

NINE TO TWELVE

KEY

★ Outstanding merit

 Read-aloud

• **SERIES TITLE**
 (series books follow)

(4-6) Age range

 Graphic novel

Adventure/Mystery

Around the World in 100 Days

by Gary Blackwood

(Dutton, \$16.99) 978-0-525-42295-2

In England in 1891, Harry Fogg sets off in his motor car on an adventure-filled journey around the world. It follows Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*. (9-12)



***Calamity Jack**

by Shannon and Dean Hale, illustrated by Nathan Hale

(Bloomsbury, \$14.99) 978-1-59990-373-6

Jack (of beanstalk fame) and Rapunzel join up to fight evil giants in a turn-of-the-century Western city. Rip-roaring fun; engaging graphics. (9-12)

The Death-Defying Pepper Roux

by Geraldine McCaughrean

(Harper, \$16.99) 978-0-06-183665-7

Destined not to outlive his fourteenth birthday, Pepper takes a last walk to the harbor and finds himself aboard his father's ship, not as passenger but as captain. (10-14)

Emily's Fortune

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

(Delacorte, \$14.99) 978-0-385-73616-9

After Emily's mother dies, a fellow orphan aids her on her stagecoach journey to join her aunt, as her mother's greedy brother pursues Emily and her fortune. A rollicking adventure. (8-10)

Girl's Best Friend: A Maggie Brooklyn Mystery

by Leslie Margolis

(Bloomsbury, \$14.99) 978-1-59990-525-9

Maggie, a twelve-year-old dog walker, solves a mystery concerning disappearing dogs. (9-12)

***The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic**

by Jennifer Trafton, illustrated by Brett Helquist

(Dial, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3375-6

Persimmony has wonderful adventures with strange, outlandish creatures on the isolated little island on which they all live. (9-12)

The Summer of Moonlight Secrets

by Danette Haworth

(Walker, \$16.99) 978-0-8027-9520-5

Twelve-year-old Allie Jo is expecting a lonely summer. Instead she makes new friends, including the mysterious Tara, who seems more comfortable in the sea. (9-12)

Walls Within Walls

by Maureen Sherry

(Katherine Tegen Books, \$16.99) 978-0-06-176700-5

Failure to return a library book dated 1937 causes a treasure to remain undiscovered, until the curious Smithfork children move into an historic Manhattan apartment. (9-12)

Animals



Bulu: African Wonder Dog

by Dick Houston

(Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-84723-3

An unusual dog is adopted by an equally unusual couple who left England to make a new life in Zambia conserving wildlife. A true story. (9-14)

Ellie McDoodle: Best Friends Fur-Ever

written and illustrated by Ruth McNally Barshaw

(Bloomsbury, \$12.99) 978-1-59990-426-9

Ellie's sketchbook chronicles her family's pet disputes and her own pet-sitting and school assignments travails. Entertaining drawings. (8-10)

Rascal: A Dog and His Boy

by Ken Wells

(Knopf, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86652-4

Rascal, an irrepressible beagle, loves to romp through the Louisiana Bayou with his boy, Meely, chasing rabbits and sniffing out danger! Engaging line drawings. (8-12)

Coming of Age

After All, You're Callie Boone

by Winnie Mack

(Feiwel, \$16.99) 978-0-312-56331-8

Eleven-year-old Callie discovers friendship, talent, and courage during one remarkable summer. (9-12)

After the Fire

by Becky Citra

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-246-0

During a lake vacation, Melissa gains a new understanding of her struggling mother and learns that friends are not always who they seem to be.

(11-13)

As Simple as It Seems

by Sarah Weeks

(Harper, \$15.99) 978-0-06-084663-3

Verbena, a feisty, imaginative girl suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome, finds out who she really is through an unusual summer friendship. (8-12)

The Dancing Pancake

by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff

(Knopf, \$12.99) 978-0-375-85870-3

After her parents separate, Bindi adjusts to her changed life as her friends and extended family help to make her mother and aunt's new diner a success. (8-11)



***The Dreamer**

by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Peter Sís

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-439-26970-4

This fictional biography of the Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, artfully combines spare prose, poetry, and ink drawings to describe a shy boy's imaginative transformation of the world around him. (10-12)

Escaping the Tiger

by Laura Manivong

(Harper, \$15.99) 978-0-06-166177-8

In 1982, twelve-year-old Vonlai and his family escape from Laos to a Thai refugee camp where they spend four long years struggling and hoping to reach America. (10-13)

Finding Family

by Tonya Bolden

(Bloomsbury, \$15.99) 978-1-59990-318-7

After the death of her strict but loving aunt, twelve-year-old Delana sets out to discover the truth about her African-American family. Illustrated with nineteenth-century photos and postcards. (9-12)

The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough

by Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault

(Kids Can, \$18.95) 978-1-55453-488-3

A Honduran girl saves her family from hunger by applying farming techniques learned from her teacher. Glowing colored pencil illustrations with some hints of magical realism. (8-11)

A Good Horse

by Jane Smiley

(Knopf, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86229-8

An eighth grader learns that her success as a skilled equestrian and trainer at her family's California ranch may lead to the sale and loss of her most beloved colt. (9-12)

The Healing Spell

by Kimberley Griffiths Little

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-16559-4

Twelve-year-old Livie loves the Louisiana bayou and her Dad but struggles with her role in her mother's accident. (9-12)

How to Survive Middle School

by Donna Gephart

(Delacorte, \$15.99) 978-0-385-73793-7

A new school and a truly scary bully test old friendships and challenge David, but his online videos bring him local fame. (9-12)

I, Emma Freke

by Elizabeth Atkinson

(Carolrhoda, \$16.95) 978-0-7613-5604-2

Twelve-year-old Emma feels out of place with kids her age and at home, but then she's invited to a mysterious family reunion and things begin to change. (11-13)

It's Raining Cupcakes

by Lisa Schroeder

(Aladdin, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-9084-0

A girl, her best friend, a mom who doesn't follow through, and a cupcake shop all come together. . .with icing on the top. (8-12)

Liars and Fools

by Robin Stevenson

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-248-4

When her father becomes interested in a psychic, Fiona half hopes she is lying and half that she can contact her mother, who died in an accident. (10-13)



***Ninth Ward**

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

(Little, Brown, \$15.99) 978-0-316-04307-6

A young girl struggles courageously to survive during Hurricane Katrina as she deals with her ailing foster mother. (8-12)

Octavia Boone's Big Questions about Life, the Universe, and Everything

by Rebecca Rupp

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4491-8

Seventh-grader Octavia's questions aren't answered by her mother's conservative Christian faith or her father's devotion to Thoreau, and so she develops an experiment to test the existence of God. (10-13)

The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman

by Ben H. Winters

(Harper, \$16.99) 978-0-06-196541-8

Bethesda's Social Studies project leads her to look into the private life of mousy Ms. Finkleman, her music teacher. Was she really a rock star?

(9-12)

Sports Camp

by Rich Wallace

(Knopf, \$15.99) 978-0-375-84059-3

Despite being among the youngest and a "new camper," Riley manages to gain the respect of his bunkmates. (8-12)

***Star in the Forest**

by Laura Resau

(Delacorte, \$14.99) 978-0-385-73792-0

Illegal immigrant Zitlally, a fifth grader, deals with her family's troubles when her father is deported. A stray dog and a girl befriend her. (8-12)



***Touch Blue**

by Cynthia Lord

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-03531-6

When eleven-year-old Tess pulls every trick to encourage foster brother Aaron to stay on her Maine island, she discovers what belonging really means. (8-11)



The Year Money Grew on Trees

written and illustrated by Aaron Hawkins

(HMH, \$16.00) 978-0-547-27977-0

In early 1980s New Mexico, thirteen-year-old Jackson convinces his cousins and sisters to help resurrect a neglected apple orchard with the hope of making big money. (9-12)

Fantasy

The Boy Who Climbed Into the Moon

by David Almond

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4217-4

Allowed to stay home from school for a day, Paul does not expect to realize his dream of reaching the moon. (8-11)

The Crowfield Curse

by Pat Walsh

(Chicken House, \$16.99) 978-0-545-22922-7

Will, an orphan living in an English medieval monastery, must battle the evil forces of “Old Magic” to keep himself alive. (10–13)

Departure Time

by Truus Matti, trans. by Nancy Forest-Flier

(Namelos, P\$9.95) 978-1-60898-009-3

In this unfolding surrealistic adventure, two alternate stories merge in eleven-year-old Mouse’s gradual discovery of her identity. (10-12)



Falling In

by Frances O’Roark Dowell

(Atheneum, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-5032-5

Isabelle, an outsider, enters a mysterious world where children mistake her for a witch. (8-12)



The Grimm Legacy

by Polly Shulman

(Putnam, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25096-5

When Elizabeth becomes a page at a library which circulates material objects, not books, she gets involved in fantastic, scary, suspenseful happenings. (10-13)



Half Upon a Time

by James Riley

(Aladdin, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-9593-7

Jack avoids his grandfather’s pleas to marry a princess until one plops from the sky. Together they embark on an adventure to find the princess’s missing grandmother, who looks suspiciously like Snow White. (8-10)



Hawksmaid: The Untold Story of Robin Hood and Maid Marian

by Kathryn Lasky

(Harper, \$16.99) 978-0-06-000071-4

Against the background of the Crusades, “Robin Hood” and the supernaturally gifted falconer, “Maid Marian,” struggle to help the poor and defeat Prince John’s self-serving plots. (9-13)



***Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword**

written and illustrated by Barry Deutsch

(Amulet, \$15.95) 978-0-8109-8422-6

A sharp, funny story of an Orthodox Jewish girl fighting imaginary dragons, real pigs, and bullies in her small town. The Yiddish words are defined on each page. Humorous black-and-white comic illustrations. (9-12)

Ivy's Ever After

by Dawn Lairamore

(Holiday House, P P\$16.95) 978-0-8234-2261-6

When she discovers the evil intentions of her intended husband, fourteen-year-old Princess Ivy sets out to thwart his plans. (9-13)

***The Last Words of Will Wolfkin**

by Steven Knight

(Walden Pond Press, \$16.99) 978-0-06-170413-0

Imprisoned in his own body for more than fourteen years, Toby suddenly fantasizes himself on a journey to Iceland with a cat turned boy. (10-13)

Lost in Lexicon: An Adventure in Words and Numbers

by Pendred Noyce, illustrated by Joan Charles

(Tumblehome Press, P\$12.95) 978-0-9845250-0-3

Thirteen-year-old cousins Daphne and Ivan stumble into a world where punctuation attacks the people. They encounter keepers and enemies but emerge triumphant. Gentle black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)



Museum of Thieves

by Lian Tanner

(Delacorte, \$16.99) 978-0-385-73905-4

The evil guardians of Jewel and their leader, the Fugleman, cannot defeat brave Goldie, Toadspit, and the museum protectors. (10-12)

Nightshade City

by Hilary Wagner

(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2285-2

Vincent and Victor Nightshade band together with legendary Juniper to save the residents of the Catacombs from their dictator, a rat. (9-12)

No Such Thing as Dragons

by Philip Reeve

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-2224-2

A young, mute boy, apprenticed to a dragon-slayer suspects that the winged beasts do not exist until he learns the truth. (9-12)

The Owl Keeper

by Christine Brodien-Jones, illustrated by Maggie Kneen

(Delacorte, \$17.99) 978-0-385-73814-9

Fleeing for their lives from a brutal regime, Max and Rose embark on a perilous quest to fulfill a prophecy. (10-13)

The Ring of Five

by Eoin McNamee

(Wendy Lamb, \$16.99) 978-0-385-73731-9

Kidnapped on his way to boarding school, Danny finds himself in a school for spies with his life in danger. (9-11)



The Search for Wondla

by Tony DiTerlizzi

(S&S, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-8310-1

Eva unsuccessfully searches the world to find other humans, but a creature with very positive human qualities helps her survive. (9-12)

The Thirteenth Princess

by Diane Zahler

(HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-182498-2

In this adaptation of “The Twelve Dancing Princesses,” Zita, the thirteenth, relegated to the kitchen, saves her enchanted sisters with the help of friends. (8-12)

Wayfarer

by R. J. Anderson

(HarperTeen, \$16.99) 978-0-06-155477-3

Fifteen-year-old Linden is sent on a dangerous mission to retrieve the magic lost by the faeries of the Oak. Timothy, a human teen, helps. (10-13)

The Wish Stealers

by Tracy Trivas

(Aladdin, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-8725-3

Sixth-grader Griffin loves making wishes, but an unexpected gift comes with a curse that will make her think twice before wishing again. (9-12)

Folk



A Tale Dark and Grimm

by Adam Gidwitz

(Dutton, \$16.99) 978-0-525-42334-8

A series of fractured fairy tales are pulled together in a humorous, scary narrative. (10-13)

Historical Fiction

Best Friends Forever: A World War II Scrapbook

by Beverly Patt

(Marshall Cavendish, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-5577-6

In a fictional scrapbook inspired by her mother's bedtime story, the author chronicles the friendship of two girls once interned in a Japanese prison camp. (10-13)

Black Radishes

by Susan Lynn Meyer

(Delacorte, \$16.99) 978-0-385-73881-1

In 1940, Gustave and his family move south from Paris to escape the Germans, but even their small village is not safe from anti-Semitism. (9-12)

Blockhead: The Life of Fibonacci

by Joseph D'Agnes, illustrated by John O'Brien

(Henry Holt, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-6305-9

The adventurous life and mathematical discoveries of the famous mathematician are accompanied by detailed illustrations. (8-10)

***The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)**

by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-12508-6

Mark Twain's thirteen-year-old daughter Susy writes his biography--warts and all--dispensing advice along the way. Earth-toned artwork. (8-12)



Forge

by Laurie Halse Anderson

(Atheneum, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-6144-4

Encamped with Washington's army at Valley Forge, the escaped slave Curzon suffers cold, hunger, and the injustices of prejudice, but finds hope in the appearance of a beloved friend. (9-12)

How to Get Rich on a Texas Cattle Drive

by Tod Olson, afterword by Marc Aronson, illustrated by Scott Allred and Gregory Proch

(National Geographic, \$18.95) 978-1-4263-0524-5

What was it really like to be a cowboy? You'll be surprised at some of the things you'll learn! Evocative illustrations; archival photographs. (9-12)

Is It Night or Day?

by Fern Schumer Chapman

(FSG, \$17.99) 978-0-374-17744-7

In 1938, fearing Hitler's persecution, twelve-year-old Edith is sent alone to the United States where she copes with life in a foreign country, anti-Semitism, and difficult relations with her uncle's family. (10-14)

Leaving Gee's Bend

by Irene Latham

(Putnam, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25179-5

In a tiny African-American settlement in 1932 Alabama, ten-year-old Ludelphia is determined, despite great risk and difficulty, to get her gravely ill mother the medical help she needs. (10-13)



***One Crazy Summer**

by Rita Williams-Garcia

(Amistad, \$15.99) 978-0-06-076088-5

When Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive in Oakland, California, in the summer of 1968 to spend time with their long-absent mother, they learn more than they bargained for. (10-14)

Palace Beautiful

by Sarah DeFord Williams

(Penguin, P\$16.99) 978-0-399-25298-3

A journal written in 1918 and a new friend help thirteen-year-old Sadie and her younger sister come to terms with issues in their lives. (10-12)

The Red Umbrella

by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

(Knopf, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86190-1

When Castro takes over and life becomes dangerous for apolitical individuals, fourteen-year-old Lucía and her seven-year old brother Frankie are sent to Nebraska to live with an older couple. (10-14)

The Risen Horse

by Karen Taschek

(Univ. of New Mexico, P\$15.95) 978-0-8263-4837-1

When fifteen-year-old Isabel is sent to the Carlisle School for Indians, her world opens up. (10-13)

Stand Straight, Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant

by Kate Klise, illustrated by M. Sarah Klise

(Dial, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3404-3

More than eight feet tall, Ella Kate Ewing, born in Missouri in 1872, makes the most of her unusual size. Fictionalized biography of a real person. Acrylic illustrations. (8-10)



Storyteller

by Patricia Reilly Giff

(Wendy Lamb, \$15.99) 978-0-375-83888-0

Elizabeth feels a powerful connection to the portrait of an eighteenth century ancestor and learns about her family's history during the American Revolution. (9-12)

Take Me With You

by Carolyn Marsden

(Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-3739-2

Living at the Naples orphanage since World War II, blond-haired Pina is sure she will be adopted first. Susanna, daughter of an African-American soldier, does not dare to dream. Their hopes are fulfilled in unexpected ways. (10-12)

This Means War!

by Ellen Wittlinger

(S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-7101-6

During the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis that created real fear of war, a group of youngsters distract themselves with a “war” between boys and girls. (9-12)

Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood

by Jame Richards

(Knopf, \$16.99) 978-0-375-85885-7

Set against the violent man-made disaster of 1899, a love story between an upper-class girl and the son of a miner unfolds in free verse. (9-14)

**Turtle in Paradise**

by Jennifer L. Holm

(Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-83688-6

A reluctant visitor to her aunt in Key West, Turtle and the “diaper gang” make the best of life in Depression-era Florida. (9-12)

Warriors in the Crossfire

by Nancy Bo Flood

(Front Street, \$17.95) 978-1-59078-661-1

Two teenagers caught in the conflict between the Japanese and Americans in World War II Saipan make difficult decisions to save their families. (11-14)

**When Molly Was a Harvey Girl**

by Frances M. Wood

(Kane/Miller, \$15.99) 978-1-935279-51-8

In the late 1800s, two sisters, one at thirteen masquerading as eighteen, go West to work in a railroad eatery and encounter myriad adventures. (9-12)

Wishing for Tomorrow

by Hilary McKay, illustrated by Nick Maland

(McElderry, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-0169-3

In this sequel to the classic *A Little Princess*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, we learn what happened to the school and the students Sara Crewe left behind. (9-12)

The Wonder of Charlie Anne

by Kimberly Newton Fusco

(Knopf, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86104-8

Charlie Anne copes with the death of her mother, the hardships of family life, and racial prejudice in 1930s Massachusetts. (9-13)

Year of the Tiger

by Alison Lloyd

(Holiday House, P\$16.95) 978-0-8234-2277-7

During the Han Empire, Len and Li, from totally different backgrounds, team up. A genuine friendship develops as the boys save the city. (10-12)



***Zora and Me**

by Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4300-3

Even as a child, Zora Neale Hurston was a prodigious storyteller. Whenever her vivid imagination ran away with her, her supportive family and community were there to help. (8-12)

Humor



***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Birthday Parties, Science Projects, And Other Man-Made**

Catastrophes

by Lenore Look, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

(S&W, \$15.99) 978-0-375-86335-6

When Alvin receives an invitation to a girl's birthday party, his fear of everything may prevent him from going. Expressive line drawings accompany the humorous text. (9-11)

Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies

by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by Dan Santat

(Amulet, P\$12.95) 978-0-8109-8416-5

Ferocious giant bunnies land their spaceship at a camp where twins Kevin and Joules must save the planet from them. Black-and-white illustrations. (8-12)

Big Nate: In a Class by Himself

written and illustrated by Lincoln Peirce

(Harper, \$12.99) 978-0-06-194434-5

Nate's sense of humor helps him survive the many trials and tribulations of middle school. (9-11)



Clementine, Friend of the Week

by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee

(Hyperion, \$14.99) 978-1-42311-355-3

The inimitable Clementine returns and has to deal with the ups and downs of friendship, and a Very Upsetting Thing. (8-11)



Dust Devil

by Anne Isaacs, illustrated by Paul O.Zelinsky

(S&W, \$17.99) 978-0-375-86722-4

Swamp Angel's back and this larger-than-life girl has moved on to the wild west of Montana. A rollicking tall tale with humorous oil paintings. (8-11)



The Fabled Fifth Graders of Aesop Elementary School

by Candace Fleming

(S&W, \$15.99) 978-0-375-86334-9

A class full of extreme individuals coupled with a very creative teacher results in a year of joyful learning. (8-10)

The Fantastic Adventures of Baron Munchausen

by Heinz Janisch, illustrated by Aljoscha Blau

(Enchanted Lion, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-091-2

Surrealistic paintings lead into a fantastic world where you can ride a cannonball in the air or a sea horse under water. (9-12)

Finn Reeder Flu Fighter: How I Survived a Worldwide Pandemic, the School Bully, and the Craziest Game of Dodge Ball Ever

by Eric Stevens, illustrated by Kay Fraser

(Stone Arch Books, \$25.32) 978-1-4342-2450-7

Finn describes the five weeks in which the H1N1 virus picks off his teachers and friends. Written in journal form with amusing illustrated asides (7-10)



Guys Read: Funny Business

edited by Jon Scieszka

(Walden Pond Press, \$16.99) 978-0-06-196374-2

Engaging and funny stories about contemporary boys by current well-known authors. (10-13)

Melonhead and the Big Stink

by Katy Kelly, illustrated by Gillian Johnson

(Delacorte, \$14.99) 978-0-385-73658-9

Fifth-grader Adam “Melonhead” Melon tries to behave well enough to earn a trip to see the gigantic flower giving off the “big stink.” (8-11)

My Invisible Sister

by Beatrice Colin and Sara Pinto, illustrated by Sara Pinto

(Bloomsbury, \$15.99) 978-1-59990488-7

Ten-year-old Frank’s older sister is invisible. Not being too happy with her predicament, she makes trouble in the family’s new neighborhood. (8-10)

Pickle Impossible

by Eli Stutz

(Bloomsbury, \$15.99) 978-1-59990-464-1

Pierre and Aurore must get a jar of pickles to the Picklelympics contest in Switzerland and save the family farm, but the evil Monsieur Borsht has other plans. (9-12)



School!: Adventures at the Harvey N. Trouble Elementary School

by Kate McMullan, inspired and illustrated by George Booth

(Feiwel, \$12.99) 978-0-312-37592-8

A cast of characters identified by their “funny names” interact in this fast-paced romp with lessons to be learned. Line drawings capture the zaniness. (8-12)

Smells Like Dog

by Suzanne Selfors

(Little, Brown, \$15.99) 978-0-316-04398-4

Homer Pudding, a twelve-year-old aspiring treasure hunter, runs away to find out the identity of the most important thing his explorer uncle left him when he died. An engaging adventure spoof. (9-12)



***Spaceheadz (Book 1)**

by Jon Scieszka, with Francesco Sedita, illustrated by Shane Prigmore

(S&S, \$14.99) 978-1-4169-7951-7

Earth is about to be turned off and horrible things can happen, unless Michael K and his new alien friends recruit three or four million kids to become Spaceheadz. Cartoon-like black-and-white illustrations.(8-11)

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

written and illustrated by Tom Angleberger

(Amulet, \$12.95) 978-0-8109-8425-7

Short chapters tell of the outcast boy, who becomes advisor to Middle School social interactions, from the varying points of view of different sixth-grade students. Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

Vordak the Incomprehensible: How to Grow Up and Rule the World

by Scott Seegert, illustrated by John Martin

(Egmont, \$13.99) 978-1-60684-013-9

A clever super villain offers rules and advice to readers on how to develop an evil plan to rule the world. Funny black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

Science Fiction

Boom!

by Mark Haddon

(David Fickling, \$15.99) 978-0-385-75187-2

Jimbo vividly and humorously tells of a dangerous adventure that begins when he and his friend bug the faculty room. (9-12)

Jack Blank and the Imagine Nation

by Matt Myklusch

(Aladdin, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-9561-6

An orphan boy finds himself transported to a world of superheroes where he must discover his own identity and prove himself worthy of forging his own future. (9-12)

Today

The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister

written and illustrated by Charlotte Agell
(Henry Holt, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-8902-8

Adopted from China and raised in Maine, nine-year-old India has adventures that bring her closer to her artist mother, her male best friend, and her father and his new partner, Richard. (8-11)

Animal Rescue Team: Hide and Seek

by Sue Stauffacher, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont
(Knopf, \$12.99) 978-0-375-95849-6

Keisha, along with friends and family, rescue a deer with a plastic trick-or-treat pumpkin stuck on its head. (8-10)

The Archaeolojesters

by Andreas Oertel
(Lobster Press, P\$10.95) 978-1-897550-83-0

To keep their Canadian hometown afloat, three twelve-year-olds concoct a crazy-seeming plan to create and plant a fake ancient Egyptian artifact. Can it possibly work? (8-11)

***The Ballad of Knuckles McGraw**

by Lois Peterson
(Orca, P\$7.95) 978-1-55469-203-3

Abandoned by his mother, eight-year-old Kevin imagines himself as a brave cowboy who is not afraid of being on his own. (8-12)

Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)

by Lisa Yee, illustrated by Dan Santat
(Arthur A. Levine, \$15.99) 978-0-545-05594-3

Fourth-grader Bobby faces stage fright, a neighbor's cat, asthma, and being different from his family. It's not always easy. (8-10)

Boys Without Names

by Kashmiri Sheth
(B+B, \$15.99) 978-0-06-185760-7

Desperate to help his family in Mumbai, Gopal becomes trapped as a child slave. His only hope of escape lies in using his storytelling skills. (10-12)

Cheat

by Kristin Butcher
(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-274-3

After a high-school journalist writes an article about a cheating scam, she learns the challenges of journalism and loyalty to family. (10-12)

The Chihuahua Chase

by A. E. Cannon, illustrated by Julie Olson

(FSG, \$15.99) 978-0-374-31259-6

Addie May joins her nemesis and fourth grade classmate Teddy to find his missing dog before Saturday's big race. Black-and-white pictures. (8-10)

Crunch

by Leslie Connor

(Katherine Tegen Books, \$16.99) 978-0-06-169229-1

When a gasoline shortage strands his parents far from home, fourteen-year-old Dewey finds a surprising way to help the customers at their suddenly very busy bicycle shop. (9-12)

Darius Bell and the Glitter Pool

by Odo Hirsch

(Kane/Miller, \$15.99) 978-1-935279-65-5

With his family's honor and home at risk, Darius Bell hopes his underground discovery can save the day. (8-11)

The Fizzy Whiz Kid

by Maiya Williams

(Amulet, \$16.95) 978-0-8109-8347-2

Eleven-year-old Mitch feels like an outsider at his new Hollywood school until he lands a part in a TV commercial. (9-12)

Layla, Queen of Hearts

by Glenda Millard, illustrated by Patrice Barton

(FSG, \$16.99) 978-0-374-34360-6

With the help of her friends, Layla finds Miss Amelie to be her companion for Senior Citizen's Day. (8-11)

Little Blog on the Prairie

by Cathleen Davitt Bell

(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-286-9

When Genevieve has to spend her summer at an 1890s "pioneer" camp, she secretly sends text messages to her friends. (10-12)

Me and Rolly Maloo

by Janet S. Wong, illustrated by Elizabeth Buttler

(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-58089-158-5

What is Jenna to do? She's a math whiz, but she'd like to extend her group of friends. Is giving a test answer cheating or charity? (8-10)

My Life as a Book

by Janet Tashjian, illustrated by Jake Tashjian

(Henry Holt, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-8903-5

Twelve-year-old “reluctant reader” Derek copes with summer reading, Learning Camp, and a decade-old mystery. Amusing vocabulary cartoons. (9-12)



***Noodle Pie**

by Ruth Starke

(Kane/Miller, \$15.99) 978-1-935279-25-9

A trip to Vietnam is a homecoming for his father but a real culture shock for Andy, who helps his street-smart cousins transform the simple family restaurant into a tourist-friendly money-maker. (9-12)

Old Photographs

by Sherie Posesorski

(Second Story Press, P\$10.95) 978-1-897187-78-4

Two fourteen-year-olds try to find the robbers who ransacked a home and beat a confused elderly woman they had befriended. (10-12)

The Other Half of My Heart

by Sundee T. Frazier

(Delacorte, \$16.99) 978-0-385-73440-0

Though struggling with her own identity, white-skinned eleven-year-old Minni comes to understand her twin black-skinned sister’s feelings when they participate in a Southern African-American beauty pageant. (10-12)



***Out of My Mind**

by Sharon Draper

(Atheneum, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-7170-2

Melody Brooks can’t walk, feed herself, or talk. Her classmates think she’s dumb and weird. How can she find a way to communicate her brilliant, retentive mind? (9-12)



Penny Dreadful

by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Abigail Halpin

(Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86199-4

Money problems turned nine-year-old Penny’s life upside down once. She must find a way to keep them from doing it again. (8-11)

***The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy**

by Jill MacLean

(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, \$11.95) 978-1-55455-145-3

Prinny’s small-town Newfoundland life with an alcoholic mother, few friends, and serious reading difficulties becomes even harder when bullies invade. (10-13)

***Saraswati’s Way**

by Monika Schröder

(FSG, \$16.99) 978-0-374-36411-3

Twelve-year-old Akash, an Indian street child, uses his wits, his integrity, his math skills, and his devotion to a Hindu goddess to guide him toward his dream of a higher education. (9-12)

Saving Sky

by Diane Stanley

(Harper, \$15.99) 978-0-06-123905-2

As terrorist attacks rise in the U.S., and the police begin to arrest all Arabs or presumed Arabs, Sky's family hides Kareem on their secluded New Mexico ranch. (10-14)

Shooting Kabul

by N.H. Senzai

(S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-0194-5

Fadi and his family flee war-torn Afghanistan, leaving his younger sister behind. Once in California they struggle to reunite the family. (9-14)

Slick

by Sara Cassidy

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-352-8

Liza and her seventh-grade friends take action on behalf of Guatemalans exploited by oil companies. (9-12)



Smile

by Raina Telgemeier

(Graphix, P\$10.99) 978-0-545-13206-0

After an accident, sixth-grader Raina faces extensive dental work, which encourages the school bullies to increase their taunts until she finds her confidence...and herself. A graphic novel. Full-color panels. (8-12)

Sweet and Sunny

by Coleen Murtagh Paratore

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-07582-4

Sunny Holiday is back, determined to make Kid's Day a national holiday, while using her "firefly ideas" to help those around her. (8-10)

Tortilla Sun

by Jennifer Cervantes

(Chronicle, \$16.99) 978-0-8118-7015-3

While spending the summer in New Mexico with her grandmother, Izzie, twelve, learns about her Mexican heritage and the true story of her father's death. (9-12)

Truth with a Capital T

by Bethany Hegedus

(Delacorte, \$16.99) 978-0-385-73837-8

No longer "Gifted and Talented," Maebelle needs a summer alone with her grandparents. To her chagrin, Isaac, her adopted cousin, is there. (10-14)

Watch Out, World - Rosy Cole is Going Green!

by Sheila Greenwald

(FSG, \$15.99) 978-0-374-36280-5

Rosy Cole comes up with some unusual “green-themed” ideas for her school’s fall fair. (8-10)



What Happened on Fox Street

by Tricia Springstubb

(Balzar & Bray, \$15.99) 978-0-06-198635-2

When Mo finds out that an unscrupulous real estate developer is trying to disrupt family life on her street, she goes into action. (8-12)

Willowood

by Cecilia Galante

(Aladdin, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-8022-3

Fifth-grader Lily feels lost and lonely in a new city until she begins to collect an unusual group of friends. (9-12)