The pages that follow include every winner and honor book for the prestigious Newbery Medal since 2000. Many of the titles are more appropriate for younger middle school students, though there are also many that should prove appropriate for most of our students. Those titles that are for children younger than those in middle school have been omitted. This document is structured for casual browsing; there’s something for everyone, and simply looking around will help you stumble across a high quality book.

“The Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.”
2016

Newbery Medal Winner:
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña - (Picture Book; School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr K-2)

Newbery Medal Honor Books:
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

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2015

Newbery Medal Winner:
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Newbery Medal Honor Books:
- *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

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2014

Newbery Medal Winner:
- *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo

Newbery Medal Honor Books:
- *Doll Bones* by Holly Black
- *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes - (School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 1-3)
- *One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake
- *Paperboy* by Vince Vawter

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2013

Newbery Medal Winner:
- *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

Newbery Medal Honor Books:
- *Splendors and Glooms* by Laura Amy Schlitz
- *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin
- *Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage

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2012

Newbery Medal Winner:
- *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos

Newbery Medal Honor Books:
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *Breaking Stalin’s Nose* by Eugene Yelchin

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2011

Newbery Medal Winner:
- *Moon over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool

Newbery Medal Honor Books:
- *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm
- *Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus
- *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night* by Joyce Sidman
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

**2010**

**Newbery Medal Winner:**
- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

**Newbery Medal Honor Books:**
- *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose
- *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
- *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick

**2009**

**Newbery Medal Winner:**

**Newbery Medal Honor Books:**
- *The Underneath* by Kathi Appelt
- *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* by Margarita Engle
- *Savvy* by Ingrid Law
- *After Tupac & D Foster* by Jacqueline Woodson

**2008**

**Newbery Medal Winner:**
- *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz

**Newbery Medal Honor Books:**
- *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt
- *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson

**2007**

**Newbery Medal Winner:**
- *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron

**Newbery Medal Honor Books:**
- *Penny from Heaven* by Jennifer L. Holm
- *Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

**2006**

**Newbery Medal Winner:**
- *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins

**Newbery Medal Honor Books:**
- *Whittington* by Alan Armstrong
- *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale
Newbery Medal Winner:

- Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Newbery Medal Honor Books:

- Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
- The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman
- Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

Newbery Medal Winner:

- The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo

Newbery Medal Honor Books:

- Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes
- An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy

Newbery Medal Winner:

- Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi

Newbery Medal Honor Books:

- The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
- Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- A Corner of The Universe by Ann M. Martin
- Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan

Newbery Medal Winner:

- A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Newbery Medal Honor Books:

- Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath
- Carver: A Life In Poems by Marilyn Nelson

Newbery Medal Winner:

- A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

Newbery Medal Honor Books:

- Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer
- Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
- Joey Pigza Loses Control by Jack Gantos
- The Wanderer by Sharon Creech
2000

**Newbery Medal Winner:**
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

**Newbery Medal Honor Books:**
- *Getting Near to Baby* by Audrey Couloumbis
- *Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer L. Holm
- *26 Fairmount Avenue* by Tomie dePaola - Picture Book (6+)
The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2016
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-6
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 9+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War 2, from the acclaimed author of Jefferson’s Sons and for fans of Number the Stars. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada’s twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn’t waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother? This masterful work of historical fiction is equal parts adventure and a moving tale of family and identity—a classic in the making.”

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson (Graphic Novel)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2016
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 8+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school… in short, strong enough to be a roller girl. In this graphic novel debut that earned a Newbery Honor and five starred reviews, real-life derby girl Victoria Jamieson has created an inspiring coming-of-age story about friendship, perseverance, and girl power!”
Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2016
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 11+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo. Richly imagined and masterfully crafted, this impassioned, uplifting, and virtuosic tour de force will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck.”

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2015
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-10
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 9+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “'With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering,' announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.”
**El Deafo by Cece Bell (Fiction)**

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2015
- **Amazon Link**
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 2-6
- **Common Sense Media Link**
  
  - age 9+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“A 2015 Newbery Honor Book Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn’t—but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become “El Deafo, Listener for All.” And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she’s longed for.”

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**Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (Poetry)**

- National Book Award **Winner**, 2014
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2015
- **Amazon Link**
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 10 and up; Grade Level: 5 and up”
- **Common Sense Media Link**
  
  - age 10+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child’s soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson’s eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.”
Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo (Fiction/Graphic Novel)

- Newbery Medal Winner, 2014
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 3-7
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- age 8+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
“It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!* is just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry — and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart. From #1 *New York Times* best-selling author Kate DiCamillo comes a laugh-out-loud story filled with eccentric, endearing characters and featuring an exciting new format — a novel interspersed with comic-style graphic sequences and full-page illustrations, all rendered in black-and-white by up-and-coming artist K. G. Campbell.”

Doll Bones by Holly Black (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2014
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- age 10+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
“Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been friends forever. And for almost as long, they’ve been playing one continuous, ever-changing game of pirates and thieves, mermaids and warriors. Ruling over all is the Great Queen, a bone-china doll cursing those who displease her. But they are in middle school now. Zach’s father pushes him to give up make-believe, and Zach quits the game. Their friendship might be over, until Poppy declares she’s been having dreams about the Queen—and the ghost of a girl who will not rest until the bone-china doll is buried in her empty grave. Zach and Alice and Poppy set off on one last adventure to lay the Queen’s ghost to rest. But nothing goes according to plan, and as their adventure turns into an epic journey, creepy things begin to happen. Is the doll just a doll or something more sinister? And if there really is a ghost, will it let them go now that it has them in its clutches?”
**One Came Home** by Amy Timberlake (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2014
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 10+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
“In the town of Placid, Wisconsin, in 1871, Georgie Burkhardt is known for two things: her uncanny aim with a rifle and her habit of speaking her mind plainly. But when Georgie blurts out something she shouldn't, her older sister Agatha flees, running off with a pack of "pigeoners" trailing the passenger pigeon migration. And when the sheriff returns to town with an unidentifiable body—wearing Agatha's blue-green ball gown—everyone assumes the worst. Except Georgie. Refusing to believe the facts that are laid down (and coffined) before her, Georgie sets out on a journey to find her sister. She will track every last clue and shred of evidence to bring Agatha home. Yet even with resolute determination and her trusty Springfield single-shot, Georgie is not prepared for what she faces on the western frontier.”

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**Paperboy** by Vince Vawter (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2014
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-9
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 12+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
“Little Man throws the meanest fastball in town. But talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering—not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend’s paper route for the month of July, he’s not exactly looking forward to interacting with the customers. But it’s the neighborhood junkman, a bully and thief, who stirs up real trouble in Little Man’s life.”
**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal **Winner**, 2013
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-6
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- Age 8+
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes. In the tradition of timeless stories like *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*, Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create an unforgettable story of friendship, art, and hope. This paperback edition includes an author's note highlighting the differences between the fictional story and true events, a version of the author's Newbery Medal acceptance speech, Ivan's "signature," discussion questions, and more. *The One and Only Ivan* is a strong Common Core title that features these important strands and standards: first-person narrative; author's use of literary devices (personification, imagery); story elements (plot, character development, perspective).”

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**Splendors and Glooms** by Laura Amy Schlitz (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2013
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-8
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- Age 11+
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “The master puppeteer, Gaspare Grisini, is so expert at manipulating his stringed puppets that they appear alive. Clara Wintermute, the only child of a wealthy doctor, is spellbound by Grisini’s act and invites him to entertain at her birthday party. Seeing his chance to make a fortune, Grisini accepts and makes a splendidly gaudy entrance with caravan, puppets, and his two orphaned assistants. Lizzie Rose and Parsefall are dazzled by the Wintermute home. Clara seems to have everything they lack — adoring parents, warmth, and plenty to eat. In fact, Clara’s life is shadowed by grief, guilt, and secrets. When Clara vanishes that night, suspicion of kidnapping falls upon the puppeteer and, by association, Lizzie Rose and Parsefall. As they seek to puzzle out Clara’s whereabouts, Lizzie and Parse uncover Grisini’s criminal past and wake up to his evil intentions. Fleeing London, they find themselves caught in a trap set by Grisini’s ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it’s too late. Newbery Medal winner Laura Amy Schlitz’s Victorian gothic is a rich banquet of dark comedy, scorching magic, and the brilliant and bewitching storytelling that is her trademark.”
**Bomb: The Race to Build - and Steal- the World's Most Dangerous Weapon** by Steve Sheinkin (Nonfiction)

- YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction **Winner**, 2013
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2013
- National Book Award Finalist, 2012
- National Book Foundation Link
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5 Up
- Common Sense Media Link
- **Age: 12+**

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.”

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**Three Times Lucky** by Sheila Turnage (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2013
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 10 and up; Grade Level: 5 and up”
- Common Sense Media Link
- **Age: 10+**

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Rising sixth grader Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. Although Mo hopes someday to find her "upstream mother," she's found a home with the Colonel--a café owner with a forgotten past of his own--and Miss Lana, the fabulous café hostess. She will protect those she loves with every bit of her strong will and tough attitude. So when a lawman comes to town asking about a murder, Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth in hopes of saving the only family Mo has ever known. Full of wisdom, humor, and grit, this timeless yarn will melt the heart of even the sternest Yankee.”
Dead End in Norvelt (Norvelt Series) by Jack Gantos (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Winner, 2012
- Sequel to From Norvelt to Nowhere, a 6th grade recommendation in 2016
- Jack Gantos is also the author of Joey Pigza Loses Control, a Newbery Medal Honor Book in 2001
- Amazon Link
- Common Sense Media Link

- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Melding the entirely true and the wildly fictional, Dead End in Norvelt is a novel about an incredible two months for a kid named Jack Gantos, whose plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents, and whose nose spews bad blood at every little shock he gets. But plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, Eleanor Roosevelt, twisted promises, a homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, a dancing plague, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder. Endlessly surprising, this sly, sharp-edged narrative is the author at his very best, making readers laugh out loud at the most unexpected things in a dead-funny depiction of growing up in a slightly off-kilter place where the past is present, the present is confusing, and the future is completely up in the air.”

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai (Fiction)

- National Book Award Winner, 2011
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2012
- National Book Foundation Link
- Amazon Link
- Common Sense Media Link

- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Inspired by the author's childhood experience of fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama, this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America. This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four starred reviews, including one from Kirkus which proclaimed it "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny."”
**Breaking Stalin's Nose** by Eugene Yelchin (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2012
- [Amazon Link](#)
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 9-12”
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
  - [Age 12+](#)
  - ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Sasha Zaichik has known the laws of the Soviet Young Pioneers since the age of six: The Young Pioneer is devoted to Comrade Stalin, the Communist Party, and Communism. A Young Pioneer is a reliable comrade and always acts according to conscience. A Young Pioneer has a right to criticize shortcomings. But now that it is finally time to join the Young Pioneers, the day Sasha has awaited for so long, everything seems to go awry. He breaks a classmate's glasses with a snowball. He accidentally damages a bust of Stalin in the school hallway. And worst of all, his father, the best Communist he knows, was arrested just last night. Eugene Yelchin's moving story of a ten-year-old boy's world shattering is masterful in its simplicity, powerful in its message, and heartbreaking in its plausibility.”

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**Moon over Manifest** by Clare Vanderpool (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal **Winner**, 2011
- [Amazon Link](#)
- [School Library Journal Review](#), via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
  - [Age 10+](#)
  - ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. Having heard stories about Manifest, Abilene is disappointed to find that it’s just a dried-up, worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to excitement when she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos, including some old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends, Lettie and Ruthanne, on an honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to “Leave Well Enough Alone.” Abilene throws all caution aside when she heads down the mysterious Path to Perdition to pay a debt to the reclusive Miss Sadie, a diviner who only tells stories from the past. It seems that Manifest’s history is full of colorful and shadowy characters—and long-held secrets. The more Abilene hears, the more determined she is to learn just what role her father played in that history. And as Manifest’s secrets are laid bare one by one, Abilene begins to weave her own story into the fabric of the town. Powerful in its simplicity and rich in historical detail, Clare Vanderpool’s debut is a gripping story of loss and redemption.”
**Turtle in Paradise** by Jennifer L. Holm (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2011
- [Amazon Link](#)
- Amazon Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link
- ![image](image)
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “In Jennifer L. Holm's New York Times bestselling, Newbery Honor winning middle grade historical fiction novel, life isn't like the movies. But then again, 11-year-old Turtle is no Shirley Temple. She's smart and tough and has seen enough of the world not to expect a Hollywood ending. After all, it's 1935 and jobs and money and sometimes even dreams are scarce. So when Turtle's mama gets a job housekeeping for a lady who doesn't like kids, Turtle says goodbye without a tear and heads off to Key West, Florida to live with relatives she's never met. Florida's like nothing Turtle's ever seen before though. It's hot and strange, full of rag tag boy cousins, family secrets, scams, and even buried pirate treasure! Before she knows what's happened, Turtle finds herself coming out of the shell she's spent her life building, and as she does, her world opens up in the most unexpected ways. Filled with adventure, humor and heart, *Turtle in Paradise* is an instant classic both boys and girls with love.”

**Heart of a Samurai** by Margi Preus (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2011
- [Amazon Link](#)
- [School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5 Up](#)
- Common Sense Media Link
- ![image](image)
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “In 1841 a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is forced to swim to a small, unknown island, where they are rescued by a passing American ship. Japan’s borders remain closed to all Western nations, so the crew sets off to America, learning English on the way. Manjiro, a 14-year-old boy, is curious and eager to learn everything he can about this new culture. Eventually the captain adopts Manjiro and takes him to his home in New England. The boy lives there for some time and then heads to San Francisco to pan for gold. After many years, he makes it back to Japan, only to be imprisoned as an outsider. With his hard-won knowledge of the West, Manjiro is in a unique position to persuade the emperor to ease open the boundaries around Japan; he may even achieve his unlikely dream of becoming a samurai.”
**Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night** by Joyce Sidman (Poetry)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2011
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 3-6
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  
  “Welcome to the night, where mice stir and furry moths flutter. Where snails spiral into shells as orb spiders circle in silk. Where the roots of oak trees recover and repair from their time in the light. Where the porcupette eats delicacies—raspberry leaves!—and coos and sings. Come out to the cool, night wood, and buzz and hoot and howl—but do beware of the great horned owl—for it’s wild and it’s windy way out in the woods! This Newbery Honor-winning picture book combines beautifully written poetry with facts of the forest and elaborate illustrations to form a marvelously engaging collection.”

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**One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia (Fiction)

- National Book Award Finalist, 2010
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2011
- Rita Williams-Garcia is also the author of *[Jumped](#)*, a National Book Award Finalist in 2009
- [National Book Foundation Link](#)
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-7
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- **Age:** 11+
- **Rating:** ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. When they arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with her, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.”
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2010
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 9+
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “This remarkable novel holds a fantastic puzzle at its heart. By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. Like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.”

Claudette Colvin: Twice toward Justice by Phillip Hoose (Nonfiction)
- National Book Award Winner, 2009
- YALSA’s Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist, 2010
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2010
- Phillip Hoose is also the author of of Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95, YALSA’s Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist in 2013, and We Were There Too! Young People in U.S. History, a National Book Award Finalist in 2001
- National Book Foundation Link
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6 Up
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 13+
- Synopsis, via Common Sense Media:
  “Claudette Colvin stood up to the unfairness of the Jim Crow laws months before Rosa Parks, yet history has largely forgotten all about her. Before Parks refused to give up her seat, 15-year-old Colvin stood firm and was dragged off the bus, handcuffed, and thrown into adult prison. Her story should have been a rallying point for the civil rights movement, but Colvin was instead largely criticized and labeled "emotional" because of her stand. Despite personal problems, alienation from peers and adults, and intimidation Colvin did whatever she could to stand up for her rights and the rights of African Americans.”

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The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2010
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 10+ ★★★★★☆

Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
“Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. With a little help from her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist, she figures out that the green grasshoppers are easier to see against the yellow grass, so they are eaten before they can get any larger. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century. Debut author Jacqueline Kelly deftly brings Callie and her family to life, capturing a year of growing up with unique sensitivity and a wry wit.”

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2010
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 3-6
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 10+ ★★★★★☆

Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
“In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer. Grace Lin, author of the beloved Year of the Dog and Year of the Rat, returns with a wondrous story of adventure, faith, and friendship. A fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon is a timeless story reminiscent of The Wizard of Oz. Her beautiful illustrations, printed in full-color, accompany the text throughout. Once again, she has created a charming, engaging book for young readers.”
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2010
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 10+
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “In this Newbery Honor-winning page-turner, twelve-year-old orphan Homer runs away from Pine Swamp, Maine, to find his older brother, Harold, who has been sold into the Union Army. With laugh-aloud humor, Homer outwits and outruns a colorful assortment of civil War-era thieves, scallywags, and spies as he makes his way south, following clues that finally lead him to Gettysburg. Even through a hail of gunfire, Homer never loses heart--but will he find his brother? Or will it be too late? With engaging wit and comical repartee reminiscent of Mark Twain, master storyteller Rodman Philbrick introduces us to the unforgettable character of Homer in his latest groundbreaking novel.”

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2009
- An 8th Grade Recommendation in 2016
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 9+
- Synopsis, via Common Sense Media:
  “On the night Jack murders a family in their beds, their toddler runs out into the night, pursued by the murderer, and finds his way into a cemetery. The ghosts there chase away the murderer and, after much argument, decide to raise the boy. They name him Nobody, Bod for short. As long as Bod stays in the cemetery they can protect him from Jack, who is still searching for him. But a growing boy, even one who is granted the Freedom of the Graveyard, eventually needs contact with the living world -- and it is the world of the living that holds the most danger for Bod.”
- What Thayer students are saying:
  “You should read this book if you enjoy mystery.”
The Underneath by Kathi Appelt (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2009
- National Book Award Finalist, 2008
- Kathi Appelt is also the author of The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp, a National Book Award Finalist in 2013
- National Book Foundation Link
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 11+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath. Kittens, however, are notoriously curious creatures. And one kitten's one moment of curiosity sets off a chain of events that is astonishing, remarkable, and enormous in its meaning. For everyone who loves Sounder, Shiloh, and The Yearling, for everyone who loves the haunting beauty of writers such as Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Flannery O'Connor, and Carson McCullers, Kathi Appelt spins a harrowing yet keenly sweet tale about the power of love -- and its opposite, hate -- the fragility of happiness and the importance of making good on your promises.”

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle (Poetry)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2009
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 9 Up
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 11+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “It is 1896. Cuba has fought three wars for independence and still is not free. People have been rounded up in reconcentration camps with too little food and too much illness. Rosa is a nurse, but she dares not go to the camps. So she turns hidden caves into hospitals for those who know how to find her. Black, white, Cuban, Spanish—Rosa does her best for everyone. Yet who can heal a country so torn apart by war? Acclaimed poet Margarita Engle has created another breathtaking portrait of Cuba.”
**Savvy** by Ingrid Law (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2009
- A 7th Grade Recommendation in 2016
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-7
- Common Sense Media Link

- **Synopsis, via Common Sense Media:**
  “The Beaumonts are an unusual family. On their 13th birthdays (and sometimes before then) each family member gets their savvy -- an unpredictable special ability that runs in their family. One of Mibs's brothers causes storms and another generates electricity, and neither is able to control his savvy too well yet. Now Mibs is about to turn thirteen, and they all wonder what her savvy will be. But just before her birthday, her father is in a car accident, and now lies in a coma in the hospital. And Mibs just hopes that whatever her savvy is, it will be something that can save him.”

- **What Thayer students are saying:**
  “You should read this book if you like make-believe books.”

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**After Tupac & D Foster** by Jacqueline Woodson (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2009
- Amazon Link
- Common Sense Media Link

- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend’s lives, the world opens up for them. Suddenly they’re keenly aware of things beyond their block in Queens, things that are happening in the world—like the shooting of Tupac Shakur—and in search of their Big Purpose in life. When—all too soon—D’s mom swoops in to reclaim her, and Tupac dies, they are left with a sense of how quickly things can change and how even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.”
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz
(Drama/Poetry)

- Newbery Medal Winner, 2008
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 10 - 14; Grade Level: 5 - 9”
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Maidens, monks, and millers’ sons — in these pages, readers will meet them all. There’s Hugo, the lord’s nephew, forced to prove his manhood by hunting a wild boar; sharp-tongued Nelly, who supports her family by selling live eels; and the peasant’s daughter, Mogg, who gets a clever lesson in how to save a cow from a greedy landlord. There’s also mud-slinging Barbary (and her noble victim); Jack, the compassionate half-wit; Alice, the singing shepherdess; and many more. With a deep appreciation for the period and a grand affection for both characters and audience, Laura Amy Schlitz creates twenty-two riveting portraits and linguistic gems equally suited to silent reading or performance. Illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings by Robert Byrd — inspired by the Munich-Nuremberg manuscript, an illuminated poem from thirteenth-century Germany — this witty, historically accurate, and utterly human collection forms an exquisite bridge to the people and places of medieval England.”

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2008
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 9+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border. He's the first child in town to be born free, and he ought to be famous just for that. Unfortunately, all that most people see is a "fra-gile" boy who's scared of snakes and talks too much. But everything changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Now it's up to Elijah to track down the thief--and his dangerous journey just might make a hero out of him, if only he can find the courage to get back home.”
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2008
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 10 - 12; Grade Level: 5 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link
- 🟢 age 10+

Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
“Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn’t like Holling—he’s sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.”

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2008
- Jacqueline Woodson is also the author of Brown Girl Dreaming, the National Book Award Winner in 2014, After Tupac & D Foster, a Newbery Medal Honor Book in 2009, Locomotion, a National Book Award Finalist in 2003, and Hush, a National Book Award Finalist in 2002
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-7
- Common Sense Media Link
- 🟢 age 10+

Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
“Hope is the thing with feathers” starts the poem Frannie is reading in school. Frannie hasn’t thought much about hope. There are so many other things to think about. Each day, her friend Samantha seems a bit more “holy.” There is a new boy in class everyone is calling the Jesus Boy. And although the new boy looks like a white kid, he says he’s not white. Who is he? During a winter full of surprises, good and bad, Frannie starts seeing a lot of things in a new light—her brother Sean’s deafness, her mother’s fear, the class bully’s anger, her best friend’s faith and her own desire for “the thing with feathers.” Jacqueline Woodson once again takes readers on a journey into a young girl’s heart and reveals the pain and the joy of learning to look beneath the surface.”
**The Higher Power of Lucky** by Susan Patron (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal **Winner**, 2007
- **Amazon Link**
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-6
- **Common Sense Media Link**
- ![Age 9+](https://example.com)
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com**:
  “Lucky, age ten, can’t wait another day. The meanness gland in her heart and the crevices full of questions in her brain make running away from Hard Pan, California (population 43), the rock-bottom only choice she has. It’s all Brigitte’s fault—for wanting to go back to France. Guardians are supposed to stay put and look after girls in their care! Instead Lucky is sure that she’ll be abandoned to some orphanage in Los Angeles where her beloved dog, HMS Beagle, won’t be allowed. She’ll have to lose her friends Miles, who lives on cookies, and Lincoln, future U.S. president (maybe) and member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. Just as bad, she’ll have to give up eavesdropping on twelve-step anonymous programs where the interesting talk is all about Higher Powers. Lucky needs her own—and quick. But she hadn’t planned on a dust storm. Or needing to lug the world’s heaviest survival-kit backpack into the desert.”

**Penny from Heaven** by Jennifer L. Holm (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal **Honor Book**, 2007
- **Amazon Link**
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-7
- **Common Sense Media Link**
- ![Age 9+](https://example.com)
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com**:
  “It’s 1953 and 11-year-old Penny dreams of a summer of butter pecan ice cream, swimming, and baseball. But nothing’s that easy in Penny’s family. For starters, she can’t go swimming because her mother’s afraid she’ll catch polio at the pool. To make matters worse, her dog, Scarlett O'Hara, is sick. Her favorite uncle is living in a car. Her best friend is turning into a criminal. And no one will tell Penny the truth about how her father died. Inspired by three time Newbery Honor winner Jennifer Holm’s own Italian American family, Penny from Heaven is a story about families—about the things that tear them apart and the things that bring them back together.”
**Hattie Big Sky** by Kirby Larson (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2007
- [Amazon Link](#)
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 12 and up; Grade Level: 7 and up”
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)

- ✔️ age 10+ ★★★★★

- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “Alone in the world, teen-aged Hattie is driven to prove up on her uncle's homesteading claim. For years, sixteen-year-old Hattie's been shuttled between relatives. Tired of being Hattie Here-and-There, she courageously leaves Iowa to prove up on her late uncle's homestead claim near Vida, Montana. With a stubborn stick-to-itiveness, Hattie faces frost, drought and blizzards. Despite many hardships, Hattie forges ahead, sharing her adventures with her friends--especially Charlie, fighting in France--through letters and articles for her hometown paper. Her backbreaking quest for a home is lightened by her neighbors, the Muellers. But she feels threatened by pressure to be a "Loyal" American, forbidding friendships with folks of German descent. Despite everything, Hattie's determined to stay until a tragedy causes her to discover the true meaning of home.”

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**Rules** by Cynthia Lord (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2007
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-7
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)

- ✔️ age 9+ ★★★★★

- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?”
**Criss Cross** by Lynne Rae Perkins (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal **Winner**, 2006
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-9
- Common Sense Media Link
- ✔️ age 10+
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “She wished something would happen. Something good. To her. Checking her wish for loopholes, she found one. Hoping it wasn't too late, she thought the word *soon.* Meanwhile, in another part of town, he felt as if the world was opening. Life was rearranging itself, bulging in places, fraying in spots. He felt himself changing, too, but into what? So much can happen in a summer.”

**Whittington** by Alan Armstrong (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2006
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-6
- Common Sense Media Link
- ✔️ age 8+
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “This Newbery-Honor winning tale introduces Whittington, a roughneck Tom who arrives one day at a barn full of rescued animals and asks for a place there. He spins for the animals—as well as for Ben and Abby, the kids whose grandfather does the rescuing—a yarn about his ancestor, the nameless cat who brought Dick Whittington to the heights of wealth and power in 16th-century England. This is an unforgettable tale about the healing, transcendent power of storytelling, and how learning to read saves one little boy.”

**Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Nonfiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2006
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- **Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “In her first full-length nonfiction title since winning the Robert F. Sibert Award, Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores the riveting and often chilling story of Germany's powerful Hitler Youth groups. "I begin with the young. We older ones are used up... But my magnificent youngsters! Look at these men and boys! What material! With them, I can create a new world." --Adolf Hitler, Nuremberg 1933. By the time Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. It would become the largest youth group in history. Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people. Her research includes telling interviews with surviving Hitler Youth members.”

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**Princess Academy** by Shannon Hale (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2006
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-9
- Common Sense Media Link
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Miri lives on a mountain where, for generations, her ancestors have lived a simple life. Then word comes that the king's priests have divined her village the home of the future princess. In a year's time, the prince will choose his bride from among the village girls. The king's ministers set up an academy on the mountain, and every teenage girl must attend and learn how to become a princess. Soon Miri finds herself confronted with a harsh academy mistress, bitter competition among the girls, and her own conflicting desires. Winning the contest could give her everything she ever wanted—but it would mean leaving her home and family behind. Packaged with a fresh cover, this timelessly charming, award-winning story from best-selling author Shannon Hale is sure to enchant a whole new generation of readers.”

**Kira-Kira** by Cynthia Kadohata (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal **Winner**, 2005
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “kira-kira (kee ra kee ra): glittering; shining Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- kira-kira -- in the future.”
Al Capone Does My Shirts (Al Capone Series) by Gennifer Choldenko (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2005
- A 6th Grade Recommendation in 2016
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-8
- Common Sense Media Link

- age 11+ ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

**Synopsis, via Common Sense Media:**
“Seventh-grader Moose Flanagan has just moved to Alcatraz, where his father is working two jobs to try to enroll Moose's autistic older sister, Natalie, in a special school. Moose desperately wants his family to be "normal," but that's difficult when your older sister acts like a needy preschooler and you live on an island populated with the worst of the worst. His parents are focused on work and Natalie's needs, forcing Moose to fend for himself and his sister. He chafes at his responsibilities and gets caught up in the schemes of the warden's troublemaking daughter, Piper. When he accidentally puts Natalie at risk, however, he finds the courage to help his family come closer together -- and ask Al Capone to help Natalie. Includes labeled photo of Alcatraz Island and an Author's Note with footnotes.”

- **What Thayer students are saying:**
“Your should read this book if you like books about the early 1900s.”

The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2005
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-9

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
“"A voice like yours," celebrated conductor Arturo Toscanini told contralto Marian Anderson, "is heard once in a hundred years." This insightful account of the great African American vocalist considers her life and musical career in the context of the history of civil rights in this country. Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other contemporary accounts, Russell Freedman shows readers a singer pursuing her art despite the social constraints that limited the careers of black performers in the 1920s and 1930s. Though not a crusader or a spokesperson by nature, Marian Anderson came to stand for all black artists -- and for all Americans of color -- when, with the help of such prominent figures as Eleanor Roosevelt, she gave her landmark 1939 performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, which signaled the end of segregation in the arts. Carefully researched, expertly told, and profusely illustrated with contemporary photographs, this Newbery Honor and Sibert Medal-winning book is a moving account of the life of a talented and determined artist who left her mark on musical and social history. Through her story, Newbery Medal-winning author Russell Freedman, one of today's leading authors of nonfiction for young readers, illuminates the social and political climate of the day and an important chapter in American history.”

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**Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy** by Gary D. Schmidt (Fiction)
- Printz Award Honor Book, 2005
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2005
- Gary D. Schmidt is also the author of *Okay for Now*, a National Book Award Finalist in 2011
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-9
- Common Sense Media Link
- ** Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “It only takes a few hours for Turner Buckminster to start hating Phippsburg, Maine. No one in town will let him forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. Despite his father's-and the town's-disapproval of their friendship, Turner spends time with Lizzie, and it opens up a whole new world to him, filled with the mystery and wonder of Maine's rocky coast. The two soon discover that the town elders, along with Turner's father, want to force the people to leave Lizzie's island so that Phippsburg can start a lucrative tourist trade there. Turner gets caught up in a spiral of disasters that alter his life-but also lead him to new levels of acceptance and maturity. This sensitively written historical novel, based on the true story of a community's destruction, highlights a unique friendship during a time of change.”

**The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread** by Kate DiCamillo (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2004
- Kate DiCamillo is also the author of *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a Newbery Medal Honor Book in 2001
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 3 Up
- Common Sense Media Link
- ** Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
  “Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: Reader, it is your destiny to find out.”
**Olive's Ocean** by Kevin Henkes (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2004
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 11+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Sometimes life can change in an instant. Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends, but they weren't. Weeks after a tragic accident, all that is left are eerie connections between the two girls, former classmates who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now, even while on vacation at the ocean, Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. Things only get more complicated when Martha begins to like Jimmy Manning, a neighbor boy she used to despise. What is going on? Can life for Martha be the same ever again?”

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**An American Plague: The Time and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793** by Jim Murphy (Fiction)

- National Book Award Finalist, 2003
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2004
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-10

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“1793, Philadelphia. The nation's capital and the largest city in North America is devastated by an apparently incurable disease, cause unknown . . . In a powerful, dramatic narrative, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices. Drawing on first-hand accounts, Murphy spotlights the heroic role of Philadelphia's free blacks in combating the disease, and the Constitutional crisis that President Washington faced when he was forced to leave the city--and all his papers--while escaping the deadly contagion. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege.”
Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal **Winner**, 2003
- [Amazon Link](#)
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3-7”
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- age 9+
- ![Rating Stars](#)

**Synopsis, via Common Sense Media:**
“In 1300s England, the night after Crispin's mother dies, he overhears a conversation between John Aycliffe, steward of the manor, and a stranger. Suddenly he finds himself hunted, accused of theft. When the priest who tries to help him turns up dead, Crispin is also accused of murder. Fleeing the village in which he has spent his entire life, he takes up with a wandering juggler called Bear. Still pursued by Aycliffe and his men, they try to lose themselves in a large town, Great Wexly, where Bear has secret plans to meet with the revolutionary, John Ball. Crispin is thrilled just to see such a big town. But there is more to his past than he knows, and a much bigger reason why Aycliffe is so determined to kill him.”

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer (Fiction)

- National Book Award **Winner**, 2002
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2003
- Printz Award Honor Book, 2003
- [Amazon Link](#)
- [Common Sense Media Link](#)
- age 11+
- ![Rating Stars](#)

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**
“Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium--a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster--except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón's power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacrán Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.”
Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2003
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 4-7
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, she’ll do everything in her power to make sure they stay together.”

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2003
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 10 and up; Grade Level: 5 and up”
- Common Sense Media Link
- age 10+ ★★★★★
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Roy Eberhardt is the new kid--again. This time around it's Trace Middle School in humid Coconut Grove, Florida. But it's still the same old routine: table by himself at lunch, no real friends, and thick-headed bullies like Dana Matherson pushing him around. But if it wasn't for Dana Matherson mashing his face against the school bus window that one day, he might never have seen the tow-headed running boy. And if he had never seen the running boy, he might never have met tall, tough, bully-beating Beatrice. And if he had never met Beatrice, he might never have discovered the burrowing owls living in the lot on the corner of East Oriole Avenue. And if he had never discovered the owls, he probably would have missed out on the adventure of a lifetime. Apparently, bullies do serve a greater purpose in the scope of the universe. Because if it wasn't for Dana Matherson...”

A Corner of The Universe by Ann M. Martin (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2003
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “The summer Hattie turns 12, her predictable small town life is turned on end when her uncle Adam returns home for the first time in over ten years. Hattie has never met him, never known about him. He's been institutionalized; his condition involves schizophrenia and autism. Hattie, a shy girl who prefers the company of adults, takes immediately to her excitable uncle, even when the rest of the family -- her parents and grandparents -- have trouble dealing with his intense way of seeing the world. And Adam, too, sees that Hattie is special, that her quiet, shy ways are not a disability.”
Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2003
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Common Sense Media Link
- ✔️ age 10+
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Will anyone take on Jake Semple? Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists. The only one who doesn't fit the Applewhite mold is E.D.—a smart, sensible girl who immediately clashes with the unruly Jake. Jake thinks surviving this one will be a breeze . . . but is he really as tough or as bad as he seems?”

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2002
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 5-8
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “In this Newbery Medal-winning book set in 12th century Korea, Tree-ear, a 13-year-old orphan, lives under a bridge in Ch’ulp’o, 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.”
Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2002
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 10 - 14; Grade Level: 5 - 9”
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Primrose Squarp simply knows her parents did not perish at sea during a terrible storm, but try convincing the other residents of Coal Harbour on that score. For all practical purposes, at least for the time being, Primrose is an orphan, and there's no great clamoring of prospective adopters. After realizing the impracticality of continuing to pay Miss Perfidy (a mothball-scented elderly lady) an hourly wage to baby-sit her, the town council is able to locate a relative, Uncle Jack, who reluctantly takes Primrose into his care. Primrose does warm up to living with him and in his home, despite the eerie noises resembling a hockey game that haunt her in the night. But true sanctuary can always be found at a restaurant called The Girl in the Swing, where everything—including lasagna—is served on a waffle, and where the proprietor, Miss Bowzer, offers a willing ear, as well as sage advice. Through a mixture of eccentric humor and probing philosophy, author Polly Horvath makes Primrose's search for peace and understanding a most memorable one.”

Carver: A Life in Poems by Marilyn Nelson (Nonfiction)

- National Book Award Finalist, 2001
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2002
- Amazon Link
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6 Up
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “George Washington Carver was born a slave in Missouri about 1864 and was raised by the childless white couple who had owned his mother. In 1877 he left home in search of an education, eventually earning a master's degree. In 1896, Booker T. Washington invited Carver to start the agricultural department at the all-black-staffed Tuskegee Institute, where he spent the rest of his life seeking solutions to the poverty among landless black farmers by developing new uses for soil-replenishing crops such as peanuts, cowpeas, and sweet potatoes. Carver's achievements as a botanist and inventor were balanced by his gifts as a painter, musician, and teacher. This Newbery Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book by Marilyn Nelson provides a compelling and revealing portrait of Carver's complex, richly interior, profoundly devout life.”
A Year Down Yonder (Living in Chicago Series) by Richard Peck (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2001
- Richard Peck is also the author of A Long Way from Chicago, a core text of Thayer’s 7th grade curriculum
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3 - 7”
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “Mary Alice's childhood summers in Grandma Dowdel's sleepy Illinois town were packed with enough drama to fill the double bill of any picture show. But now she is fifteen, and faces a whole long year with Grandma, a woman well known for shaking up her neighbors-and everyone else! All Mary Alice can know for certain is this: when trying to predict how life with Grandma might turn out . . . better not. This wry, delightful sequel to the Newbery Honor Book A Long Way from Chicago has already taken its place among the classics of children's literature.”

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2001
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 12 Up; Grade Level: 7 Up”
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope's not sure what to expect. But what they find is that the owner, G.T., isn't quite ready to give up yet—in fact, he's decided to run for mayor against a corrupt candidate. And as Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds herself caught up in G.T.'s campaign—particularly his visions for the future. After all, as G.T. points out, everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times . . . even Hope herself.”

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo (Fiction)
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2001
- Kate DiCamillo is also the author of The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread, the Newbery Medal Winner in 2004
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 9 - 12; Grade Level: 4 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “One summer’s day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries—and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It’s because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it’s because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.”

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**Joey Pigza Loses Control (Joey Pigza Series) by Jack Gantos (Fiction)**
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2001
- Jack Gantos is also the author of *Dead End in Norvelt*, the Newbery Medal Winner in 2012
- Amazon Link
- Amazon.com Review: Ages 10 and older
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “When Joey Pigza meets his dad for the first time in years, he meets a grown-up version of his old out-of-control self. Carter Pigza is as wired as Joey used to be -- before his stint in special ed, and before he got his new meds. Joey's mom reluctantly agrees that he can stay with his dad for a summer visit, which sends Joey racing with sky-high hopes that he and Carter can finally get to know each other. But as the weeks whirl by, Carter has bigger plans in mind. He decides that just as he has pulled himself up by his own bootstraps, Joey can do the same and become as normal as any kid, without the help of a doctor's prescription. Carter believes Joey can do it and Joey wants to believe him more than anything in the world. Here is the continuation of Jack Gantos' acclaimed Joey Pigza story, affirming not only that Joey Pigza is a true original but that it runs in the family.”

**The Wanderer by Sharon Creech (Fiction)**
- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2001
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “‘The sea, the sea, the sea. It rolled and rolled and called to me. *Come in*, it said, *come in.*' Thirteen-year-old Sophie hears the sea calling, promising adventure and a chance for discovery as she sets sail for England with her three uncles and two cousins. Sophie's cousin Cody isn't sure he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father. Through Sophie's and Cody's travel logs, we hear stories of the past and the daily challenges of surviving at sea as *The Wanderer* sails toward its destination—and its passengers search for their places in the world.”

**Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (Fiction)**
- Newbery Medal Winner, 2000
- Amazon Link
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link
- Synopsis, via Amazon.com:
  “It’s 1936, in Flint, Michigan, and when 10-year-old Bud decides to hit the road to find his father, nothing can stop him.”

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**Getting Near to Baby** by Audrey Couloumbis (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2000
- [Amazon Link](#)
- School Library Journal Review, via Amazon: Gr 6-8
- Common Sense Media Link

- ✔ age 11+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“Willa Jo and Little Sister are up on the roof at Aunt Patty’s house. Willa Jo went up to watch the sunrise, and Little Sister followed, like she always does. But by mid-morning, they are still up on that roof, and soon it’s clear it wasn’t just the sunrise that brought them there. The trouble is, coming down would mean they’d have to explain, and they just can’t find the words. This is a funny, sometimes heartbreaking, story about sisters, about grief, and about healing. Two girls must come to terms with the death of their baby sister, their mother’s unshakable depression, and the ridiculously controlling aunt who takes them in and means well but just doesn’t understand children. Willa Jo has to try and make things right in their new home, but she and Aunt Patty keep butting heads. Until the morning the two girls climb up to the roof of her house. Aunt Patty tries everything she can think of to get them down, but in the end, the solution is miraculously simple.”

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**Our Only May Amelia** by Jennifer L. Holm (Fiction)

- Newbery Medal Honor Book, 2000
- [Amazon Link](#)
- Amazon Product Details: “Age Range: 8 - 12; Grade Level: 3 - 7”
- Common Sense Media Link

- ✔ age 9+ ★★★★★

**Synopsis, via Amazon.com:**

“It isn’t easy being a pioneer in the state of Washington in 1899, but it’s particularly hard when you are the only girl ever born in the new settlement. With seven older brothers and a love of adventure, May Amelia Jackson just can’t seem to abide her family’s insistence that she behave like a Proper Young Lady. She’s sure she could do better if only there were at least one other girl living along the banks of the Nasel River. And now that Mama’s going to have a baby, maybe there’s hope. Inspired by the diaries of her great-aunt, the real May Amelia, first-time novelist Jennifer Holm has given us a beautifully crafted tale of one young girl whose unique spirit captures the courage, humour, passion and depth of the American pioneer experience.”