

BOOKLIST FOR THE SEVENTH AND THE EIGHTH GRADES

Almond, David. [*Kit's Wilderness*](#). (TEEN FIC AL684Ki)

Thirteen-year-old 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.

Avi. [*The Fighting Ground*](#). (FIC Av511fi)

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

Bauer, Joan. [*Rules of the Road*](#). (TEEN FIC B3264ru)

Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire. Along the way, Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father

Blackwood, Gary. [*The Shakespeare Stealer*](#). (FIC B5686sh)

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.

Blackwood, Gary. [*Shakespeare's Scribe*](#). (FIC B5686shs)

When an outbreak of the deadly Black Plague closes the Globe Theatre, William Shakespeare's acting troupe sets off on a tour of England. Widge, the orphan-turned-actor, with his peculiar shorthand, proves invaluable on the tour.

Cannon, A.E. [*Amazing Gracie*](#). (TEEN FIC C16446a)

A high school girl has a lot to deal with in her sophomore year when her beloved mother who is a victim of depression remarries, a new brother is acquired, and the family moves to Salt Lake City.

Cleaver, Vera. [*Where the Lilies Bloom*](#). (FIC C58515w)

Mary Call has promised her dying father to keep her brother and sisters together forever on the Appalachian mountain, and never to take any help from strangers. She is determined to keep her word. No matter what. But then winter comes, fast and furious, and Mary Call has to learn that the land where the lilies bloom is also a cruel and unforgiving place, and it may take more than a promise to keep her family together.

Cole, Brock. [*The Goats*](#). (FIC C6741g)

Laura and Howie, two young teenagers, are stripped and marooned on a small island for the night by kids at a summer camp. No harm is intended, but Laura and Howie, the "goats," don't see it that way. They want to disappear. And they do, much to everyone's surprise.

Collier, James Lincoln. [*My Brother Sam Is Dead*](#). (FIC C6903m)

Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Colfer, Eoin. [*Artemis Fowl*](#). (FIC C6838ar)

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.

Conly, Jane. [*Crazy Lady!*](#) (FIC C7619cr)

As he tries to come to terms with his mother's death, Vernon finds solace in his growing relationship with the neighborhood outcasts, an alcoholic, Maxine Flooter, and her retarded son, Ronald.

Creech, Sharon. [*Absolutely Normal Chaos*](#). (TEEN FIC C8618ab)

Mary Lou Finney grudgingly begins writing a journal as a summer project for school. Then her cousin Carl Ray comes to stay, and what started out as a dull assignment quickly becomes an amazing record of first love and family intrigue.

Creech, Sharon. [*Chasing Redbird*](#). (TEEN FIC C8618ch)

Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor uncovers family secrets and self truths while clearing a mysterious settler trail that begins on her family's farm in Kentucky.

- Creech, Sharon.** *[The Wanderer](#)*. (TEEN FIC C8618wa)
Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.
- Cushman, Karen.** *[Matilda Bone](#)*. (FIC C9595ma)
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.
- Dahl, Roald.** *[The BFG](#)*. (FIC D13756bfk)
Kidnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.
- English, Karen.** *[Francie](#)*. (FIC En36fr)
When the sixteen-year-old boy whom she tutors in reading is accused of attempting to murder a white man, Francie gets herself in serious trouble for her efforts at friendship.
- Farmer, Nancy.** *[A Girl Named Disaster](#)*. (TEEN FIC F22968gi)
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.
- Flake, Sharon.** *[The Skin I'm in](#)*. (TEEN FIC F5998sk)
Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.
- Fleischman, Paul.** *[Whirligig](#)*. (TEEN FIC F62826wh)
While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he caused, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement.
- Fleischman, Paul.** *[The Borning Room](#)*. (FIC F62826bo)
Precious new lives begin in the borning room, and the dying take their departure there. Within its walls, Georgianna Lott experiences her life's greatest turnings, while outside the Ohio farmhouse the Civil War rages, slavery falls and a miracle called electricity brings new light to the world.
- Fletcher, Susan.** *[Shadow Spinner](#)*. (FIC F637sh)
When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.
- Forbes, Esther.** *[Johnny Tremain](#)*. (FIC F7425j)
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.
- Fox, Paula.** *[The Slave Dancer](#)*. (FIC F83321sl)
Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** *[Among the Hidden](#)*. (FIC H117am)
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.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** *[Among the Impostors](#)*. (FIC H117)
In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, third-born Luke has been in hiding for the entire twelve years of his life, until he enters boarding school under an assumed name and is forced to face his fears.
- Hesse, Karen.** *[Out of the Dust](#)*. (FIC H463ou)
In a series of 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.

Hobbs, Will. [*Beardance*](#). (FIC H6521bed)

Cloyd Atcitty, who has named himself Lone Bear in the manner of his Ute heritage, and his guardian Walter travel into the mountains where Walter dreams of finding a legendary treasure and Cloyd hopes to see another grizzly.

Holm, Jennifer. [*Boston Jane; an Adventure*](#). (FIC H7305bo)

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.

Hunter, Mollie. [*King's Swift Rider; a Novel on Robert the Bruce*](#). (FIC H9182ki)

Martin Crawford and his brother, Sean, are recruited by the king of Scotland in his fight against the English. Martin hopes to become a man of the cloth, so he must find ways to help his country without killing others.

Johnson, Angela. [*Toning the Sweep*](#). (Fic J631to)

The videotaping is Ola's idea--Ola, Emmie's grandma who lives in the California desert is dying of cancer. Emmie and her mother have come to "the dry" to pack up Ola's house and take her back to a hospital in Cleveland. As Emmie starts photographing Ola's friends, she learns about her family history and their heritage. As Ola is speeded off to heaven, life below is revered and celebrated.

Le Guin Ursula. [*The Wizard of Earthsea*](#). (series) (FIC L5275w)

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Lowry, Lois. [*The Giver*](#). (FIC L95558gi)

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Lowry, Lois. [*Gathering Blue*](#). (FIC L95558gb)

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

MacLachlan, Patricia. [*Baby*](#). (FIC M2208ba)

Twelve-year-old Larkin discovers a baby in a basket by her family's house and a note which says the baby's name is Sophie and that her mother will come back for her one day. Larkin's family welcomes Sophie into their home and come to love her as their own, all the while knowing that Sophie's mother will one day take her from them.

Mahy, Margaret. [*The Haunting*](#). (FIC M2798h)

After a shy and rather withdrawn eight-year-old begins receiving frightening supernatural images and messages, he learns about a family legacy which could be considered a curse or a rare gift.

McKinley, Robin. [*Beauty: a Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast*](#). (TEEN FIC M2157b)

Kind Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay and through her love releases him from the spell which had turned him from a handsome prince into an ugly beast.

McKinley, Robin. [*The Hero and the Crown*](#). (TEEN FIC M2157he)

Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the Blue Sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

McKinley, Robin. [*The Blue Sword*](#). (TEEN FIC M2157bl)

Harry Crewe, kidnapped by the king of the mysterious Free Hillfolk, learns that she possesses untrained magic powers and is destined to follow in the footsteps of a legendary female warrior.

McKinley, Robin. [*Rose Daughter*](#). (TEEN FIC M2157ros)

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.

- Mikaelsen, Ben.** [*Sparrow Hawk Red.*](#) (FIC M58935sp)
Thirteen-year-old Ricky, the Mexican American son of a former Drug Enforcement Agency man, tries to avenge his mother's murder by crossing over into Mexico to steal a high-tech radar plane from drug smugglers.
- Morris, Gerald.** [*The Squire, His Knight, and His Lady.*](#) (TEEN FIC M8318sh)
After several years at King Arthur's court, Terence, as Sir Gawain's squire and friend, accompanies him on a perilous quest that tests all their skills and whose successful completion could mean certain death for Gawain.
- Morris, Gerald.** [*The Savage Damsel and the Dwarf.*](#) (TEEN FIC M8318sav)
Lynet, a feisty young woman, journeys to King Arthur's court in order to find a champion to rescue her beautiful older sister, and she is joined in her quest by a clever dwarf and a bold kitchen knave, neither of whom are what they seem.
- Napoli, Donna Jo.** [*Sirena.*](#) (FIC N162si)
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.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab.** [*Habibi.*](#) (TEEN FIC N984ha)
When fourteen-year-old Liyane 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.
- Paulsen, Gary.** [*Dogsong.*](#) (TEEN FIC P2853do)
Inspired by an Eskimo shaman, Russel Suskitt takes a dog team and sled to escape the modern ways of his village and to find his own "song" of himself.
- Paulsen, Gary.** [*Harris and Me; a Summer Remembered.*](#) (FIC P2853har)
Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.
- Peck, Richard.** [*The Last Safe Place on Earth.*](#) (FIC P336La)
Fifteen-year-old Todd sees his perfect suburban world start to unravel when his little sister has her mind poisoned by a member of a fundamentalist sect and he begins to notice signs of censorship in his community.
- Philbrick, W.R.** [*Freak the Mighty.*](#) (TEEN FIC P5342fr)
At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.
- Pierce, Tamora.** [*First Test.*](#) (series) (FIC P6119ft)
Ten-year-old Keladry of Mindalen, daughter of nobles, serves as a page but must prove herself to the males around her if she is ever to fulfill her dream of becoming a knight.
- Pullman, Philip.** [*The Golden Compass.*](#) (series) (TEEN FIC P9667go)
Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz.** [*Esperanza Rising.*](#) (FIC R9578es)
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.
- Salisbury, Graham.** [*Under the Blood-Red Sun.*](#) (FIC Sa342un)
Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.
- Taylor, Theodore.** [*Sniper.*](#) (TEEN FIC T2186sn)
Fifteen-year-old Ben must cope alone when a mysterious sniper begins shooting the big cats in his family's private zoological preserve.

Tolkien, J.R. [*The Hobbit*](#). (FIC T577ho)

Whisked away from his comfortable, unambitious life in his hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a company of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

Turner, Megan Whalen. [*The Thief*](#). (FIC T8555th)

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.

Turner, Megan Whalen. [*The Queen of Attolia*](#). (FIC T8555qu)

Forsaken by the gods and left to his own devices, Eugenides, Royal Thief of Eddis, summons all his wit and wiles in an attempt to conquer the rival Queen of Attolia.

Uchida, Yoshiko. [*Journey to Topaz*](#). (FIC Uc45j)

Like any 11-year-old, Yuki Sakane is looking forward to Christmas when her peaceful world is suddenly shattered by the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Uprooted from her home and shipped with thousands of West Coast Japanese Americans to a desert concentration camp called Topaz, Yuki and her family face new hardships daily.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. [*Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy*](#). (series) (FIC V7819sah)

Sammy's working off some junior high detention time by helping out at St. Mary's, but when Father Mayhew discovers that his valuable ivory cross has disappeared, Sammy becomes the prime suspect.

Voigt, Cynthia. [*Homecoming*](#). (FIC V87185h)

Five children, abandoned after their mother's death, make their way, mostly on foot, from New England to the eastern shore of Maryland in search of a grandmother they have never seen.

Voigt, Cynthia. [*Dacey's Song*](#). (FIC V87185di)

Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage.

Voigt, Cynthia. [*Izzy, Willy-Nilly*](#). (TEEN FIC V8748iz)

Izzy's never been one to complain. Izzy's the nice girl, from a family that believes good manners and a stiff upper lip are key to facing any situation. Even after a car accident leaves her disabled, she's determined not to show how much she's hurting. It takes Rosamunde, a girl who seems to care nothing about good manners, to forcibly disrupt Izzy's life and help her face her changed existence.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. [*Bat 6*](#). (FIC W8333ba)

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one sixth-grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Woodson, Jacqueline. [*I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*](#). (TEEN FIC W8685i)

Marie, the only black girl in the eighth grade willing to befriend her white classmate Lena, discovers that Lena's father is doing horrible things to her in private

Woodson, Jacqueline. [*If You Come Softly*](#). (FIC W8685if)

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

Yolen, Jane. [*Dragon's Blood*](#). (series) (FIC Y784dr)

Jakkin, a bond boy who works as a Keeper in a dragon nursery on the planet Austar IV, secretly trains a fighting pit dragon of his own in hopes of winning his freedom.

Yolen, Jane. [*The Queen's Own Fool*](#). (TEEN FIC Y784qu)

Nicola Ambruzzi, a poor traveling player, catches the Queen's eye. Nicola ends up as the Queen's "fool" and friend as well in this epic adventure of intrigue and courage during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots.