



Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

7th Grade

Compiled by:

Susan Fichtelberg, Woodbridge Public Library

Bonnie Kunzel, New Jersey State Library

Pat Vasilik, Clifton Public Library

Best Fiction

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Iron Ring* , 1997.

Young Tamar, ruler of a small, mythical Indian kingdom, wagers with a visiting king and loses his kingdom and his freedom. To fulfill his promise, Tamar embarks on a journey full of magic and danger, a journey that may cost him his life. (See also: *The Book of Three* ; *The Black Cauldron* ; *The Castle of Llyr* ; *Taran Wanderer* ; *The High King* ; *The Marvelous Misadventures of Sebastian*; *The Wizard in the Tree* ; *The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen* and *The Arkadians* .)

Almond, David. *Skellig* ,1999.

Michael and his family have just moved into their new home, but a pall of fear haunts them. His newborn sister is gravely ill. When he explores the dilapidated shed, Michael discovers a strange creature that seems to be part man, part owl, part angel. Michael enlists the aid of his neighbor, Mina, and together they are determined to nurse the ailing, mysterious Skellig back to health. (See also: *Heaven Eyes* ; *Secret Heart* and *The Fire-Eaters* .)

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free* , 2002.

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic , twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793*, 2000.

In 1793 Philadelphia , sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Dreams of Mairie Mehan* , 1996.

Mairie, who lives in an Irish slum in Washington , D.C. , in the 1860s, struggles to come to grips with the impact of the Civil War on her family. (Sequel: *Mary Mehan Awake* .)

Avi. *Escape from Home* , 1996.

Driven from their impoverished Irish village, fifteen-year-old Maura and her younger brother meet their landlord's runaway son in Liverpool while all three wait for a ship to America ; their fates continue to intertwine on board ship and in the New World . (Sequel: *Lord Kirkle's Money* .)

Avi. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* , 2002.

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. (See also: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* .)

Barron, T. A. *The Lost Years of Merlin* , 1996.

A strange boy washes up on the rocky shore of ancient Wales , with no name, no memory, no identity. He undertakes a dangerous journey to the enchanted land of Fincayra to discover his true destiny. (Sequels: *The Seven Songs of Merlin* ; *The Fires of Merlin* ; *The Mirror of Merlin* and *The Wings of Merlin* .)

Bass, L. G. *Sign of the Qin: Outlaws of Moonshadow, No. 1* , 2004.

In long-ago China , Prince Zong, the mortal young Starlord chosen to save humankind from destruction, joins the twin outlaws, White Streak and Black Whirlwind, to fight the Lord of the Dead and his demon hordes (first in a trilogy).

Bauer, Cat. *Harley, Like a Person* , 2000.

Harley, an artistic teenager living with her alcoholic father and angry mother, suspects that she is adopted and begins a search for her biological parents.

Bauer, Joan. *Backwater* , 1999.

While compiling a genealogy of her family of successful attorneys, sixteen-year-old history buff Ivy Breedlove treks into the mountain wilderness to interview a reclusive aunt with whom she identifies and who in turn helps her to truly know herself and her family.

Bell , Hilari. *The Goblin Wood* , 2003.

Twelve-year-old Makenna is learning to be a hedgewitch from her mother. When she witnesses her mother's brutal execution Makenna escapes to the wood where she joins with the goblins to stop the rulers who want to rid the land of magic. (See also: *The Fall of a Kingdom* and *The Rise of a Hero* .)

Bunting, Eve. *S. O. S. Titanic* , 1996.

Fifteen-year-old Barry O'Neill, traveling from Ireland to America on the maiden voyage of the Titanic, finds his life endangered when the ship hits an iceberg and begins to sink.

Cabot, Meg. *The Princess Diaries* , 2000.

Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City , is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne. (Sequels: *Princess in the Spotlight* ; *Princess in Love* ; *Princess in Waiting* ; *Princess in Pink* and *Princess in Training* .)

Cameron, Ann. *Colibri* , 2003.

Kidnapped when she was very young by an unscrupulous man who has forced her to lie and beg to get money, a twelve-year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing she could return to the parents she can hardly remember.

Clement-Davis, David. *Fire Bringer* , 2000.

In ancient Scotland , a young deer, Rannoch, discovers he is the changeling destined to fulfill "the Prophecy." But this means he has to risk his life to defeat the evil deer, Sgorr, and reunite the Great Herd.

Cooney, Carolyn. *Burning Up* , 1999.

When a girl she had met at an inner-city church is murdered, fifteen-year-old Macey channels her grief into a school project that leads her to uncover prejudice she had not imagined in her grandparents and their wealthy Connecticut community.

Cross, Gillian. *Tightrope* , 1999.

When she begins receiving bizarre threatening messages from someone who seems to know her every move, teenage Ashley, after seeking help from the neighborhood tough guy, comes to realize that she alone can end the stalker's reign of terror.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *The Seeing Stone* , 2001.

In the England of 1199, lives a young lad named Arthur whose life is changed completely when his friend, Merlin gives him a magical stone in which he can see the life of the once and future king. (Sequels: *At the Crossing Places* and *The King of the Middle March* .)

Cushman, Karen. *Matilda Bone* , 2000.

Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England , tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical. (See also : *Catherine, Called Birdy* .)

Dhami, Narinder. *Bindi Babes* , 2004.

Amber, Jazz and Geena, three Indian sisters, live with their father in England and are blessed with beauty, brains and closets full of designer clothes. All seems perfect on the surface, the girls never talk about their mother who died the year before. Everything changes when their aunt comes from India to take over the running of the house and the girls plot to marry her off. (Sequel: *Bollywood Babes* .)

Dickinson, Peter. *The Tears of the Salamander* , 2003.

When Alfredo, a twelve-year-old choir boy in eighteenth-century Italy , loses his family in a fire, he goes to live with Uncle Giorgio, who he discovers is a sorcerer in control of the fires of Mt. Etna with sinister plans for his nephew. (See also: *The Rope Maker* .)

Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner* , 2001.

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul , Afghanistan , impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest. (Sequels: *Parvana's Journey* and *Mud City* .)

Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion* , 2002.

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States .

Farmer, Nancy. *The Sea of Trolls* , 2004.

Jack lives in a quiet Saxon village and is unexpectedly apprenticed to the Bard who teaches him the ways of magic. But his lessons have just begun when Olaf One-Brow, who leads a berserker raiding party of Northmen, kidnaps him and his sister. They take the two across the sea, where Jack inadvertently dissolves the beauty of Ivar the Boneless's half-troll Queen, Firth. He must embark upon a quest in troll country to find Mimir's Well, so that he can save his sister, Lucy, who Queen Firth has threatened to sacrifice if her beauty is not restored.

Ferris, Jean. *Of Sound Mind* , 2001.

Tired of interpreting for his deaf family and resentful of their reliance on him, high school senior Theo finds support and understanding from Ivy, a new student who also has a deaf parent.

Fisher, Catherine. *The Oracle Betrayed* , 2004.

Mirany is youngest of the Nine, priestesses who serve the god. She is suddenly thrust into a world of deceit and betrayal when the Bearer-of-the-God dies and she must find the new true Archon despite the plots of those around her. (Sequel: *The Sphere of Secrets* . See also: *Snow-Walker* .)

Flake, Sharon . *Money Hungry* , 2001.

All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again.

Fleischman, Paul. *Seek* , 2003.

Rob becomes obsessed with searching the airwaves for his long-gone father, a radio announcer. (See also: *Mind's Eye* ; *Whirligig* and *A Fate Totally Worse Than Death* .)

Gardner, Graham. *Inventing Elliot* , 2004.

Elliot, a victim of bullying, invents a calmer, cooler self when he changes schools in the middle of freshman year, but soon attracts the wrong kind of attention from the Guardians who "maintain order" at the new school.

Gilbert, Barbara. *Stone Water* , 1996.

Fifteen-year-old Grant confronts the difficult decision of whether or not to cooperate with his grandfather's wish that he not be placed on life-support systems.

Goldman, E. M. *The Night Room* , 1995, o.p.

When a group of students uses an experimental computer program that simulates their tenth high school reunion, they get an unsettling look at their possible futures.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Just Ella* , 1999.

In this continuation of the Cinderella story, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape.

Hautman, Pete. *Godless* , 2004.

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

Hesse, Karen. *Witness* , 2001.

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

Hobbs, Will. *Far North* , 1996.

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories . (See also: *The Maze* .)

Holm, Jennifer. *Boston Jane: An Adventure* . 2001.

Schooled in the lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory. (Sequels: *Boston Jane: Wilderness Days* and *Boston Jane: The Claim* .)

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Keeper of the Night* , 2003.

Isabel, a thirteen-year-old girl living on the island of Guam , and her family try to cope with the death of Isabel's mother who committed suicide.

Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker* , 2001.

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain 's intelligence agency, MI6. (Sequels: *Point Blank* ; *Skeleton Key* ; *Eagle Strike* and *Scorpia* .)

Howe, Norma. *The Adventures of Blue Avenger* , 1999.

On his sixteenth birthday, still trying to cope with the unexpected death of his father, David Schumacher decides--or does he--to change his name to Blue Avenger, hoping to find a way to make a difference in his Oakland neighborhood and in the world.

Ingold, Jeanette. *The Window* , 1996.

When she comes to live with relatives on a Texas farm, fifteen-year-old Mandy encounters the grandmother she never knew and begins to come to terms with her blindness caused by the automobile accident that killed her mother.

Jacobs, Paul. *James Printer: A Novel of Rebellion* , 1996.

Although he has lived and worked as a printer's apprentice with the Green family in Cambridge Massachusetts , for many years, James, a Nipmuck Indian, finds himself caught up in the events that lead to a horrible war.

Jennings, Patrick. *Wolfing Time* , 2003.

In France during a time of witch-hunts, in a village with a corrupt priest, thirteen-year-old Lazlo longs to be able to turn into a wolf as his parents can, but also desires the friendship of a village girl.

Johnson, Angela. *Humming Whispers* , 1995.

Sophy fears that she will become like her older sister Nicole who has schizophrenia.

Jones, Diana Wynne. *The Merlin Conspiracy* , 2003.

Arianrhod travels on the King's Progress throughout an alternate Britain, while Nichothodes yearns to walk between worlds. When he is pushed into Arianrhod's England , they are caught-up in a myriad of plots and counterplots. (Companion novel: *Deep Secret* ; see also: *Charmed Life* ; *The Magician's of Caprona* ; *Witch Week*; *The Lives of Christopher Chant* ; and *Conrad's Fate* .)

Jordan, Sheryl. *The Hunting of the Last Dragon* , 2002.

In England in 1356, as a monk records his every word, a young peasant tells of his journey with a young Chinese noblewoman to St. Alfric's Cove and the lair of a dragon. (See also: *The Raging Quiet* .)

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira* , 2004.

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Krisher, Trudy. *Uncommon Faith* , 2003.

In 1837-38, residents of Millbrook , Massachusetts , speak in their different voices of major issues of their day, including women's rights, slavery, religious differences, and one fiery girl named Faith.

Lawrence, Iain. *The Wreckers* , 1998.

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded. (Sequels: *The Smugglers* and *The Buccaneers* .)

Le Guin, Ursula. *Gifts* , 2004.

In the Uplands the clans possess hereditary gifts of magic: to call animals, to bring forth fire, to twist a limb, chain a mind or unmake stone and bone. The gifts are wondrous and dangerous, and when two teenagers, Orrec and Gyr who have been best friends since childhood, decide not to use their gifts, their whole world changes. (See also: *A Wizard of Earthsea* ; *The Tombs of Atuan* ; *The Farthest Shore* and *Tehanu* .)

Lester, Julius. *Pharaoh's Daughter* , 2000.

A fictionalized account of a Biblical story in which an Egyptian princess rescues a Hebrew infant who becomes a prophet of his people while his sister finds her true self as a priestess to the Egyptian gods. (See also: *Othello* .)

Marsden, John. *Tomorrow When the War Began* , 1995.

Seven Australian teenagers return home from a camping trip to discover that their country has been invaded and they must hide to stay alive. (Sequels: *Dead of Night* ; *A Killing Frost* ; *Darkness Be My Friend* ; *Burning for Revenge* ; *The Night Is for Hunting* and *The Other Side of Dawn* .)

Matas, Carol. *After the War* , 1996.

After being released from Buchenwald at the end of World War II, fifteen-year-old Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children across Europe to Palestine .

McCaffrey, Anne. *Black Horses for the King* , 1996.

Galwyn, son of a Roman Celt, escapes from his tyrannical uncle and joins Lord Artos, later known as King Arthur, using his talent with languages and way with horses to help secure and care for the Libyan horses that Artos hopes to use in battle against the Saxons.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The Pirate's Son* , 1998.

Left penniless in eighteenth century England , fourteen-year-old Nathan Gull and his mousy sister Maud accompany Tamo, the son of a notorious pirate, to his homeland of Madagascar where they are all changed by their encounter with Tamo's dangerous past.

McKinley, Robin. *Rose Daughter* , 1997.

Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay, and through her love he is released from the curse that had turned him from man to beast. (See also: *Beauty* , *The Blue Sword* , *The Hero and the Crown* and *Spindle's End* .)

Metzger, Lois. *Missing Girls* , 1999.

During eighth grade, Carrie moves in with her grandmother, becomes friends with an indrawn classmate, and comes to terms with her mother's death.

Mori, Kyoko. *One Bird* , 1995, o.p.

After her mother abandons them, fifteen-year-old Megumi tries to understand her father's need for his mistress while dealing with her own aching isolation.

Napoli , Donna Jo. *Sirena* , 1998.

The gods grant immortality to the mermaid Sirena when she rescues a human man from the sea and they fall in love, but his mortality creates great conflict between love and honor when he is called to defend Greece in the Trojan War. (See also: *Crazy Jack* , *Spinners* and *Zel* .)

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Jade Green: A Ghost Story* , 1999.

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small transgression causes mysterious happenings. (See also: *Sang Spell* .)

Nix, Garth. *Sabriel* , 1996.

Sabriel, the daughter of Abhorsen, the necromancer who lays the dead to rest, was born in the Old Kingdom , a place of magic and mystery, but schooled in the modern world. Now she must go back to find a way to rescue her father who is trapped in the land of the dead. (Sequels: *Lirael* and *Abhorsen* .)

Nolan, Han. *Dancing on the Edge* , 1997.

A young girl from a dysfunctional family creates for herself an alternative world which nearly results in her death but which ultimately leads her to reality.

Paulsen, Gary. *Transall Saga* , 1998.

While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Rifle* , 1995.

A priceless, handcrafted rifle, fired throughout the American Revolution, is passed down through the years until it fires on a fateful Christmas Eve of 1994.

Pearsall, Shelley. *Trouble Don't Last* , 2002.

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Peters, Julie Ann. *Define "Normal"* , 2000.

When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Last Book in the Universe* , 2000.

In a world where most people are plugged into brain-drain entertainment systems epileptic teenager Spaz is a rare human being who can see life for what it really is. When he meets an old man called Ryter, he begins to learn about earth and its past. With Ryter as his companion, Spaz sets off on an unlikely quest to save his dying sister and in the process, perhaps the world.

Pierce, Meredith Ann. *Treasure at the Heart of Tanglewood* , 2001.

Hannah, a healer with unusual powers, leaves the wizard she has always served and, along with her animal companions, begins a journey which uncovers the truth about her real nature.

Pierce, Tamora. *Trickster's Choice* , 2003.

Alianne, the daughter of Alanna who is the first Lady Knight of Tortall, but she would rather be a spy like her father. This ambition leads to her capture by slavers who whisk her off to the Copper Isles where she must use all of her wits to survive and escape. (Sequel: *Trickster's Queen* . See also: *The Song of the Lioness* quartet.)

Prachett, Terry. *Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* , 2001.

A talking cat, intelligent rats, and a strange boy cooperate in a Pied Piper scam until they try to con the wrong town and are confronted by a deadly evil rat king.

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass* , 1996.

Lyra lives in an alternate world, similar to modern day England , but different in some very significant ways. Like everyone in Lyra's world, Lyra has a daemon, a creature that is like an animal form of her spirit. They live at Jordan College and are being raised by Oxford professors. Lyra is not a good student, but she is curious. Her curiosity sets her on a path of adventure, armed only with a golden compass that will answer her questions, if only she could learn how to read it. On her journey, she meets witches and an armored bear, and learns of an evil plot. A group of scientists are kidnapping children and using them and their daemons in horrifying experiments. (Sequels: *The Subtle Knife* ; *The Amber Spyglass* and *Lyra's Oxford* .)

Quarles, Heather. *A Door Near Here* , 1998.

Four siblings struggle to maintain a semi normal home life when their single mother's alcoholism becomes debilitating.

Rees, Celia. *Witch Child* , 2001.

In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem , Massachusetts .

Rees, Douglas. *Vampire High* , 2003.

When his family moves from California to New Sodom, Massachusetts and Cody enters Vlad Dracul Magnet School , many things seem strange, from the dark-haired, pale-skinned, supernaturally strong students to Charon, the wolf who guides him around campus on the first day.

Reeve, Phillip. *Mortal Engines* , 2003.

In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a fifteen-year-old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another. (Sequel: *Predator's Gold* .)

Rennison, Louise. *Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging* . 2000.

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie. (Sequels: *On the Bright Side* ; *I'm Now the Girlfriend of a Sex God* ; *Knocked Out by My Nunga Nungas* ; *Dancing in My Nuddy-Pants* ; *Away Laughing on a Fast Camel* ; and *Then He Ate My Boy Entrancers* .)

Ritter, John H. *Choosing up Sides* , 1998.

In 1921 thirteen-year-old Luke finds himself torn between accepting his left-handedness or conforming to the belief of his preacher-father that such a condition is evil and must be overcome.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* , 2004.

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg , Maine , but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

Sedgwick, Marcus. *Dark Horse* , 2003.

Having risen to power as chief of his people, the Storn, sixteen-year-old Sigurd leads them as they try to resist the bloodthirsty invaders known as the Dark Horse and makes a shocking discovery about his foster sister Mouse.

Shusterman, Neal. *Downsiders* , 2001.

When fourteen-year-old Lindsay meets Talon, who lives in the secret Downsider community that evolved in the subterranean passages of the subway built in New York in 1867, she and her new friend try to bridge the differences between their two cultures.

Shusterman, Neal. *The Schwa Was Here* , 2004.

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. Even when acting weird and dressed like a total freak, The Schwa is only barely noticed. The two boys form a partnership and get away with all kinds of mischief, from conducting experiments at school to confounding opponents on the basketball court. When The Schwa senses that even Antsy is beginning to lose sight of him, he vows to do something that will make him so visible, no one will ever forget him.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Rain Is Not My Indian Name* , 2001.

Tired of staying in seclusion since the death of her best friend, a fourteen-year-old Native American girl takes on a photographic assignment with her local newspaper to cover events at the Native American summer youth camp.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash* , 1996.

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

Staples, Suzanne. *Dangerous Skies* , 1996.

Hypocrisy and prejudice twist events in such a way as to implicate two children, one from a prominent white family and the other an African-American family, in a murder.

Staples, Suzanne. *Shiva's Fire* , 2000.

In India , a talented dancer sacrifices friends and family for her art.

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Amulet of Samarkand : The Bartimaeus Trilogy* , 2003.

Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. (Sequel: *The Golem's Eye*.)

Tashjian, Janet. *The Gospel According to Larry* , 2001.

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention. (Sequel: *Vote for Larry* .)

Taylor, Mildred. *The Land* , 2001.

After the Civil War Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own. (Prequel to: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* .)

Tingle, Rebecca. *The Edge on the Sword* , 2001.

In ninth-century Britain , fifteen-year-old Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony , finds she must assume new responsibilities much sooner than expected when she is betrothed to Ethelred of Mercia in order to strengthen a strategic alliance against the Danes.

Torrey, Michele. *To the Edge of the World* , 2003.

In 1519, after the death of his parents, fourteen-year-old Mateo Macias becomes cabin boy to Ferdinand Magellan on a dangerous journey in search of a route to the fabled Spice Islands .

Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral* , 2000.

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

Turner, Megan Wheeler. *The Thief* , 1996.

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone. (Sequel: *The Queen of Attolia*.)

Updale, Eleanor. *Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?* 2004.

In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself. (Sequel: *Montmorency and the Rocks: Doctor, Aristocrat, Murderer?*)

Voigt, Cynthia. *Bad Girls* , 1996.

After meeting on the first day in Mrs. Chemsky's fifth-grade class, Margalo and Mikey help each other in and out of trouble, as they try to maintain a friendship while each asserts her independence. (Sequels: *Bad, Badder, Baddest* ; *It's Not Easy Being Bad* and *Bad Girls in Love* .)

Watkins, Yoko. *My Brother, My Sister and I* , 1996.

Living as refugees in Japan in 1947 while trying to locate their missing father, thirteen-year-old Yoko and her older brother and sister must endure a bad fire, injury, and false charges of arson, theft, and murder.

Westerfeld, Scot. *Midnighters: The Secret Hour* , 2004.

When 15 year-old Jessica Day moves from Chicago to Bixby , OK , she begins to have strange dreams. The dreams take a dark turn and Jessica discovers that she has the magical ability of all of those born at the stroke of midnight: she can function in a mysterious twenty-fifth hour. But the midnight hour holds not only teen friends who share her abilities, but dangerous slithers who have increased since her arrival. Together the companions must solve the mystery of Jessica or midnight might never be safe for them again. (Sequel: *Touching Darkness* .)

Williams, Carol Lynch. *My Angelica* , 1999.

Fifteen-year-old Sage is enthusiastic about submitting her historical romance novel to the school creative writing contest, but her would-be boyfriend George thinks that it is awful and tries to stop her.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Like Sisters on the Homefront* , 1995.

Troubled fourteen-year-old Gayle is sent down South to live with her uncle and aunt, where her life begins to change as she experiences the healing power of the family.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Hush*, 2002.

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program. (See also: *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*.)

Zusak, Markus. *Fighting Ruben Wolf*, 2001.

Partly because of their family's poor finances and partly to prove themselves, brothers Ruben and Cameron take jobs as fighters and find themselves reacting very differently in the boxing ring.