



## Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Compiled by:

Susan Fichtelberg, Woodbridge Public Library

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### Best Fiction

**Aiken, Joan. *Midwinter Nightingale* , 2003.**

Dido and her friend Simon, Duke of Battersea, have many perilous adventures trying to protect the ailing King James from the plotting of the evil Baron Magnus who is determined that his brutish son Lothar will be the next king of England. (Newest in the *Wolves Chronicles* which includes: *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* ; *Black Hearts in Battersea* ; *Night Birds in Nantucket* ; *Dido and Pa* ; *The Stolen Lake* ; *The Cuckoo Tree* and *Dangerous Games* .)

**Almond, David. *Kit's Wilderness* , 2000.**

Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal-mining town of Stoneygate , England , and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past. (See also: *Fire-Eaters* .)

**Auch, Mary Jane. *Journey to Nowhere* , 1997.**

In 1815, while traveling by covered wagon to settle in the wilderness of western New York , eleven-year-old Mem experiences a flood and separation from her family.

**Barry, Dave. *Peter and the Starcatchers* , 2004.**

The young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They set sail aboard the *Never Land* , a ship carrying a precious and mysterious trunk in its cargo hold. Their journey quickly becomes fraught with excitement and danger.

**Billingsley, Franny. *The Folk-Keeper* , 1999.**

Corinna is never cold, always knows exactly what time it is, and her silvery hair grows two inches every night. An orphan, she disguises herself as a boy so that she can become the folk keeper of Rhysbridge, sitting hour after hour in the dark cellar, drawing off the anger of the fierce, gremlin-like, folk. She does this until Lord Merton summons her to the vast island estate of Cliffsend where she is to be both Folk Keeper and, inexplicably, a member of the family.

**Blackwood, Gary . *The Shakespeare Stealer* , 1998.**

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty. (Sequels: *Shakespeare's Scribe* and *Shakespeare's Spy* .)

**Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine* , 1997.**

Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

**Boyce, Frank. *Millions* , 2004.**

After their mother dies, two brothers find a huge amount of money which they must spend quickly before England switches to the new European currency, but they disagree on what to do with it.

**Bradley, Kimberly. *Weaver's Daughter* , 2000.**

In 1791 after her family's journey from Pennsylvania, ten-year-old Lizzie suffers from the disease of asthma in her new home in the Southwest Territory (present-day Tennessee).

**Branford, Henrietta. *Fire, Bed and Bone* , 1998.**

In 1381 England , a hunting dog recounts what happens to his beloved master Rufus and his family when they are arrested on suspicion of being part of the peasants' rebellion.

**Brooks , Bruce . *Vanishing* , 1999.**

Alice is unwilling to return to live with her alcoholic mother and her stern stepfather, so she refuses to eat to the point of slowly starving herself, in order to remain in the hospital.

**Carbone, Elisa. *Stealing Freedom* , 1998.**

A novel based on the events in the life of a young slave girl from Maryland who endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty, including being separated from her family, but who eventually escapes to freedom in Canada .

**Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan* , 2000.**

Samir, a Palestinian boy, is sent for surgery to an Israeli hospital where he has two otherworldly experiences, making friends with an Israeli boy, Yonatan, and traveling with him to Mars where Samir finds peace over his younger brother's death in the war.

**Casanova, Mary. *Curse of the Winter Moon* , 2000.**

In sixteenth-century France , ruled by a Church that overtaxes peasants and burns heretics, Marius must postpone his apprenticeship to care for his six-year-old brother whose birth took their mother's life, and who the villagers believe will become a werewolf.

**Chabon, Michael. *Summerland* , 2002.**

After the death of his mother, Ethan Feld and his father move to Clam Island where the children all play baseball in an always-sunny spot called, "Summerland." Ethan is the worst baseball player in the world, but he agrees to keep on playing and is recruited by Ringfinger Brown to be a hero. Summerland connects a series of alternate worlds and magical creatures that are in danger of being destroyed by the trickster Coyote. They need baseball and Ethan to save them.

**Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen* , 2002.**

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

**Colfer, Eoin. *The Supernaturalist* , 2004.**

In futuristic Satellite City , fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from his abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans. (See also: *Wish List* .)

**Conly, Jane. *What Happened on Planet Kid* , 2000.**

To help her deal with her separation from her family, worry about her mother's serious operation, and suspicions about a new friend's abusive father, twelve-year-old Dawn creates an imaginary world while spending the summer of 1958 with her great-aunt and uncle in rural North Carolina .

**Cooper, Susan. *The King of Shadows* , 1999.**

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

**Coville, Bruce. *The Monsters of Morely Manor* , 2001.**

Anthony and his younger sister discover that the monster figures he got in an unusual box at an estate sale are alive, but they have no way of knowing that the "monsters" will lead them on fantastical adventures to other worlds in an effort to try to save Earth.

**Creech, Sharon. *Absolutely Normal Chaos* , 1997.**

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou keeps a summer journal which chronicles her first experiences with romance, homesickness and death. (See also: *Chasing Redbird* ; *Bloomability* ; *Ruby Holler* ; *Walk Two Moons* and *Heartbeat* .)

**Dalkey, Kara. *Little Sister* , 1996.**

Fujiwara no Mitsuko, daughter of a noble family in the imperial court of twelfth century Japan , enlists the help of a shape-shifter and other figures from Japanese mythology in her efforts to save her older sister's life.

**Dorris, Michael. *Window* , 1997.**

When Rayona's Native American mother enters a treatment facility, her estranged father, a Black man, finally introduces her to his side of the family, who are not at all what she expected.

**Dygdard, Thomas. *Second Stringer* , 1998.**

When Kevin replaces the quarterback and football hero who suffers a knee injury, the second stringer needs to prove that he can do the job and is not just a substitute. (See also: *The Rebounder* and *Infield Hit* .)

**Farmer, Nancy. *A Girl Named Disaster* , 1996.**

While fleeing from Mozambique to Zimbabwe to escape an unwanted marriage, Nhamo, an eleven-year-old Shona girl, struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

**Farrell, Mame. *Bradley and the Billboard* , 2002.**

When Brad, a baseball hero, gets a job as a fashion model, he must come to terms with his ideas of what it is to be a real guy

**Ferris, Jean. *Once upon a Marigold* , 2002.**

Chris, a child of six, who is both strong-willed and clever, runs away from home. He's determined to live on his own in the forest, but Eldric the troll gives him shelter, and Chris grows up inventing things and watching a princess from afar, never dreaming that one day he might meet her, or that his inventions could save the entire kingdom.

**Fine, Anne. *Tulip Touch* , 1997.**

Natalie, who lives in the large hotel managed by her father, has a dangerous friendship with Tulip, the wildly uncontrollable girl on a neighboring farm. (See also: *Up on Cloud Nine* .)

**Fleischman, Sid. *Bandit's Moon* , 1998.**

Annyrose relates her adventures with Joaquin Murieta and his band of outlaws in the California gold-mining region during the mid-1800s.

**Fletcher, Ralph. *Flying Solo* , 1998.**

Rachel, having chosen to be mute following the sudden death of a classmate, shares responsibility with the other sixth-graders who decide not to report that the substitute teacher failed to show up.

**Franklin, Kristine. *Lone Wolf* , 2002.**

When a large family moves into the house near where he and his father live in the woods, Perry's friendship with the oldest girl helps him come to terms with his sister's death and his parents' divorce.

**Funke, Cornelia. *The Thief Lord* , 2002.**

Prosper and Bo are orphans, on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. They find shelter in Venice with the Thief Lord and his band of young followers. The brothers just want to stay together, but they encounter a mysterious magic that changes their world forever.

**Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart* , 2003.**

Twelve-year-old Meggie lives a quiet life with her father until the mysterious stranger, Dustfinger disturbs their peace. Gradually Meggie uncovers the implausible truth about her father. He is not just an ordinary bookbinder. He can read characters to life. When Meggie was three, he released several characters from the book *Inkheart* into the world while at the same time he lost his wife in the world of the novel. Now, danger abounds from these characters and Meggie must help find a way to put things right.

**George, Jean Craighead. *Julie's Wolf Pack* , 1997.**

Continues the story of Julie and her wolves in which Kapu must protect his pack from famine and disease while uniting it under his new leadership. (Previous titles: *Julie of the Wolves* and *Julie* .)

**Giff, Patricia Rielly. *Nory Ryan's Song* , 2000.**

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland 's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive. (Sequel: *Maggie's Door* .)

**Gordon, Amy. *When JFK Was My Father* , 2001.**

Feeling neglected by her father in Brazil and her mother in Washington , D.C. , Georgia Hughes tries to cope with life at a boarding school in Connecticut by imagining relationships with John Kennedy and Miss Beard, the ghost of the former headmistress of the school.

**Griffin, Adele. *Amandine* , 2001.**

Her first week at a new school, shy, plain Delia befriends Amandine, not anticipating the dangerous turns their friendship would take.

**Haas, Jessie. *Unbroken* , 1999.**

Following her mother's death in the early 1900s, thirteen-year-old Harry lives on Aunt Sarah's farm where an accident with her spirited colt leaves her a changed young woman. (See also: *Shaper* .)

**Hahn, Mary Downing. *The Gentleman Outlaw and Me-Eli* , 1996.**

In 1887 twelve-year-old Eliza, disguised as a boy and traveling towards Colorado in search of her missing father, falls in with a Gentleman Outlaw and joins him in his illegal schemes. (See also: *Following My Own Footsteps* .)

**Henkes, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean* , 2003.**

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer. (See also: *Words of Stone* and *Protecting Marie* .)

**Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust* , 1997.**

In a series of narrative poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression. (See also: *Letters from Rifka* and *Phoenix Rising* .)

**Hesse, Karen. *Stowaway* , 2000.**

A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook. (See also: *A Time of Angels* .)

**Hobbs, Will. *Ghost Canoe* , 1997.**

Nathan, fishing with the Makah in the Pacific Northwest , finds himself holding a vital clue when a mysterious stranger comes to town looking for Spanish treasure.

**Holmes, Barbara. *Following Fake Man* , 2001.**

During his summer in Maine , twelve-year-old Homer, together with his new friend Roger, is determined to find the truth about himself, his long-dead father, and a mysterious costumed man.

**Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Dancing in Cadillac Light* , 2001.**

In 1968, eleven-year-old Jaynell's life in the town of Moon , Texas , is enlivened when her eccentric Grandpap comes to live with her family.

**Hoobler, Dorothy. *Ghost in the Takaido Inn* , 1999.**

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikeia merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan . (Sequels: *The Demon in the Teahouse* and *In Darkness, Death* .)

**Ibbotson, Eva. *The Star of Kazan* , 2004.**

After twelve-year-old Annika, a foundling living in late nineteenth-century Vienna , inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany .

**Isaacs, Anne. *Torn Thread* , 2000.**

In an attempt to save his daughter's life, Eva's father sends her from Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia where she and her sister survive the war.

**Jennings, Richard. *The Beastly Arms* , 2001.**

Nickel, a boy with a great affinity for both animals and photography, moves into an apartment building run by the strange and mysterious Mr. Beastly and discovers a secret about the other tenants.

**Johnson, Angela. *Heaven* , 1998.**

Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

**Johnson, Angela. *Bird* , 2004.**

Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way helps two boys.

**Kaaberbol, Lene. *Shamer's Daughter* , 2004.**

Both Dina and her mother possess the magical gift of truth-telling. They can look into anyone's eyes and know their deepest secrets and shames. When Drakan, lord of Dunark castle, summons the Shamer, Dina's mother goes but cannot condemn Nicodemus for murder as Drakan wishes, for the seventeen-year-old is innocent. The lord arrests her for being false and it is up to Dina and Nico to rescue her and prove the guilt of the usurping Drakan. (Sequel: *Shamer's Signet* .)

**Karr, Kathleen. *Skullduggery* , 2000.**

In 1839, twelve-year-old Matthew's job as assistant to the phrenologist Dr. Cornwall takes him up and down the Eastern Seaboard and to Europe , as they rob graves and try to find out who is following them and why.

**Katz, Welwyn. *Out of the Dark* , 1996.**

After he builds and successfully sails the model ship which he names for his absent mother, thirteen-year-old Ben begins to accept his new life in the land of the historical Vikings.

**Kirkpatrick, Katherine. *Trouble's Daughter: The Story of Susanna Hutchinson, Indian Captive* , 1996, o.p.**

When her family is massacred by Lenape Indians in 1643, nine-year-old Susanna, daughter of Anne Hutchinson, is captured and raised as a Lenape.

**Konigsburg, E. L. *Silent to the Bone* , 2000.**

When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened. (Prequel: *The Outcasts of 19 Shuyler Place* .)

**Korman, Gordon. *No More Dead Dogs* , 2001.**

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

**Kurtz, Jane. *The Storyteller's Beads* , 1998.**

During the political strife and famine of the 1980's, two Ethiopian girls, one Christian and the other Jewish and blind, struggle to overcome many difficulties, including their prejudices about each other, as they make the dangerous journey out of Ethiopia .

**Leavitt, Martine. *Heck Superhero* , 2004.**

Abandoned by his mentally ill mother, thirteen-year-old Heck tries to survive on his own as his mind bounces between the superhero character he imagines himself to be and the harsh reality of his life.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night* , 1999.**

When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *The Two Princesses of Bamarre* , 2001.**

Meryl is the adventurous sister and Addie the timid one. When Meryl falls ill, it is Meryl who braves specters, griffins and dragons to try to save her sister.

**Levine, Gail Carson. *The Wish* , 2000.**

When Wilma gives an old woman on the subway her seat, her kindness is rewarded by the granting of one wish. Wilma wishes to be the most popular kid in Claverford school. Too late, she realizes that she only has three more weeks until graduation.

**Lowry, Lois. *Messenger* , 2004.**

In this novel that unites characters from *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*, Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

**Lubar, David. *Flip* , 2003.**

Eighth-graders Ryan and Taylor are twins, but that's where the similarities end. But they share at least one thing in common: nothing is turning out as they planned.

**Lynch, David. *Slot Machine* , 1995.**

When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at St. Paul 's Seminary Retreat Center , he and his two best friends are forced to try out various sports in order to find out where they belong. (See also: *Gold Dust* .)

**Lyons, Mary. *Dear Ellen Bee: A Civil War Scrapbook of Two Union Spies* , 2000.**

A scrapbook kept by a young black girl details her experiences and those of the older white woman, "Miss Bet," who had freed her and her family, sent her north from Richmond to get an education, and then worked to bring an end to slavery. Based on the life of Elizabeth Van Lew.

**Mahy, Margaret. *The Other Side of Silence* , 1995.**

As a member of a gifted, idiosyncratic, and argumentative family, twelve-year-old Hero chooses mutism until she reconciles the true with the real in her life.

**McCaughrean, Geraldine. *Stop the Train!* 1996.**

Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Runner railroad in 1893, the new settlers of Florence , Oklahoma , are determined to build a real town.

**McGraw, Eloise. *Moorchild* , 1996.**

The children of the village hate Saaski for being different. The only place she feels at home is on the lonely moor with her pipes. Gradually, she begins to suspect the truth of why she does not belong and seeks to set things right with the fairies.

**McKay, Hilary. *Exiles in Love* , 1998.**

When Big Grandma takes the four Conroy sisters on holiday as a cure for the "family failing," the girls wonder if their grandmother herself is still susceptible to it. (Previous titles: *The Exiles* and *The Exiles at Home* .)

**Martin, Ann. *A Corner of the Universe* , 2002.**

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.

**Martin, Ann. *Here Today* , 2004.**

In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.

**Morgan, Clay. *The Boy Who Spoke Dog* , 2003.**

After being marooned on an island near New Zealand , Jack, an orphaned cabin boy from San Francisco , becomes allied with a group of dogs who protect the local sheep from wild dogs.

**Moore, Martha. *Under the Mermaid Angel* , 1995.**

Through an unusual friendship with her thirty-one-year-old neighbor in a Texas trailer park, thirteen-year-old Jesse learns that what's inside a person is more important than what's outside.

**Morpurgo, Michael. *Kensuke's Kingdom* , 2003.**

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive--until he finds he is not alone.

**Myers, Anna. *The Keeping Room* , 1997.**

Left in charge of the family by his father who joins the Revolutionary War effort, thirteen-year-old Joey undergoes such great changes that he fears he may be betraying his beloved parent.

**Napoli , Donna Jo. *Stones in the Water* , 1997.**

After being taken from a local movie theater--along with other Italian boys, including his Jewish friend--by German soldiers, Roberto is forced to work for the German war effort until he escapes into the Ukrainian winter, desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice .

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Ice* , 1995.**

When thirteen-year-old Chrissa is sent to her paternal grandmother's farm, she learns more about her absent father and some of the reasons for her distant relationship with her mother.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Including Alice* , 2004.**

Alice, now fifteen, finds it hard to adjust to the changes in her life, including her father's marriage and her brother moving out and getting his own apartment. (Newest in the *Alice* series which includes: *The Agony of Alice* ; *Alice in Rapture, Sort of* ; *Reluctantly Alice* ; *All but Alice* ; *Alice in April* ; *Alice In-Between* ; *Alice the Brave* ; *Alice in Lace* ; *Outrageously Alice* ; *Achingly Alice* ; *Alice on the Outside* ; *The Grooming of Alice* ; *Alice Alone* ; *Simply Alice* ; *Patiently Alice* and *Alice on Her Way* .)

**Nye, Naomi Shahib. *Habibi* , 1997.**

When fourteen-year-old Liyanne Abboud, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they face many changes and must deal with the tensions between Jews and Palestinians.

**Oppel, Kenneth . *Silverwing* , 1997.**

When a newborn bat named Shade but sometimes called "Runt" becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys. (Sequels: *Sunwing* and *Firewing* .)

**Park, Linda Sue. *The Single Shard* , 2001.**

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea , lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. (See also: *The Kite Fighters* .)

**Paterson, Katherine. *The Same Stuff as Stars* , 2002.**

When Angel's self-absorbed mother leaves her and her younger brother with their poor great-grandmother, the eleven-year-old girl worries not only about her mother and brother, her imprisoned father, the frail old woman, but also about a mysterious man who begins sharing with her the wonder of the stars. (See also: *Jacob Have I Loved* and *Lyddie* .)

**Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Hunt* , 2003.**

Two years after having survived a plane crash into the Canadian wilderness, a sixteen-year-old returns to the wild to befriend a wounded dog and hunt a rogue bear. (Previous titles: *Hatchet* ; *Brian's Winter* and *Brian's Return* .)

**Paulsen, Gary. *The Schernoff Discoveries* , 1997.**

Harold and his best friend, both hopeless geeks and social misfits, try to survive unusual science experiments, the attacks of the football team, and other dangers of junior high school. (See also: *Harris and Me* .)

**Paulsen, Gary. *Soldier's Heart* , 1998.**

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

**Peck, Richard. *The River Between Us* , 2001.**

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois . (See also: *A Long Way from Chicago* ; *A Year Down Yonder* and *The Teacher's Funeral* .)

**Prachett, Terry. *Wee Free Men* , 2003.**

In Diskworld (where the world is a flat disk, rather than a sphere), nine-year-old Tiffany sets off to Fairyland to rescue her brother armed with only a frying pan. (Sequel: *Hat Full of Sky* .)

**Reeder, Carolyn. *Across the Lines* , 1997.**

Edward, the son of a white plantation owner, and his black house servant and friend Simon witness the siege of Petersburg during the Civil War.

**Roberts, Willio Davis. *Twisted Summer* , 1996.**

Cici hopes for a romantic summer at the beach but instead finds herself trying to solve a murder which had occurred there the previous year.

**Salisbury, Graham. *Lord of the Deep*, 2001.**

Working for his stepfather on a charter fishing boat in Hawaii teaches thirteen-year-old Mikey about fishing, and about taking risks, making sacrifices, and facing some of life's difficult choices. (See also: *Jungle Dogs* .)

**Shaik, Fatima. *Melitte* , 1997, o.p.**

In 1772, years of mistreatment force thirteen-year-old Melitte to decide whether or not to run away from the Frenchman who has kept her as a slave on his poor Louisiana farm and leave the young girl who is the only person who ever loved her.

**Slade, Arthur. *Dust* , 2003.**

Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

**Sleator, William. *Rewind* , 1999.**

Not long after learning that he was adopted, eleven-year-old Peter is hit by a car and then given several chances to alter events that could lead to his death.

**Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl* , 2000.**

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. (See also: *Maniac Magee*; *Wringer* and *Milkweed* .)

**Stolz, Joelle. *The Shadows of Ghadames* , 2004.**

At the end of the nineteenth century in Libya , eleven-year-old Malika simultaneously enjoys and feels constricted by the narrow world of women, but an injured stranger enters her home and disrupts the traditional order of things.

**Stone, David Lee. *The Ratastrophe* , 2004.**

Like the Pied Piper with an evil twist, Diek, the shepherd boy, has a flute that can charm children and animals.

**Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Flipped* , 2001.**

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

**Van Velde, Vivian. *Heir Apparent* , 2002.**

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself. (See also: *Never Trust a Dead Man* .)

**Warner, Sally. *How to Be a Real Person (in Just One Day)* , 2001.**

Kara tries to conceal from her friends, her absent father and the authorities, that her mother is sliding deeper and deeper into mental illness.

**Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It* , 2004.**

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno , Nevada , to New York to find out who she is.

**White, Ruth. *Belle Prater's Boy* , 1996.**

When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives. (Sequel: *The Search for Belle Prater* .)

**Wilson, Jacqueline. *The Lottie Project* , 1999.**

Starting a new school year, everything is "easy-peasy, simple-pimple" for Charlie until her strict teacher assigns a tough school project and Charlie's mother loses her job.

**Woodson, Jacqueline . *Locomotion* , 2003.**

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school. (See also: *Miracle's Boys* .)

**Yolen, Jane. *The Sword of the Rightful King* , 2003.**

Merlinus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England--pulling a sword from a stone--but trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.