

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING 2017
6TH GOING INTO 7TH GRADE
SFWGS Grade School Librarian, Roberta Ricketts, for Susan Bolich

A Note to Parents: I include here some valuable advice from former librarian, Ann Grandin: *This is the summer, if it hasn't happened already, when children show a natural interest in "those shelves around the corner."* Known as the Young Adult section, the inventory is often housed on a different floor or a very separate area from Juvenile Fiction in public libraries, and, if space allows, is equally segregated in independent bookstores. This separation is created by children's literature specialists who recognize the need for children – roughly 12 through 14 – to avoid moral and social challenges in literature they may be unprepared to navigate. Topics might include harsh language, drugs, sex, homelessness, mental illness, suicide, and/or domestic violence. Young adult literature can send powerful and beautifully crafted messages, but these pictures need to be received at the right time. You the parent, know your child and are the best judge of readiness; if there seems to be a special need for a particular topic, consider reading the book with your child so there can be a shepherded conversation about its content; in other words, make yourself "the wise elder" who is sometimes missing from the book. Remember, too, that your interpretation of a book will be decidedly different from that of your child's; be prepared to converse from his or her point of view to receive a privileged perspective on how he or she views the world.

Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Women</i>	Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Men</i>	With two young sons of her own, and twelve rescued orphan boys filling the unusual school at Plumfield, Jo March - now Mrs. Jo Bhaer - couldn't be happier. But the boys have a habit of getting into scrapes, and their mischievous antics call for the warm and affectionate support of the whole March family to help avoid disaster.
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Eight Cousins</i>	Rose Campbell, tired and ill, has come to live at "The Aunt Hill" after the death of her beloved father. Six aunts fussing and fretting over her are bad enough, but what is a quiet 13-year-old girl to do with seven boisterous boy cousins?

Alder, Elizabeth	<i>The King's Shadow</i>	Ewyn, a young Welsh serf, has dreamed all his life of becoming a storyteller. But in a cruel twist of fate, Ewyn and his father suffer a brutal attack by a group of murderous ruffians. Ewyn's tongue is cut off and his father is killed. Orphaned and unable to speak, Ewyn assumes he is destined to a life of slavery. But Ewyn is resilient and teaches himself to read and write. He is then appointed the personal companion to Earl Harold of Wessex, who later becomes the King of England. The two travel the countryside together, forming a close father-son bond. Ewyn chronicles all of their exciting journeys, which culminate at the Battle of Hastings, where the future of the country is decided.
Alexander, Lloyd	<i>The Chronicles of Prydain</i>	There are five books in this series: <i>The Book of Three</i> , <i>The Black Cauldron</i> , <i>The Castle of Llyr</i> , <i>Taran Wanderer</i> , and <i>The High King</i> . The novels follow the protagonist, Taran, from the time of his youth as assistant pig-keeper throughout many years of adventure. His companions are Princess Eilonwy, the bard Ffleuddur Fflam, and others.
Armstrong, William H	<i>Souder</i>	Set in the Deep South, this Newbery Medal-winning novel tells the story of the great coon dog, Souder, and the poor sharecroppers who own him. During the difficult years of the nineteenth century South, an African-American boy and his poor family rarely have enough to eat. Each night, the boy's father takes their dog, Souder, out to look for food and the man grows more desperate by the day. When food suddenly appears on the table one morning, it seems like a blessing. But the sheriff and his deputies are not far behind. The ever-loyal Souder remains determined to help the family he loves as hard times bear down on them.
Avi	<i>The Cross of Lead</i>	"Asta's Son" is all he's ever been called. The lack of a name is appropriate, because he and his mother are but poor peasants in 14th century medieval England. But this thirteen-year-old boy who thought he had little to lose soon finds himself with even less - no home, no family, or possessions. Accused of a crime he did not commit, he may be killed on sight, by anyone. If he wishes to remain alive, he must flee his tiny village. All the boy takes with him is a newly revealed name - Crispin - and his mother's cross of lead.
Banks, Lynne Reid	<i>Tiger, Tiger</i>	Two tiger cub brothers are torn from the jungle and taken to Rome. The stronger cub is trained as a killer at the Coliseum. Emperor Caesar makes a gift of the smaller cub to his beautiful daughter, Aurelia. She adores her cub, Boots. Julius, a young animal keeper, teaches Aurelia how to earn Boots' trust. Boots is pampered while his brother, known as Brute, lives in the cold and darkness, let out only to kill. Caesar trusts Julius to watch Aurelia and her prized pet. But when a prank backfires, Boots temporarily escapes and Julius must pay with his life. Thousands watch as Julius is sent unarmed into the arena to face the killer Brute.

Barnouw, Victor	<i>Dream of the Blue Heron</i>	When Tim discovers an environmental activist badly hurt on a beach, his sun-kissed relaxing holiday in the Seychelles takes on a more dangerous twist. He and Grk are the only ones, it seems, who want to know what happened. They find themselves speeding towards a well-guarded private island, and single-handedly foiling a dastardly plot threatening the local endangered giant tortoises.
Buck, Pearl S.	<i>The Big Wave</i>	Kino lives on a farm on the side of a mountain in Japan. His friend, Jiya, lives in a fishing village below. Everyone, including Kino and Jiya, has heard of the big wave. No one suspects it will wipe out the whole village and Jiya's family, too. As Jiya struggles to overcome his sorrow, he understands it is in the presence of danger that one learns to be brave, and to appreciate how wonderful life can be. The famous story of a Japanese boy who must face life after escaping the tidal wave destruction of his family and village.
Burnford, Sheila	<i>The Incredible Journey</i>	Instinct told them that the way home lay to the west. And so, the doughty young Labrador retriever, the roguish bull terrier and the indomitable Siamese set out through the Canadian wilderness. Separately, they would soon have died. But, together, the three house pets faced starvation, exposure, and wild forest animals to make their way home to the family they love.
Clark, Ann Nolan	<i>Secret of the Andes</i>	An Indian boy who tends llamas in a hidden valley in Peru learns the traditions and secrets of his Inca ancestors.
Cooper, Susan	<i>The Dark Is Rising Sequence</i>	Will Stanton's ordinary life is shattered with the dreadful revelation that the Dark -- the source of all evil -- is rising in its last and greatest bid to control the world. He finds that he is no ordinary boy, but the last-born of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping mankind free from the Dark. Soon Will is swept up in the great battle, along with his ageless master, Merriman; the three Drew children, who are mortal but have their own vital part to play; and a strange boy named Bran. These six, fight fear and death in a quest through time and space interwoven with the most ancient myths of the islands of Britain, until, at last, Will and Bran find the weapon that will ultimately vanquish the Dark. One of the most celebrated fantasy sequences of all time, the collection includes: Over Sea, Under Stone; The Dark Is Rising; Greenwitch; The Grey King; and Silver on the Tree.
Crossley-Holland, Kevin	<i>The Seeing Stone</i>	It is 1199 and young Arthur de Caldicot is waiting impatiently to grow up and become a knight. One day his father's friend Merlin gives him a shining piece of obsidian and his life becomes entwined with that of his namesake, the Arthur whose story he sees unfold in the stone. In this many-layered novel, King Arthur is seen as a mysterious presence influencing not just one time and place but many. The 100 short chapters are almost like snapshots not only of the mythic tales of King Arthur, but the earthy, uncomfortable reality of the Middle Ages.

Cushman, Karen	<i>Catherine, Called Birdy</i>	The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.
Davidson, Margaret	<i>Helen Keller's Teacher</i>	The true story of the dedicated woman, Anne Sullivan Macy (April 14, 1866 -- October 20, 1936), originally from Tewksbury, Massachusetts, who became Helen Keller's inspirational teacher and lifelong friend.
Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee	<i>The Conch Bearer</i>	In a dingy shack in the less-than-desirable Indian neighborhood he calls home, twelve-year-old Anand is entrusted with a conch shell that possesses mystical powers. His task is to return the shell to its rightful home many hundreds of miles away. Accompanying him are Nisha, a headstrong but resourceful child of the streets, and a mysterious man of indeterminate age and surprising resources named Abadhyatta. His quest will take him farther from home than he's ever been and will teach him more than he ever imagined -- and it will force him to make a poignant decision that will change him forever.
Dorris, Michael	<i>Sees Behind Trees</i>	Young Walnut doesn't see very well; therefore he cannot hunt and prove to his indian tribe that he is ready to be an adult. By using his other senses, Walnut earns the respect of his people along with his new name: Sees Behind Trees. Still, he doesn't feel like a man, until he begins a journey with elderly artist Gray Fire to find the mysterious land of water. Here is where Sees Behind Trees begins to learn what it means to be a man when he faces the most difficult test -- to save himself and find his way home. A brilliant and deeply humane writer whose words can show you something you have never seen.
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>The Boys' Sherlock Holmes</i>	Definitely for girls too, this compilation of stories includes: A Study in Scarlet; The Original of Sherlock Holmes by Dr. H.E. Jones; The Sign of Four; and Selected Short Stories: The Adventure of the Speckled Band; The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor; The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet; The Adventure of the Copper Beeches; The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.
Ende, Michael	<i>Momo</i>	At the edge of the city, in the ruins of an old amphitheater, there lives a little homeless girl called Momo. Momo has a special talent which she uses to help all her friends who come to visit her. Then one day the sinister men in grey arrive and silently take over the city. Only Momo has the power to resist them, and with the help of Professor Hora and his strange tortoise, Cassiopeia, she travels beyond the boundaries of time to uncover their dark secrets.

Ende, Michael	<i>The Neverending Story</i>	Bastian Balthazar Bux is shy, awkward, and certainly not heroic. His only escape is reading books. When Bastian happens upon an old book called <i>The Neverending Story</i> , he's swept into the magical world of Fantastica, so much that he finds he has actually become a character in the story! And when he realizes that this mysteriously enchanted world is in great danger, he also discovers that he has been the one chosen to save it.
Frederick, Heather Vogel	<i>Absolutely Truly</i>	"Twelve-year-old Truly Lovejoy's family moves to a small town to take over a bookstore. Soon, she has to solve two mysteries involving a missing book and an undelivered letter. With two older brothers and two younger sisters clamoring for attention, her mother back in school, and everyone up to their eyebrows trying to keep Lovejoy's Books afloat, Truly feels more overlooked than usual. So, she pours herself into uncovering the mystery of an undelivered letter she finds stuck in a valuable autographed first edition of <i>Charlotte's Web</i> , which subsequently goes missing from the bookshop. What's inside the envelope leads Truly and her new Pumpkin Falls friends on a madcap treasure hunt around town, chasing clues that could spell danger.
Gallico, Paul	<i>The Snow Goose</i>	The Snow Goose is a story about Philip Rhayader, an artist living in an abandoned lighthouse in the marshlands of Essex, who befriends a young local girl, Fritha. Together they nurse a wounded Canadian goose back to health.
George, Jean Craighead	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	Terribly unhappy in his family's crowded New York City apartment, Sam Gribble runs away to the solitude and danger of the mountains, where he finds a side of himself he never knew.
George, Jean Craighead	<i>Julie of the Wolves</i>	Miyax, like many adolescents, is torn. But unlike most, her choices may determine whether she lives or dies. At 13, an orphan, and unhappily married, Miyax runs away from her husband's parents' home, hoping to reach San Francisco and her pen pal. But she becomes lost in the vast Alaskan tundra, with no food, no shelter, and no idea which is the way to safety. Now, more than ever, she must look hard at who she really is. Is she Miyax, Eskimo girl of the old ways? Or is she Julie (her "gussak"-white people-name), the modernized teenager who must mock the traditional customs? And when a pack of wolves begins to accept her into their community, Miyax must learn to think like a wolf as well. If she trusts her Eskimo instincts, will she stand a chance of surviving?
George, Jean Craighead	<i>The Cry of the Crow</i>	A gun blast wakes Mandy one morning. Someone in her family is shooting crows again. To Mandy's father and older brothers, crows are pests that have to be kept away from the farm's valuable strawberry crop. Even her younger brother, Drummer, can't wait until he's old enough to learn to shoot. So, when Mandy finds the helpless baby crow in the woods, she feeds and tames her in secret.

George, Jean Craighead	<i>Shark Beneath the Reef</i>	Like his father and grandfather before him, 14-year-old Tomás Torres dreams of catching a great shark in the Sea of Cortez -- and he will catch it, although there are other things he should be thinking about. With an education, her could someday become a marine biologist. Tomás's family want him to stay in school. But Tomás knows he will be more help to them if he leaves school now to become a fisherman. Should he drop out? The choice is Tomás' alone -- a difficult one for a boy just becoming a man. It is only underwater, in a confrontation with the fisherman's greatest prize and worst enemy, that Tomás finds the strength to make his decision.
George, Jean Craighead	<i>Summer of the Falcon</i>	A sensitive young girl trains a falcon during three summers in the country. The interrelatedness of nature is a thread that binds the book together and gives it depth. Set in the 1930's when it was legal to capture birds of prey to train and keep as pets. The story of June's coming of age takes readers across three summers, with only brief paragraphs to summarize her school years in the city.
George, Jean Craighead	<i>Water Sky</i>	"Nukik! Lincoln gasped, his skin tingling. Could this be happening! Had he just seen a whale with a white tail? Was it now going to give itself to him, as Vincent had said? Lincoln still could not believe it. He had had only one thing in mind when he made the long trip from Massachusetts to Barrow, Alaska, and that was to find his Uncle Jack. He thought Vincent Ologak, an Eskimo whaling captain, could tell him where to find him, for Vincent was the man Uncle Jack had planned to see when he went to Alaska to help save the bowhead whale from extinction. But Vincent Ologak cannot or will not give Lincoln a straight answer. As far as he is concerned, Lincoln is there for a very different purpose from the one he himself imagines: A whale is coming to Lincoln, a whale that will end two years of waiting and suffering for Vincent's people.
George, Jean Craighead	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	Terribly unhappy in his family's crowded New York City apartment, Sam Gribley runs away to the solitude and danger of the mountains, where he finds a side of himself he never knew. A great story of self-reliance.
Haugaard, Erik Christian	<i>The Samurai's Tale</i>	In turbulent sixteenth-century Japan, orphaned Taro is taken in by a general who is serving the great warlord Takeda Shingen. Taro grows up to become a samurai fighting for the enemies of his dead family.

Henry, Marguerite	<i>King of the Wind: The Story of the Godolphin Arabian</i>	He was named "Sham" for the sun, this golden-red stallion born in the Sultan of Morocco's stone stables. Upon his heel was a small white spot, the symbol of speed. But on his chest was the symbol of misfortune. Although he was swift as the desert winds, Sham's pedigree would be scorned all his life by cruel masters and owners. This is the classic story of Sham and his friend, the stable boy Agba. Their adventures take them from the sands of the Sahara to the royal courts of France, and finally to England. For Sham was the renowned Godolphin Arabian, whose blood flows through the veins of almost every superior thoroughbred. Sham's speed -- like his story -- has become legendary.
Konigsburg, E.L.	<i>The View from Saturday</i>	Noah, who quite by accident was best man at the wedding of Ethan's grandmother and Nadia's grandfather; Nadia, a hybrid with a halo of red hair, a dog that's a genius, and a fondness for baby turtles ; Ethan, the silent second son of one of Epiphany's oldest families, who discovers he likes halos and Julian, the strangest person on the school bus, who starts everything by inviting the others to a tea party. How did Mrs. Olinski, returning to teaching ten years after being paralyzed in an automobile accident, choose these four to be her sixth-grade Academic Bowl team? And how did this unlikely foursome become even unlikelier champions, in far more than just the state middle school competition?
Lawrence, Caroline	<i>The Pirates of Pompeii And others in the series</i>	It is AD 79. The Roman world is reeling from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Hundreds of refugees are living in a makeshift camp, trying to come to terms with what has happened. Then even more tragedy strikes: the camp's children begin to disappear. Flavia Gemina and her friends Jonathan, Nubia, and Lupus are determined to find out more and start to investigate a powerful and charismatic man known as the Patron. A dangerous trail leads them to the caves and grottoes of Sorrento, where they encounter pirates, slave dealers and possible death.
Mansour, Haifaa al	<i>The Green Bicycle</i>	This Middle Eastern coming-of-age story is told with warmth, spirit, and a mischievous sense of humor. Spunky eleven-year-old Wadjda lives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with her parents. She desperately wants a bicycle so that she can race her friend Abdullah, even though it is considered improper for girls to ride bikes. Wadjda earns money for her dream bike by selling homemade bracelets and mixtapes of banned music to her classmates. But after she's caught, she's forced to turn over a new leaf (sort of), or risk expulsion from school. Still, Wadjda keeps scheming, and with the bicycle so closely in her sights, she will stop at nothing to get what she wants. Set against the shifting social attitudes of the Middle East, The Green Bicycle explores gender roles, conformity, and the importance of family, all with wit and irresistible heart.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	<i>Shiloh</i>	For use in schools and libraries only. When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to mistreat his dogs.
Nesbit, E.	<i>Five Children and It</i>	The five children are Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane, and their baby brother. But what is 'It'? It is the Sand-fairy known as the Psammead, and it lives in the gravel pits where purple and yellow wildflowers grow. It is furry and fat with hands like a monkey's--and has the power to grant wishes. The children discover that wish-making is fun at first, but sometimes, when wishes come true, fun can turn into trouble...
O'Dell, Scott	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as the island of San Nicholas. Dolphins flash in the blue waters around it, sea otter play in the vast kelp beds, and sea elephants loll on the stony beaches. Here, in the early 1800s, according to history, an Indian girl spent eighteen years alone, and this beautifully written novel is her story. It is a romantic adventure filled with drama and heartache, for not only was mere subsistence on so desolate a spot a near miracle, but Karana had to contend with the ferocious pack of wild dogs that had killed her younger brother, constantly guard against the Aleutian sea otter hunters, and maintain a precarious food supply.
Park, Linda Sue	<i>Single Shard, A</i>	In this Newbery Medal-winning book set in 12th century Korea, Tree-ear, a 13-year-old orphan, lives under a bridge in Châulpào, a potters' village famed for delicate celadon ware. He has become fascinated with the potter's craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work, and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, Tree-ear is elated, until he finds obstacles in his path: the backbreaking labor of digging and hauling clay, Min's irascible temper, and his own ignorance. But Tree-ear is determined to prove himself even if it means taking a long, solitary journey on foot to present Min's work in the hope of a royal commission . . . even if it means arriving at the royal court with nothing to show but a single celadon shard.
Paterson, Katherine	<i>The Sign of the Chrysanthemum</i>	Muna has never known his father -- a samurai, a noble warrior. But Muna's mother has told Muna how he will know him one day: by the sign of the chrysanthemum. When his mother dies, Muna travels to the capital of twelfth-century Japan, a bewildering city on the verge of revolution. He finds a haven there, as servant to the great swordsmith, Fukuji. But Muna cannot forget his dream: He must find his father. Only then will he have power and a name to be reckoned with. Only then will he become a man.

Paterson, Katherine	<i>The Master Puppeteer</i>	Who is the man called Sabura, the mysterious bandit who robs the rich and helps the poor? And what is his connection with Yosida, the harsh and ill-tempered master of feudal Japan's most famous puppet theater? Young Jiro, an apprentice to Yosida, is determined to find out, even at risk to his own life. Meanwhile, Jiro devotes himself to learning puppetry. Kinshi, the puppet master's son, tutors him. When his sheltered life at the theater is shattered by mobs of hungry, rioting peasants, Jiro becomes aware of responsibilities greater than his craft. As he schemes to help his friend Kinshi and to find his own parent, Jiro stumbles onto a dangerous and powerful secret....
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Of Nightingales That Weep</i>	The daughter of a samurai never weeps. But Takiko, whose warrior father was killed in battle, finds this a hard rule, especially when her mother remarries a strange and ugly country potter. To get away from her miserable home, Takiko eagerly accepts a position at the imperial Japanese court. There, her beauty and nightingale voice captivate the handsome young warrior, Hideo -- who also turns out to be an enemy spy. As war breaks out, Takiko flees the court and is forced to choose between loyalty to her people and her love for Hideo. She painfully learns that whatever choice she makes, she cannot run away from her samurai honor.
Peck, Robert Newton	<i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i>	Robert Newton Peck's novel of a Vermont farm boyhood has become a celebrated classic, captivating readers year after year with its quiet humor and poignant drama. It is the timeless story of one Shaker boy, his beloved pet pig, and the joys and hardships that mark his passage into manhood. <i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i> , is told in a unique and compelling voice, one with all the unadorned power of a Shaker hymn. Once heard, it is not soon forgotten.
Pyle, Howard	<i>The Story of the Champions of the Round Table</i>	Kings, queens, and great adventure await in the legendary land of Camelot. It all began with a boy and a sword. When young Arthur pulls an enchanted sword from a stone, his destiny is sealed: He is to become the king of England. Full of powerful wizards and valiant knights, this is the timeless tale of King Arthur, Camelot, and the Knights of the Round Table.
Pyle, Howard	<i>The Book of Pirates</i>	This book of rip-roaring adventures of swashbuckling pirates and buccaneers of the Spanish Main, includes "The Ghost of Captain Brand," "Tom Chist and the Treasure Box," "Jack Ballister's Fortunes," "The Ruby of Kishmoor," and other tales.
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan	<i>The Yearling</i>	Young Jody adopts an orphaned fawn he calls Flag and makes it a part of his family and his best friend. But life in the Florida backwoods is harsh, and so, as his family fights off wolves, bears, and even alligators, and faces failure in their tenuous subsistence farming, Jody must finally part with his dear animal friend.

Rawls, Wilson	<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So, when he is finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own, Old Dan and Little Ann, he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seem unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these friends, and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair.
Speare, Elizabeth George	<i>The Sign of the Beaver</i>	Twelve-year-old Matt is left on his own in the Maine wilderness while his father leaves to bring the rest of the family to their new settlement. When he befriends Attean, an Indian chief's grandson, he is invited to join the Beaver tribe and move north. Should Matt abandon his hopes of ever seeing his family again and go on to a new life?
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>The Black Arrow</i>	Set in England during the fifteenth-century Wars of the Roses, this swashbuckling historical novel by the author of <i>Treasure Island and Kidnapped</i> , tells the story of young Dick Shelton. Betrayed by his treacherous and brutal guardian, Sir Daniel Brackley, Dick seeks the help of John Amend-All, leader of the mysterious fellowship of the Black Arrow and Brackley's sworn enemy. Pitted against fierce fighters, a treacherous priest, and Sir Daniel, Dick seeks to become a knight and rescue his true love. Brimming with adventure, suspense, and romance, this thrilling tale presents a classic portrait of England during one of its most tumultuous eras, as Dick is pulled by his loyalties to the houses of both York and Lancaster. He must make a crucial choice, for his fate and the fate of England hang in the balance.
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Treasure Island</i>	The influence of <i>Treasure Island</i> on popular perceptions of pirates is enormous, including such elements as treasure maps marked with an "X," schooners, the Black Spot, tropical islands, and one-legged seamen bearing parrots on their shoulders.
Stewart, Trenton Lee	<i>Mysterious Benedict Society series</i>	This series of adventures starts with dozens of children responding to a peculiar ad in the newspaper. They are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. <i>The Mysterious Benedict Society, The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey, The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma, and The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict.</i>

Stolz, Joelle	<i>The Shadows of Ghadames</i>	In the Libyan city of Ghadames, Malika watches her merchant father depart on one of his caravan expeditions. She too yearns to travel to distant cities, and longs to learn to read like her younger brother. But nearly 12 years old, and soon to be of marriageable age, Malika knows that like all Muslim women she must be content with a more limited life. Then one night a stranger enters her home . . . someone who disrupts the traditional order of things. This is the story of a brave Berber girl who dares to dream and its filigree of details about harem life, ancient trade routes, goddesses and healers. The real beauty of <i>The Shadows of Ghadames</i> is that it transcends the exotic to explore universal truths about the human condition.
Streit, Jakob	<i>Geron and Virtus: A Fateful Encounter of Two Youths, a German and a Roman</i>	Geron and Virtus, written by master Waldorf teacher Jakob Streit, is the remarkable story of two boys during the Roman campaign to conquer the Germanic tribes. That particular period in history is important, because the encounter between the Romans and Germans produced the birth of a new Europe and the transition to a new time. The story is about friendship, slavery, honor, and adventure. The text is rich with spiritual insights provided by druid priests and their stories of Nordic mythology, the foundation of the Germanic folk soul.
Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>Beowulf, Dragon Slayer</i>	In this thrilling re-telling of the Anglo-Saxon legend, <i>Beowulf</i> , the renowned children's historical fiction writer Rosemary Sutcliff recounts Beowulf's most terrifying quests: against Grendel the man-wolf, against the hideous sea-hag and, most courageous of all - his fight to the death with the monstrous fire-drake.
Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>The High Deeds of Finn MacCool</i>	Set more than a thousand years ago in the soft green hills of Ireland, in a shifting time when enchanted creatures and the Fairy Kind still flickered in and out of the lives of men, the ancient stories of Finn MacCool and the brotherhood of the Fianna shimmer with magic. Here Rosemary Sutcliff breathes new life into adventures of these Irish heroes and their battles with strange and supernatural beings.
Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>Warrior Scarlet</i>	In Bronze Age Britain, young Drem must overcome his disability-a withered arm-if he is to prove his manhood and become a warrior.
Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>The Eagle of the Ninth</i>	In A.D. 119 the Ninth Roman Legion marched north into the wilds of Britain beyond Agricola's Wall and disappeared without a trace. Fifteen years later, Marcus Flavius Aquila, the son of the unit's commander, embarks on a quest to recovers the lost eagle standard on the Ninth, symbol of a legion's- and his family's- honor.

Sutcliff, Rosemary	<i>Tristan and Iseult</i>	Tristan defeats Ireland's greatest warrior and gains the friendship of his uncle, the King of Cornwall, who entrusts him with a very special mission: to sail the seas in search of a queen.
Sutcliff, Rosemary Thomas Malory, Sir	<i>The Sword and the Circle: King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table</i>	Retells the adventures of King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, Sir Lancelot, and the other knights of the Round Table.
Temple, Frances	<i>The Ramsay Scallop</i>	The year is 1299. Fourteen-year-old Eleanor reluctantly awaits the return of her betrothed -- a man she hardly knows -- from the Crusade. Thomas, broken, and disillusioned from years of fighting, finds the very idea of marriage and lordship overwhelming. So, when the village priest sends them on religious pilgrimage before the marriage, both are relieved. The journey means a postponement of the dreaded nuptials, and a last chance for adventure. As Eleanor and Thomas wend their way toward the shrine of St. James, they meet many other pilgrims -- each with their own extraordinary tales to tell and ideas to share. There is Etienne, a passionate student of philosophy; Brother Ambrose, gentle teacher of schoolboys; practical Marthe, eager for a decent life for her children. And gradually Eleanor and Thomas come to realize the glorious possibilities of the world around them... and within each other.
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings</i>	This series includes: <i>The Hobbit</i> ; <i>The Fellowship Of The Ring</i> ; <i>The Two Towers</i> ; and <i>The Return Of The King</i> . In <i>The Hobbit</i> , Bilbo Baggins is whisked away from his comfortable, unambitious life in Hobbiton by the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves. He finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of the dragon, Smaug the Magnificent. <i>The Lord Of The Rings</i> trilogy tells of the great and dangerous quest undertaken by Bilbo's nephew, Frodo Baggins and the Fellowship of the Ring: Gandalf the wizard; the hobbits Merry, Pippin, and Sam; Gimli the dwarf; Legolas the elf; Boromir of Gondor; and a tall, mysterious stranger called Strider.
Tomlinson, Theresa	<i>The Forestwife Trilogy</i>	A powerful retelling of the Robin Hood story from Marian's point of view. Who will champion the poor against injustice and cruelty? When fifteen year old Mary flees into the forest to avoid a fearsome marriage arranged by her uncle, she little knows what challenges lie in store for her as the wise and magical Green Lady of the Woods. Titles in the series are: <i>The Forestwife</i> ; <i>Child of the May</i> ; <i>The Path of the She Wolf</i> .

Ullman, James Ramsey	<i>Banner in the Sky</i>	The Citadel -- it stands unconquered, the last great summit of the Alps. Only one man has ever dared to approach the top, and that man died in his pursuit. He was Josef Matt, Rudi Matt's father. At sixteen, Rudi is determined to pay tribute to the man he never knew, and complete the quest that claimed his father's life. And so, taking his father's red shirt as a flag, he heads off to face the earth's most challenging peak. But before Rudi can reach the top, he must pass through the forbidden Fortress, the gaping chasm in the high reaches of the Citadel, where his father met his end. Rudi has followed Josef's footsteps as far as they will take him. Now he must search deep within himself to find the strength for the final ascent to the summit -- to plant his banner in the sky.
Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World In 80 Days</i>	Phileas Fogg of London and his newly employed French valet Passepartout attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days on a £20,000 wager set by his friends at the Reform Club.
Verne, Jules	<i>Journey to the Center of the Earth</i>	An adventurous geology professor chances upon a manuscript in which a 16th-century explorer claims to have found a route to the earth's core. Professor Lidenbrock can't resist the opportunity to investigate, and with his nephew Axel, he sets off across Iceland in the company of Hans Bjelke, a native guide. The expedition descends into an extinct volcano toward a sunless sea, where they encounter a subterranean world of luminous rocks, antediluvian forests, and fantastic marine life -- a living past that holds the secrets to the origins of human existence
Verne, Jules	<i>The Mysterious Island</i>	In <i>The Mysterious Island</i> a group of men escape imprisonment during the American Civil War by stealing a balloon. Blown across the world, they are air-wrecked on a remote desert island. In a manner reminiscent of Robinson Crusoe, the men apply their scientific knowledge and technical skill to exploit the island's bountiful resources, eventually constructing a sophisticated society in miniature. The book is also an intriguing mystery story, for the island has a secret.
Verne, Jules	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i>	An American frigate, tracking down a ship-sinking monster, faces not a living creature but an incredible invention -- a fantastic submarine commanded by the mysterious Captain Nemo. Suddenly a devastating explosion leaves just three survivors who find themselves prisoners in Nemo's death ship on an underwater odyssey around the world, as Captain Nemo -- one of the most horrible villains ever created -- takes his revenge out on society. This novel, written in 1870, foretells with uncanny accuracy the inventions and advanced technology of the 20th century

White, T.H.	<i>The Once and Future King</i>	Once upon a time, a young boy called Wart was tutored by a magician named Merlyn in preparation for a future he couldn't possibly imagine. A future in which he would ally himself with the greatest knights, love a legendary queen and unite a country dedicated to chivalrous values. A future that would see him crowned and known for all time as Arthur, King of the Britons. During Arthur's reign, the kingdom of Camelot was founded to cast enlightenment on the Dark Ages, while the knights of the Round Table embarked on many a noble quest. But Merlyn foresaw the treachery that awaited his liege: the forbidden love between Queen Guinevere and Lancelot, the wicked plots of Arthur's half-sister Morgause, and the hatred she fostered in Mordred that would bring an end to the king's dreams for Britain--and to the king himself.
White, T.H.	<i>The Sword in the Stone</i>	In old Merry England weather behaves. In the Castle of Forest Sauvage, Wart (rhymes with Art for Arthur) follows Sir Ector's 'proper son' Kay, two years older. Wizard Merlyn, fewmets from talking owl familiar Archimedes, turns boy into perch, hawk, owl, stone, and badger for their lessons and stories - until King Uther dies without heirs.
Wyss, Johann	<i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i>	Following a wild and raging storm, the Swiss family Robinson are stranded at sea. But the thundering waves have swept them off to a tropical island, where a new life awaits them. Their ship is laden with supplies and the island is packed with treasures, so they soon adapt and discover new dangers and delights every day.
Yep, Laurence	<i>Dragonwings</i>	Moon Shadow was eight when he sailed from China to join his father Windrider in America. Windrider lived in San Francisco's Chinatown and worked in a laundry. Moon Shadow had never seen him. But he soon loved and respected this father, a man of genius, a man with a fabulous dream. And with Moon Shadow's help, Windrider was willing to endure the mockery of the other Chinese, the poverty, and the longing for his wife and his own country to make his dream come true. Inspired by the account of a Chinese immigrant who made a flying machine in 1909, Laurence Yep's historical novel beautifully portrays the rich traditions of the Chinese community as it made its way in a hostile new world.

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