



## Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Compiled by:

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### Best Fiction

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Catalyst* , 2002.**

When she becomes involved with her tragedy-stricken neighbors, preacher's daughter Kate learns there is more to life than her obsession about getting into MIT.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak* , 1999.**

After she was attacked at a party, Melinda calls the police, and her friends, not understanding why she ruined their party, refuse to speak to her as she enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Prom* . 2005**

Eighteen-year-old Ash wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ash's involvement transforms her life.

**Anderson, M. T. *Burger Wuss* , 2000.**

Anthony's revenge against the "burger bully" who stole his girlfriend results in the town's greatest "Burger Wars."

**Anderson, M. T. *Feed* , 2002.**

Titus and Violet are teenagers living in a future society where corporations define their lifestyles and where it is possible to be connected 24/7 by a Feed or computer implant in their heads. But what happens if your Feed fails?

**Anderson, M. T. *Thirsty* , 1997.**

Chris has to hide the fact that he is so thirsty - for human blood. He's turning into a vampire and is in danger of being staked, unless he risks his life to save the world.

**Atkins, Catherine. *When Jeff Comes Home* , 1999.**

After being kidnapped two and a half years ago, Jeff is released and comes home. But he refuses to talk about what happened while he was gone and his kidnapper is still out there somewhere.

**Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia, *Shattered Mirror* . 2001**

Sarah is a witch and a vampire hunter. Christopher is a vampire trying to pass as a normal high school student. They are attracted to one another. But can Sarah accept a relationship with a vampire, especially after she discovers that Christopher's twin is Nikolas, one of the most hunted vampires in history? (See also: *Hawksong* .)

**Banks, Lynne Reid. *Broken Bridge* , 1995.**

A visit to Israel results in tragedy for two teens and their families when a cousin is stabbed to death by a young Arab.

**Bat-Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky* , 1999.**

Chris Cook is an American Catholic girl living in upstate New York . Adam Bornstein is a Jewish refugee from Yugoslavia who comes to the Emergency Refugee Camp at Oswego in 1944. They meet and fall in love, but the fence around the camp is not nearly as powerful a barrier as those of language, religion, and family.

**Bauer, Joan. *Hope Was Here* , 2000.**

Hope (16) and her aunt move so often that she starts leaving a message behind each time: "Hope Was Here." Their latest move is to Mulhoney , Wisconsin , where they work in the Welcome Stairways Diner and soon join the owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

**Bauer, Joan. *Rules of the Road* , 1998.**

Jenna Boller (17) drives the elderly woman who is her employer to Texas, stopping along the way at her chain of shoe stores, a trip that not only helps Jenna develop as a shoe salesperson but also gives her the strength to stand up to her alcoholic father.

**Bauer, Joan. *Thwunk* , 1995.**

A.J. is the lucky (or is it unlucky?) student who gets a visit from cupid. But after his arrow pierces the heart of a high school hunk, she discovers that getting what you wish for is not always such a good thing.

**Bechard, Margaret. *Hanging on to Max* , 2002.**

Sam (17) is a teen father who is determined to juggle the care of his 11-month-old baby Max with his desire for better things for their futures.

**Bell , Hilari. *A Matter of Profit* , 2001.**

The Vivitare have conquered most of the peaceful T'Chin confederacy, but Ahvren questions the victory as he tries to save his sister from a disastrous marriage and find out who is behind an assassination plot.

**Bennett, Cherie. *Life in the Fat Lane* , 1998.**

Shallow, self-centered Homecoming Queen Lara's life turns upside down when she suddenly starts gaining more and more and more weight.

**Blackwood, Gary . *The Year of the Hangman* , 2002.**

In an alternate "what-if" history, set in 1777, a rebellious English teen is exiled to the Colonies and gets involved with the remnants of the unsuccessful American Revolution.

**Brashares, Ann. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* , 2001.**

Four high-school friends with very different body types use a magical pair of jeans that fits all four of them perfectly to keep in touch as they go their separate ways during summer vacation. (Sequel: *Second Summer of the Sisterhood* .)

**Cadnum, Michael. *Edge* , 1997.**

Zachary takes the gun he has found to avenge the violence inflicted on his father.

**Cadnum, Michael. *In a Dark Wood* , 1998.**

The exploits of Robin Hood, as seen through the eyes of the Sheriff of Nottingham.

**Cappo, Nan Willard. *Cheating Lessons* , 2002.**

Bernadette suspects that Wickham High School 's chance to compete for the state championship in the Classics Bowl may have been fixed and begins looking for answers to questions that won't be asked at the quiz bowl.

**Cheripko, Jan. *Imitate the Tiger* , 1996.**

A year in the life of a young football player before and after he is sent to an alternative school to help him deal with his alcoholism.

**Coman, Carolyn. *Many Stones* , 2000.**

Berry and her estranged father travel to South Africa to take part in the dedication of a memorial to her murdered sister.

**Cooney, Caroline B. *Flash Fire* , 1995.**

As fire sweeps through a canyon near Los Angeles , a group of teens work together to save themselves.

**Cooney, Caroline B. *Out of Time* , 1997.**

In this sequel to *Both Sides of Time* , Annie returns to the 1880s, only to find her beloved Strat is being held captive in an insane asylum and she is his only hope of escape. (Sequels: *Prisoner of Time* and *For All Time* .)

**Cormier, Robert. *Rag and Bone Shop* , 2001.**

The author's last novel is a gripping psychological thriller in which a young boy, suspected of a brutal murder, is turned over to face an interrogator determined to get a confession.

**Cormier, Robert. *In the Middle of the Night* , 1995.**

Denny (16) knows better, but he answers the phone anyway and sets in motion a dangerous chain of events, stemming from a tragic accident 25 years earlier.

**Crew, Linda. *The Brides of Eden* , 2001.**

In this story based on true events, sixteen-year-old Eva and her female friends become obsessed with a charismatic young man who comes to Corvallis, Oregon in 1904, claiming to be a Christian prophet.

**Crowe, Chris. *Mississippi Trial, 1955* , 2002.**

In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago .

**Crutcher, Chris. *Ironman* , 1995.**

Bo Brewster, required to attend an anger management program in high school, is resistant at first, but the group leader helps him face the real problems in his life, while the other students in the program help him achieve his dream of becoming a triathlon "Ironman."

**Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk* , 2001.**

Multiethnic T. J. puts together a high school swim team of underdogs and then leads them on a quest for a varsity letter jacket.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge* , 2004.**

The Sarge is Luther's slum landlord mother. He knows it's not a good idea to go against her, but he's determined to win the science fair and with it a chance at college.

**Dessen, Sarah. *Keeping the Moon* , 1999.**

Colie (15) may have shed almost fifty pounds, but she still carries memories of "The Fat Years" until she spends one magical summer with her aunt Mira.

**Dessen, Sarah. *Someone Like You* , 1998.**

Halley's relationship with best friend Scarlett changes during their junior year after the death of Scarlett's boyfriend, the subsequent discovery of Scarlett's pregnancy and Halley's own first serious relationship.

**Deuker, Carl. *Night Hoops* , 2000.**

Nick Abbot makes the varsity basketball team his sophomore year. He hones his skills as a point guard by playing night hoops in his yard with his arrogant, sometimes brutal neighbor, who also winds up joining the team for what looks like a championship season.

**Deuker, Carl. *Painting the Black* , 1997.**

Ryan Ward is drawn into catching for his new neighbor Josh. After pitching practice during the summer, he decides to try out for baseball in his senior year, but once he makes the team, he discovers his friend has a serious flaw.

**DeVries, Anke. *Bruises* , 2003.**

When Judith is too bruised to go to school after a beating by her mother, her new classmate Michael believes her tale of being attacked by a gang and offers his protection.

**Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light* , 2003.**

Upstate New York , 1906, is the backdrop for a true and truly scandalous murder. In this retelling of Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy* , Mattie, who works at a hotel in the Adirondacks , gets involved in the investigation of the murder of a young female guest while fighting against the societal constraints of the times.

**Geras, Adele. *Troy* , 2001.**

Told from the point of view of a group of teenagers in the last weeks of the Trojan War, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.

**Goodman, Alison. *Singing the Dog Star Blues* , 2003.**

In a future Australia , the saucy eighteen-year-old daughter of a famous newscaster and a sperm donor teams up with a hermaphrodite from the planet Choria in a time travel adventure that may significantly change both of their lives.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey* , 2004.**

Journal entries a sixteen-year-old girl writes for a school assignment reveal parental abuse and abandonment and her determination to protect her baby brother, no matter what.

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Leaving Fishers* , 1997.**

Dorry has just moved to Indianapolis and has no friends until she meets a group who invite her to join their church, the Fishers of Men. When she realizes she has no life of her own and is being controlled by the Fishers, she is desperate to leave, but that is easier said than done.

**Hahn, Mary Downing. *Look For Me By Moonlight* , 1995.**

Cynda is looking forward to spending time with her father and stepmother at their country inn in Maine , but that was before she met their charming winter guest, a vampire who has selected her to be his next victim.

**Halam, Ann. *Dr. Franklin's Island* , 2002.**

While on their way to a special science camp in Ecuador , three teens survive a plane wreck and become castaways on a deserted island. Little do they know that the island is home to a mad genetic scientist who is just waiting for fresh teenage flesh to inject with animal genes...

**Hale, Shannon. *The Goose Girl* , 2003.**

On her way to marry the Prince of a neighboring country, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her lady-in-waiting. She escapes with her life and becomes a goose girl before she can claim her real title and the love of her life. (Sequel: *Ennya Burning* .)

**Hautman, Pete. *Stone Cold* , 1998, o.p.**

A sixteen-year-old boy finds that he has a gift for playing poker; unfortunately he doesn't know when to stop.

**Heneghan, James. *The Grave* , 2000.**

A thirteen-year-old Irish orphan's life changes forever when he is drawn back to the time of the potato famine through a mass grave in a local construction site.

**Hobbs, Valerie. *How Far Would You Have Gotten If I Hadn't Called You Back?* , 2003.**

Bron is lonely after moving to California in the 1950s, until she discovers drag racing and meets two boys, J.C. and Will, and falls in love with one of them.

**Holtwijk, Ineke. *Asphalt Angels* , 1999.**

Alex (13), who lives on the streets of Rio de Janeiro , must choose between the freedom and danger of life as a member of a gang, or accept the offer of a more restricted life in a shelter that offers education, work and the hope of survival.

**Johnson, Angela. *The First Part Last* , 2003.**

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

**Johnson, Scott. *Safe at Second* , 1999.**

Paulie Lockwood's best friend Todd Bannister is destined for the major leagues until a line drive to the head causes him to lose an eye and they both must find a new future for themselves.

**Jones, Diana Wynne. *The Dark Lord of Derkholm* , 1998.**

Derk, an unconventional wizard who likes to breed unusual animals (griffins, flying pigs, winged horses, etc.), and his magical family become involved in a plan to put a stop to the devastating tours to their world arranged by the tyrannical Mr. Chesney. (Sequel: *The Year of the Griffin* .)

**Juby, Susan. *Alice, I Think* , 2003.**

Fifteen-year-old Alice keeps a diary as she struggles to cope with the embarrassments and trials of family, dating, school, work, small town life, and a serious case of "outcastitis."

**Klass, David. *You Don't Know Me* , 2002.**

Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful, but shallow classmate and other problems at school. (See also: *California Blue* and *Danger Zone* .)

**Korman, Gordon. *Son of the Mob* , 2002.**

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent. (Sequel: *Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle* .)

**Lasky, Kathryn. *True North* , 1996.**

Because of the strong influence which her grandfather, an abolitionist, has in her life, fourteen-year-old Lucy assists a fugitive slave girl in her escape.

**Lawrence, Iain. *Ghost Boy* , 2000.**

Unhappy in a home seemingly devoid of love, a fourteen-year-old albino boy who thinks of himself as Harold the Ghost runs away to join the circus, where he works with the elephants and searches for a sense of who he is.

**Lawrence, Iain. *B for Buster* , 2004.**

In the spring of 1943, sixteen-year-old Kak, desperate to escape his abusive parents, lies about his age to enlist in the Canadian Air Force and soon finds himself based in England as part of a crew flying bombing raids over Germany .

**Lawrence, Michael. *A Crack in the Line* , 2004.**

It's been two years since his mother died in a terrible train crash, and Alaric's life continues to unravel. He and his father are barely on speaking terms, and Withern Rise, their Victorian mansion, is in shambles. Trapped at home during a blizzard, Alaric stumbles into a parallel world; a reality in which his mother is still alive. There's only one problem ... someone else is living his life.

**Lee, Tanith. *Piratica: Being a Daring Tale of a Singular Girl's Adventure upon the High Seas* , 2004.**

A bump on the head restores Art's memories of her mother and the exciting life they led, so the sixteen-year-old leaves Angels Academy for Young Maidens, seeks out the pirates who were her family before her mother's death, and leads them back to adventure on the high seas.

**Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue* , 2005.**

Slave owner, Pierce Butler must sell his slaves to cover his gambling debts and although he promises twelve-year-old Emma that he will never sell her, he does on the last day of the auctions. Emma moves to Kentucky with her new mistress, where she eventually marries, runs away and finally finds freedom in Canada .

**Lubar, David. *Hidden Talents* , 2000.**

When thirteen-year-old Martin arrives at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, he falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

**McNaughton, Janet. *An Earthly Knight* , 2004.**

In 1162 in Scotland, sixteen-year-old Jenny Avenel falls in love with the mysterious Tam Lin while being courted by the king's brother and must navigate the tides of tradition and the power of ancient magic to define her own destiny.

**Mack, Tracy . *Birdland* , 2003.**

Fourteen-year-old, tongue-tied Jed spends Christmas break working on a school project filming a documentary about his East Village, New York City, neighborhood, where he is continually reminded of his older brother, Zeke, a promising poet who died the year before.

**Mackler, Carolyn. *The Earth, My Butt and Other Round Things* , 2003.**

Fifteen-year-old Virginia Shreves has a larger-than-average body and a plus-size inferiority complex. She lives on the Web, snarfs junk food, and follows the "Fat Girl Code of Conduct."

**Marchetta, Melina. *Saving Francesca* , 2004.**

Sixteen-year-old Francesca could use her outspoken mother's help with the problems of being one of a handful of girls at a parochial school that has just turned co-ed, but her mother has suddenly become severely depressed.

**Mazer, Norma Fox. *Missing Pieces* , 1996.**

As she watches her friends with their fathers, fourteen-year-old Jessie decides the family she shares with her mother and her great-great-aunt is not enough, so she sets out to learn more about the father who left when she was just a baby.

**McCormick, Patricia. *Cut* , 2000.**

While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better.

**McDonald, Janet. *Spellbound* , 2003.**

Raven, a teenage mother and high school dropout living in a housing project, decides, with the help and sometime interference of her best friend Aisha, to study for a spelling bee which could lead to a college preparatory program and four-year scholarship.

**McDonald, Joyce. *Shades of Simon Gray* , 2001.**

Seventeen-year-old Simon lies in a coma, finding his space and time overlapping with that of a man who was lynched over 200 years ago, while a member of the cheating ring he has been helping wonders if their actions have caused the plagues assaulting their New Jersey town. (See also: *Shadow People* and *Swallowing Stones* .)

**McNamee, Graham. *Hate You* , 1999.**

Nursing hatred for the father who choked her and damaged her voice as a child, seventeen-year-old Alice writes songs she feels she cannot sing and seeks to reconcile her feelings for herself and her father. (See also: *Acceleration* .)

**McNaughton, James. *An Earthly Knight* , 2004.**

In 1162 in Scotland, sixteen-year-old Jenny Avenel falls in love with the mysterious Tam Lin while being courted by the king's brother and must navigate the tides of tradition and the power of ancient magic to define her own destiny.

**Mikaelson, Ben. *Petey* , 1999.**

In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

**Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful* , 2004.**

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen-years-old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

**Murphy, Rita. *Night Flying* , 2000.**

As the time for her solo flight on the sixteenth birthday approaches, Georgia begins to question the course of her life and her relationships with the other women in her unusual family.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster* , 1999.**

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. (See also: *Slam* .)

**Na, An. *A Step from Heaven* , 2001.**

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America .

**Naidoo, Beverly. *The Other Side of the Truth* , 2001.**

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria .

**Napoli , Donna Jo. *Beast* , 2000.**

The story of Beauty and the Beast is retold from the Beast's point of view. Here, the Beast is a Persian prince who is cursed to be a lion until he wins the love of a woman. (See also: *The Song of the Magdalene* , *For the Love of Venice* and *Bound* .)

**Nix, Garth. *Shade's Children* , 1997.**

In a savage post nuclear world, four young fugitives attempt to overthrow the bloodthirsty rule of the Overlords with the help of Shade, their mysterious mentor.

**Oates, Joyce Carol. *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl* , 2002.**

When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

**Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn* , 2004.**

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

**Orr, Wendy. *Peeling the Onion* , 1997.**

Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family.

**Pattou, Edith. *East* , 2003.**

Rose was raised in a small Norwegian village and her mother would like to keep her close to home, but she has a wandering spirit. When her sister becomes ill and a white bear offers a cure in exchange for Rose, Rose chooses to accompany him to his castle-in-a-cave. While her sister recovers, Rose finds enchantment and danger in her new home.

**Pearson, Mary. *Scibbler of Dreams* , 2001.**

Despite her family's long feud with the Crutchfields, seventeen-year-old Kaitlin falls in love with Bram Crutchfield and weaves a tangled web of deception to conceal her identity from him.

**Pennebaker, Ruth. *Both Sides Now* , 2000.**

Fifteen-year-old Liza tries to deal with the normal everyday crises of life in an Austin , Texas , high school, a process complicated by her mother's fight with breast cancer. (See also: *Conditions of Love* .)

**Powell, Randy. *Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star* , 1999.**

For a tribute to his mother, a dead rock star, fifteen-year-old Grady returns to Seattle , where he faces his mixed feelings for his retarded younger half-brother Louie while pondering his own future. (See also: *Whistling Toilets* .)

**Qualey, Marsha. *Thin Ice* , 1997.**

Seventeen-year-old Arden has been raised by her older brother, Scott, since their parents died when she was just six years old, so when Scott is presumed drowned in a snowmobile accident, Arden is convinced he's really run away.

**Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now* , 2004.**

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City , fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.

**Sheldon, Dylan. *Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen* , 1999.**

In her first year at a suburban New Jersey high school, Mary Elizabeth Cep, who now calls herself "Lola," sets her sights on the lead in the annual drama production, and finds herself in conflict with the most popular girl in school.

**Shusterman, Neal. *The Dark Side of Nowhere* , 1997.**

Fourteen-year-old Jason faces an identity crisis after discovering that he is the son of aliens who stayed on earth following a botched invasion mission.

**Sones, Sonya. *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies* , 2004.**

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.

**Strasser, Todd. *Give a Boy a Gun* , 2000.**

Events leading up to a night of terror at a high school dance are told from the point of view of various people involved.

**Stratton, Allan. *Chanda's Secrets* , 2004.**

A girl's struggle amid the African AIDS pandemic, Chanda, is an astonishingly perceptive girl living in the small city of Bonang , a fictional city in Southern Africa . When her youngest sister dies, the first hint of HIV/AIDS emerges, Chanda must confront undercurrents of shame and stigma.

**Thesman, Jean. *The Other Ones* , 1999.**

High school sophomore Bridget Raynes has to decide whether or not to accept her powers of witchcraft, or abandon them and try to fit in as an ordinary teenager.

**Tomey, Ingrid. *Nobody Else Has to Know* , 1999.**

Fifteen-year-old Webber must either live with guilt or tell the truth about who was driving his grandfather's car when it struck and seriously injured a little girl.

**Van Velde, Vivian. *Companions of the Night* , 1995.**

When sixteen-year-old Kerry Nowicki helps a young man escape from a group of men who claim he is a vampire, she finds herself faced with some bizarre and dangerous choices.

**Wallace, Rich. *Playing Without the Ball* , 2000.**

Feeling abandoned by his parents, who have gone their separate ways and left him behind in a small Pennsylvania town, seventeen-year-old Jay finds hope for the future in a church-sponsored basketball team and a female friend. (See also: *Wrestling Sturbridge* and *Shots on Goal* .)

**Werlin, Nancy. *Locked Inside* , 2000.**

After she is kidnapped from the exclusive boarding school she attends, heiress Marnie Skyedottir must rethink her idealized relationship with her mother, her own sense of who she is, and her relationships with others. (See also: *The Killer's Cousin* . and *Double Helix* .)

**Wittlinger, Ellen. *Razzle* , 2001.**

When his retired parents buy a group of tourist cabins on Cape Cod , fifteen-year-old Kenyon Baker's days are filled with repair work until he becomes friends with an eccentric girl and makes her the subject of a series of photographs.

**Wolff , Virginia Euwer. *True Believer* , 2001.**

Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.

**Wooding, Chris. *The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray* , 2004.**

In a world similar to Victorian London, Thaniel, a seventeen-year-old hunter of deadly, demonic creatures called the wych-kin, takes in an lost, possessed girl, and becomes embroiled in a plot to unleash evil on the world.

**Yolen, Jane. *The Queen's Own Fool* , 2000.**

When twelve-year-old Nicola leaves Troupe Brufort and serves as the fool for Mary, Queen of Scots, she experiences the political and religious upheavals in both France and Scotland . (See also: *Girl in a Cage* and *The Prince Across the Water* .)

**Young, Karen. *The Beetle and Me: A Love Story* , 1999.**

Surrounded by her busy extended family and their many cars, fifteen-year-old Daisy pursues her goal of single-handedly restoring the car of her dreams, the old purple Volkswagen Beetle from her childhood.

**Zindel, Paul. *The Gadget* , 2001.**

In 1945, having joined his father at Los Alamos, where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II, thirteen-year-old Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue.