

2009 PLEASANT RIDGE SUMMER READING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Compiled by Ms. Shelley Riskin, Pleasant Ridge Library Media Specialist, 6/2009

Here are a few award-winning and/or highly recommended books for 6th and up. They're for readers who enjoy challenging books. Many are new, including the 2010 Rebecca Caudill list, and some are old favorites. Most of these authors have written other books, so if you enjoy one from this list, look for others by that author. All can be found in your local libraries, bookstores, or Springman and Attea libraries.

[*New on this list](#)

ADVENTURE

ALMOND, DAVID —(*Adventure/Ghosts*)

Kit's Wilderness--Kit finds himself caught in a game of spin-the-knife, pretend-to-die, in this dark tale of ghosts and magic (*Michael Printz Award for Best Young Adult Fiction.*)

***BUCKLY-ARCHER, LINDA** —(*Adventure/Historical Fiction/Fantasy series*)

***Gideon the Cutpurse**--An anti-gravity machine transports Kate and Peter back to 1763, where their machine is immediately stolen. Many adventures with murderous villains follow as they try to get back to their own time.

COLFER, EOIN (*Adventure/Historical Fiction*)

***Airman**—From the author of *Artemis Fowl*:When Conor accidentally witnesses the murder of his king, is thrown into prison and accused of being the murderer. Determined to prove his innocence, Conor passes the lonely months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

FLANAGAN, JOHN (*Adventure/Fantasy series*)

The Ruins of Gorlan (Book 1, *Ranger's Apprentice series*)

"Like the other 15-year-old orphans at Castle Redmont, Will is nervous about Choosing Day, when each of them will be assigned to a different master for training. Although he desperately wants to enter the Battleschool, Will is too small to be chosen. Instead, he is apprenticed to the grim-faced, mysterious Ranger. Soon Will learns that becoming a ranger is more difficult, dangerous, and worthwhile than he had imagined!"—Booklist starred

FUNKE, CORNELIA —(*Adventure /Mystery*)

The Thief Lord--Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo have run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, and decide to hide out in Venice, where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children. This book became very popular through word-of-mouth by teens. Winner of the *Batchelder Award* for outstanding translated teen book.

***HADDIX, MARGARET PETERSON** (*Adventure/ Mystery/Fantasy/Science Fiction*)

***Found** (Book 1, *The Missing series*)-- A brand-new airline employee experiences an event that she is later told **never** to talk about: a plane lands carrying 36 babies, with no other adults—even a pilot!—onboard. Fast-forward 13 years, and two 13-year-old friends, Chip and Jonah, are receiving mysterious notes, with messages like "You are one of the missing" and "Beware! They're coming back to get you." When they discover they're adopted, they must piece together what this all means, bringing them into great danger.

HARLOW, JOAN HIATT (*Adventure/Dogs*)

Thunder From the Sea --In 1929 13-year-old Tom is adopted by Newfoundland fisherman Enoch and his wife, Fiona. To his joy, Tom rescues and keeps a dog, Thunder, who becomes his faithful companion. But soon they face many dangers, from tsunamis to the fear that Thunder's owner will show up to reclaim him. This is an action filled adventure, a great read for dog lovers!

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY

The Devil and His Boy —(*Adventure/Historical Fiction*)--Tom is in danger in Shakespearean England. Chased by a dangerous criminal, he finds out that Queen Elizabeth I is in terrible danger —and only Tom can save her!

Ravens Gate—(*Adventure/Suspense*) (Book 1, *Gatekeepers Series*)—If you enjoy the *Alex Rider series* (*Stormbreaker*), this series will really keep you on the edge of your seat ! Matt is a troubled orphan who is always in trouble. After getting in trouble for being present during an assault, Matt must choose between life with strange Mrs. Deverill in a remote Yorkshire village or jail. As Matt soon learns, though, the village is much worse than jail, because strange and dangerous things are happening there. Raven's Gate, an ancient portal to the world of evil, is about to be opened, and Matt is to be the blood sacrifice. Dangerous and thrilling!

KORMAN, GORDON

(ADVENTURE continued)

Chasing the Falconers—(*Adventure/Mystery*) “Korman gets his *On the Run* series off to a great start with this fast-paced story. 15-year-old Aiden and his sister, Meg, have been exiled to a juvenile detention center since their parents were sentenced to life in prison. (They are criminologists who were recruited by the CIA to help identify international terrorist sleeper cells, and were falsely convicted of treason.) Aiden and Meg believe they can clear their parents' names if only they can track down an old family friend and CIA operative who recruited the couple and then disappeared. But first Aiden and Meg must escape from the Center. The twists and turns of their mission and the police in hot pursuit contribute to a page turner of a plot. “--*Booklist* magazine review
The Island series (Shipwreck, Book 1) (Adventure Survival)—Six kids who can't stand each other become unwilling partners when they are shipwrecked and must find a way to survive—or die---together. If you like the TV program *Lost*, you'll like this series, too!

LAWRENCE, IAIN (Adventure/Survival)

The Wreckers--John is the only survivor of a terrible shipwreck. In searching for his father, he must fight for his life as he is hunted by the ruthless wreckers. **The Smugglers** is the exciting sequel.

***MCCAUGHREAN, GERALDINE (Adventure/Fantasy/Myths)**

***Casting the Gods Adrift**--Rescued from the Nile's waters and crocodiles after a shipwreck by Pharaoh's own barge, Tutmose and his brother find themselves before a living god, who kindly offers them dream jobs as an artist and a musician in his new capital city. But suddenly they find themselves drawn into the attempt by Tutmose's father to assassinate the Pharaoh!

***Odysseus (Heroes series)**--When Odysseus attempts to return home after years of fighting during the Trojan War, he and his men end up fighting monsters and other ghastly creatures. They get thrown into prison, and even after escaping are almost drowned in the raging seas.

MIKAELSON, BEN (Adventure/Survival/Animals)

The Rescue of Josh McGuire—When Josh's dad shoots a mother bear, Josh runs away with the orphan cub and his dog. He leaves a note protesting a law that allows mother bears to be hunted. An intensive hunt begins for Josh as he tries to survive a snowstorm and figure out what he thinks is the right thing to do. Fans of Will Hobbs and Gary Paulsen will enjoy these books. (Mikaelsen himself lives with a 700 lb. black bear!)

***PFEFFER, SUSAN BETH (Adventure/Survival)**

***Life As We Knew It**--When an asteroid collides with the moon, causing natural disasters tidal waves, volcanoes, earthquakes and climate changes on Earth, life as 16-year-old Miranda knows it will never be the same. Suddenly, things she has taken for granted, such as electricity, news from the outside world and three meals a day are a thing of the past, as she and her family struggle to survive. **The Dead and the Gone** is a companion book, telling the story from the point of view of a boy in New York.

ROBERTS, WILLO DAVID (Adventure/Realistic)

Scared Stiff (Adventure)-- 4 kids become involved in a terrifying adventure in the Wonderland Amusement Park as they search for whoever kidnapped their mother—a person that might be after them, too!

SELZNICK, BRIAN (Adventure/Mystery/Historical Fiction)

The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures—Graphic novel? New artform? In this Caldecott Award, amazingly inventive book, Selznick tells his story in illustrations, then switches to print, then back to illustrations. In 1931 twelve-year-old Hugo is an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station. When he meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his life (lived underground) and his biggest secret are in danger of being revealed. A must read by an amazing author/illustrator!

***SMITH, ROLAND (Adventure/Survival)**

***Peak**-- 14-year-old Peak ("It could have been worse. My parents could have named me Glacier, or Abyss") hones his climbing skills by scaling skyscrapers. After Peak is caught climbing the Woolworth Building, an angry judge gives him probation, with an understanding that Peak will leave New York and live with his famous mountaineer father in Thailand. Peak soon learns, however, that his father has other plans for him; he hopes that Peak will become the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest. Peak is whisked off to Tibet and finds himself in the complex world of an Everest base camp, where large amounts of money are at stake and climbing operations offer people an often-deadly shot at the summit. How will he survive?"—*Booklist* review, starred. If you enjoy Peak, also try the *Everest* series by Gordon Korman.

FANTASY/MYTH/SCIENCE FICTION

BARRON, T.A. (Fantasy)

The Lost Years of Merlin (series)--A strange young boy is washed up on the rocks of ancient Wales. One day he will become the greatest wizard of them all, but how does this happen when he starts out alone, with no identity or memory? Find out in this great series! (Also see *Stewart's The Crystal Cave in Adult Reads*)

BONE, IAN (Fantasy)

Fast Forward: A Dangerous Secret--Media and computers combine in this novel about a boy who attends Capra Video High School, where he gets to study his passion: movies. When he receives a note in his locker that reads "You have been chosen to fight evil" it's the beginning of an adventure in an alternative universe with three other kids who have the magical ability to enter into a movie, become the protagonist, and fight fictional bad guys, mirroring the fight against evil in the real world.

CARROLL, MICHAEL OWEN (Fantasy)

***The Awakening (Book 1, Quantum Prophecy series)** Imagine a world where superheroes and villains really exist, everyone knows it, but suddenly they all disappear without explanation. Now, two young teens find out they have on-again/off-again superpowers, and are targets for unknown military forces. Kidnapped, on the run in a strange country, they must discover if they will be the good guys...or the bad guys!

COLLINS, SUZANNE (Fantasy series)

***Gregor the Overlander** (series)--When his sister Boots tumbles into an air duct in his building's laundry room, Gregor leaps after her and they fall into a sinister Alice-in-Wonderland type of world. Gregor wants desperately to get home--until he hears that his father, who disappeared two years ago, may be in Underland himself, kept prisoner by enormous, war-hungry rats. Gregor's arrival triggers a battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders in a quest foretold by ancient prophecy

COONEY, CAROLINE (Fantasy/Romance)

Both Sides of Time (series)--Romantic Annie Lockwood falls through time and lands in 1895--the end of the Victorian era, a time representing all the romance that she has fantasized about. She falls in love and is drawn further into "the other side of time," but can she really give up all she knows to live in the past?

COOPER, SUSAN (Fantasy)

The Dark is Rising series--Will discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals destined to fight the evil Dark. In a series of adventures he discovers the true strength of his powers and discovers unexpected allies along the way. This is a powerful *Newbery Award* winning series. Readers who enjoy *Tolkien's Lord of the Ring* will love this series.

King of Shadows—Nat is chosen to act at the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Suddenly he finds himself transported back to 1599, at the original Globe, with Shakespeare as a costar! Why did this happen, and will he be trapped in Elizabethan London forever?

***COVILLE, BRUCE (Fantasy/Myth)**

***Juliet Dove, Queen of Love** (*Magic Shop* series)--Juliet is a very shy middle school student who is given a mysterious necklace. But once on, it can't be removed and Juliet realizes she has gotten herself trapped in a story that must be finished before she can be free. She learns that the necklace was given to her by Eris, the goddess of discord. It is the same amulet worn by the beautiful Helen of Troy and was the true cause of the Trojan War. It's up to Juliet to discover the mystery of why she was meant to wear the necklace.

CROSSLEY-HOLLAND, KEVIN (Fantasy series)

The Seeing Stone (Book 1, Arthur series)—The author weaves together the legendary Arthur, Merlin, and knights of the Round Table with young Arthur de Caldicott's story as he becomes a squire ready to fight in the Middle Ages.

DUNCAN, LOIS (Fantasy)

Locked in Time —Nore is visiting her new stepfamily in New Orleans for the first time. Her stepmother is beautiful—eerily beautiful. And there's something so strange about her stepbrother and sister. Nore's discovery about her new family happens just as time is running out—for everyone...Lois Duncan has written many other suspenseful young adult titles.

FARMER, NANCY (*Science Fiction*)

(**FANTASY/MYTH/SCI FI continued**)

The House of the Scorpion --In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old corrupt leader who is using Matt, without his knowledge, for his own evil purposes. Matt is the only clone in this world whose intelligence is intact—but can he manage to escape his horrible fate? This is an *American Library Association Printz Honor Award* book for teens.

FUNKE, CORNELIA (*Fantasy*)

Dragon Rider (*Fantasy/Adventure*) --After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven. Along the way they find adventure, evil, and unexpected friends.

Eragon fans will enjoy this book.

GAIMAN, NEIL (*Fantasy Horror*) (2009 Newbery Award winner)

Coraline—Coraline enters a strange alternate world where she meets The Other Mother and The Other Father. They are creepily like-- and yet *unlike*-- her real family. How can she rescue the trapped children who have been lured into this world and imprisoned? Gaiman is well known for his young adult graphic novels, so if you like this (recently made into a movie) check out his other titles.

***The Graveyard Book**—(2009 Newbery Award)—“While a killer murders his family, a baby pulls himself out of his crib and toddles out of the house and into the night. This is most unfortunate for the killer, since the baby was his prime target. Finding his way through the fence of an ancient graveyard, the baby is discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Owens, a caring couple who have no children of their own and who just happen to be dead! They take in the baby, name him “Nobody” and raise him among the dead to protect him from the killer, who relentlessly pursues him. Creepy and interesting!” *Horn Book* review.

HADDIX, MARGARET PETERSON (*Fantasy/Science Fiction*)

Among the Hidden—(*Shadow Children* series) Luke is the “shadow child,” a third child born into a world where only two children per family are allowed. He is kept hidden until the day he spies another face in a house far off and attempts the dangerous journey to find that person. The real problem is--does he have the strength to fight the totalitarian regime governing their lives? Fans of Haddix will also like teen author **William Sleator**.

Escape From Memory--A game of hypnosis begins a chain of events in which Kira is kidnapped, discovers her lost heritage as a Crythian (a culture in which the people value memory--they remember everything), and forms a plan to deceive her kidnapper Rona long enough to keep herself, her mom, and her best friend alive. Fans of Lois Lowry’s **The Giver** will enjoy this title. Also see **Found** in the Adventure section.

HAHN, MARY DOWNING (*Fantasy Horror*)

Witch Catcher—12-year-old Jen moves with her father to a West Virginia mansion, then realizes that her father has literally fallen under the spell of Moura Winters, who Jen intensely dislikes. She learns that Moura is actually a witch from the Fairy realm who came to this world decades ago in pursuit of the rightful heirs to the throne of Fairy, and Jen and her father are part of a horrible plot. One of the best fantasy/horror titles from Hahn! Also see **All the Lovely Bad Ones** in the **Rebecca Caudill 2010 reading list**.

HALE, SHANNON (*Fantasy*) (*Newbery Honor*)

Princess Academy—A twist on Cinderella for fans of Meg Cabot. The prince is looking for a bride, and Miri must attend an academy with other eligible girls to prepare her for royal life. But does she really want to be chosen? And what happens when danger threatens the academy and the would-be princesses?

LEE, TANITH (*Fantasy Romance*)

Wolf Tower--16-year-old Claidi has spent her life obeying a spoiled princess and empty rules. Then one day a golden stranger offers her the chance to escape. She risks everything to go with him through the dangerous Waste toward her new home—Wolf Tower. Readers who enjoyed Robin McKinley’s **The Hero and the Crown** will like this series.

LEVINE, GAIL CARSON (*Fantasy*)

Fairest-- In a land where beauty and singing are valued above all else, Aza eventually reconciles her unconventional appearance and her magical voice, and learns to accept herself for who she truly is. For **Ella Enchanted** fans.

The Wish--Wilma is the most unpopular girl in her junior high--until she does a good deed for an old lady and is given any wish she wants. Her wish? To be the MOST popular person in her school! The consequences are funny, unexpected, and thought-provoking, in this novel by the author of [*Ella Enchanted*](#). ([FANTASY, cont.](#))
LOWRY, LOIS (*Science Fiction/Fantasy*)

Gathering Blue--By the author of *Newbery Award* [*The Giver*](#), Kira lives in a savage world where imperfect children are abandoned at birth. But the crippled Kira has a skill for embroidery, and because of her gift she's adopted by powerful rulers, the Guardians. During her time with them Kira learns the truth about her cruel society and must decide if she has the strength to fight for a better world.

Messenger—Characters from [*The Giver*](#) and [*Gathering Blue*](#) are united in this adventure as a new world must be saved from dark forces (read [*The Giver*](#) first.)

MCKINLEY, ROBIN (*Fantasy*)

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast-- Meet Beauty and her real reasons for living with the Beast. What was it like in the castle, and who was this mysterious, tragic creature who treated her so royally? An enchanting, in-depth look at a fascinating fairy tale heroine. If you enjoy this, also read McKinley's [*Spindle's End*](#), a different "take" on Sleeping Beauty.

The Hero and the Crown (*Newbery Medal*)

Aerin is the clumsy daughter of the Damarian king and a witch woman who came from the mysterious, demon-haunted North. Aerin doesn't fit in—she has known this since birth—and now she must find her own power with the help of the wizard Luthe and a blue sword, so she may take her rightful place in the kingdom.

***MCMULLAN, KATE** (*Fantasy/Myth*)

***Have a Hot Time, Hades!** (*Myth-o-Mania series*)--Hades, ruler of the Underworld, is angry that he's always viewed as the bad guy in ancient mythology. He tries to set the record straight by describing his jealous battles with Zeus and his real relationship with the cell phone-carrying Persephone.

PATTOU, EDITH (*Fantasy*)

East—Fans of fairy tales and Robin McKinley's [*Beauty*](#) will love this story, told in multiple voices. Rose is 15 when a bear appears asking her father to give him the youngest daughter. Rose goes with the bear to a castle, where she finds a nighttime visitor that could be the bear, or the monster of her dreams. Which is it? Based on the fairy tale *East O' the Sun and West O' The Moon*", this is a dramatic retelling.

PAULSEN, GARY (*Science Fiction*)

The Time Hackers—Adventure writer Gary Paulsen tries something different! 7th grader Dorso Clayman has a problem in his futurist world. Every time he opens his locker, he finds something from another time or place. He's determined to find out who is messing with the time continuum before a woolly mammoth tramples him, he's shot with an arrow at Wounded Knee, or, worse, the time hackers destroy the world. Luckily, his best friend, Frank is on his side, and together they try to set things right. If you like adventure, science, and fun, you'll enjoy this fast-paced story.

PIERCE, TAMORA (*Fantasy*)

Song of the Lioness series: Alanna and her twin brother switch places, and Alanna disguises herself as a boy so she can learn to be a knight. But as she becomes a teen, her secret is increasingly difficult to hide. First book in the series is [*Alanna: The First Adventure*](#). Pierce has written many other great fantasy series for teens.

PULLMAN, PHILIP (*Fantasy*)

His Dark Materials trilogy ([*The Golden Compass, Book 1*](#)) In this outstanding fantasy series the girl Lyra, accompanied by her daemon (an animal that matches the soul of each human companion in this alternate world) sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North. Many exciting and horrifying experiences await her as she battles the evil in multiple worlds. This is a wonderful series for [*Lord of the Rings*](#) fans.

REEVE, PHILIP (*Science Fiction*)

Mortal Engines ([*Book 1, Hungry City Chronicles series*](#))--From *Booklist's* review: "As the story opens, the great Traction City of London is chasing a small town. When one city takes over another, it processes all reusable materials to create power to run the motorized wheels that enable the city to travel over the land. London's mayor has bigger plans than the domination of a small town, plans involving the use of the weapon that laid waste to Earth millennia earlier. Several young people try to stop the carnage--among them, Tom, an

apprentice at the London Museum; a disfigured young woman who tries to kill the museum's head historian; the historian's daughter, Katherine; and an apprentice engineer. The pace and violence is intense, the sense of helplessness is evident, and not all the young people survive. A page-turner, this adventure in a city-eat-city world will have readers eagerly suspending disbelief to follow the twists and turns of the imaginative plot.”

***RIORDAN, RICK** (*Fantasy*) (*Rebecca Caudill 2009 Award Winner*) (FANTASY, continued)

***The Lightning Thief** (*Book 1: Percy Jackson & the Olympians series*)--12-year-old Percy Jackson thinks he has problems when he's kicked out of six schools in six years, battles dyslexia and ADHD unsuccessfully, accidentally vaporizes one of his teachers and is almost killed by a minotaur! Only then does his mother reveal that he is really a half-blood--the son of a human woman and the Greek god Poseidon--and that his adventures are just beginning. Poseidon is accused of stealing the lightning bolt from Zeus, and it is up to Percy to find and return it—or the world might be doomed. The most recent in the series is [The Last Olympian](#).

SHUSTERMAN, NEIL (*Fantasy*)

The Eyes of Kid Midas (*Horn Book Award*)--Kevin can't believe how lucky he is when he finds a pair of sunglasses that turn his desires into reality. But when things start to get out of control, Kevin must try to stop the magic. The problem is, can he do it?

The Schwa Was Here—Calvin Schwa is special because--you can't see him at all! He has been marked absent in school for years, has never really been noticed and as a result, has no friends. But finally, after much difficulty, he intrudes upon the consciousness of Antsy and friends, who try to figure out "the Schwa effect" and use it to their advantage. It's lots of fun until the friendship dissolves and Schwa must figure out what's next in his unusual life.

SLEATOR, WILLIAM (*Science Fiction*)

Interstellar Pig and **Parasite Pig** (sequel)—“Deliciously creepy and suspenseful, **Interstellar Pig** tells of a teenager who joins his neighbors in playing a strange and absorbing board game, only to find out that the game is real, the other players are aliens, and the fate of Earth lays in the balance. In **Marco's Millions**, 16-year-old Barney is still playing **Interstellar Pig**, but just as a simple board game. Or so he thinks, until Julian, a mysterious new player, turns out to be a disgusting, parasitic alien who kidnaps him and whisks him off to the planet J'Koot. Can he be rescued?

House of Stairs--Five 16-year-old orphans of the future find themselves in a house of endless stairs from which there seems to be no escape. How will they ever get out? **Rewind**--When Peter is killed in an auto accident he is given the opportunity to go back to any moment and alter the events leading up to his death. But if he fails, he will die. Permanently. **The Duplicate**--David finds a mysterious machine that makes a duplicate of him. It's fun for awhile as he sends his duplicate to school while he sleeps late and devises other possibilities. But then he discovers that his duplicate has his own desires--one of which is to kill David.

***TURNER, MEGAN WHALEN** (*Fantasy/Myth*)

***The Thief** (*Newbery Honor*)-- Gen knows he is the best of thieves, and can't wait to begin the adventure that takes him to a remote temple of the gods, where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

***URSU, ANNE** (*Fantasy/Myth*)

***The Shadow Thieves**--Charlotte and Zee are drawn into a fight among the Greek gods for control of Hades. But only by going down into the awful and dangerous underworld can they heal the sick children. Will they be able to complete this awful quest?

HISTORICAL

ALMOND, DAVID (*Historical Fiction 1960s*)—

The Fire-Eaters -It's 1962 and the world is on the brink of nuclear destruction. In the midst of all the world drama, Bobby must deal with school problems, his dad's illness, and the terrifying Cuban Missile Crisis.

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH (*Historical Fiction WWII*)

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two --After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned is recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. Ned is only 16 when he discovers the horrors of war. More brutal but just as gripping as the *Dear America* WWII novels.

CHOLDENKO, GENNIFER (*Historical Fiction/Crime—Depression*) **(HISTORICAL, continued)**

Al Capone Does My Shirts—(*Newbery Honor*) It's 1935 and 12-year-old Moose has just moved to Alcatraz so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco. It's a time when the federal prison is home to notorious criminals like gangster Al Capone, and Moose isn't happy. But when he makes friends with Piper, the warden's daughter, they begin a series of odd but laugh-out-loud school pranks that help him adjust to his strange new community.

CUSHMAN, KAREN (*Historical Fiction—Middle Ages*)

Matilda Bone--The medieval orphan Matilda is obsessed with saints and rigid in everything she does--until she comes to live in Blood & Bone Alley and meets the wise and wonderful Red Peg, the Bonesetter. Other medieval novels by Cushman: **Catherine Called Birdy** (*Newbery Award*); **Midwife's Apprentice**.

FLETCHER, SUSAN (*Historical Fiction—Ancient Persia*)

Shadow Spinner --Beautiful Queen Shaharazad will die if she doesn't entertain the Sultan with stories every night in ancient Persia. But now it's her 999th night—and she's running out of stories!! Her only hope is Marjan, a 13-year-old crippled girl, who attempts to save the beautiful the queen's life. Based on *Arabian Nights*

MAZER, HARRY (*Historical Fiction—World War II*)

A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor--In this gripping novel, Adam is caught up in turmoil as Hawaii's Pearl Harbor is unexpectedly attacked by the Japanese, leading to U.S. entry into World War II. Mazer also has written **The Last Mission**, a book based on his real experiences during World War II. (Also see Garfield's **Paladin**, at the end of this booklist, a based-on-fact account of a boy recruited by England's Prime Minister Churchill to be a spy against Hitler during World War II.)

MEYER, CAROLYN (*Historical Fiction—1500 England*)

Mary, Bloody Mary (*Young Royals series*)--This is the tragic, based-on-fact story of England's Queen Mary, whose mother was divorced by King Henry VIII in the 1500s, leaving Mary an unwanted child instead of a royal princess. Mary tells the story of how she survived to become Queen, and why she is now known as "Bloody Mary." Other titles in this series are about Mary's mother (**Patience, Princess Catherine**) her half-sister, Elizabeth (**Beware, Princess Elizabeth**) and Elizabeth's mother (**Doomed Queen Anne**)

PEARSON, KIT (*Historical Fiction—World War II*)

The Sky is Falling (*Book 1, The Guests of War series*)—London is being bombed, so Nora's parents send her and her younger brother Gavin away to Canada, although she wants to stay and fight the Nazis. Once there, Nora discovers that their "guest family" only wants Gavin, not her. Can she get back to England and her family or must she stay in this horrible place? **Looking at the Moon** and **The Lights Go On Again** are the sequels.

REES, CELIA (*Historical Fiction—Witch Trials*)

Witch Child—Mary Newbury, a healer, experiences terrifying adventures when she is banished as a witch from a New England Puritan settlement in the 1600s. **Sorceress** is the sequel to **Witch Child**—21st century Agnes is a Native American college student who suspects that she is one of Mary's descendants. In her quest to learn the rest of Mary's story, she finds out about Mary's further adventures after she fled New England.

RODMAN, MARY ANN (*Historical Fiction-1960s Civil Rights*)

Yankee Girl--When Alice moves to Mississippi from Chicago in 1964, she's an ordinary white girl who loves clothes and the Beatles. Alice wants to make new friends, but finds out the terrifying consequences when she tries to do so with Valerie, the only black student in the newly integrated school. Alice is desperate to be accepted, and she's no hero—so what can she do about the name-calling and violence? Is it up to her to combat racism? Alice must decide. Based on the author's own experiences.

***SCHLITZ, AMY** (*Historical Fiction—Early 1900s*)

***A Drowned Maiden's Hair**—Poor Maud is always hungry and in trouble in her orphanage. So she's delighted when she's adopted by the three Hawthorne sisters. Suddenly she has new clothes and good food. But why do the sisters hide her away? It turns out that they want her to play the role of a drowned child in fake seances to trick their rich, mourning clients. Will she go along, or risk her wonderful new life and refuse?

MYSTERY/HORROR

ALMOND, DAVID —(*Suspense*)

Skellig--Michael meets a mysterious creature in the abandoned garage behind his home--but is he real, and can he help Michael?

AVI—(*Suspense*)

Wolf Rider—“The kitchen phone rang 3 times before Andy picked it up. “Hello?” he said. A voice replied “I just killed someone...I killed Nina.” It’s up to 15-year-old Andy to convince the police, his friends, his father that a murderer is on the loose. But no one will believe him, and time is running out....”

***BOSCH, PSEUDONYMOUS**

***The Name of This Book is Secret**--Cass always expects disaster, while Max-Ernest tells jokes that nobody finds funny. They team up after discovering a secret message from a dead magician. To learn more, they must break into the magician's house, where they find a hidden room, and, in it, his journal. Pursued by mysterious men, Cass sees them kidnapping one of her classmates, but nobody believes her. What will they do? **If You're Reading This, It's Too Late** is the next in the series.

BROACH, ELISE (*Mystery*)

Shakespeare's Secret Hero has always hated her Shakespearean-based name, which she thinks is better for a dog than a girl. But when she gets involved in looking for a missing diamond, she finds out that this heirloom possibly belonged to Anne Boleyn, the mother of Shakespeare's patron, Queen Elizabeth. 8th grader Danny helps Hero as they find clues, challenges, and surprising Shakespeare information in this challenging mystery.

Dovey Coe—“My name is Dovey Coe, and I reckon it don't matter if you like me or not...I hated Parnell Caraway as much as the next person, but I didn't kill him.” 12- year-old Dovey must fight a murder charge when the vicious Parnell is found dead, and she is the prime suspect.

DUNCAN, LOIS (*Horror/Suspense*)

I Know What You Did Last Summer (*Horror*)—It was only an accident—but it would change their lives forever. Last summer, four terrified friends made a pact to conceal a shocking secret. But some secrets don't stay buried, and someone has learned the truth. Someone who is determined to get revenge...

They Never Came Home (*Mystery*)-- When two teen boys vanish on a camping trip, a stranger claims that one owes him \$2,000. The boys' sister volunteers to repay the money but keeps looking for clues that he is alive.

The Third Eye (*Mystery, Fantasy*)--High school senior Karen, who worries that her psychic powers will make her seem different from other people, is frightened when a young policeman asks her to use her gift to help locate missing children.

HADDIX, MARGARET PETERSON (*Mystery*)

Double Identity—13-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

House on the Gulf—“New to Florida, Britt is thrilled when her older brother's house-sitting job provides the family with a free place to spend the summer. But Bran's odd behavior leads Britt to suspect that he is keeping a secret about the house and its owners.

***HIGSON, CHARLES.** (*Mystery/Spy series*)

***SilverFin: A James Bond Adventure** (*Book 1, Young James Bond series*)—What was James Bond like as a boy, and how did he become a spy? Find out in this book. James is a student at a boarding school in the 1930s. When he travels to his aunt's Scotland estate for the Easter holidays, he becomes caught up in investigating the disappearance of a local boy, a crime linked to a madman who wants global domination. **Blood Fever** is the most recent in the series.

***MAZER, NORMA FOX** (*Mystery/Realistic*)

***Taking Terri Mueller**—(*Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Award*) 13-year-old Terri has enjoyed growing up with her dad, moving from place to place and having adventures. But then she finds out that her mother, who she had been told died in an automobile accident when Terri was four, is still alive. What is going on? Why won't anyone tell her the truth? And how can she find out on her own?

NIXON, JOAN LOWERY (*Mystery/Suspense*)

(*MYSTERY, continued*)

The Haunting--Lia tries to rid the old plantation house in the Louisiana countryside of the evil that haunts it after her mother inherits it. You'll enjoy this if you liked Lois Duncan's **Locked in Time**.

The Other Side of Dark--Stacy wakes up in a room that's not hers, in a body she doesn't recognize, to discover that she's been in a coma for four years. She's now 17, not 13, and her mom is dead, murdered by a home intruder. Stacy was the only eyewitness to that murder, and the killer—still at large-- is not about to let her reveal his identity. Nixon is a master of junior high fiction, and has written many other suspense mysteries.

RIORDAN, RICK (*Mystery/Adventure series*)

***The Maze of Bones (Book 1, 39 Steps series)**—"Full of action, danger, and mystery! The grandmother of Amy and Dan Cahill pits them against other relatives in trying to discover the secret that has made the Cahill family so powerful for several hundred years. Different teams of family members receive the same clue to this secret at the reading of the will; 38 more clues remain to be found. The search takes Amy and Dan from Massachusetts to Philadelphia to Paris. They survive a fire, a concussion bomb, and entrapment in the Parisian catacombs en route to finding the second clue."--LMC magazine review. Sequels written by **GORDON KORMAN** and **PETER LERANGIS**.

SHUSTERMAN, NEIL (*Mystery/Horror*)

Full Tilt --16-year-old Blake, a straight-arrow, college-bound kid, is at a carnival with Quinn, his thrill-seeking brother, and two friends when a beautiful girl invites Blake to another carnival in a remote part of town that only admits invited guests. Later that evening, Quinn is found at home in a coma with Blake's invitation by his side. Did he go to the other carnival in Blake's place? When Blake and his friends go in search of the mysterious carnival to find out what happened to Quinn, they discover that the price of admission to this bizarre, phantom place is terrifying--to save Quinn, Blake must survive seven different carnival rides before dawn, each one a terrifying reflection of one of Blake's deepest fears! Can he survive the rides and find out what happened to Quinn? If you like this book, try Ray Bradbury's stories such as **Something Wicked This Way Comes** (from **The Illustrated Man** on the *Adult Books for Middle Schoolers* list.)

The Dark Side of Nowhere—Jason's boring, normal life changes after his friend suddenly dies. He is given a strange, unnerving glove that leads to the uncovering of many secrets about his life, including the monthly shots he receives, which are not for his health at all but given for a much more sinister purpose. Jason discovers lie after lie as he searches for the truth behind the normal façade of his life.

STEWART, TRENTON LEE (*Mystery series*)

The Mysterious Benedict Society—"When Reynie, an 11-year-old orphaned genius, finds an article in the paper meant for gifted children looking for an opportunity, his life changes. He finds himself a member of The Mysterious Benedict Society, whose goal is to save the world from the mind control of Mr. Curtain. The children work together to solve puzzles, avoid traps, and ultimately overthrow the villain. Action-packed, filled with suspense." Library Media Connection magazine. Latest in the series to be published in October, 2009.

REALISTIC

AVI

Nothing But the Truth (Realistic)--Philip is accused of disrespect to the flag, and the national media attention that follows is captured through news clips, school memos, and Philip's diary as misinformation spins out of control. Avi is a Newbery award-winning author of many books.

Never Mind! A Twin Novel— (*Funny Realistic Fiction*)--Meg and Edward are twins, but they couldn't be more different, and they don't get along. Tall, smart, and pretty, Meg has just been invited to join the High Achievers ' Club at her special middle school. He is the world's biggest loser, an immature, runty underachiever. She is terrified her fancy friends will find out about him! Two of today's best Young Adult writers tell the story of the twins in alternating, entertaining chapters.

BASKIN, NORA RALEIGH (*Realistic Fiction*)

What Every Girl (Except Me) Knows: a Novel--12-year-old Gabby wants a mother to help her grow into a woman, so when things between her father and his latest girlfriend do not work out, Gabby sets off for the last place where she remembers seeing her own mother. Recommended by past Entering Sixth Grade PR students.

BAUER, JOAN (*Realistic Romance*)

(**REALISTIC, continued**)

Hope Was Here--As a teen waitress at a local diner, Hope experiences fun, romance, and adventure in this *Newbery Honor* novel.

COHN, RACHEL (*Realistic Fiction series*)

The Steps--Annabel's parents met in New York City, fell in love, married, had their daughter, and then, much later, got divorced. Now Annabel's dad has moved to Australia, remarried, and started a new family. During Christmas break, the 12-year-old is sent to visit her father in Sydney, where she records her thoughts about her "bazillion stepbrothers, stepsisters, and half siblings," her impressions of this new world, and the often funny, sometimes jealous and confused steps toward combining her two families who live so far apart.

Two Steps Forward is the sequel.

COONEY, CAROLINE (*Realistic Suspense series*)

The Face on the Milk Carton —Janie Johnson happens to notice a picture on the side of the milk carton from which she's drinking—and recognizes herself as the missing child who had been kidnapped 12 years before! But how could that be true, when she has parents who love her and a great life?

Fatality—(*Mystery*) Rose plans to enjoy the luxury of her friend's summer mansion. But when a murder takes place, the police are suspicious—of Rose! They confiscate her diary—and she **MUST** get it back...

DOWELL, FRANCES O'ROARK (*Realistic*)

Chicken Boy—"Tobin knows what his 7th-grade classmates think of him: he's white trash and a future criminal; his Granny is the town character, so he might be crazy; and he struggles with school, so perhaps he's stupid. Then Henry, the new boy in town, sees Tobin defend their English teacher and approaches him with an offer to be a partner in his chicken-raising business. Henry tells Tobin, "When you learn about chickens, you will learn about life, Learn how this unlikely pair make a great team!"—*Horn Book* magazine review

HOBBS, VALERIE (*Realistic*)

Defiance-- Toby's cancer has come back, but he's sick of hospitals and painful treatments, so he's not going to tell his family. When he meets a fiercely independent neighbor, Pearl, who's 90 and almost blind, he befriends her and Blossom, Pearl's beloved cow. Together they develop an unusual friendship that will touch and amaze you. (Also see Sonnenblick's **Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie** for a book with a similar theme.)

KINNEY, JEFF (*Realistic*)

Greg Heffley's Journal (Book 1, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series)

Greg writes about his 6th grade experiences in a middle school, where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings who go to school with boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive. But when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

KORMAN, GORDON (*Comic Romance*)

Son of the Mob --Teen Vince Luca falls for a wonderful girl named Kendra. But then he makes the horrifying discovery that her father is an FBI agent whose life's goal is to take out Vince's mob boss dad! How can Vince, who's been trying to pretend that the family "business" has nothing to do with him, solve this problem and win Kendra's heart?

MARTIN, ANN M. (*Realistic*)

A Corner of the Universe --(*Newbery Honor Award*.)

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike and delightful uncle she never knew. As she tries to help him, though, she goes through a funny but emotional roller coaster of events and feelings, taking the reader along with her.

MAZER, NORMA FOX (*Realistic*)

Downtown (*Realistic*) --Pete must decide whether to tell his new girlfriend that his parents are terrorists in hiding from the FBI. How can he reveal any secrets when his parents' lives might depend on his silence?

Silver—Silver lives in a trailer park, but goes to school with rich kids. This is the story of her junior high year and how she copes. In **Girlheart**, Silver's story is continued as she is forced to live with a new family.

What I Believe: A Novel: Through poems, journals, and emails, Vicki tells the story of her life after her dad loses his job and they move from wealth to poverty. "A fast-paced verse novel chronicles a suburban teen's nightmare: losing her most comfortable, well-appointed lifestyle to a bare bones existence in the city." (Also see

Taking Terri Mueller in the *Mystery* section.)

NAYLOR, PHYLLIS REYNOLDS (*Realistic*)

(**REALISTIC, continued**)

The Agony of Alice (series)--Alice lives in an all-male household, which doesn't bother her until she becomes a 7th grader. Suddenly she must cope with all the problems of a teen girl, such as the fact that her widowed father doesn't have a clue how to deal with her or any of her girl issues! Laugh out loud funny!

PERKINS, LYNN RAE (*Realistic--Newbery Award*)

Criss Cross—Four teens in a small town tell the story of their 14th year through song lyrics, split-screen scenarios, haiku, and question and answer dialogue. If you like Konigsburg's **A View From Saturday** or multiple narratives like Kate Klise's journal books, this is a story you should read!

ROBERTS, WILLO DAVIS(*Realistic*)

Don't Hurt Laurie!--Laurie must always lie about the bruises on her body. Can she escape from her terrible situation--and will anyone believe her story?

SONNENBLICK, JORDAN (*Realistic*)

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie—8th grader Steven only cares about his drums and the girls who ignore his existence. But when his pesky 5-year-old brother is diagnosed with leukemia, life takes a tragic turn as Steven's family tries to adjust. Steven's emotions are all over the place and he struggles through his junior high year in this true-to-life novel. See also **Defiance**, by Valerie Hobbs, on a similar subject.

SPINELLI, JERRY (*Realistic*)

Stargirl--She's not your ordinary girl! "Stargirl" is exotic, eccentric, and so odd that she is left alone by the conformist students at her new high school. Her story is told by Leo, who falls in love with Stargirl and her unique personality.

TOLAN, STEPHANIE (*Realistic Funny*)

Surviving the Applewhites (*Newbery Honor*)—Are you ready to experience some unusual people? Tough kid Jake gets a last chance at the "Creative Academy," run by an eccentric family where everyone—even the dog and a goat!-- do what they want. Everyone, that is, except E.D. the one normal person in the family. Could it be the perfect place for Jake? Will Jake discover talents and interests he never knew he had? Read this to find out.

VOIGT, CYNTHIA (*Realistic Fiction*) (*Newbery Award*)

Homecoming (*Dacey's Song series*)—Four children are abandoned by their mother, and it's 13-year-old Dacey's job to get them halfway across the country to a crumpled-up address left in their Mom's purse. Dacey has \$10 in her pocket and no way to travel but walking. Will they ever find a real home again, and the love and guidance they so desperately need but have never had? (Newbery winner *Dacey's Song* continues the story.)

WINERIP, MICHAEL (*Funny Realistic*)

Adam Canfield of the Slash (series)--Overscheduled middle-schooler Adam discovers misuse of funds by the principal, so now he and the other school-newspaper reporters must find a way to publish the truth without getting anyone fired or expelled. Can they figure out how to do this and also bring the principal to justice? Suspenseful, fun, and a fast read! Andrew Clements fans will enjoy this book.

SPORTS

***CHABON, MICHAEL** (*Baseball/Fantasy*)

***Summerland**—Ethan is one of the worst baseball players in the history of the game. But he lives in a land where little creatures, the Ferishers, ensure perfect weather so baseball can be played all the time. When evil creatures attack Summerland, though, they turn to Ethan for help. Can he step up to the challenge?

***FEINSTEIN, JOHN** (*Sports Mystery*)

***Cover Up** (*Football*)-- Two teens learn that every player on a professional football team--which is supposed to play in the Super Bowl—are taking steroids, and that the owner has covered up the results. Will Steve and Susan be able to prove that a crime has been committed?

***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery**—(*Basketball*) After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

GUTMAN, DAN (*Baseball/Fantasy*)

***Ray & Me**—(*Baseball Card Adventure series*) In the latest in this popular "time travel" series, Stosh travels back to 1920 to try to save minor league baseball player Ray Chapman, who is the only known player to die from being struck in the head by a baseball.

LUPICA, MIKE (*Sports*)

(**SPORTS, continued**)

Heat—(*Baseball*) When Michael plays baseball, everything feels right. He's a wonderful pitcher who dreams of leading his South Bronx All-Stars to the Little League World Series. But after his Cuban refugee single dad, who shares his dream, dies of a heart attack, Michael and his older brother, Carlos, are forced to lie so they won't be separated from each other in a foster home. It becomes a big problem when a bitter rival spreads rumors that Michael is older than he appears, and the league demands that he be benched until he can produce a birth certificate. Lupica's great writing and fast, interesting story will keep sports fans reading to the end.

Miracle on 49th Street—(*Basketball*) When 12-year-old Molly Parker returns to America from England following her mother's death, she harbors a secret: her father is the star point guard of the Boston Celtics, But he has no idea he's her dad—so it's up to Molly to tell him, and hope he believes her.

Travel Team—(*Basketball*) Danny *loves* basketball. He's fast, smart, talented, committed—but too short to make the seventh-grade travel team and follow in the footsteps of his legendary father, Richie Walker, who led his own team to win the nationals and whose career was tragically ended by a car accident. None of this is enough to stop Danny, though. He forms his own team, leading to a climactic game against their archrivals. A great read for basketball fans. In the sequel **Summer Ball**, Danny heads out of town to spend the summer at Right Way basketball camp where he will have to play with-and against -some of the best ballers around. Does he have what it takes?

ADULT BOOKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

BRADBURY, RAY. **The Illustrated Man**—This book combines science fiction, fantasy, and horror. At the open and close of the book, the author presents himself as a nameless narrator who meets the Illustrated Man--a wanderer whose entire body is a living canvas of exotic tattoos. What's even more amazing, and increasingly disturbing, is that the illustrations are themselves magically alive, and each begin to unfold its own story, such as "The Veldt," where rowdy children take a game of virtual reality way over the edge, or "Something Wicked This Way Comes" a famous story about a creepy carnival.

CRICHTON, MICHAEL. **The Andromeda Strain** (*Science Fiction*) Before it's too late, scientists must try to contain a strange and deadly outbreak that has come from extraterrestrial life. A terrific thriller! Crichton has written many adventures for teens and adults.

DU MAURIER, REBECCA. **Rebecca** (*Mystery/Romance*) A young wife tries to find out the secret behind the death of her husband's glamorous first wife--with unexpected and sinister results. If you enjoy this book, also try du Maurier's **My Cousin Rachel**.

GARFIELD, BRIAN. **Paladin** (*Based-on-fact Adventure*) During World War II, England's Prime Minister Winston Churchill recruits his 15-year-old neighbor to spy against the Nazis. The boy agrees, and this gripping story tells about his scary and dangerous missions. (Warning: not for the squeamish) (**Out-of-print-available only in libraries or used bookstores**) Fans of this title might also try **Franklin and Winston**, a non-fiction adult title about Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill's friendship.

GIES, MIEP. **Anne Frank Remembered**. (*World War II Memoir*) Miep Gies was one of the Christians who hid Anne Frank and her family from the Nazis. This amazing true story tells about that terrible time and how Miep had the courage to hide not only Anne, but other Jews as well. (Try this with Anne's own **Diary of a Young Girl**—the unedited version that includes sections originally taken out by Anne's father.)

LARSON, ERIC. **The Devil in the White City : Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America**—(*Non-Fiction*) It's 1893 and Chicago is hoping to amaze the world with its great fair—but first, it needs to win the contest for host city and build the fair in the face of horrible weather, illness, and death. Architect Daniel Burnham is the genius who fights for his vision, and Henry Holmes is the serial killer who lures young girls visiting the Fair to their deaths. A riveting, true story about important events and people in Chicago's history.

MARSTON, EDWARD. **The Queen's Head** (*Historical Fiction/Mystery series*) It's 1588 in England. The Catholic traitor Mary Queen of Scots is about to be executed, and England under Queen Elizabeth 1 expects to be invaded by Spain's invincible Spanish Armada fleet. Suddenly the royal theatre troupe *Lord Westfield's Men* find themselves in the midst of a mystery. Who has murdered one of their best players? Who has stolen their precious playbook and kidnapped their young star? (For students who enjoy Shakespeare/mysteries.)

MITCHELL, MARGARET. Gone With the Wind (*Civil War--Historical Fiction*) This is the long but exciting story of young Scarlett O'Hara and her adventures and romances before, during, and after the Civil War. (Written in the 1930s, the portrayal of slaves is a sobering reminder of how blacks were viewed then.)

SELINKO, DESIREE. Desiree (*Historical Fiction/Romance*) Based on real people and events, Desiree is jilted by French soldier Napoleon Bonaparte, who marries the rich Josephine. But she unwillingly remains part of Napoleon's life as he becomes emperor of France and much of Europe, while she becomes Queen of Sweden! (Today's Swedish royal family is descended from Desiree and her husband Jean Baptiste Bernadotte.)

STEWART, MARY. The Crystal Cave series (*Fantasy*) In the best of the Merlin tales written for teens and adults, the mysterious and greatest sorcerer of all time tells his story in three volumes. A great read for middle schoolers who enjoy Arthur and Merlin legends.

TOLKIEN, J.R.R. Lord of the Rings trilogy (*Fantasy*) This is the *masterpiece* of fantasies as the Hobbit Frodo, Wizard Gandalf and Company fight the Dark Lord of Mordor. Visit this unforgettable world filled with heroism, evil, and adventure, beginning with Fellowship of the Ring. Even—or especially—if you've seen the great Jackson movies, you'll want to immerse yourself in the complexities that didn't make it to the screen. And please--don't forget to reread it as an adult!

TWAIN, MARK. The Prince and the Pauper (*Historical Fiction Adventure*) Not as well known as Tom Sawyer or Huck Finn, this adventure is based on the boy king Edward of England. He accidentally switches places with a poor slum boy and both go through many adventures in this enjoyable tale about mistaken identities.

WELLS, H.G. War of the Worlds (*Science Fiction*)

This is one of the first of the alien invasion stories, published by H.G. Wells in 1898, beginning with a series of seemingly routine reports about odd atmospheric disturbances taking place on Mars and ending up with the arrival of Martians just outside of London. When this story was broadcast on radio in the 1930s, listeners really thought the events were occurring, and there was a huge panic!

2010 REBECCA CAUDILL AWARD NOMINEES

Illinois Children's Choice Award

Springman and Attea libraries will be participating in this program.

Need more information? Go to www.islma.org/awards

Amato, Mary. Naked Mole-Rat Letters (*Realistic*)

12-year-old Frankie sends fake e-mail letters in an attempt to end her widowed father's long-distance romance with a Washington, D.C., zookeeper.

Applegate, Katherine. Home of the Brave (*Realistic*)

Kek, a young Sudanese refugee, is haunted by guilt that he survived. He saw his father and brother killed, and he left his mother behind when he joined his aunt's family in Minnesota. He does make silly mistakes in his new home, as when he puts his aunt's dishes in the washing machine, but he also find kindness and understanding.

Bingham, Kelly L. Shark Girl (*Realistic*)

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, 15-year-old Jane, who wants to be an artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it makes on her day-to-day life and future plans.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Shooting the Moon (*Historical Fiction*)

Jamie's brother is going to war in Vietnam, where Jamie would like to go if she weren't so young. But then TJ, a photographer, begins to send her rolls of film to develop that gradually reveal the horrors of what he's seen, and everything Jamie thinks about the army world begins to change.

Freedman, Russell. Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott (*Non-Fiction*)

Meet the brave participants from this famous Civil Rights boycott.

George, Jessica Day. Dragon Slippers (*Fantasy*)

Orphaned after a fever epidemic, Creel becomes friends with a dragon and unknowingly inherits an object that can either save or destroy her kingdom.

Graff, Lisa. The Thing About Georgie (*Realistic*) (CAUDILL, continued)

George is a dwarf, which causes problems, but he can always rely on his parents and his best friend for support--until a surprising announcement, a new boy in school, and a class project shake things up.

Hahn, Mary Downing. All the Lovely Bad Ones : A Ghost Story (*Fantasy*)

Travis and his sister Corey decide to help business at their grandmother's Vermont inn by staging a few "hauntings" that soon draw tourists from across the country. But when their hauntings really do awaken a dark force, they must find a way to put the ghosts they've disturbed to rest.

Hobbs, Will. Crossing the Wire (*Realistic/Survival*)

Fifteen-year-old Mexican Victor Flores is the man of his family. His father died in a construction accident while working illegally in South Carolina. Victor has been making ends meet but now realizes that the only way his family will have the money they need to survive is for him to make the risky border crossing himself. Can he do it before his family starves?

Kent, Rose. Kimchi & Calamari (*Realistic*)

After getting caught lying on a school project about who his grandfather was, 14-year-old Joseph is forced to redo the assignment. That's when he learns more about his adopted Italian-American family and Korean heritage than he ever thought possible.

Mass, Wendy. Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life (*Realistic*)

The summer he turns 13, Jeremy receives a mysterious box with the words "The meaning of life: for Jeremy Fink on his 13th birthday." The box was left by his father, who has been dead for five years. It has four locks, but Jeremy doesn't find any keys to open them. Can Jeremy and his best friend, Lizzy, find the keys to unlock this last gift from his father?

Morpurgo, Michael. The Mozart Question (*Historical Fiction*)

A young journalist goes to Venice, Italy, to interview a famous violinist, who tells the story of his parents' imprisonment by the Nazis, and explains why they can no longer listen to the music of Mozart.

Nuzum, K. A. A Small White Scar (*Realistic*)

15-year-old Will Bennon leaves his family and begins life as a cowboy, but his twin brother with mental disabilities follows him and causes all kinds of trouble.

Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday Wars (*Historical Fiction*)

In 1967, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom, where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Smith, Roland. Elephant Run (*Historical Fiction Adventure*)

Nick's father and others are taken prisoner when his plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, leaving Nick and his friend Mya to risk their lives in order to free them from the Prisoner of War camp.

St. John, Lauren. The White Giraffe (*Fantasy/Adventure*)

After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe.

Stead, Rebecca. First Light (*Science Fiction/Mystery/Adventure*)

In New York, 12-year-old Peter's often-sad mother is very interested in the headaches that have begun to bother him, while underneath the ice in Greenland, 14-year-old Thea misses her mother, who died trying to find a way to allow their hidden community, Gracehope, to survive. When Peter travels to Greenland with his parents on a trip to research global warming and Thea tries to complete her mother's mission, their worlds come together.

Tarshis, Lauren. Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree (*Realistic*)

Utterly logical 7th grader Emma-Jean helps a classmate with bullying and discovers that she's good at solving problems. But as she cleans up all the problems of her classmates, her own life gets messier and messier.

Urban, Linda. A Crooked Kind of Perfect (*Realistic*)

(CAUDILL, continued)

Zoe dreams of becoming a famous pianist, playing to cheering audiences at Carnegie Hall. But when her agoraphobic father braves the mall to purchase a piano for her, the bright lights and crowds are too overwhelming. Instead of a piano, he comes home with an organ! Zoe is "the opposite of excited," but as her weekly lessons continue, she finds she has some talent with the dual keyboard and the rumba rhythm switch. Can her talent take her above and beyond her original dreams?

Wolf, Joan M. Someone Named Eva (*Historical Fiction*)

From her home in Czechoslovakia, in 1942, Nazis take eleven-year-old Milada and other blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families. That means a new name and life, so how can she hold onto her true identity? Based-on-fact story.

GREAT DATABASES AND WEBSITES FOR FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

• **Novelist K-8**—

This great resource gives you recommendations according to age, interests, and reading level. Check out "read-alike" books for your favorite titles, too! Available through the Glenview Public Library website (www.glenviewpl.org) with your library card,

• **www.ala.org**

Books that have won awards in many areas including teens, non-fiction, and more, chosen by the American Library Association.

• **www.guysread.com**

Guys only!--kids, teens, and adults--created by author Jon Scieszka.

• **www.indiebound.org**

Booklists for children, teens and adults.

- Go to **Your Summer Reading Lists**

• **Author Websites**

- Check out the websites of your favorite authors. An easy way to do this is to google their names, then click on the website, or click on their websites through the Novelist K-8 database.