

Title & Author	Lexile (Grade Level)	Interest Level	Genre	Summary
<p><i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i></p> <p>By Gennifer Choldenko</p>	600 (4.7)	5-8	Historical Fiction	<p>Moose Flanagan and his family have just moved to Alcatraz Island so that his father can take a job as a prison guard and his sister Natalie can go to a special school in San Francisco. Moose misses his old baseball team, and he struggles for recognition in his new school.</p> <p>Complicating Moose's life even more is Piper, the daughter of the prison warden. Piper lures Moose into her scheme to make money by collecting laundry from their classmates with the promise that Al Capone is among the convicts assigned to laundry duty on Alcatraz.</p>
<p><i>The Apothecary</i></p> <p>By Malie Maeloy</p>	740 (4.9)	5-8	Historical Fiction/ Mystery	<p>Fourteen-year-old Janie Scott, newly arrived in London from Los Angeles in 1952, becomes friends with a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows, and is drawn into a dangerous adventure with Benjamin when his father is kidnapped and Russian spies try to steal his book of secrets.</p>
<p><i>Bamboo People</i></p> <p>By Mitali Perkins</p>	680 (4.4)	YA	Survival Fiction	<p>Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.</p>
<p><i>Blizzard of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917</i></p> <p>By Sally M. Walker</p>	1100 (7.8)	5-8	Non-Fiction	<p><u>Blizzards of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917</u> provides an account of the disaster that occurred on December 6, 1917, when two ships carrying munitions and relief supplies to Europe collided, causing an explosion that leveled the towns of Halifax and Dartmouth and resulted in the deaths of nearly two thousand people.</p>
<p><i>Blood Fever</i></p> <p>By Higson, Charles; Fleming, Ian</p>	830 (5.0)	6-8	General Fiction	<p>During a summer holiday in Italy, the teen-age James Bond tangles with an underground empire of criminals as he attempts the rescue of a kidnapped young girl.</p>
<p><i>Bluefish</i></p> <p>By Pat Schmatz</p>	330 (2.5)	6-8	Juvenile Fiction	<p>Travis is missing his old home in the country, and he's missing his old hound, Rosco. Now there's just the cramped place he shares with his well-meaning but alcoholic grandpa, a new school, and the dreaded routine of passing when he's called on to read out loud. But that's before Travis meets Mr. McQueen, who doesn't take "pass" for an answer—a rare teacher whose savvy persistence, has Travis slowly unlocking a book on the natural world. And it's before Travis is noticed by Velveeta, a girl whose wry banter and colorful scarves belie some hard secrets of her own.</p>
<p><i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i></p>	1080 (8.3)	9-12	Historical Fiction	<p>Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A</p>

By John Boyne				<p>tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance.</p> <p>But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.</p>
<i>Boys Without Names</i> By Kashmiria Sheth	670 (4.2)	5-8	Realistic Fiction	Eleven-year-old Gopal and his family leave their rural Indian village to live with his uncle in Mumbai, but when they arrive his father goes missing and Gopal ends up locked in a sweatshop from which there is no escape.
<i>Breaking Stalin's Nose</i> By Eugene Yelchin	670 (5.7)	5-8	Historical Fiction	In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.
<i>Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"</i> By Michael O. Tunnell	1130 (7.2)	5-8	Biographies / Non-Fiction	<u>Candy Bomber</u> describes the efforts of US Air Force Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen to aid the children in Russian- blockaded West Berlin by dropping packages filled with candy from the air. Features personal photographs, along with letters and drawings from the children of Berlin.
<i>Close to Famous</i> By Joan Bauer	540 (4.0)	5-8	Realistic Fiction	The residents of Culpepper, despite their grand aspirations, have made little progress toward achieving their goals, but unexpected events and surprises put the ambitions of the residents of Culpepper to the test.
<i>Carlos Is Gonna Get It</i> By Emerson, Kevin.	870 (5.2)	4	Realistic Fiction	This book recounts the events that occur at the end of seventh grade, when a group of friends plan to trick Carlos, an annoying "problem" student who says he is visited by aliens, while they are on a field trip in the mountains of New Hampshire
<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> By Jeff Kinney	950 (5)	3		<p><i>"Boys don't keep diaries, or do they?"</i> It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary.</p> <p>In book one of this debut series, Greg is happy to have Rowley, his sidekick, along for the ride. But when Rowley's star starts to rise, Greg tries to use his best friends newfound popularity to his own advantage, kicking off a chain of events that will test their friendship in hilarious fashion. Author/illustrator Jeff Kinney recalls the growing pains of school life and introduces a new kind</p>

				of hero who epitomizes the challenges of being a kid. As Greg says in his diary, "Just don't expect me to be all Dear Diary this and Dear Diary that." Luckily for us, what Greg Heffley says he won't do and what he actually does are two very different things.
<i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> By Philip K. Dick	630 (4.1)	9-12	Science Fiction	By 2021, the World War had killed millions, driving entire species into extinction and sending mankind off-planet. Those who remained coveted any living creature, and for people who couldn't afford one, companies built incredibly realistic simulacrae: horses, birds, cats, sheep...they even built humans. Emigrées to Mars received androids so sophisticated it was impossible to tell them from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans could wreak, the government banned them from Earth. But when androids didn't want to be identified, they just blended in. Rick Deckard was an officially sanctioned bounty hunter whose job was to find rogue androids, and to retire them. But cornered, androids tended to fight back, with deadly results.
<i>Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra</i> By Wendy Lichtman	1050 (5.9)	6-8	Realistic Fiction	Tess loves math because it's the one subject she can trust—there's always just one right answer, and it never changes. But then she starts algebra and is introduced to those pesky and mysterious variables, which seem to be <i>everywhere</i> in eighth grade. When even your friends and parents can be variables, how in the world do you find out the right answers to the really important questions, like what to do about a boy you like or whom to tell when someone's done something really bad? Will Tess's life ever stop changing long enough for her to figure it all out?
<i>Ender's Game</i> By Orson Scott Card				In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut—young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers, Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. His psychological battles include loneliness, fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers, and fanning the flames of devotion to his beloved sister. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If the world survives, that is.
<i>Ghetto Cowboy</i> By G. Neri	660 (4.4)	5-8	Realistic Fiction	Twelve-year-old Cole's behavior causes his mother to drive him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with a father he has never known, but who soon has Cole involved with a group of African-American "cowboys" who rescue horses and use them to steer youths away from drugs and gangs.

<i>How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous</i> By Kevin O'Malley	950 (7.0)	5-8	Biographies / Non-Fiction	A look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths.
<i>The Hunger Games</i> By Suzanne Collins	810 (7.0)	7-9	Science Fiction; Adventure	Katniss is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother and younger sister in the poorest district of Panem, the remains of what used to be the U.S. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and was defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games." The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed. When Kat's sister is chosen by lottery, Kat steps up to go in her place.
<i>The Hunt for the Seventh</i> By Christine Morton-Shaw	660 (5.0)	5-8	Mystery/ Ghost Story	Jim moves with his dad and sister to Minerva Hall where a ghostly voice urging him to "find the Seventh" draws him into a sort of macabre treasure hunt for clues to an ancient prophecy that threatens them all.
<i>I, Emma Freke</i> By E.J. Atkinson	750 (5.3)	5-8	Realistic Fiction	Growing up near Boston with her free-spirited mother and old-world grandfather, twelve-year-old Emma has always felt out of place but when she attends the family reunion her father's family holds annually in Wisconsin, she is in for some surprises.
<i>The Outcasts</i> By John Flanagan	800 (6.3)	5-8	Adventure / Fantasy Fiction	Hal, who does not fit into Skandian society, ends up in a brotherband, a group of boys learning the skills that they need to become warriors, with other outcasts, and they compete with other brotherbands in a series of challenges.
<i>Mockingbird: (Mock'ing- bûrd)</i> By Kathryn Erskine	630 (4.1)	5-8	Realistic Fiction	Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.
<i>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party</i> By Ying Chang Compestine	740 (5.0)	6-8	Historical Fiction	<i>The summer of 1972, before I turned nine, danger began knocking on doors all over China.</i> Nine-year-old Ling has a very happy life. Her parents are both dedicated surgeons at the best hospital in Wuhan, and her father teaches her English as they listen to Voice of America every evening on the radio. But when one of Mao's political officers moves into a room in their apartment, Ling begins to witness the gradual disintegration of her world. In an atmosphere of increasing mistrust and hatred, Ling fears for the safety of her neighbors, and soon, for herself and her family. For the next four years, Ling will suffer more horrors than many people face in a lifetime. Will she be able to grow and blossom under the oppressive rule of Chairman Mao? Or will fighting to survive destroy her spirit—and end her life?

<i>A Summer Day</i> By Ray Bradbury	820 (6.1)	6-8	Realistic Fiction	Margot is a nine-year-old girl whose family moved from Earth to Venus when she was four. She remembers the sun shining on Earth – something that it rarely does on Venus. All of the rain and cloud cover on her new planet are affecting her emotions, but her chance to see the sun once again is quickly approaching. The story takes place on the one day when the rain will stop and the sun will shine for a couple of hours. All of the children in Margot’s class are eagerly awaiting their first glimpse of the sun, but when the teacher leaves for a few minutes they decide to pull a very mean prank on Margot.
<i>A Tale Dark and Grimm</i> By Adam Gidwitz	690 (4.6)	5-8	Fairy Tales	Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales Faithful Johannes, Hansel and Gretel, The seven ravens, Brother and sister, The robber bridegroom, and The devil and his three golden hairs.
<i>Things Fall Apart</i> By Chinua Achebe	890 (5.9)	9-12	Classics; Multicultural;	This book tells two intertwining stories, both centering on Okonkwo, a “strong man” of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first, a powerful fable of the immemorial conflict between the individual and society, traces Okonkwo’s fall from grace with the tribal world. The second, as modern as the first is ancient, concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo’s world with the arrival of aggressive European missionaries.
<i>Ways to Live Forever</i> By Sally Nicholls	580 (4.0)	3-6	Realistic Fiction	Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.
<i>Wonder</i> By R.J. Palacio	790 (5.1)	3-6	Realistic Fiction	Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.
<i>Words in the Dust</i> By Trent Reedy	670 (4.8)	5-8	Realistic Fiction	Zulaikha, a thirteen-year-old girl in Afghanistan, faces a series of frightening but exhilarating changes in her life as she defies her father and secretly meets with an old woman who teaches her to read, her older sister gets married, and American troops offer her surgery to fix her disfiguring cleft lip.