



Pick of the Decade: 1995-2005

The Best Books for Children
Grades K-8

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Pick of the Decade 1995-2005: Kindergarten**Picture Books****Alborough, Jez. *My Friend Bear* , 1998.**

Eddie is at home and the bear is in the forest. Both are lonely with only their teddies to talk to, but when they meet in the woods, they find a way to become friends. (See also: *Where's My Teddy?* and *It's the Bear!*)

Alborough, Jez. *Hug* , 2000.

Bobo the chimp is looking for a hug from a variety of jungle animals but finds it from his very own parents.

Appelt, Kathi. *Bubba and Beau, Best Friends* , 2002.

In Texas , brand-new baby boy Bubba and brand-new puppy Beau, are best friends enjoying a variety of adventures together. (Sequels: *Bubba and Beau Go Night-Night* and *Bubba and Beau Meet the Relatives* .)

Appelt, Kathi. *Watermelon Day* , 1996.

When Jesse finds a watermelon in the corner of the garden, she agrees to wait for it to ripen and eagerly anticipates the time when she can indulge in its deliciousness.

Asch, Frank. *Baby Bird's First Nest* , 1999.

Baby Bird is too young to fly, so when she falls out of her nest, she cannot fly back. With the help of her new friend, Little Frog, she discovers that there are a lot of things she can do. (See also: *Moon Bear* ; *Mooncake* ; *Bear's Bargain* ; *Bear Shadow* ; *Moongame* ; *Moondance* ; *Moonbear's Friend* ; *Moonbear's Pet* ; and *Moonbear's Dream* .)

Asch, Frank. *The Sun Is My Favorite Star* , 2000.

A young boy's day begins when the sun wakes him in the morning and as the hours pass by, the boy appreciates all the ways of his favorite star.

Base, Graeme. *The Water Hole* , 2001.

Ten different animals from ten different countries come to drink at the water hole, which diminishes with each set of visitors, until a single drop of water begins the cycle all over again.

Blackstone, Stella. *There's a Cow in the Cabbage Patch* , 2001.

A rhyming text details the antics of farm animals that are all out of place.

Bonning, Tony. *Fox Tale Soup* , 2001.

In this imaginative retelling of *Stone Soup* , Fox stops by the barnyard and convinces all the animals to "contribute" to his concoction.

Bradby, Marie. *Once upon a Farm* , 2002.

Using poetic prose, an African-American boy describes life on the farm.

Brett, Jan. *Gingerbread Baby* , 1999.

This original version of the classic cookie's misadventure has twists of its own. (See also: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* ; *The Mitten* ; and *The Town Mouse, Country Mouse* .)

Brimner, Larry. *The Littlest Wolf* , 2002.

Little Wolf is discouraged because he is the smallest one in his pack, until Big Gray shows him that he is just right.

Browne, Anthony. *Willy the Wizard* , 1995.

Willy loves to play soccer, but no one picks him to be on his or her team until he gets a pair of magic shoes. (See also: *Willy the Champ* ; *Willy the Wimp* ; *Willy and Hugh* ; *Willy the Dreamer* ; and *Willy's Pictures* .)

Bunting, Eve. *Sunflower House* , 1996.

Told in rhyming verse, this book relates the story of a boy who plants a circle of sunflower seeds. He tends them throughout the summer as they grow into a living playhouse.

Bunting, Eve. *Little Bear's Little Boat* , 2003.

Little bear has fun going out on the lake in his little boat that is just the right size for him. One day he finds the boat is too small and he must make a decision about its future.

Bunting, Eve. *Whales Passing* , 2003.

A young boy and his father stand on a cliff and watch a pod of orcas swimming by. As they go the boy imagines the conversations the whales could be having.

Buzzo, Toni. *Dawdle Duckling* , 2003.

Dawdle Duckling delights in daydreaming, exploring and playing, even though Mama Duck keeps trying to get him to follow along with his siblings. (Sequel: *Ready or Not Dawdle Duckling* .)

Carle, Eric. *"Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," Said the Sloth* , 2002.

A procession of rainforest animals chides the sloth for being lazy, but the sloth extols the benefits of taking his time. (See also: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* ; *The Very Busy Spider* ; *The Grouchy Ladybug* ; *The Very Quiet Cricket* ; *From Head to Toe* ; and *Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too?*)

Carle, Eric. *10 Little Rubber Ducks* , 2005.

A brand-new batch of rubber ducks is loaded onto a ship and sent off to be delivered to children everywhere. But when a storm strikes, 10 little ducks are tossed into the sea and swept away in 10 different directions -- with some wonderfully unexpected adventures along the way.

Carlstrom, Nancy White. *Guess Who's Coming, Jesse Bear?* , 1998.

The ever-effervescent Jesse Bear looks forward to having a special visitor until he finds out that it is his bossy cousin. (See also: *Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?* ; *Better Not Get Wet Jesse Bear* ; *It's About Time, Jesse Bear* ; *How Do You Say It Today, Jesse Bear?* ; *Happy Birthday Jesse Bear* ; *Let's Count It Out, Jesse Bear* ; *Where Is Christmas, Jesse Bear* and *Climb the Family Tree, Jesse Bear*).

Carr, Jan. *Big Truck and Little Truck* , 2000.

Big Truck and Little Truck work together on the farm and regularly haul produce to market. When Big Truck is sidelined for repairs, Little Truck must make the journey alone.

Chitwood, Suzanne Tanner. *Wake up, Big Barn!* , 2002.

This onomatopoeic and rhythmic text relates the happenings on the farm from sunup to sundown.

Chodos-Irvine, Margaret. *Ella Sarah Gets Dressed* , 2003.

Ella Sarah asserts her independence by selecting a striking outfit of her own.

Cooke, Trish. *Full, Full, Full of Love* , 2002.

Jay Jay, an African-American boy, spends Sunday at his grandmother's house.

Crunk, Tony. *Grandpa's Overalls*, 2001.

Grandpa's overalls develop a will of their own, jump off their peg and lead everyone on a merry wild goose chase.

Dallas-Conte, Juliet. *Cock-a-Moo-Moo* , 2001.

When Rooster forgets how to crow he attempts to wake the other barnyard animals with an assortment of mixed-up farm animal sounds.

dePaola, Tomie. *Meet the Barkers* , 2002.

Twin pups Maffie and Morgie are excited to be starting school. Once there, they discover they are each good at different things. (Sequels: *A New Barker in the House* and *Trouble in the Barkers' Class* .)

Dillon, Leo and Diane. *Rap a Tap Tap* , 2002.

This jazzy tribute to African-American tap dancer, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, taps out a rhythm all over town.

Dyer, Jane. *Little Brown Bear Won't Go to School* , 2003.

Little Brown Bear decides he would rather get a job than go to school, but after several false starts he concludes that school is just the right job for him. (See also : *Little Brown Bear Won't Take a Nap* .)

Ehlert, Lois. *Waiting for Wings* , 2001.

Simple verses that describe the life cycle of the butterfly are accompanied by illustrations saturated with color. (See also: *Top Cat* ; *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf* ; *Feather's for Lunch* ; *Eating the Alphabet* ; and *Planting a Rainbow* .)

Eilenberg, Max. *Squeak's Good Idea* , 2001.

Squeak, the little elephant, wants to play outside. When no one wants to go with him, he prepares to handle a variety of eventualities himself.

Emmett, Jonathan. *Someone Bigger* , 2004.

Sam is ready to fly his new kite, but Dad says it should be someone bigger. Each big person gets swept away until Sam takes control.

Falconer, Ian. *Olivia* , 2000.

Olivia, a precocious pig, whirls through every activity with boundless energy. (Sequels: *Olivia Saves the Circus* and *Olivia-and the Missing Toy* .)

Fleming, Candace. *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!* 2002.

Mr. McGreely finally plants the vegetable garden he's always wanted but then he must find a way to stop hungry critters from nibbling it all away.

Fleming, Denise. *Mama Cat Has Three Kittens* , 1998.

Kittens, Fluffy and Skinny do whatever Mama Cat does, be it washing with her paws, digging or sharpening her claws, but little Boris would much rather take a nap.

Fleming, Denise. *Buster* , 2003.

Buster the dog thinks that everything is perfect at home until his owner brings home Betty, a fluffy white kitten. (See also: *The Everything Book* ; *Alphabet Under Construction* ; *Pumpkin Eye* ; and *Time to Sleep* .)

Fox, Mem. *The Magic Hat* , 2002.

A wizard's wandering headpiece adorns head after head, transforming each grown-up to one animal or another until the wizard appears. (*Hattie and the Fox* and *Possum Magic* .)

Frazer, Marla. *Roller Coaster* , 2002.

Among the people lining up for a ride on the roller coaster is a child who's never ridden before. All embark for an exhilarating ride, which whisks readers along in all the dips and dives, leaving everyone ready to ride again.

Gay, Marie-Louise. *Stella, Fairy of the Forest* , 2002.

Stella, who discovers delight wherever she goes, leads her brother through the forest, providing fanciful answers to all of his questions. (See also: *Stella, the Star of the Sea* ; *Stella, Queen of the Snow* ; *Good Night, Sam* ; and *Good Morning, Sam* .)

Gerstein, Mordicai. *Daisy's Garden* , 1995, o.p.

Daisy and her animal friends tend her garden all through the growing season.

Goldstone, Bruce. *The Beastly Feast* , 1998.

The table is all arranged for the beasts to have their feast and each creature brings a dish that rhymes. Puffins bring muffins and moose bring juice, and so on, until a plethora of animals have an assortment of delectable delicacies to choose from.

Graham, Bob. *Max* , 2000.

Although Max has been born into a family of superheroes and has his very own mask and cape, flying is just not for him. A baby bird in distress changes everything.

Gugler, Laurel Dee. *There's a Billy Goat in the Garden* , 2003.

When a billy goat escapes to the garden, larger and larger animals attempt to get him out, but nothing works until a bumblebee buzzes by.

Guthrie, Woody. *This Land Is Your Land* , 1998.

A beautifully illustrated edition of the folk song.

Hall , Zoe . *The Apple Pie Tree* , 1996.

Two children help nurture an apple tree from the time the buds first peek out into the world, to the time the fruit is ripe and ready to be picked.

Harter, Debbie. *Walking Through the Jungle* , 1997.

A young girl explores a variety of habitats as the native creatures chase her from scene to scene.

Harvey, Amanda. *Dog Eared: Starring Otis* , 2002.

Otis, a large-eared dog, is perfectly happy strolling down the street until a not-so-nice fellow canine calls him "Big Ears." A crisis of confidence ensues, but Lucy's love saves the day. (Sequels: *Dog Days: Starring Otis* and *Dog Gone: Starring Otis* .)

Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica and the Substitute Teacher* , 1999.

Jamaica faces a moral dilemma when she forgets how to spell a word on her spelling test. She yields to temptation but later confesses, and her substitute teacher understands that she doesn't have to be perfect to be special. (See also: *Jamaica Tag-Along* ; *Jamaica's Find* ; *Jamaica and Brianna* ; *Jamaica's Blue Marker* ; and *Brianna, Jamaica and the Dance of Spring* .)

Heap, Sue. *What Shall We Play?* 2002.

Three friends engaged in imaginative play each want to play something different. Lily-May wants to play fairies, but Matt and Martha want to play cars and then cats. Finally patience pays off and with a wave of her magic wand, Lily-May transforms her friends into make-believe sprites.

Henkes, Kevin. *Wemberly Worried* , 2000.

Wemberly worries about everything but her biggest worry concerns her first day of school.

Henkes, Kevin. *Kitten's First Full Moon* , 2004.

Kitten mistakes the moon for a saucer of milk and embarks on an outdoor adventure to try to reach it.

Hest, Amy. *Off to School, Baby Duck!* , 1999.

Baby Duck is plagued with the first-day-of-school jitters, but his loving family pitches in to help him. (See also: *In the Rain with Baby Duck* ; *Baby Duck and the Bad Eyeglasses* ; *You're the Boss , Baby Duck!* ; *Baby Duck and the Cozy Blanket* ; *Make the Team, Baby Duck!* ; and *Guess Who, Baby Duck!*)

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *One of Each* , 1997.

Catchy rhyme relates how the dog, Oliver Tolliver, thinks that his life is just perfect with one of everything, but then he realizes what he is missing is a friend. (See also: *A House Is a House for Me* ; *The Seven Silly Eaters* ; *It's Simple, Said Simon* ; and *Bill Grogan's Goat* .)

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *Whose Garden Is It?* 2004.

When Mrs. McGee passes through a beautiful garden asking whose it is, the gardener is the first to claim it, followed by all of the garden's inhabitants plus the sun and the rain, who also claim it as their own.

Howard, Arthur. *Hoodwinked* , 2001.

When it is time for Mitzi, a young witch, to get a pet, she wants the creepiest one of all.

Hubbard, Patricia. *My Crayons Talk* , 1996.

Amusing rhymes relate what crayons would say if they could talk.

Hughes, Shirley. *Annie Rose Is My Little Sister* , 2003.

Alfie explains what he and his little sister can do together and with their family. (See also: *Alfie's Feet* ; *Alfie Gives a Hand* ; *An Evening at Alfie's* ; *The Big Alfie and Annie Rose Storybook* ; *The Big Alfie out of Doors Storybook* ; *Rhymes for Annie Rose* ; *Alfie's ABC* ; and *Alfie and the Birthday Surprise* .)

Hurd, Thacher. *Art Dog* , 1996.

Someone has stole the famous Mona Woofa painting from the Dogopolis Museum of Art and Art Dog must leap in to action to save the day. (See also: *Mama Don't Allow* ; *The Pea Patch Jig* ; and *Blackberry Ramble* .)

Hutchins, Hazel. *One Dark Night* , 2001.

A flash of lightning illuminates the night and Jonathan spies a cat outside. He opens the door to let her in, but instead of staying, she deposits a kitten and goes back for her next bundle.

Hutchins, Pat. *There's Only One of Me* , 2003.

The birthday girl celebrates all the members of her family as they gather to celebrate her special day. (See also: *Good Night Owl* ; *The Very Worst Monster* ; *The Doorbell Rang*; *Where's the Baby?* ; *Shrinking Mouse* ; and *We're Going on a Picnic* .)

Jones, Ursula. *The Witch's Children* , 2003.

Three young witch siblings pay a visit to the park and unintentionally wreak magical havoc, but Little One knows just what to do to fix things.

Kasza, Keiko. *Don't Laugh, Joe* , 1997.

Joe, a possum, has great difficulty learning to play dead because he's always laughing.

Kasza, Keiko. *The Mightiest* , 2001.

Bear, Lion and Elephant strive to prove which of them is the mightiest, but a little old lady surprises them all. (See also: *The Wolf's Chicken Stew* ; *The Pigs' Picnic* ; *When the Elephant Walks* ; and *A Mother for Choco* .)

Keller, Debra. *The Trouble with Mister* , 1995, o.p.

When a child's pleas for a dog fall on deaf ears he paints his own and it comes to life.

Keller, Holly. *Farfallina and Marcel* , 2002.

Marcel, a gosling, and Farfallina, a caterpillar, become fast friends. When they are reunited after a separation, at first they do not recognize each other.

Kleven, Elisa. *The Puddle Pail* , 1997.

Ernst, a young blue crocodile and his older brother spend the day at the beach and discover that they each like to collect different things.

Koller, Jackie French. *No Such Thing* , 1997.

Howard's mother insists that there is no such thing as a monster under the bed, just as Young Monster's mother insists that there is no boy on top of the bed. Both learn differently when they meet up at last.

Koller, Jackie French. *One Monkey Too Many* , 1999.

An extra monkey partakes of succeeding adventures, all wreaking havoc wherever they go.

Kurtz, Jane. *Water Hole Waiting* , 2002.

In the African savannah, a baby monkey waits impatiently for his turn while an assortment of animals drinks their fill.

Kurtz, Jane. *Rain Romp* , 2002.

When a young girl awakens to a gray and dreary day, she is beyond grouch until she ventures outside with her family to play in the rain.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *The Other Dog* , 2001.

The family poodle is feeling put out when the mistress brings home the "new dog," which is, in fact, the new baby.

Lasky, Kathryn. *Lunch Bunnies* , 1996.

Clyde , a rabbit entering first grade, is terrified thinking about all the things that could go wrong at lunchtime.

Lawrence, John. *This Little Chick* , 2002.

A little chick travels around the barnyard, conversing with his friends in their own languages.

Lester, Helen. *Tacky in Trouble* , 1998.

Tacky, the always-different penguin, ends up on a tropical island proving to an elephant that he is who he says he is. (See also: *Tacky the Penguin* ; *Three Cheers for Tacky* ; *Tacky and the Emperor* ; *Tackylocks and the Three Bears* ; *A Porcupine Named Fluffy* ; *Score One for the Sloths* ; and *Something Might Happen* .)

Leuck, Laura. *My Creature Teacher* , 2004.

A student describes all the things that his creature teacher does at school.

Lillegard, Dee. *Tiger, Tiger* , 2002.

While the other villagers nap during the heat of the day, Pocu wanders off into the forest. Finding a peacock feather, he creates an imaginary tiger, which may be too real after all. (See also: *The Big Bug Ball* ; *Tortoise Brings the Mail* ; and *Sitting in My Box* .)

Lin, Grace. *Dim Sum for Everyone* , 2001.

When a family visits a restaurant in Chinatown , they each enjoy a variety of "little dishes." (See also: *The Ugly Vegetables* ; *Fortune Cookie Fortunes* ; and *Kite Flying* .)

London, Jonathan. *Froggy Goes to School* , 1996.

In this fourth Froggy book, the endearing Froggy is nervous about going to school. He has a nightmare that he shows up the first day in is underwear, but fortunately the reality turns out to be

much better. (See also: *Froggy Gets Dressed* ; *Let's Go Froggy* ; *Froggy Learns to Swim* ; *Froggy's First Kiss* ; *Froggy's Halloween* ; *Froggy Plays Soccer* ; *Froggy's Best Christmas* ; *Froggy Goes to Bed* ; *Froggy Eats Out* ; *Froggy Plays in the Band* ; *Froggy Goes to the Doctor* ; *Froggy's Baby Sister* ; and *Froggy's Day with Dad* .)

Look, Lenore. *Henry's First Moon Birthday* , 2001.

Jenny and her grandmother prepare to celebrate her little brother's first moon with a traditional Chinese party, even though Jenny thinks the one-month-old doesn't deserve it. All he does is eat, sleep and cry.

Loomis, Christine. *Astro Bunnies* , 2001.

Carried along by snappy rhyme, a group of bunnies boldly go where no bunnies have gone before. (See also: *Cowboy Bunnies* and *Scuba Bunnies* .)

Lujan, Jorge. *Rooster* , 2004.

The Rooster's song begins the day in this poetic text which is in English and Spanish.

Manning, Maurie. *The Aunts Go Marching* , 2003.

In this story that puts a clever twist on an old song, a young girl and her aunt go shopping in the rain.

Mannis, Celeste Davidson. *One Leaf Rides the Wind: Counting in a Japanese Garden* , 2002.

A counting book done in traditional haiku, follows young girl as she explores a Japanese garden.

McCarty, Peter. *Hondo and Fabian* , 2002.

A day in the life of family pets, Hondo and Fabian, is depicted, as Hondo the dog spends time at the beach and Fabian the cat eludes a toddler at home.

McDermott, Gerald. *Creation* , 2003.

A version of the Biblical creation story boldly illustrated by a Caldecott-winning artist. (See also: *Anansi the Spider* ; *Arrow to the Sun* ; *Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk* ; *Zomo the Rabbit* ; *Raven* ; *Coyote* ; and *Jabuti the Tortoise* .)

McFarland, Lyn. *Widget* , 2001.

Widget, a small stray dog, has been adopted into a home with lots of cats. Adapting to the ways of the felines, he shows them in the end that being a dog can be a good thing too. (Sequel: *Widget and the Puppy* .)

McGeorge, Constance W. *Boomer Goes to School* , 1996.

Boomer, a lovable golden retriever, attends school as a show and tell project. (See also: *Boomer's Big Day* and *Boomer's Big Surprise* .)

McMullan, Kate. *I Stink!* 2002.

A gleeful garbage truck extols the joys of collecting the trash.

McNeil, Florence . *Sail Away* , 2000.

Bathtime becomes a nautical adventure for a young lad garbed as a pirate.

McPhail, David. *The Puddle* , 1998.

Sailing his toy ship in a puddle on a rainy day, the young narrator embarks on an imaginary voyage. (See also: *Something Special* ; *Tinker and Tom and the Star Baby* ; and *Mole Music* .)

Martin, Bill. *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?*, 2003.

Panda Bear observes a procession of endangered animals. (See also: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* ; *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* ; *White Dynamite and Curly Kidd* ; and *Knots on a Counting Rope* .)

Martin, Bill. *Chicka Chicka 1,2,3*, 2004.

101 rambunctious digits have a rollicking time climbing an apple tree (see also: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* .)

Meddaugh, Susan, *Martha Blah, Blah* , 1996.

Martha, the talking dog, has eaten her bowl of alphabet soup, but when she opens her mouth, strange sounds come out instead of words. (See also: *Martha Speaks* ; *Martha Calling* ; *Martha Walks the Dog* ; *Martha and Skits* ; and *Perfectly Martha* .)

Meddaugh, Susan. *The Best Place* , 1999.

An old Wolf sells his cozy home and travels the world in search of the best place.

Mitton, Tony. *Down by the Cool of the Pool* , 2002.

Buoyant verse describes the antics of frog and his farmyard friends as they frolic in the cool of the pool.

Numeroff, Laura. *The Chicken Sisters* , 1997.

Three fowl siblings are so eccentric, they frighten off the big bad wolf.

Numeroff, Laura. *If You Take a Mouse to School* , 2002.

If you take a mouse to school, watch out. Not only will he ask you for your lunch box, but also he will then want a sandwich to go in it and that's only the beginning. (See also: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* ; *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* ; *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* ; and *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies* .)

O'Brien, John. *Poof!* , 1999.

A husband and wife wizarding duo miscast one spell after another.

Ochiltree, Diane. *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins* , 2004.

Rhyming text, accompanied by vivid illustrations, together demonstrate how many pumpkins it takes to fill a wagon and how quickly they add up each time the number is doubled.

Palatini, Margie. *Piggie Pie* , 1995.

Gritch the witch needs eight plump piggies for piggie pie, but the pigs on Old MacDonald's farm are determined to outwit her. (Sequels: *Zoom Broom* and *Broom Mates* .)

Palatini, Margie. *The Web Files* , 2001.

The farm is perfectly peaceful until it is discovered that a peck of pickled peppers has been pilfered. Then, Ducktective Web and his partner are called in to solve the case.

Parr, Todd. *It's Okay to Be Different* , 2001.

Neon colored illustrations accompany a text that encourages an appreciation of diversity.

Pattou, Edith. *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden* , 2002.

Mrs. Spitzer lovingly tends her garden all summer long, just as she nurtures her students during the school year.

Peters, Lisa Westberg. *Cold Little Duck, Duck, Duck* , 2000.

A duck arrives at her pond to find that it is still frozen, but when she concentrates on spring, the ice begins to melt.

Plourde, Lynn. *Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud* , 1997.

A family is trying to return to their home in a Model T Ford, but a plethora of animals in the "rud" stop them until Granny finds a way to clear them out.

Poydar, Nancy. *Snip, Snip.Snow!* 1997.

Impatient Sophie can't wait for it to snow. She and her classmates decide to make paper snowflakes in the meantime.

Raschka, Chris. *The Blushful Hippopotamus* , 1996, o.p.

Roosevelt 's sister teases him about blushing all the time, but his best friend Lombard shows him how to feel better about himself.

Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria* , 1995.

Officer Buckle's safety tips put students to sleep until his canine cohort, Gloria, livens things up (Caldecott winner).

Ray, Mary Lyn. *Red Rubber Boot Day* , 2000.

A young boy delights in playing in the rain wearing his red rubber boots.

Root, Phyllis. *One Duck Stuck* , 1998.

When a duck lands in the swamp, he promptly gets stuck in the muck and an increasing number of creatures try to free him. (See also: *What Baby Wants* and *Oliver Finds His Way* .)

Ross, Tony. *Centipede's 100 Shoes* , 2003.

When centipede stubs a toe, he decides shoes are the way to go, but the footwear proves more difficult than he thought.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Mud Is Cake* , 2002.

Siblings have a grand time stretching their imaginations.

Salley, Coleen. *Epossumundus* , 2002.

In a variant of a classic tale, a young possum is constantly muddling his mama's instructions.

Schaefer, Carole. *Someone Says* , 2003.

On their way to school one day, a group of children concoct more and more imaginative ways to proceed.

Schnur, Steven. *Autumn: An Alphabet Acrostic* , 1997.

26 clever poems present various experiences of the season. (See also: *Winter* ; *Summer* ; and *Spring* .)

Schulman, Janet. *A Bunny for All Seasons* , 2003.

With each new season a brown bunny takes delight in his garden.

Shannon, David. *Duck on a Bike* , 2002.

Duck teaches himself to ride a bike and inspires all the farmyard animals to do likewise.

Shannon, David. *No, David!* , 1998.

Young David makes a mess in every room but his mother loves him just the same. (Sequels: *David Gets in Trouble* and *David Goes to School* .)

Shannon, George. *Tippy-Toe Chick, Go!* , 2003.

Mother hen and her chicks go to the garden every day, but when a loud dog suddenly blocks their path, it is the littlest chick that comes up with a way to save them all.

Shields, Carol Diggory. *Lucky Pennies and Hot Chocolate* , 2000.

A boy and his grandfather enjoy a variety of activities together.

Shulman, Lisa. *Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop* , 2002.

Ms. MacDonald, a ewe who is completely comfortable with her tool belt on, has her friend and neighbors join her in constructing her special project.

Sierra, Judy. *Wild about Books* , 2004.

When librarian Molly McGrew mistakenly drives the book mobile to the zoo, she entices the animals to a love of books by reading aloud her rollicking rhymes. (See also: *The House That Drac Built* .)

Slate, Joseph. *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* , 1996.

Miss Bindergarten, a black and white canine, prepares her room, as her 26 animal students also prepare for the first day of school and are presented in alphabetical order. (Sequels: *Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100 th Day of Kindergarten* ; *Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten* ; *Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten* ; and *Miss Bindergarten Plans a Circus with Kindergarten* .)

Smith, Maggie. *Paisley* , 2004.

When a stuffed elephant the same pattern as his name accidentally ends up in the trash, he turns his abandonment into a successful search for his perfect match.

Steig, William. *Toy Brother* , 1996.

In an everyday medieval family, Mr. Bede, an alchemist, accidentally shrinks his oldest son to the size of a sausage to the delight of little brother Charlie. (See also: *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* ; *Doctor De Soto* ; *Doctor De Soto Goes to Africa* ; *Brave Irene* ; *Shrek!* ; and *Pete's a Pizza* .)

Stevens, Janet. *Cook-a-Doodle-Do!* , 1999.

Big Brown Rooster, the great-grandson of the Little Red Hen, decides to make strawberry short cakes, but runs into some problems of his own.

Stevenson, James. *Don't Make Me Laugh* , 1999.

Mr. Frimdimpy, a stern crocodile, insists that readers not laugh at all and then relates three humorous stories.

Stoeke, Janet. *Minerva Louise and the Red Truck* , 2002.

Minerva Louise is back-and this time she's taking her show on the road. The intrepid but airhead hen is off on a joyride in the back of the farm's red truck. And what a lot there is to see! In her usual fashion, she mistakes golfers for farmers digging and a construction site for a playground for trucks. (Newest in a series that began with: *A Hat for Minerva Louise*.)

Stojic, Manya. *Rain* , 2000.

The animals of the African savanna pass the word about the much needed rain, which comes to drench their world.

Stickland, Paul. *Ten Terrible Dinosaurs* , 1997.

Ten brightly colored dinosaurs romp through a prehistoric count down.

Sturges, Philemon. *The Little Red Hen (Makes a Pizza)* , 1999.

In this version, the little red hen decides to go with an Italian entrée, but still has difficulty getting the help she needs.

Thomas, Lauren. *Polar Bear Night* , 2004.

After wandering out at night to watch a magical star shower, a polar bear cub returns home to snuggle with her mother in their warm den.

Voake, Charlotte. *Ginger* , 1996.

Ginger is a completely content cat until a cavorting kitten invades her home. (Sequel: *Ginger Finds a Home* .)

Vrombaut, An. *Clarabella's Teeth* , 2003.

Clarabella wants to go and play with her friends, but first she must brush her teeth. Unfortunately, that takes quite awhile since crocodiles have a lot of teeth, but her friends come up with a workable solution.

Waddell, Martin. *A Kitten Called Moonlight* , 2002.

On a dark and stormy night a mother and daughter take in a stray cat. (See also: *The Pig in the Pond* ; *Owl Babies* ; *Farmer Duck* ; , *Little Bear Can't You Sleep?* ; *Let's Go Home, Little Bear* ; *You and Me, Little Bear* ; *Good Job, Little Bear* ; *Snow Bears* ; and *Hi, Harry!*)

Waddell, Martin. *Tiny's Big Adventure* , 2004.

Katy Mouse teaches her younger brother, Tiny, the names of some of the things they see, including a boot, a snail, and a pheasant, when they go to the cornfield to play games.

Wiesner, David. *The Three Pigs* , 2001.

The three pigs escape the big bad wolf by jumping into other stories.

Wellington, Monica. *Apple Farmer Annie* , 2001.

Annie owns her own apple orchard and makes a myriad of apple-related items from her homegrown fruit.

Wells, Rosemary. *McDuff Moves In* , 1997.

Alone and unnamed, a white West Highland terrier escapes from the dog catcher. He wanders from place to place until the loving Lucy and Fred take in the bedraggled pup. (Sequels: *McDuff Comes Home* ; *McDuff and the Baby* ; *McDuff Goes to School* ; and *McDuff Saves the Day* .)

Wells, Rosemary. *Yoko* , 1998.

Yoko's classmates make fun of her for bringing sushi for lunch, but then someone tries it and everything changes. (See also: *Timothy Goes to School* ; *Shy Charles* ; *Bunny Cakes* ; and *Yoko's Paper Cranes* .)

Wells, Rosemary. *My Kindergarten* , 2004.

All the activities of a typical kindergarten year are compiled in this handy compendium. (See also: *Emily's First 100 Days of School* .)

Weston, Tamson. *Hey, Pancakes!* , 2003.

Three ambitious children make morning more palatable by whipping up a batch of pancakes.

Willems , Mo. *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* , 2003.

When the bus driver takes a break he instructs readers not to let the pigeon drive the bus but the pigeon doesn't give up easily. (Sequel: *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!*)

Williams, Vera. *Lucky Song* , 1997.

Evie hears a song that describes her kite-flying day. (See also: *A Chair for My Mother* and *Cherries and Cherry Pits* .)

Willis, Jeanne. *Shhh!* 2005.

A small creature finds the secret of world peace but everyone is making too much noise to listen to him.

Wilson , Karma. *Bear Snores On* , 2002.

The winter wind is blowing but Bear's animal friends have gathered for a party in his cave while he is sound asleep. (Sequels: *Bear Wants More* and *Bear Stays up for Christmas* .)

Winter, Jeanette. *Nino's Mask* , 2003.

Nino wants to wear a mask at Fiesta but he is told he is too young. He surprises everyone by making a mask of his own.

Wormell, Mary. *Why Not?* , 2000.

As Barnaby the kitten follows his mother around the barnyard, she warns him against disturbing the other animals but the curious kitten always repeats a familiar refrain.

Yolen, Jane. *How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?*, 2000.

Different dinosaurs demonstrate ways to say good night and ways not to say it. (Sequel: *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?*)

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
1st Grade**

Picture Books

Addy, Sharon . *When Wishes Were Horses* , 2002.

On his way home, Zeb wishes for a horse. Much to his amazement his wish is granted, but soon things gallop out of control.

Adlerman, Dan. *Africa Calling* , 1996.

A young girl imagines herself in Africa with an assortment of native animals.

Agee, John. *Milo's Hat Trick* , 2001.

Milo is trying hard to be a successful magician but is a dismal failure until a bear comes along and teaches him some useful tricks.

Auch, Mary Jane. *Hen Lake* , 1995.

Poulette, a ballerina hen, convinces her fellow chickens to join her in out performing a boastful peacock. (See also: *Peeping Beauty* ; *Eggs Mark the Spot* ; *Bantam of the Opera* ; *Nutquacker* ; *Souper Chicken* ; *Poultrygeist* ; and *The Princess and the Pizza* .)

Bang, Molly. *Goose* , 1996, o.p.

Because a storm blows her egg from the nest a gosling hatches far from her family and is adopted by woodchucks. (See also: *The Paper Crane* .)

Barrett, Judi. *Things That Are Most in the World* , 1998.

An imaginative exploration of superlative adjectives. (See also : *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* ; and *Pickles to Pittsburgh* .)

Beames, Margaret. *Night Cat* , 2003.

Oliver the cat investigates the things that lurk in the alluring shadows of a night time garden.

Best, Cari. *Three Cheers for Catherine the Great* , 1999.

Sara's Russian grandmother insists she wants no presents for her birthday, so Sara and her family search for the perfect, "no present."

Bloom, Becky. *Wolf!* , 1999.

When his prospective victims ignore him because they are engrossed in their books, a wolf decides to learn to read himself.

Bottner, Barbara. *Wallace's Lists* . 2004.

Devoted to making lists about everything in his life, Wallace the mouse discovers the joys of spontaneity and adventure when he becomes friends with his neighbor Albert.

Brenner, Emily. *On the First Day of Grade School* , 2004.

On the first day of grade school, the students love their teacher so much that they give her a python -- one that doesn't squeeze her. On the second day, they give her two buzzing bees. On the third day she receives three fat rats, on the fourth four burping goats, on the fifth... and the days and presents just keep coming!

Brett, Jan. *The Hat* , 1997.

When Lisa retrieves her winter clothes from storage, a strong wind blows her knitted sock off the line and Hedgie gets entangled in it. (See also: *Berlioz the Bear* ; *Comet's Nine Lives* ; *Hedgie's Surprise* ; and *Daisy Comes Home* .)

Buehner, Caralyn. *Fanny's Dream* , 1996.

Fanny, a farm girl, dreams of marrying a prince but when her fairy godmother takes too long she decides to determine her own fate and marries a farmer of her choosing. (See also: *Snowmen at Night* .)

Calhoun, Mary. *Blue-Ribbon Henry* , 1999, o.p.

Henry, the Siamese Cat, attends a country fair and makes one mistake after another until his bravery enables him to lead a lost girl back to her family. (See also: *Hot-Air Henry* and *High-Wire Henry* .)

Calmenson, Stephanie. *The Frog Principal* , 2001.

When a visiting magician accidentally turns the principal, Mr. Bundy, into a frog, the newly made amphibian must bargain to keep running the school until things can be set right. (See also: *The Principal's New Clothes* .)

Campoy, F. Isabel. *Rosa Raposa* , 2002.

In three Spanish trickster tales set in the Amazon Rainforest, Rosa, the crafty fox, outsmarts Jaguar.

Carle, Eric. *Mister Seahorse* , 2004.

After Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs on Mr. Seahorse's belly, he drifts through the water, greeting other fish fathers who are taking care of their eggs.

Carlow, Emma. *Kitty Princess and the Newspaper* , 2003.

A fairy godmouse relates a tale of a very rude Kitty Princess.

Chen, Chih-Yuan. *Guji-Guji* , 2004.

Raised from an egg by Mother Duck, Guji Guji is quite content with his life as a duckling, despite the fact that he doesn't look anything like his brothers. Then one fateful day he meets up with three nasty, grinning creatures who not only convince him that he is, like them, a crocodile, but also try to persuade him to deliver his fat, delicious duck relatives for their dinner!

Child, Lauren. *That Pesky Rat* , 2002.

A plain brown rat longs for three things: a home, an owner and most of all a name. So, he sets out to secure all three.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Moonstruck: The True Story of the Cow Who Jumped Over the Moon* , 1997, o.p.

The old brown horse in charge of training his fellow equines to jump over the moon relates this tale of a cow who longed to soar.

Christelow, Eileen. *Where's the Big Bad Wolf?* , 2002.

Detective Doggedly persistently attempts to track down the Big Bad Wolf. (See also: *Olive and the Magic Hat* ; *Jerome Camps Out* ; and *The Great Pig Search* .)

Clement, Rod. *Grandpa's Teeth* , 1997.

Grandpa keeps his false teeth in a jar of water by his bed at night, but when they disappear one day, Inspector Rate quizzes the whole town about their whereabouts.

Cowan, Catherine. *My Life with a Wave* , 1997.

One day at the beach, a boy makes friends with a wave and decides to bring it home to play.

Cronin, Doreen. *Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type* , 2000.

Farmer Brown hears a clickety-clack coming from the barn and discovers that his cows are typing him messages demanding better working conditions. (See also: *Giggle, Giggle Quack* .)

Cronin, Doreen. *Diary of a Worm* , 2003.

A worm adorned in a baseball cap, relates the ups and downs of his daily life.

Cronin, Doreen. *Duck for President* , 2004.

When Duck tires of working for Farmer Brown, he embarks on an ever-escalating quest for political office.

D'Arcy, Karen. *My Grandmother Is a Singing Yaya* , 2001.

Lulu's Greek grandmother bursts into song whenever she is happy. Sometimes Lulu enjoys this and sometimes it embarrasses her, but she always loves her Yaya.

Daly, Niki. *Jamela's Dress* , 1999.

In South Africa , Jamela falls in love with the new fabric for Mama's dress, but when she gets it stained during her imaginative play, no one is happy with her. (See also: *Papa Lucky's Shadow* ; and *What's Cooking Jamela* .)

Danneberg, Julie. *First Day Jitters* , 2000.

Sarah Jane has some worries about the first day of school but when she finally makes it, readers are in for a surprise. (Sequel: *First Year Letters* .)

Dayle, Ann. *The Kettles Get New Clothes* , 2002.

The Kettles' favorite clothing store has a new owner who tries to get them to expand their attire horizons.

Donaldson, Julie. *Room on the Broom* , 2001.

A witch makes room for an assortment of animals on her broom but when a frog accidentally snaps it in two, the animals must rescue the witch.

Edwards, Pamela . *Some Smug Slug* , 1998.

An arrogant slug ignores a series of warnings and must face the nasty consequences.

Egielski, Richard. *Buz*, 1995.

Buz, a bug, gets swallowed with some cornflakes and now must avoid the Keystone Cop pills as they chase him around the boy's body. (See also: *The Gingerbread Boy* ; *Jazper* ; and *Slim and Jim* .)

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. *Stella Louella's Runaway Book* , 1998.

Stella is distressed because she cannot find her library book and the townsfolk join in the search to help her locate it. (See also: *When Bluebell Sang* ; *Walter's Tail* ; *The Letters Are Lost* ; *Goldilocks Returns* ; and *Wake up, It's Spring!*)

Feiffer, Jules. *Bark, George* , 1999.

When George's mother instructs him to bark, he tries to comply, but every time the canine opens his mouth, a different animal sound comes out.

Finchler, Judy. *Miss Malarkey Doesn't Live in Room 10* , 1995.

A first grader pictures his teacher's round-the-clock life at school and is astounded when she moves into his apartment building. (Sequels: *Miss Malarkey Won't Be in Today* ; *Testing Miss Malarkey* ; *You're a Good Sport, Miss Malarkey* ; and *Miss Malarkey's Field Trip* .)

Fleming, Denise. *Boxes for Katje* , 2003.

In post World War II Holland, Katje receives a relief box from Rosie in the US , and this begins the sending of supplies that helps the townspeople survive the winter (based on a true story).

Fraser, Mary Ann. *I. Q. Goes to School* , 2002.

I.Q. is the class rodent that Mrs. Furber brings to school in September. He is not content to simply be the class pet, he wants to be a star pupil. (Sequel: *I. Q. Goes to the Library* .)

French, Jackie. *Diary of a Wombat* , 2003.

A wombat relates her week of antics as she becomes chummy with her human neighbors.

Greene, Rhonda. *Eek! Creak! Snicker, Sneak* , 2002.

Bugbear and Bugaboo specialize in making the creepy noises that scare children until a brother and sister turn the tables on them.

Henkes, Kevin, *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* , 1996.

Lilly loves school and adores her teacher, until the day when he won't let her show off her purple, plastic purse. (See also: *A Weekend with Wendell* ; *Sheila Rae, the Brave* ; *Chester's Way* ; *Jessica* ; *Julius, the Baby of the World* ; *Chrysanthemum* ; and *Owen* .)

Henkes, Kevin. *So Happy!* 2005.

There once was a boy, a rabbit, a magic seed, and a book. The boy, who was bored, went looking for something to do. The rabbit, who was curious, explored until he was lost. The seed was thirsty, but soon it grew and grew and grew.

Hesse, Karen. *Come on, Rain!* , 1999.

Summer in the city is hot, hot, hot, and Tessie rejoices when rain showers down on them at last.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* , 2001.

Thirteen short stories feature text that is engagingly designed for an adult and child to read together. (Sequel: *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together* .)

Howe, James. *Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores* , 1999.

Horace, Morris and Dolores, a trio of mice who are best friends, have loads of fun together until the boys join a club that does not allow girls. (Sequel: *Horace and Morris Join the Circus (But What About Dolores?)*)

Inkpen, Mick. *Nothing*, 1998, o.p.

When the family moves away, they leave behind a tattered stuffed animal who ventures out into the world to find out who he is.

Isadora, Rachel. *Bring on That Beat* , 2002.

A trio of jazz musicians wake the neighborhood with music in 1930's Harlem .

James, Simon. *Little One Step* , 2003.

When three ducklings wander far from home, the older two convince the youngest to play, "one step," to make it home safely.

Kellogg, Steven. *The Missing Mitten Mystery* , 2000.

After playing in the snow all day, Annie realizes that she's lost a mitten and sets off to locate it.

Keller, Holly. *Pearl's New Skates* , 2005.

Pearl has new skates. They are shiny white with red tassels, and she loves them. Will Pearl ever skate in real life the way she skates in her dreams?

Kinerk, Robert. *Clorinda* , 2003.

When Clorinda the cow discovers ballet, she dreams of becoming a bovine ballerina.

Kitamura, Satoshi. *Me and My Cat* , 2000.

A witch casts a spell and Nicholas wakes up in his cat's body, while his cat is in his.

Krensky, Stephen. *The Youngest Fairy Godmother Ever*, 2000.

Mavis wants to be the person who makes wishes come true. She practices waving a magic wand and winking in the mirror until she meets Cindy, the new girl in school who could really use her help.

Krensky, Stephen. *My Teacher's Secret Life* , 1996.

A young student thinks he knows how teachers live at school after the bell rings, until he spies his teacher at the supermarket.

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. *Zelda and Ivy* , 1998.

Three stories delineating the relationship between two fox sisters. Zelda, the oldest, is always the boss and Ivy always the one who gets to do whatever Zelda dreams up. (Sequels: *Zelda and Ivy and the Boy Next Door* ; and *Zelda and Ivy One Christmas* .)

Levine, Gail Carson. *Betsy Who Cried Wolf* , 2002.

Betsy tries valiantly to protect her sheep but a wolf tricks her into blowing her whistle for help. When, eventually, no help comes, Betsy discovers another way to solve her difficulties.

London, Jonathan. *Sun Dance, Water Dance* , 2001.

A group of fun-loving children play throughout the summer day. (See also: *The Eyes of the Grey Wolf* ; *Like Butter on Pancakes* ; *Fireflies, Fireflies, Light My Way* ; *Ice Bear and Little Fox* ; *Baby Whale's Journey* ; and *When the Fireflies Come* .)

Long, Melinda. *How I Became a Pirate* , 2003.

Jeremy becomes a buccaneer and discovers the ups and downs of being a pirate. When he decides it's time to head for home he convinces the pirates to bury their treasure in his backyard and makes it home it time for soccer practice.

Lowell, Susan. *Little Red Cowboy Hat* , 1997.

Mother warns Little Red to beware of snakes on her way to Grandma's in this mid-western version of the classic tale. (See also: *The Bootmaker and the Elves and Cindy Ellen* .)

Lucas, David. *Halibut Jackson* , 2004.

Shy Halibut Jackson rarely ventures far from home, but when he does, he is always camouflaged to match his surroundings until the day he attends the queen's party and miscalculates what to wear.

Mahy, Margaret. *Dashing Dog* , 2002.

Although this poodle's been spiffed-up for a day at the beach, he loves nothing more than dashing down the shore and chasing seagulls. (See also: *The Rattlebang Picnic* .)

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *Unicorns! Unicorns!* , 1997.

The forty days and forty nights of rain has begun and Noah is calling to the unicorns to come but they are busy helping other animals.

McClintock, Barbara. *Dahlia* , 2002.

In Victorian England, Charlotte likes to take her teddy bear and play in the mud or climb trees, and she takes her new porcelain doll, Dahlia, with her.

McGhee, Alison. *Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth* , 2004.

A first grader is frightened on her first day of school after hearing a rumor that her teacher is a 300-year-old alien with a purple tongue who steals baby teeth from her students.

McPhail, David. *Edward and the Pirates* , 1997.

Edward loves to read everything, even cereal boxes and seed catalogs. Everything he reads becomes real and one day at the library he finds a book on pirates. That's when the adventure begins. (See also: *Santa's Book of Names* and *Edward in the Jungle* .)

McPhail, David. *Pigs Ahoy!* , 1995.

Mischievous pigs wreak humorous havoc when they embark on an ocean voyage. (See also: *Pig Pig Rides* ; *Pig Pig Gets a Job* ; *Pigs Aplenty, Pigs Galore!* ; *Pig Pig Goes to Camp* ; *Those Can Do Pigs* ; *Mole Music* ; *Drawing Lessons from a Bear* ; and *Big Pig and Little Pig* .)

Millman, Isaac. *Moses Goes to a Concert* ,1998.

Moses and his classmates, who are all deaf, attend a concert. They sit up front where they can feel the percussion instruments and later meet their teacher's friend, the percussionist, who is also deaf. (Sequels: *Moses Goes to School* ; *Moses Goes to a Concert* ; and *Moses Sees a Play* .)

Mitchell, Marianne. *Joe Cinders* , 2002.

Ranch hand, Joe Cinders, thinks he has far too many chores to do to go to the fiesta until a mysterious stranger gives him some magical help.

Mitchell, Rhonda. *The Talking Cloth* , 1997.

An African-American girl learns from her aunt the significance of the adinkra cloth from West Africa .

Moss, Lloyd. *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin* , 1996.

With lilting rhyme, Moss introduces the instruments of the orchestra.

Newsome, Jill. *Night Walk* , 2003.

Flute, a stay-at-home cat, decides to venture out at night with her canine friend, Daisy, but the walk in the park turns out to be more than dangerous than either expected.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Kate and the Beanstalk* , 2000.

Kate encounters an old woman at the top of the beanstalk who tells her she must recover the treasures the giant stole and return them to their rightful owner.

Palatini, Margie. *Bad Boys* , 2003.

Willy and Wally, two big bad wolves, disguise themselves as sheep to catch their dinner, but Betty Mutton and Meryl Sheep aren't as easy to deceive as the wolves hope. (See also: *Mary Had a Little Ham* ; *The Perfect Pet* ; and *Earthquack!*)

Paye, Won-Ldy. *Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile* , 2003.

When the crocodile captures Mrs. Chicken, she concocts a story to convince him to let her go.

Radcliffe, Theresa. *Bashi, the Baby Elephant* , 1998.

When a lioness stalks Bashi, the newborn elephant, his mother and grandmother do what they must to protect him.

Roome, Diana Reynolds. *The Elephant's Pillow* , 2003.

When the emperor in ancient Peking dies, the imperial elephant is inconsolable. Sing Lo emerges from his selfishness to try to bring comfort to the royal creature.

Root, Phyllis. *Kiss the Cow* , 2000.

When Annalisa refuses to kiss the cow, the cow refuse to give milk.

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Great Gracie Chase* , 2001.

Puppy Gracie Rose is not happy when noisy painters disturb her peaceful home, so when they put her outside for barking, she decides to dash through the open gate, causing the whole town to run after her. (See also: *The Relatives Came* ; *Night in the Country* ; *Mr. Griggs' Work* ; *The Bookshop Dog* ; *The Ticky-Tacky Doll* ; and *The Whale* .)

Schachner, Judith Byron. *Skippyjon Jones* , 2003.

Skippyjon Jones, a Siamese kitten, imagines he is a doggy Zorro with chaotic results. (Sequel: *Skippyjon Jones in the Dog House* ; see also: *Grannyman* .)

Schertle, Alice. *The Skeleton in the Closet* , 2003.

Seeking attire to cover his bare bones, a skeleton stalks a young boy in order to gain access to his closet.

Shannon, David. *A Bad Case of Stripes* , 1998.

Camilla Cream's concern with what everyone else thinks leads her to breakout into stripes and that is only the beginning of her skin's changing patterns. It doesn't stop until she does something simply because she loves it even though no one else does. (See also: *The Rain Came Down* .)

Shields, Carol Diggory. *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp* , 1997.

When it's time to have fun in the prehistoric era, the dinosaurs all gather to twist and shout.

Simont, Marc. *The Goose That Almost Got Cooked* , 1997.

Emily the goose decides to stay on a farm for the winter instead of flying South with her flock, until she discovers the plans the farmer has for her. (See also: *Stray Dog* .)

Simont, Marc. *Stray Dog* , 2001.

While picnicking a family befriends a charming pup and when they return to the same spot a week later, they decide to adopt him, saving him from the dogcatcher.

Smith, Lane. *Pinocchio: The Boy* , 2002.

The Blue Fairy has turned Pinocchio into a real boy, but she did it in the middle of the night so no one realizes it, not even Pinocchio. This creates problems for him as he searches the town for some soup for an ailing Geppetto.

Smith, Linda. *Mrs. Biddlebox* , 2002.

Mrs. Biddlebox wakes up on the wrong side of the bunk, but with a little bit of magic cookery, she transforms the day.

Stanley, Diane. *Goldie and the Three Bears* , 2003.

Goldie, who likes everything to be just right, is really looking for a friend when she wanders into the house of the three bears.

Steig, William. *Potch and Polly* , 2002.

Potch and Polly hits some bumps in the road on the way to true love in this slapstick romance.

Stevens, Janet. *Tops and Bottoms* , 1995.

Inspired, by folklore, Stevens creates a story where Bear and Hare form a gardening partnership, but clever Hare always enjoys the vegetable rewards.

Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener* , 1997.

During the Depression, Lydia Grace stays with her dreary Uncle Jim in the city. Determined to cheer-up her surroundings as well as her uncle, she plants a garden in the flower box.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Elizabethi's Doll* , 1998.

Elizabethi, a Tanzanian village girl, longs for a doll to care for the way her mother cares for her new brother, so she select a smooth stone to be her doll. (See also: *Elizabethi's School* ; *Mama Elizabethi* ; and *Babu's Song* .)

Teague, Mark. *How I Spent My Summer Vacation* , 1995.

Wallace wows his class when he regales them with tales of Wild West adventures from his summer vacation.

U'Ren, Andrea. *Mary Smith* , 2003.

Before alarm clocks were invented, people where paid to be "knocker-ups," and this is Mary Smith's job. Early in the morning she makes her way from house to house, shooting dried peas at windows to wake the inhabitants (based on a true story).

Viorst, Judith. *Alexander, Who's Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move* , 1995.

Alexander is having a bad day because dad has a new job and wants to move the family 1,000 miles away. (See also: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* .)

Wheeler, Lisa. *Old Cricket* , 2003.

Old Cricket gets out of his chores by pretending to be ailing but when Old Crow tries to snap him up for dinner, his injuries are real enough. (See also: *Turk and Runt* ; *Sailor Moo* ; and *Porcupining* .)

Willey, Margaret. *Clever Beatrice* , 2001.

In this folktale, the spirited Beatrice outwits the giant to help her family.

Wood, Audrey. *Sweet Dream Pie* , 1998.

Ma Brindle makes a sweet dream pie the size of a wading pool which has unexpected results for the folks on Willobee street . (See also: *The Napping House* ; *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub* ; and *The Flying Dragon Room* .)

Yaccarino, Dan. *The Lima Bean Monster* , 2001.

Sammy hates lima beans and buries them in a vacant lot to avoid eating them. Soon all the neighborhood children do likewise with their unwanted vegetables, but unbeknownst to them, they are creating a monster.

Easy Readers

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Sunshine, Moonshine* , 1997.

Beginning readers can follow the summertime adventures of a little boy from the early morning until "moon shines on my pillow."

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Snow* , 2003.

The delights of snow, and information about it, are both well covered as a child and dog energetically explore the wonders of winter.

Capucilli, Alyssa. *Biscuit* , 1996.

It's bedtime, but Biscuit, a little yellow puppy, wants just one more thing - a snack, a story, a hug, before he'll settle down (first in an ongoing series).

Godwin, Laura. *Happy and Honey* , 2000.

Honey, a frisky kitten, is determined to wake up Happy, the dog, so that they can play. (Sequels: *Honey Helps* ; *The Best Fall of All* ; and *Happy Christmas, Honey* .)

McPhail, David. *Jack and Rick* , 2002.

Jack and Rick, a rabbit and a bear, work together to find a way to cross the stream that is separating them. With just one sentence per page, this is perfect for just beginning readers. (Sequel: *Rick Is Sick* .)

McPhail, David. *Big Pig and Little Pig* , 2001.

McPhail's wonderful illustrations bring to life this very simple story of two pigs who celebrate that they are friends even though they are very different.

Meister, Cari. *Tiny the Snow Dog* , 2001.

Tiny, the large but lovable dog, spends an afternoon playing in the snow with his owner. (Newest in a series that begins with *When Tiny Was Tiny* .)

Milgrim, David. *Ride, Otto, Ride* , 2002.

Otto, a small robot, takes a ride on Peanuts the Elephant's back. He is joined, one by one, by a number of animals, until the arrival of Spec the bug causes Peanuts to collapse. (Sequels: *See Otto* , *See Pip Point* and *See Santa Nap* .)

Moran, Alex. *Boots for Beth* , 2002.

Beth has outgrown her red cowgirl boots and each of her friends tries to help the pig find a new pair.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Puppy Mudge Has a Snack* , 2003.

Mudge does everything he can to get Henry to share his favorite snack, crackers. (Sequels: *Puppy Mudge Takes a Bath* ; *Puppy Mudge Loves His Blanket* ; *Puppy Mudge Finds a Friend* ; and *Puppy Mudge Wants to Play* .)

Shaw, Nancy . *Sheep Trick or Treat* , 1997.

When the sheep go trick or treating to the farm, their costumes scare some wolves hiding in the nearby forest. (Newest in the series which begins with *Sheep in a Jeep* .)

Weeks, Sarah. *Splish, Splash* , 1999.

Goldfish Chub is joined in the tub by an every growing assortment of animals. The illustrations add humor to the familiar story.

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
2nd Grade**

Picture Books

Alexander, Lloyd. *How the Cat Swallowed Thunder* , 2000.

Mother Holly instructs Cat to do the chores while she is away but instead he makes mischief of one kind or another. (See also: *The King's Fountain* ; *The House Gobbaleen* ; and *The Fortune-Tellers* .)

Best, Cari. *Goose's Story* , 2002.

Each spring, a girl and her dog watch the Canadian geese return. One year she notices that a goose is missing a foot and does her best to help it. (See also: *Shrinking Violet* .)

Brown, Arthur. *Arthur Lost and Found* , 1998.

One of the myriad of "Arthur" stories, here, Arthur and Buster take a bus for the first time. When they fall asleep they miss their stop and end up lost in a strange part of town. (One of the *Arthur* series which begins with *Arthur's Nose* .)

Burleigh, Robert. *Goal!* , 2001.

It's the last soccer game of the season and in the final minutes, the score is tied as the story-line follows the action to its dramatic conclusion. (See also: *Hoops* .)

Cannon, Janell. *Verdi* , 1997.

Verdi, a vivid yellow, baby python, is determined to never grow up, but when he does, he discovers that he still has a bit of baby python in him after all. (See also: *Stellaluna* and *Crickwing* .)

Clements, Andrew. *Double Trouble in Walla Walla* , 1997.

Lulu is sent to the principal's office when she can't stop spouting nonsense words. Soon she is not the only one affected by the weird word-warp.

Daly, Niki. *Once Upon a Time* , 2003.

Sarie, who lives in South Africa , has trouble reading, until practicing with her Aunt Anna gives her confidence.

dePaola, Tomie. *Strega Nona Takes a Vacation* , 2000.

When Strega Nona sets off for the seashore for a much needed vacation, she leaves her assistants, Big Anthony and Bambolona in charge and that can only lead to trouble. (See also: *Strega Nona* ; *Big Anthony and the Magic Ring* ; *Strega Nona's Magic Lessons* ; *Merry Christmas Strega Nona* ; *Strega Nona Meets Her Match* ; *Strega Nona: Her Story* ; and *Big Anthony: His Story* .)

English, Karen. *Hot Day on Abbott Avenue* , 2004.

After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other, until the lure of a game of jump rope helps them to forget about being mad.

Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia* , 1999.

Wesley grows a garden full of large, strange plants and decides to create his own civilization.

Funke, Cornelia. *The Princess Knight* , 2003.

Princess Violetta learns the same knightly skills as her brothers, but when they tease her, she practices at night until she becomes better than they are.

Harper, Jo. *Outrageous, Bodacious Boliver Boggs* , 1996, o.p.

Boliver Boggs, a mighty teller of tall tales, spins a new story every morning as he explains why he is late for school.

Hoffman, Mary. *Boundless Grace* , 1995.

Grace feels a bit uneasy about journeying to visit her father and his new family in Africa , but her grandmother tells her that families are what you make of them and Grace is determined to make the most of hers. (See also : *Amazing Grace* .)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *Lulu's Birthday* , 2001.

Laura and J. Matthew enjoyed the summer with their great-aunt Lulu and now they are planning a special surprise for her birthday.

Joose, Barbara. *Hot City* , 2004.

Mimi and her little brother Joe escape from home and the city's summer heat to read and dream about princesses and dinosaurs in the cool, quiet library.

Kellogg, Steven. *The Mysterious Tadpole: The 25 th Anniversary Edition* , 2002.

Kellogg has updated the illustrations and filled in the plot of his classic story of the special birthday present that he receives from his uncle in Scotland .

Kelly, John. *The Mystery of Eatum Hall* , 2004.

Mr. and Mrs. Pork-Fowler are invited to spend a weekend of gourmet dining at a spooky castle where their host, Mr. Hunter, is anxious to "meat" them.

Kurtz, Jane. *In the Small, Small Night* , 2005.

Kofi can't sleep in his new home in the United States , so his older sister Abena soothes his fears about life in a different country by telling him two folktales from their native Ghana about the nature of wisdom and perseverance.

Kuskin, Karla. *The Upstairs Cat* , 1997.

The upstairs cat and the downstairs cat see only their differences, not their similarities and so they are always fighting. (See also: *The Dallas Titans Get Ready for Bed* and *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed*.)

Marshall, James. *Swine Lake* , 1999.

The Boarshoi ballet is performing *Swine Lake* and when the wolf peeks in to observe, he thinks it's the perfect opportunity to snatch his dinner. (See also: *George and Martha* ; *George and Martha Encore* ; *George and Martha Rise and Shine* ; *George and Martha, Tons of Fun* ; *George and Martha Back in Town* ; *The Cut-Ups* ; *Yummers Too* ; *Wings : A Tale of Two Chickens* ; *Little Red Ridinghood* ; *The Cut-Ups Cut Loose* ; *George and Martha Round and Round* ; *The Three Little Pigs* ; *The Cut-Ups at Camp Custer* ; *Hansel and Gretel* ; and *The Cut-Ups Carry On*.)

Meddaugh, Susan. *Cinderella's Rat* , 1997.

One of Cinderella's transformed coachmen, does not return to being a rat at the stroke of midnight. He is human and his sister is a rat and now he must find a way to remedy the situation.

Noble, Trinka Hakes. *Jimmy's Boa and the Bungee Jump Slam Dunk* , 2003.

Jimmy brings his Boa to basketball practice, creating calamity. (See also: *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* ; *Jimmy's Boa Bounces Back* ; and *Jimmy's Boa and the Big Splash Birthday*.)

Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way* , 2001.

Mr. Lincoln, an African-American principal, is well loved by most of his students, but "mean Gene," bullies everyone. Instead of berating him, Mr. Lincoln uses Gene's interest in birds to help lead him to a new way of looking at life. (See also: *Thundercake* ; *Just Plain Fancy* ; *Mrs. Katz and Tush* ; *Babushka Baba Yaga* ; *My Ol' Man* ; *Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair* ; *The Keeping Quilt* ; and *The Graves Family*.)

Puler, Robin. *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* , 2003.

When the punctuation in Mr. Wright's class gets miffed, all of the marks decide to go on a vacation and the students discover that nothing makes sense without them.

Recorvits, Helen. *My Name Is Yoon* , 2003.

Yoon, newly arrived in America , misses her native Korea and struggle to be a part of her new class. She hates the way her name looks in English and tries different words until settling on her own name at last.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Mice and Beans* , 2001.

Rosa Maria, a Spanish-speaking grandmother, is making the special preparations for her granddaughter's birthday party, unaware that the mice are making plans for a celebration of their own.

Soto, Gary . *Chato's Kitchen* , 1995.

Chat, a cat living in East Los Angeles , and his friend, Novio Boy, plan a dinner for their new neighbor, the mice, hoping they will be the main course. (Sequel: *Chato and the Party Animals*.)

Stanley, Diane. *Saving Sweetness* , 1996.

When Sweetness, the littlest orphan in Mrs. Slump's orphanage, runs away, the sheriff sets off to rescue her, but it isn't Sweetness that ends up needing saving. (Sequel: *Raising Sweetness* .)

Teague, Mark. *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School* , 2002.

Mrs. LaRue has sent her terrier, Ike, off to obedience school and the pup writes begging to come home.

Wisniewski, David. *Tough Cookie* , 1999.

Tough Cookie, a trench-coat wearing cookie detective, lives at the bottom of the cookie jar, investigating crime and trying to ward off the invasion of "Fingers."

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Coming on Home Soon* , 2004.

After Mama takes a job in Chicago during World War II, Ada Ruth stays with Grandma but misses her mother who loves her more than rain and snow.

Young, Ed. I, *Doko: The Tale of a Basket*, 2004.

A Nepalese basket tells the story of its use through three generations of a family.

Zelinsky, Paul. *Rapunzel* , 1997.

Zelinsky retells the classic fairy tale and illustrates it with masterful Italian Renaissance-style paintings (Caldecott winner). (See also: *Rumpelstiltskin* ; and *The Maid, the Mouse and the Odd-Shaped House* .)

Easy Readers

Alphin, Elaine. *A Bear for Miguel* , 1996.

A young girl in El Salvador trades a precious item of her own for supplies her family needs.

Baker, Barbara. *Digby and Kate and the Beautiful Day* , 1998

In five easy to read stories, Digby, the dog, and Kate, the cat, show that even though they may disagree on some things, they are still the best of friends. (Newest in a series that includes *Digby and Kate* and *Digby and Kate Again* .)

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Turtle Dreams* , 1997.

Turtle talks to different animals to try to find a dream that will prepare her for the long winter season.

Bottner, Barbara. *Pish and Posh* , 2004.

When Pish and Posh discover fairy magic, they face a series of wacky surprises.

Brown, Marc. *Arthur and the School Pet* , 2003.

D.W. finds that taking care of the class gerbil over the Christmas vacation is not so easy. (Newest in an ongoing series that began with *Arthur's Reading Race* .)

Cannon, A. E. *On the Go with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe* , 2002.

Pete and Joe, pirates with "stinky feet" discover that they are both afraid of water and decide that what they need is a parrot. (Sequel: *Let the Good Times Roll with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe* .)

Cazet, Denys. *Minnie and Moo: The Attack of the Easter Bunnies* , 2004.

Minnie and Moo convince the other farm animals to dress up like the Easter bunny to surprise the farmer's grandchildren. (Newest in a series that begins with *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon* .)

Cazet, Denys. *Sam Gets Lost* , 2004.

Grandpa helps his favorite grandpup to avoid scratching his chicken pox by telling how he once had to fight off an octopus during a terrible storm.

Chorao, Kay. *Here Comes Kate* , 2000.

In four stories, Kate, a young elephant, plays in the snow, learns to appreciate her new quilt, worries over a lost toy and stops her baby cousin from crying. (Sequel: *Up and Down with Kate* .)

Coerr, Eleanor. *Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express* , 1995.

Sixteen-year-old Bill finds adventure when he joins the Pony Express, although his letters home do not tell about all the danger he is in.

Cushman, Doug. *Space Cat* , 2004.

When Space Cat and Earl the robot encounter trouble with their space ship, they crash-land on an alien planet to search for more fuel.

Danziger, Paula. *Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown* , 2004.

Amber Brown loves the second grade but wonders if she will ever receive an award from Deskarina, the desk fairy, for keeping her desk clean. (Part of the *A Is for Amber* series.)

De Paola, Tomie. *T-Rex is Missing* , 2002.

Morgie accuses his best friend of taking his favorite dinosaur toy, and then finds out he must apologize. (Newest in a series that includes *Hide and Seek* and *Boss for a Day* .)

Driscoll, Laura. *The Bravest Cat!: The True Story of Scarlett* , 1997.

The true story of a mother cat that rescues her kittens from a burning building in New York in 1996.

Godwin, Laura. *Forest* , 1998.

A young girl and her mother find a small fawn in the forest near the family's farm in Canada .

Guest, Elissa Haden. *Iris and Walter and the Field Trip* , 2005.

(Newest in a series that begins with *Iris and Walter* .)

Holub, Joan. *The Garden That We Grew* , 2001.

Children enjoy the pumpkins that they planted and watched grow.

Johnston, Tony. *Alien and Possum: Friends No Matter What* , 2001.

Possum discovers a spaceship and with perseverance discovers that he and Alien can be friends despite their differences. (Sequel: *Alien and Possum Hanging Out* .)

Little, Jean. *Emma's Yucky Brother* , 2001.

Emma is excited about her new adopted brother, Max, because she has wanted a little brother for a long time. But when Max has trouble adjusting to the move from his foster home, Emma finds out how hard it is to be a big sister. (Sequels: *Emma's Magic Winter* and *Emma's Strange Pet* .)

Madsen, Ross Martin. *Perrywinkle's Magic Match* , 1997.

Perrywinkle and Andromeda compete to see who is best in magic, until they learn it is best to work together.

Maitland, Barbara. *The Bookstore Ghost* , 1998.

To catch mice in his bookstore, Mr. Brown gets a cat that comes up with a most unusual method to attract customers. (Sequels: *The Bookstore Burglar* and *The Bookstore Valentine* .)

McMullen, Kate. *Pearl and Wagner: Two Good Friends* , 2004.

Friendship isn't easy between Pearl , a hardworking rabbit, and Wagner, a daydreaming mouse. (Sequel: *Pearl and Wagner: Three Secrets* .)

Miller, Sara Swan. *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Cat* , 2002.

Written from a cat's point of view, the three stories include playing with wrapping paper at a birthday party, snow and breakfast. (Newest in a series that includes *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat*; *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* and *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* .)

Parish, Herman. *Happy Haunting, Amelia Bedelia* , 2004.

Everyone's favorite maid tries to help Mr. and Mrs. Rogers with their Halloween party. with the usual funny results. (Newest in a series that was begun by Peggy Parish with *Amelia Bedelia* .)

Paterson, Katherine. *Marvin One Too Many* , 2001.

Everyone else seems to know what to do and where to go at Marvin's first day of school. They even seem to be able to read! (See also: *Marvin's Best Christmas Present Ever* .)

Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas* , 2005.

When Henry and his dog Mudge go with Henry's parents to visit Great-Grandpa Bill in the home with lots of other grandpas, they lead them all on a wonderful adventure. (Newest in an ongoing series that began with *Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures* .)

Rylant, Cynthia. *High-Rise Private Eyes: The Case of the Desperate Duck* , 2005.

Readers can follow the clues along with Jack and Bunny as they try to solve the mystery of who stole the sugar cubes from duck's tea room. (Newest in a series that begins with: *The Case of the Missing Monkey* .)

Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter and Tabby Make a Wish* , 2005.

Mr. Putter thinks he is too old to celebrate his birthday, but when he remembers some of his past birthdays, he changes his mind. (Newest in a series that begins with *Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea* .)

Sharmat, Marjorie. *Nate the Great and the Owl Express* , 2003.

When an owl disappears onboard a train heading to San Francisco , Nate and his dog Sludge, have to use all their detective skills to solve the mystery. (Newest in a series that begins with *Nate the Great* .)

Thomas, Shelley Moore. *Good Night, Good Knight* , 2000.

The good knight helps three little dragons who can't get to sleep. (Sequel: *Get Well, Good Knight* .)

Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day* , 2005.

Amanda Pig, her family, and her friends, try different ways to beat the heat. (Newest in the series that begins with *Tales of Amanda Pig* .)

Weeks, Sarah. *Baa-Choo* , 2004.

When Sam the lamb has trouble sneezing, the other animals try to help.

Wells, Rosemary. *Make New Friends* , 2003.

Will Juanita, the new girl from Texas , ever feel at home at Hilltop School ? (Newest in the series that includes *Dora's Dinosaur* ; *The Germ Buster* ; *Mama Don't Go* ; *The School Play* ; *Be My Valentine* ; *When I Grow Up* ; *Bubble Gum Radar* ; *The Secret Birthday* and *Practice Makes Perfect* .)

Yolen, Jane. *Commander Toad and the Voyage Home* , 1998.

Commander Toad is experienced at finding new worlds, but runs into trouble when he tries to get home. (Newest in a series that begins with *Commander Toad in Space* .)

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
3rd Grade**

Picture Books for Older Readers

Bunting, Eve. *Gleam and Glow* , 2001.

Eight-year-old Viktor flees his home with his family when war ravages the countryside. When they return home, they find it destroyed, but the fish Viktor put in their pond have survived (based on a true story of Bosnian refugees).

Cheng, Andrea. *Anna, the Bookbinder* , 2003.

Anna's father is a bookbinder in the early 1900s, but when he is called away, it is Anna who carefully stitches the binding on the special order her father has received.

Cherry, Lynne. *The Dragon and the Unicorn* , 1995.

The dragon and the unicorn mourn the king's destruction of the forest and turn to the princess for help. (See also: *The Great Kapok Tree* .)

Gerrard, Roy. *Wagons West!* , 1996.

Buckskin Dan leads a family West along the Oregon Trail where rollicking adventures await. (See also: *Sir Cedric* ; *Sir Cedric Rides Again* ; *Sir Francis Drake and His Daring Deeds* ; *Rosie and the Rustlers* ; and *Roman Twins* .)

Hamilton , Virginia . *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* , 2004.

In this retelling of a folktale, a group of slaves, unable to bear their sadness and starvation any longer, calls upon the African magic that allows them to fly away.

Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Kransinski Square* , 2004.

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall .

Hoffman, Mary. *The Color of Home* , 2002.

Hassan has recently moved from Somalia to America and although his new classmates are friendly he is homesick. When the teacher hands out art supplies, Hassan discovers he can communicate through his pictures.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings* , 2003.

In the early 1900s, Alta Wiess loves to play baseball and must find a way to prove that she can play professionally, even though she is a girl (based on a true story).

Hughes, Shirley. *Ella's Big Chance* , 2004.

In this version of the Cinderella tale set in the 1920s, Ella has two men courting her--the handsome Duke of Arc and Buttons the delivery boy.

Keller, Laurie. *The Scrambled States of America* , 1998.

When the states become bored with their place on the map, they decide to change places.

Kimmel, Eric. *A Cloak for the Moon: A Tale of Rabbi Nachman Bratslov* , 2001.

Haskel, a tailor, loves the moon. Dreaming that she is cold, he goes in search of just the right.

Lester, Julius. *Let's Talk About Race* , 2005.

The author introduces the concept of race as only one component in an individual's or nation's "story."

MacDonald, Margaret. *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle* , 1995.

A generous fairy tries to help a cranky old woman, but in the end decides the vinegar bottle might be the best place for her after all.

Maloney, Peter. *The Magic Hockey Stick* , 1999.

When Tracy begins to play hockey with Wayne Gretzky's stick, she suddenly becomes the star of the team, but Wayne is in the worst slump of her career.

McKissick, Patricia. *Goin' Someplace Special* , 2001.

As Tricia Ann journeys through the segregated Nashville of the 1950's, she experiences the harsh reality of exclusion at place after place until she reaches the integrated public library.

Melmed, Laura. *Little Oh* , 1997.

In old Japan , a little origami doll comes to life, but when she gets separated from her creator, she undertakes a perilous journey to return home.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *New York's Bravest* , 2002.

Mose Humphreys, a larger-than-life firefighter, works tirelessly to rescue those in need in 19th century New York City .

Pak, Soyung. *Dear Juno* , 1999.

Juno receives a letter from his grandmother in Korea . Although he must wait for his parents to translate, he understands her from the picture he sends and creates his own picture to send to her.

Stanley, Diane. *The Giant and the Beanstalk* , 2004.

Unlike other giants, young Otto is gentle and polite. When Jack steals his beloved pet chicken (who just happens to lay golden eggs), Otto climbs down the beanstalk in search of him, but

encounters a plethora of nursery rhyme Jacks before working out a trade with the right one. (See also, *Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter* .)

Chapter Books

Cameron, Ann. *Gloria Rising* , 2002.

Gloria, an African-American girl, is headed for fourth grade with some trepidation for her new teacher is known as, "the Dragon of Doom." When Gloria finds herself struggling in her class, she remembers advice from the astronaut she met over the summer and strives to be the best she can be. (Newest in a series that began with, *The Stories Julian Tells* .)

Danziger, Paula. *Amber Brown Is Green with Envy* , 2003.

Fourth-grader Amber Brown must make some important decisions when her mother and Max move their wedding date up and prepare to buy a house together, while her father makes some bad choices of his own. (Newest in a series which began with , *Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon* .)

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

Adults who mistreat children, beware, the Gigglers, furry little creatures of justice, will punish you. Their favorite method of punishment? Placing dog poo in your path. (Sequel: *Rover Saves Christmas* .)

Fine, Anne. *The Jamie and Angus Stories* , 2002.

Jamie sees Angus in the toy-shop window and knows right away that he and the bull must be together. From the moment he receives him as a Christmas present, the two are inseparable and have a variety of adventures.

Hesse, Karen, *Just Juice* , 1998.

Talented, nine-year-old, Juice, is good at working with her hands, but she has difficulty reading and working with numbers. School is so hard that she would rather just stay home, but when she learns that her family is in danger of losing their home, she decides to take action to save them.

Hill, Elizabeth Star. *Bird Boy* , 1999.

Chang lives in contemporary China on a houseboat with his family. His father earns a living by using cormorants, great black birds that dive for fish, to fish. Although Chang has been mute since birth, he can make bird sounds and is looking forward to the day when his father will let him train one of the amazing birds. (Sequel: *Chang and the Bamboo Flute* .)

Kelly, Katy. *Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing About Me* , 2004.

Eight-year-old Lucy Rose keeps a diary of her first year in Washington , D.C. , her home since her parents separation, where she spends time with her grandparents, makes new friends, and longs to convince her teacher to let her take care of the class pet during a holiday. (Sequel: *Lucy Rose: Big on Plans* .)

King-Smith, Dick. *Jenius: The Amazing Guinea Pig* , 1996.

Although her parents tell her that guinea pigs can't be trained, Judy works diligently at teaching Jenius. Meanwhile Jenius' parents tell him that guinea pigs can't do tricks. In the end, both surprise their parents.

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. *Lumber Camp Library* , 2002.

Ruby was raised in a logging camp. She loved the woods and adored her father, but when a tragic accident takes his life, she, her mother and ten siblings must move to town and find a way to make it on their own.

Le Guin, Ursula. *Jane on Her Own: A Catwings Tale* , 1999.

Jane, the youngest of five cats with wings, leaves the safety of the farm and embarks on an adventure to explore the world, heedless of the danger of humans, who would want to imprison a cat that can fly. (Newest in the series begun with, *Catwings* .)

Levine, Gail Carson. *The Princess Test* , 1999.

In the magical kingdom of Biddle , Prince Nicholas is searching for a bride, and the lovely Lorelei shows up at the castle gates. His parents are very particular, though, and have devised a series of tests for the prospective princesses. (See also: *The Fairy's Mistake* ; *Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep* ; *Cinderellis and the Glass Hill* ; *For Biddle's Sake* ; and *The Fairy's Return* .)

Look, Lenore. *Ruby Lu, Brave and True* , 2004.

"Almost-eight-year-old" Ruby Lu spends time with her baby brother, goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks and learns to drive, and has adventures with both old and new friends.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Caleb's Story* , 2001.

Anna has gone to town to finish school, so now it is Caleb's job to write down the happenings on the family farm, and when the lurking stranger turns out to be his long lost grandfather, he has plenty to write about. (See also: *Sarah, Plain and Tall* , *Skylark* and *More Perfect Than the Moon* .)

Marsden, Carolyn. *The Gold-Threaded Dress* , 2001.

Oy, a Thai girl, wants desperately to fit in with her classmates. When Lilandra, the leader of the clique that has been excluding her, demands she let her wear the beautiful, traditional dress that was a gift from her grandmother, as the price she must pay to join the club, Oy acquiesces with disastrous results. (See also: *Silk Umbrellas* .)

McPhail, David. *Piggy's Pancake Parlor* , 2002.

Piggy and Fox, both runts of the litter, strike up an unusual friendship and open a pancake parlor together. They are wildly successful because of the secret ingredient added to their pancakes.

Mills, Claudia. *Gus and Grandpa Go Fishing* , 2003.

Gus is going to go fishing for the first time and needs some help. Mom doesn't fish and dad is too busy, but grandpa is there to give him a hand. (Newest in the series which began with, *Gus and Grandpa* .)

Pilkey, Dav. *The Adventures of Captain Underpants* , 1997.

George and Harold are pranksters extraordinaire and when they find a way to hypnotize the principal, they turn him into a superhero, Captain Underpants. (First in an ongoing series.)

Scieszka, Jon. *Da Wild, Da Crazy, Da Vinci* , 2004.

In their latest time travel adventure, Fred, Joe, and Sam da Brooklyn meet Leonardo da Vinci and try to avoid becoming toilet scrubbers in a sixteenth-century Italian army. (Newest in the ongoing *Time Warp Trio* series which began with, *The Knights of the Kitchen Table* .)

Stevenson, James. *Flying Feet: A Mud Flat Story* , 2004.

Stan and the other animals of Mud Flat, fall for a scheme that pretends to teach them to be tap dancers, but in the end, the community pulls together in triumph. (Newest in an ongoing series that began with, *The Mud Flat Olympics* .)

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
4th Grade**

Best Fiction

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Runt* , 2002.

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

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

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

Blume, Judy. *Double Fudge* , 2002.

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

Bowdish, Lynea. *Brooklyn , Buggy and Me* , 2000.

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

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

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

Bruchac, Joseph. *Skeleton Man* , 2001.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clements, Andrew. *Frindle* , 1996.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hoffman, Mary. *Starring Grace* , 2000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lowry, Lois. *Zooman Sam* , 1999.

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

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

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

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

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

Mead, Alice. *Junebug* , 1996.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rylant, Cynthia. *Gooseberry Park* , 1995.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weeks, Sarah. *Regular Guy* , 1999.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
5th Grade**

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* .)

Glori, 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.

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
6th Grade**

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, Willo 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.

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
7th Grade**

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 Mairee Mehan* , 1996.

Mairhe, 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 *Scropia* .)

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. Anthony, also known as "Antsy," is fascinated by "The Schwa Effect"-the fact that no one ever sees Calvin Schwa. 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.

**Pick of the Decade 1995-2005:
8th Grade**

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 th 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. *Thwonk* , 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.