



The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.

## Recommended Reading for Grade 6

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with their students—your children—to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills will serve students well throughout their school career and beyond.

## Resources

In addition to strong book collections in all our school buildings, we provide online resources for students and families to use. From a home Internet connection, you can access the Library Media Program's web pages at [www.shaker.org](http://www.shaker.org). Click "Resources for Learning" where you will find a link to "Library Resources." Here you can find online databases, curriculum-based web links and the online catalog for our school libraries. Some of these resources require a password, which is available from your child's school library or from the District Library Media Office. For upper elementary students, we particularly recommend *World Book Online*, *Britannica Online*, *Newsbank* (newspapers) and *Sirs Discoverer*.

The Internet has increased our resources for learning, but also overwhelms us in its quantity, with no assurance of quality. Our goal is to help our students make good selections and learn to judge the quality and intent of information in all formats.

We encourage you to use the Shaker Heights Public Library for a multitude of good books and reading experiences. The library staff can suggest just the perfect book for you, and they provide reading activities and events all year round.

## Reading Links

Fairrosa Cyber Library was designed by a middle school librarian to share information about reading and authors for young people. The address is [www.fairrosa.info/](http://www.fairrosa.info/)

Check the [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) website for our library links to good reading materials. You can go to [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) and choose Resources for Learning, Library Resources, your school building and the "Reading Links" section on the navigation bar. The direct address is <http://shaker.org/resources/library/woodbury/readingLinks.htm>

Shaker Heights Public Library also provides great resources for you to use at home, including resource lists, subject guides and even online books to read. Their kids' page can be found at <http://www.shpl.lib.oh.us/Kids/>

For more information about the Shaker Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-4180.

**Abbott, Tony** *The Postcard*

Inspired by an old postcard and unfinished magazine, Jason gathers all the strange clues he has discovered and heads down to St. Petersburg with his friend Dia in the hopes of uncovering the truth about his family's past. *Fiction*

**Albert, Michael** *An Artist's America*

Meet Michael Albert, modern pop artist and recycling advocate, who has created a signature line of artwork featuring events like the signing of the Declaration of Independence. His materials are consumer packaging, old photographs, and discarded cardboard. His results are brilliant collages in the spirit of Andy Warhol's famous *Campbell's Soup*. *Nonfiction*

**Alexander, Lloyd** *The Book of Three; The Black Cauldron; The Castle of Llyr; Taran Wanderer; The High King*

In the Prydain Cycle series, Taran, an assistant pig keeper, fights against the evil that threatens Prydain. *Fiction*

**Almond, David** *Skellig*

Upset by his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage. He finds a mysterious stranger, who is man, bird, and angel. *Fiction*

**Anderson, Janet S.** *The Last Treasure*

Thirteen-year-old Ellsworth leaves his father to visit relatives he has never met. He joins forces with Jess, his cousin, to uncover family secrets and search for their ancestor's hidden treasure. *Fiction*

**Avi** *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14th-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. The sequel is *Crispin: At the Edge of the World*. *Fiction*

**Avi** *The Seer of Shadows*

In New York City in 1872, a photographer's apprentice named Horace becomes entangled in a plot to create fake spirit photographs. When Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn. *Fiction*

**Balliett, Blue** *Chasing Vermeer*

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. *Fiction*

**Barron, T. A.** *The Lost Years of Merlin*

A young boy who has neither identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures. *Fiction*

**Bloor, Edward** *Taken*

In 2035 kidnapping rich children has become an industry, but when Charity Meyers is taken and held for ransom, she discovers that this particular kidnapping is not what it seems. *Fiction*

**Bridges, Ruby** *Through My Eyes*

Ruby Bridges recounts her involvement in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960, when she was 6 years old. *Biography*

**Brill, Marlene** *Marshall "Major" Taylor: World Champion Bicyclist, 1899-1901*

Read about Major Taylor, an African-American bicycle racer and one of this sport's first American stars. *Biography*

**Bryant, Jen** *The Trial*

Katie Leigh Flynn uses poetry to describe what happens to her sleepy home town of Flemington, New Jersey, when Bruno Hauptmann is put on trial for the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby boy. *Fiction*

**Buckingham, Royce** *Demonkeeper*

When Nat, the weirdest boy in Seattle, leaves for a date with the plainest girl in town, chaos breaks out in his house full of demons. Nat must recapture the Beast and make amends to Sandy for an evening gone awry. *Fiction*

**Burns, Khephra** *Black Stars in Orbit*

Burns chronicles the history of African-American aviators from the beginning of aviation history through the space shuttle program in the nineties. *Nonfiction*

**Butler, Dori Hillestad** *Do You Know the Monkey Man?*

While searching for the father who left her and her mother ten years ago, Samantha begins to believe that the twin sister who supposedly died when they were 3 years old is still alive. *Fiction*

**Cammuso, Frank** *The Dodgeball Chronicles*

Artie King's hopes for easing into life at Camelot Middle School are dashed when he opens a mysterious locker and is pulled into a do-or-die dodgeball game pitting him and his friends against the school's toughest kids. Enjoy other titles in the *Knights of the Lunch Table* series. *Graphic Novel*

**Carey, Mike** *Re-gifters*

Meet Jen Dik Seong or "Dixie" as she's known to her friends. On the verge of winning a hapkido championship, she falls for Adam, a fellow hapkido fan and California surfer boy. She struggles to win the tournament and Adam's affections. *Graphic Novel*

**Choldenko, Gennifer** *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog*

Eleven-year-old Ant, stuck in a family that she does not like, copes by pretending that her "real" parents are coming to rescue her, by loving her dog Pistachio, by volunteering at the zoo, and by bending the truth and telling lies. *Fiction*

**Clements, Andrew** *Week in the Woods*

The 5th grade's camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him. *Fiction*

**Collins, Suzanne** *Gregor the Overlander*

Gregor and his 2-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world on a quest foretold by an ancient prophecy. They trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders. Read more in *Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods* and *Gregor and the Marks of Secret*. *Fiction*

**Conway, Lorie** *Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital*

Photographs, documents and first-person stories illustrate the 30-year history of the Ellis Island hospital which was a way station for hopeful immigrants. *Nonfiction*

**Cooney, Caroline** *The Face on the Milk Carton*

Janie Johnson realizes that *she* is the missing 3-year-old pictured on her lunch milk carton. The realization plunges her into turmoil. Follow her story in *Whatever Happened to Janie?* *Fiction*

**Corder, Zizou** *Lion Boy*

Charlie Ashanti uses his ability to speak Cat to get the lion in a floating circus to help him rescue his kidnapped scientist parents. Read more in *Lion Boy: The Chase* and *Lion Boy: The Truth*. *Fiction*

**Coville, Bruce** *The Monsters of Morley Manor*

Anthony and his sister discover that the monster figures he got at an estate sale are alive. The monsters lead them on madcap adventures to other worlds in an effort to save Earth. *Fiction*

**Creech, Sharon** *Walk Two Moons*

After her mother leaves home suddenly, 13-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal talks about her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. *Fiction*

**Curry, Jane Louise** *The Black Canary*

James resents that his musical family assumes that he, too, will be involved in music. When a time portal transports him to England in the 1600s, he finds himself a member of the "Children of the Royal Chapel," performing for Queen Elizabeth. *Fiction*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul** *Bud, Not Buddy*

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy, escapes a bad foster home and searches for the man he believes to be his father – the renowned bandleader H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids, Michigan. *Fiction*

**D'Adamo, Francesco** *Iqbal*

This is a fictionalized account of Iqbal, the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory. He went on to help liberate other children like him before being gunned down at the age of thirteen. *Fiction*

**David, Peter** *Tigerheart*

Paul grows up in London hearing his father's fantastical tales of a magical land called the Anyplace. After tragedy strikes his family, Paul journeys into this enchanted world in search of a hero. There he finds the greatest challenge of his life. *Fiction*

**Deuker, Carl** *Night Hoops*

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of Trent, a troubled teammate. *Fiction*

**Dhami, Narinder** *Bhangra Babes*

As their auntie's wedding day approaches, the Indian-British Dhillon sisters try to rescue her from her fiancé's meddling aunt while also competing against one another for the affection of the handsome new boy at school. *Fiction*

**Draper, Sharon** *Double Dutch*

As three 8th-graders prepare for the international jump rope competition in Cincinnati, they deal with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with bullies. *Fiction*

**DuPrau, Jeanne** *City of Ember*

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. The great lamps that light the city are flickering. Doon and Lina must decipher the message that could save their world. *Fiction*

**Durst, Sarah Beth** *Into the Wild: A Novel*

Rapunzel escapes from the Wild and the fairy tale plot it imposes. She and her daughter, Julie Marchen, try to live a normal life. When the Wild takes over, it is Julie who has to prevent everyone from being trapped in the events of a story. *Fiction*

**Ellis, Deborah** *Jakeman*

Jake and his sister, Shoshonna, join a busload of kids who are visiting their mothers in prison. The kids embark on an adventure, hatching a plan to find the Governor and get him to pardon their moms. *Fiction*

**Ellis, Julie** *What's Your Angle, Pythagoras?*

What's a curious boy to do? Every time Pythagoras tries to solve a problem, he lands in trouble. Join him as he sails to Alexandria with his merchant father in this mathematical adventure. *Fiction*

**Ferris, Jean** *Underground*

In 1839, a slave named Charlotte Brown is sold and becomes a maid at Mammoth Cave Hotel. There she falls in love with one of the cave guides, and gets involved in the Underground Railroad. With her friend and fellow slave Stephen content to guide tours at Mammoth Cave, she knows her escape to freedom will mean leaving him forever. *Fiction*

**Flake, Sharon** *Money Hungry*

All 13-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again. Read more in *Begging for Change*. *Fiction*

**Flanagan, John** *The Ruins of Gorlan*

When Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt. As Morgarath, the exiled Lord, threatens to attack, Will winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. The sequel is *Burning Bridge*. *Fiction*

**Fox, Helen** *Eager*

The Bell family gets a new household robot named EGR3, which is programmed to think and learn on the job. Gavin and Fleur discover that a thinking robot makes life an adventure! *Fiction*

**Frazier, Sundee** *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*

Biracial Brendan Buckley uses his scientific problem-solving ability and his interest in rocks and minerals to connect with his white grandfather, the president of Puyallup Rock Club. 2008 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award winner *Fiction*

**Freeman, Martha** *The Spy Wore Shades*

Eleven-year-old Dougie, living in California's Calaveras County, teams up with 12-year-old Varloo, an emissary from a culture living in underground caves. Together they try to help Varloo's people. *Fiction*

**Funke, Cornelia** *Inkheart*

Sharing her father's gift of the power to bring fictional characters to life, Meggie wants to send the villain Capricorn back between the pages where he belongs. *Fiction*

**Gaiman, Neil** *The Graveyard Book*

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. 2009 Newbery Winner *Fiction*

**Grant, K. M.** *Blood Red Horse*

A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of 2 English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusade. The sequel is *Green Jasper*. *Fiction*

**Griffin, Adele** *Vampire Island*

Siblings Maddy, Lexie, and Hudson Livingstone are vampire-fruit bat hybrids who struggle to adjust to living as humans in New York City while maintaining their vampire strengths. *Fiction*

**Grimes, Nikki** *A Dime a Dozen*

These 28 poems about an African-American girl growing up in New York celebrate family, culture, and self-discovery. *Poetry*

**Grimes, Nikki** *The Road to Paris*

Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, 8-year-old Paris is also apprehensive about her new foster family. Just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision. *Fiction*

**Grogan, John** *Marley: A Dog Like No Other*

Meet Marley, a mischievous, lovable Labrador retriever whose antics and loyalty make him the center of the Grogan family. *Nonfiction*

**Grover, Lorie Ann** *Hold Me Tight*

Essie has trouble finding strength and courage to overcome her feelings of fear, guilt, and shame when her father abandons their family, a classmate is kidnapped, and a family friend molests her. *Fiction*

**Haddix, Margaret** *Among the Hidden*

In a future where the Population Police enforce a law limiting families to only two children, Luke lives in secrecy and fear because he is a "third." He meets another "third" and finds life could be different. *Fiction*

**Hahn, Mary Downing** *The Old Willis Place*

Tired of the rules that have bound them ever since "the bad thing happened," Diana ignores her brother's warnings and befriends the daughter of the new caretaker. She sets in motion events that lead to the release of the spirit of an evil, crazy woman. *Fiction*

**Hale, Shannon** *Book of a Thousand Days*

The princess Lady Saren refuses to marry the prince her father has chosen, so she is locked in a tower with only her maid Dashti as company. They escape to the land of Lady Saren's true love, where they work as kitchen maids to conceal their identities. *Fiction*

**Hale, Shannon** *Princess Academy*

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, 14-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. *Fiction*

**Hamilton, Virginia** *Cousins*

Concerned that her grandmother may die, Cammy is unprepared for the accidental death of another relative. *Fiction*

**Hesse, Karen** *Witness*

Poems express the views of various people including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate their small Vermont town. *Fiction*

**Hiassen, Carl** *Flush*

When their father is jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. *Fiction*

**Higgins, F. E.** *The Black Book of Secrets*

Ludlow Fitch runs away from his thieving parents and meets up with mysterious Joe Zabbidou. Joe takes Ludlow as an apprentice to gather the secrets of the residents of Pagus Parvus, where people are resentful and trust no one. *Fiction*

**Hobbs, Will** *Wild Man Island*

Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the site where his archaeologist father died. Stranded by a storm, he manages to survive and search for traces of early American immigrants. *Fiction*

**Hoeye, Michael** *Time Stops for No Mouse*

Linka Perflinger, a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into Hermux Tantamoq's shop to be repaired and then disappears. Hermux is caught up in a dangerous search for eternal youth as he tries to find out what happened to her. *Fiction*

**Hunter, Erin** *Into the Wild*

Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by the ThunderClan and must struggle to fit in when the group of feral cats is threatened by the enemy ShadowClan. *Fiction*

**Jacques, Brian** *Redwall*

When the peaceful life of Redwall Abbey is shattered by the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, the mouse Matthias seeks the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior. *Fiction*

**Johnson, Angela** *Heaven*

Life in a small Ohio town named Heaven is nearly perfect for 14-year-old Marley, until the truth about her life is revealed. *Fiction*

**Jones, Kimberly** *Sand Dollar Summer*

When Lise spends the summer on an island in Maine with her mother and her bright but mute younger brother, her life is complicated by an aged Indian neighbor, her mother's childhood friend, and a hurricane. *Fiction*

**Jones, Traci** *Standing Against the Wind*

Shy and studious Patrice tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school. There she discovers that she has more options in life than she realized. *Fiction*

**Kadohata, Cynthia** *Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam*

Cracker, a German shepherd trained to sniff bombs and traps, is paired with a young man whose family doubts he can handle infantry life. *Fiction*

**Kerr, Phillip B.** *The Akhenaten Adventure*

When twins Philippa and John discover that they are descended from a long line of djinn, their mother sends them away to their Uncle Nimrod. He takes them to Cairo, where he starts to teach them about their extraordinary powers. *Fiction*

**Kladstrup, Kristin** *The Book of Story Beginnings*

After moving with her parents to Iowa, 12-year-old Lucy discovers a mysterious notebook that brings stories to life. The notebook links her to the 1914 disappearance of her great uncle. *Fiction*

**Konigsburg, E. L.** *Silent to the Bone*

When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, Branwell loses his power of speech. Only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened. *Fiction*

**Korman, Gordon** *The Sixth Grade Nickname Game*

Best friends Jeff and Wiley, who give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl, Cassandra. They must also adjust to the fact that the football coach has become their new teacher. *Fiction*

**Landy, Derek** *Skulduggery Pleasant*

When Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones. *Fiction*

**Law, Ingrid** *Savvy*

Each member of Mibs Beaumont's family has a unique magical power. On the eve of her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mibs learns about her magic and also that her Poppa has been hurt in an accident. What adventures will she face as she tries to reach him? 2009 Newbery Honor Book *Fiction*

**L'Engle, Madeleine** *A Wrinkle in Time; A Wind in the Door; A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

This science-fiction fantasy series chronicles the adventures of the Murray family and their mystical interplanetary journeys. *Fiction*

**Levine, Gail Carson** *Dave at Night*

Orphan Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly. He sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music and culture of the Harlem Renaissance. *Fiction*

**Lowry, Lois** *Number the Stars*

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, 10-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave when she helps shelter her Jewish friend Ellen from the Nazis. *Fiction*

**Lupica, Mike** *The Big Field*

Baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate. He tries to work through his insecurities about Darryl and also about his remote, silent father, who was once a great ballplayer. *Fiction*

**Macaulay, David** *Mosque*

In the 16th century, a wealthy Istanbul man hires an architect to create a mosque. Macaulay's drawings bring a special perspective on Islamic culture. *Nonfiction*

**Mazer, Harry** *A Boy At War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor*

While fishing with friends on December 7, 1941, Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He tries to find his father, a naval officer serving on the U.S.S. Arizona. *Fiction*

**Myers, Walter Dean** *Harlem Summer*

In 1920s Harlem, Mark Purvis gets a summer job as an errand boy for the publishers of "The Crisis." Somehow he finds himself on the enemy list of mobster Dutch Shultz. *Fiction*

**Napoli, Donna Jo** *The King of Mulberry Street*

Dom, a 9-year old stowaway from Naples, Italy, arrives in New York and must learn to survive the perils of street life in the big city. *Fiction*

**Newman, Lesléa** *Hachiko Waits*

Professor Ueno's loyal dog Hachiko waits for him at the Tokyo train station every afternoon. One day the professor has a fatal heart attack at work and does not return. Hachiko continues his vigil for 10 years until he, himself, dies. This touching novel is based on a true story. *Fiction*

**Oppel, Kenneth** *Silverwing*

When a newborn bat named Shade, sometimes called "Runt," becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys. *Fiction*

**Paolini, Christopher** *Eragon*

When the blue stone he finds hatches into a dragon, Eragon is thrust into a perilous new world of magic and power. If he takes up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders, he will save the Empire. *The Inheritance* series continues in *Eldest*. *Fiction*

**Park, Linda Sue** *A Single Shard*

Tree-ear, an orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village. He longs to learn how to create the delicate celadon ceramics. 2002 Newbery Winner *Fiction*

**Patron, Susan** *The Higher Power of Lucky*

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble decides to run away. At the same time, she continues to search for the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life. 2007 Newbery Winner *Fiction*

**Paulsen, Gary** *Hatchet*

After a plane crash, Brian spends 54 days in the wild where he learns to survive both the wilderness and his parents' divorce. Sequels are *The River* and *Brian's Winter*. *Fiction*

**Peacock, Louise** *At Ellis Island: A History in Many Voices*

The experiences of people coming to the United States from different lands are represented in the words of a young girl visiting Ellis Island and of a girl who immigrated to the US in 1910, and in quotes from other immigrants and Ellis Island officials. *Fiction*

**Perkins, Mitali** *First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover*

Sameera Righton was adopted from Pakistan when she was 3. Now her father is running for president. How will Sameera deal with campaign staffers who want to give her a more "all-American" image and with the fake weblog they create for her? *Fiction*

**Pierce, Tamora** *Alanna: The First Adventure*

Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page. She learns many hard lessons on her path to high adventure. *Fiction*

**Prineas, Sarah** *Magic Thief*

A young thief is drawn into a life of magic and adventure after picking the pocket of the powerful wizard Nevery Flinglas, who has returned from exile to try to reverse the decline of magic in Wellmet City. *Fiction*

**Rawls, Wilson** *Where the Red Fern Grows*

A poor southern boy named Billy saves enough money to buy two dogs and tells how he trains them to be champions. This is a warm story with a heartrending ending. *Fiction*

**Rex, Adam** *The True Meaning of Smekday*

When her mother is abducted by aliens on Christmas Eve, Tip heads south to find her. She meets an alien Boov mechanic who agrees to help her and save the planet from disaster. *Fiction*

**Rinaldi, Ann** *Numbering All the Bones*

Eulinda, a house slave on a Georgia plantation, turns to Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, for help in finding her brother Neddy who is rumored to be at Andersonville Prison. *Fiction*

**Riordan, Rick** *The Lightning Thief*

Percy learns that his father is the Greek god Poseidon. At Camp Half Blood Percy is befriended by a satyr and the daughter of Athena. They go to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war. *Fiction*

**Rowling, J. K.** *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young orphan with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. *Fiction*

**Roy, Jennifer** *Yellow Star*

Based on real-life experiences, Jennifer Roy tells of her aunt's struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation, 1939-1945. *Fiction*

**Rubin, Susan Goldman** *Andy Warhol: Pop Art Painter*

Using silk-screens, acrylic paints, and projections, Andy Warhol and his team of helpers took ordinary objects from daily life and transformed them into enormous paintings. *Biography*

**Rumford, James** *Beowulf, A Hero's Tale Retold*

Join the Anglo-Saxon warrior, Beowulf, and find out how he came to defeat the monster Grendel, Grendel's mother, and a dragon. *Nonfiction*

**Sage, Angie** *Magyk*

Thinking they have lost their son, Septimus Heap's parents raise an abandoned newborn baby girl in his place. Ten years later the evil wizard Dom Daniel appears to claim the girl, who is actually a princess. *Fiction*

**Salisbury, Graham** *Under the Blood Red Sun*

Tomi is a Japanese-American living in Hawaii. His life changes dramatically when Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, dividing his family and friends as World War II begins. *Fiction*

**Shusterman, Neal** *The Schwa Was Here*

A Brooklyn 8th-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. *Fiction*

**Sleator, William** *The Duplicate*

David finds a strange machine that creates replicas of living organisms. He duplicates himself and suffers the horrible consequences when his duplicate selves turn against him. *Fiction*

**Sonnenblick, Jordan** *Zen and the Art of Faking It*

When San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he looks for a way to stand out. His knowledge of Zen Buddhism is the answer, so he needs to quickly become a convincing Zen master. *Fiction*

**Soto, Gary** *Taking Sides*

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood. *Fiction*

**Spinelli, Jerry** *Maniac Magee*

Jeffrey Lionel Magee's quickness of mind and foot makes him a folk hero to young people on both sides of a racially divided town. This is a Newbery medal winner. *Fiction*

**Springer, Nancy** *Dussie*

Dusie makes the horrifying discovery that she, like her New York artist mother, is a Gorgon--a Greek mythological monster sprouting snakes from her head, capable of turning humans into stone with one angry look. *Fiction*

**St. John, Lauren** *The White Giraffe*

After a fire kills her parents, Martine leaves England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe. *Fiction*

**Stanley, Diane** *Bella at Midnight*

Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight. She finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and the kingdom forever. *Fiction*

**Staples, Suzanne Fisher** *Shiva's Fire*

In India, a talented dancer sacrifices friends and family for her art. *Fiction*

**Stewart, Trenton** *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

When they pass a series of mind-bending tests, 4 children are selected for a secret mission requiring them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. *Fiction*

**Stolz, Joelle** *The Shadows of Ghadames*

At the end of the 19th century in Libya, 11-year-old Malika simultaneously enjoys and feels constricted by the narrow world of women, until an injured stranger enters her home and disrupts the traditional order of things. *Fiction*

**Stroud, Jonathan** *The Amulet of Samarkand*

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, is caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland. Nathaniel's adventures continue in *The Golem's Eye* and *Ptolemy's Gate*. *Fiction*

**Taylor, Mildred D.** *The Mississippi Bridge*

In the 1930's, Jeremy, a white boy, observes black passengers getting off the bus to make room for whites. When the bus crashes, he and his black neighbors rush to rescue passengers from the river. *Fiction*

**Taylor, Theodore** *The Cay*

When a German submarine torpedoes their freighter during World War II, a white boy and an elderly black man are stranded on a small desert island in the Caribbean. *Fiction*

**Tolkien, J. R. R.** *The Hobbit*

A well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, lives happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard grants his wish for adventure. *Fiction*

**Tunnell, Michael** *Wishing Moon*

When the orphan Aminah happens upon a magic lamp--complete with a stubborn genie--she finds she'd rather use her wishes to help others. But what will happen if the princess finds her and the lamp? *Fiction*

**Turner, Megan Whelan** *The King of Attolia*

Eugenides, known as the Thief of Eddis, faces palace intrigue and assassins as he strives to prove himself to the people of Attolia and to his new bride, their queen. This is the sequel to *The Thief* and *The Queen of Attolia*. *Fiction*

**Vande Velde, Vivian** *Heir Apparent*

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, Giannine finds that the game equipment has been damaged, and she must win quickly or be damaged herself. *Fiction*

**Voigt, Cynthia** *Homecoming*

Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity. Other books about the Tillerman family are *Dacey's Song* and *Sons from Afar*. *Fiction*

**Walker, Alice** *Why War Is Never a Good Idea*

In Walker's poem, community after community around the world is destroyed by war, demolishing beauty and humanity. *Nonfiction*

**Weeks, Sarah** *So B. It.*

Heidi discovers old photos of her mother in front of the Hilltop Home for the Disabled in Liberty, New York. She goes on a cross-country bus trip, and is stunned to find out about the family she has never known. *Fiction*

**Wetter, Bruce** *The Boy with the Lamp Shade on His Head*

Shy 5th-grader Stanley Krakow spends his time trying not to be noticed but pretending to be a superhero or a record-breaking athlete. One day he meets someone who needs him to be a real hero. *Fiction*

**Whittenberg, Allison** *Sweet Thang*

In 1975, life is not fair for Charmaine Upshaw, who shares a room with her brother, tries to impress a handsome classmate, and acts as caretaker for a rambunctious 6-year-old cousin who has taken over the family. *Fiction*

**Williams, Mary** *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*

After war destroys their villages in southern Sudan, a young boy unites with thousands of other orphaned boys to walk more than 1,000 miles to the safety of a refugee camp in Kenya. This moving picture book for older readers is based on true events. *Fiction*

**Wilson, Nathan D.** *Leepike Ridge*

Tom is presumed dead after drifting away down a river. He finds himself trapped in underground caves with another survivor and a dog and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters. *Fiction*

**Woodson, Jacqueline** *I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*

The power of friendship transcends many barriers. Marie and Lena are drawn to each other through their shared troubles even though they are separated by race and status. *Fiction*

**Wrede, Patricia** *Dealing with Dragons*

Fed up with life as a medieval princess, Cimorene runs away to become a dragon's princess and encounters many adventures involving a witch, a jinn, disreputable wizards, and, of course, lots of dragons. *Fiction*