derwent is upset, but a terrible accident that separates the two of them makes Thomas's situation much worse. (Sequels: *Earthborn* and *Who Goes Home?*)

Whelan, Gloria. *Homeless Bird* , 2000.

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India 's tradition or find the courage to oppose it. (See also: *The Impossible Journey* and *Chu Ju's House* .)

Wright, Randall. *Hunchback* , 2004.

Thirteen-year-old Juffa, a hunchback orphan living in Castle Marlby, dreams of serving a prince, and when his wish comes true he becomes embroiled in adventure and intrigue.

Yep, Laurence. *Hiroshima* , 1995.

Describes the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima , Japan , particularly as it affects Sachi, who becomes one of the Hiroshima Maidens.

Yolen, Jane. *Odysseus in the Serpent Maze* , 2001.

Thirteen-year-old Odysseus, who longs to be a hero, has many opportunities to prove himself during an adventure which involves pirates and satyrs, a trip to Crete's Labyrinth, and the two young girls, Penelope and Helen, who play a major role in his future life. (First in the *Young Heroes* series which includes: *Hippolyta and the Curse of the Amazons* ; *Atalanta and the Arcadian Beast* and *Jason and the Gorgon's Blood* .)

Yolen, Jane. *Boots and the Seven Leaguers* , 2000.

Teen troll Gog and his best friend Pook work as roadies for a troll rock and roll band until Gog's younger brother gets kidnapped.