

English Language Arts 7-9

*Selecting Young Adult Texts:
An Annotated Bibliography
for Junior High School
2023*

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Introduction

Purpose

Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography for Junior High School is designed to complement the curriculum documents that describe the authorized curriculum for Junior High School English language arts.

Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography for Junior High School provides a list of suggested texts and annotations for student selected reading and teacher supported novel study. The suggested titles can provide opportunities for cross-curricular reading and support students' growing independence in choosing texts to read.

Reading in Grades 7-9

Reading allows students to explore the spectrum of human experience, and shapes their conceptions of the world.

Through reading, students gain:

- access to models for language development
- a love of language
- an awareness of the interaction of emotion and intellect evoked by the text
- experiences through the imaginations and eyes of others

In English language arts, students are expected to *select, read, and view with understanding a range of literature, information, media, and visual texts*. As well, they are expected to *respond personally and critically to a range of texts, applying their understanding of language, form, and genre*.

As outlined in the specific curriculum outcomes, students are expected to identify and select texts that meet their needs and interests and:

- Think about how meaning is created in texts through the author's:
 - intended purpose
 - use of language, form, and genre
 - use of text features and structure
- Reflect on their responses to texts by considering how:
 - diverse values, cultures, and realities are presented in texts
 - their point of view on issues, themes, and situations is informed by what they read and view
- Think about and practice different reading and viewing strategies to develop their independence in accessing and navigating texts

In the Junior High English language arts curriculum, students are invited to experience and create texts that become significant to them. Knowledge about text features enables students to:

- analyze the effectiveness of various techniques
- deepen their understanding as they think
- discuss their interactions with texts
- make critical and aesthetic judgements

It is important that students study various works in detail, as well as direct their own reading and viewing choices through personal selection. Wide reading experiences with texts can help them to:

- broaden their experiences
- develop as life-long readers
- develop their imagination
- improve their reading power
- increase awareness of text forms and literary elements
- reflect on the emotions and opinions elicited by a novel
- use their talents and skills to create stories

Criteria for Selecting Young Adult Texts

The titles listed in this document have been carefully selected to adhere to the criteria as set forth on page 54 of *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum* (1996). The selections:

- broaden students' understanding of social, historical, geographical, and cultural diversity
- develop sensitivity and understanding that reflects individual qualities such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, community influences, and political/social values
- elicit personal and thoughtful critical responses
- have literary merit
- provide motivating and challenging experiences
- represent a range of styles and text forms
- use language effectively and responsibly

Novels

While every book listed in this document has received careful review according to the criteria listed above, teachers should always exercise particular care in selecting or recommending texts to students. Teachers are in the best positions to know both their students and the communities in which they live.

The broad selection of titles listed in this document:

- allows students to explore their own and others' cultural and literary heritage
- balances traditional and contemporary texts
- includes prose that deals with issues and ideas related to students' experiences
- includes texts that can be paired or linked to provide text-to-text connections
- provides support for all strands of the English language arts curriculum

Audience

Teachers and administrators may continue to refer to *Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography for Junior High School* for additional assistance when selecting learning resources for their classrooms and school resource centres.

Suggested audiences are noted for each title listed in *Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography for Junior High School*. They include the following:

- Lower Intermediate
- Middle Intermediate
- Upper Intermediate
- Intermediate

These recommendations are based on reading level as well as content. Titles recommended for Lower Intermediate, for example, will have a lower reading level than Upper Intermediate and will have less mature content and themes. Titles listed as Intermediate should be accessible and of interest to a broad range of students in Grades 7-9. These recommendations are guidelines only; selection decisions should be made by teachers and students.

Alternate Formats

The Department of Education's Alternate Format Materials Library (AFM-NL) provides curriculum resources in alternate formats for students who are unable to access print materials.

Alternate Format Materials are available for students whose comprehensive assessment verifies a Perceptual/Print disability (as defined by the Canadian Copyright Act, Section 32) and their learning profile indicates they have:

- an inability to hold or manipulate a book and/or;
- a significant impairment relating to comprehension.

Alternate Format Materials is an accommodation and is documented on the student's IEP (RTL K-6) or Record of Accommodations (SDM 7-12).

For further information, visit the AFM-NL Library at cmaf.gov.nl.ca.

Genre Definitions

Genre definitions provided in this document are not intended to be an exhaustive list. The list below is for the purpose of reference within this document.

Action/Adventure

The action/adventure genre is characterized by more emphasis on exciting action sequences than on character development or storytelling. Action is mainly focused on any kind of movement while adventure focuses on an exciting undertaking involving risk and physical danger.

Contemporary/Realistic

Realistic fiction creates characters and situations that depict our world and society, focusing on themes of growing up and confronting personal and social problems. It portrays characters coming to understand themselves and others.

Dystopian

Dystopian fiction takes place in a futuristic world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.

Fantasy

Fantasy tells tales of secondary worlds, creatures and people. Motifs include magic, good versus evil, heroism, special character types, and fantastic objects.

Graphic Novels

Graphic novels present stories using visual frames to support dialogue. They are similar to comic books but can offer complex plots that engage readers. Graphic novels deal with character transformation and challenging thematic concepts.

Historical

Historical fiction is characterized by stories set in the past. The details of the setting are usually authentic and accurate and may contain documented historical figures. Other characters, including the protagonist, are often fictionalized.

Horror

Horror concentrates on the dark aspects of fantasy. Common motifs in this genre include supernatural elements, dark isolated settings, and battles between good and evil.

Informational and Nonfiction

Informational books explain facts about specific topics. These texts must be accurate and present the information so that it is easily understood. The layout allows for additional facts, statistics, and illustrations to be included to extend the concepts presented.

Mixed Media

This type of text has a variety of sources and images. It may include different writing forms, visuals, emails, manipulatives, charts, etc. The reader has to be flexible in order to create meaning from the pages because the meaning does not emerge in a traditional, linear manner.

Mystery

Mystery novels emphasize plot. Usually, the protagonist is seeking an answer to a crime or to a mysterious event. Characteristics of this style of writing include suspense and a fast-paced style.

Picture Books

While associated with younger readers, these texts can be brought to a higher level of reflection to develop critical understandings for older learners. They often convey a powerful and thought-provoking message.

Poetry

Poetry encompasses many diverse forms and subjects. Some of these forms include free verse, blank verse, limericks, haiku. Poetry expresses intense emotions and reflections as it is usually written in a compressed form.

Science Fiction

Science Fiction involves alternate, futuristic settings based on motifs such as alien encounters, time travel, artificial intelligence and futuristic technologies. Science Fiction is the improbable made possible.

Traditional

Traditional literature consists of ancient stories and tales that were originally preserved by the use of oral traditions and were later written down. It is often formulaic and explains some kind of natural phenomena or moral teaching.

Verse Novels

Verse novels tell the story by using verse instead of using full sentences organized in paragraph structures.

Annotations

2023 Listings Organized Alphabetically by Author

Barclay Moore, David

The Stars Beneath Our Feet

ISBN-13: 978-1524701277

Publisher: Yearling, 2019

Genre: Fiction

Pages: 304

Lolly is a 12 year-old black boy growing up in Harlem and dealing with the loss of his older brother to gang violence. As he navigates his grief and the dangers of living in his urban neighbourhood, he forges his own path through the arts, friendship, and community.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Benjamin, Ali

The Thing About Jellyfish

ISBN-13: 978-0316380867

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2015

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 352

Suzy is a 12-year old girl whose best-friend has drowned. Unable to accept her friend's death, Suzy concludes that it was due to a sting by a rare jellyfish. She sets out to prove her hypothesis, even planning a trip across the globe, failing to see that what she truly needs to help her through her grief is right at home. This novel explores how we deal with loss and how the love of friends and family supports us through the most difficult times in our lives.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Bowling, Dusti

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

ISBN13: 9781454923459

Publisher: Sterling Children's Books, 2017

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 262

Aven is a 13 year-old girl who was born without arms. A strong, independent character who deals well with her physical challenges, she is also coping with her parents moving across the country to manage (and live in) a Wild West theme park. As Aven makes friends and settles into her new home, she becomes interested in the mystery of the missing owner of the park. A funny, sweet, and uplifting read.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Callender, Kacen

King and the Dragonflies

ISBN-13: 978-0702302817

Publisher: Scholastic, 2020

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 272

12 year-old King is growing up in small town Louisiana and coming to terms with the sudden death of his beloved older brother, who he believes has come back to life as a dragonfly. When his best friend, who is gay, goes missing, King has to struggle with questions about his own sexual identity, relationships, and what it means to be a man.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Deaver, Mason

I Wish You All the Best

ISBN- 978-1338306125

Publisher: Push, 2019

Genre: Fiction; Contemporary

Pages: 329

An emotional story of one's struggle with their sexuality, and acceptance to belong by peers, family and within themselves. Ben De Backer comes out to their parents as non-binary but the reaction was not what they had anticipated. The parents immediately kick Ben out, and with nowhere to go, Ben is left heartbroken and hurt and is forced to reach out to their sister Hannah who they have not spoken to in ten years. An inspiring and refreshing narrative that addresses the questions and trauma that can be associated with "coming out", self-acceptance and finding one's voice.

Recommended for: Upper Intermediate

Dee, Barbara**Halfway Normal**

ISBN-978-1481478526

Publisher: Aladdin Books, 2017

Genre: Realistic Fiction; Contemporary

Pages: 256

Norah is a bright 12-year-old who has survived cancer. She returns to school after two years of cancer treatments and finds that most things have changed-her teachers, her friends, and even her own attitude. She constantly battles her overprotective parents to be able to do the things 'normal' seventh graders do, but her parents are not ready to let her go. She is frustrated that teachers treat her as though she is still sick even though she has been given a clean bill of health. She feels that no one truly understands what she has gone through, and she keeps almost everyone at arm's length until she has a breakdown which ultimately turns into a breakthrough.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Dee, Barbara**Star Crossed**

ISBN-9781481478489

Publisher: Aladdin, 2017

Genre: Realistic Fiction; Contemporary

Pages: 277

This novel shares the experiences of twelve-year-old Matilda (Mattie) Monaghan as she navigates middle school. Mattie, a well-rounded student and zealous reader, is excited when her English teacher announces her eighth grade will be presenting "Romeo and Juliet" By William Shakespeare. She becomes increasingly attracted to her co-star when she is chosen to play Romeo opposite her crush Gemma Braithwaite's Juliet. Mattie is puzzled by these feelings as for the past several years she has been dealing with her unrequited feelings for a male classmate. Mattie wonders if it is possible to be attracted to both boys and girls. Mattie tries to keep her conflicted feelings private but her closest friends and family help her realize that she is accepted and encourage her in her journey to discover her identity.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Intermediate

Diaz, Alexandra

The Only Road

ISBN-9781481457507

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2016

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 320

12 year old Jamie must escape his small town in Guatemala to survive the violence that is surrounding. After many close members of his family and friend group are viciously attacked and killed, he knows that the only way to escape is to flee to the United States where his older brother resides. However, leaving Guatemala is only one small step of the harrowing journey that he faces.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Dimaline, Cherie

The Marrow Thieves

ISBN13: 9781770864863

Publisher: Dancing Cat Books, 2017

Genre: Dystopian Fiction

Pages: 231

Frenchie is trying to survive. In a world where people have lost the ability to dream, the bone marrow of Indigenous people is seen as the key to returning that ability, no matter the cost of obtaining it. Having lost his family, Frenchie has found a group of companions to help him evade the ruthless Marrow Thieves. Little do they know that one of their group has the ability to defeat the Marrow Thieves forever.

Recommended for: Upper Intermediate

Fipps, Lisa

Starfish

ISBN-9781984814500

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2021

Genre: Fiction; Realistic Fiction

Pages: 256

Ellie is a young girl who is bullied at school by her peers, and at home by her siblings - and even by her own mother. She is made to feel worthless and an outcast, all because of her body. But Ellie is stronger than many people give her credit for. She has found support in her true friends, Viv and Catalina, as well as her father. With the help of her friends, her father, and her new 'Doc', Ellie is able to look in the mirror and find her beautiful self. Ellie takes readers on her journey toward shedding her Fat Girl Rules and being comfortable in her own skin.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Gemeinhart, Dan**The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise**

ISBN13: 9781250196705

Publisher: Henry Holt & Company, 2019

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 344

Coyote (age 12) and her dad, Rodeo, are travelling around the US in their refurbished bus. They've been on the road for five years, ever since the passing of Coyote's mom and two sisters. Coyote gets news that her childhood playground is being torn down; she needs to get back to collect an old memory box, but it's the first time going back home since they left. Along the way, they collect passengers who have challenges of their own, and together they make for an interesting and entertaining ride.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Harnell, Rob**Wink**

ISBN-13: 978-1984815163

Publisher: Puffin Books, 2021

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 336

Twelve year old Ross Maloy just wants to be normal. However, a recent diagnosis with a rare eye cancer changes all that. This story is about his experience with treatments, life at school, bullying incidents, and his new found passion for the guitar (told in a light-hearted way). The chapters include BatPig comics and little doodles, adding to the fun of reading this book.

Recommended for: Intermediate

**Jamieson, Victoria
and Omar Mohamed****When Stars are Scattered**

ISBN-13: 978-0525553908

Publisher: Penguin, 2020

Genre: Graphic Novel, Non-Fiction

Pages: 264

When Stars Are Scattered is a coming of age story of a young preteen (Omar) and his younger brother (Hassan) inside a refugee camp in Kenya. The boys had to flee Somalia after their father was killed and their mother went missing due to a civil war at home. This book follows Omar and Hassan's life in a refugee camp until a series of fortunate events and interactions gave them an opportunity for a new life in America.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Joe, Mi'sel and Sheila O'Neill

My Indian

ISBN: 978-1550818789

Publisher: Breakwater Books, 2021

Genre: Historical Fiction

Pages: 176

William Epps Cormack has sought the expertise of Sylvester Joe in finding the last remaining Beothuk. *My Indian* follows Joe from his childhood in the (now Miawpukek First Nation, up to his journey guiding Cormack across the interior of Newfoundland in search of the remaining Beothuk. The question is whether Joe will lead Cormack to the Beothuk or lead his colonial explorer away from them.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Johnston, Aviaq

Those Who Run in the Sky

ISBN-13: 978-1772271218

Publisher: Inhabit Media Inc, 2017

Genre: Fiction

Pages: 196

Those Who Run in the Sky is a coming-of-age adventure story that incorporates many Inuit myths and legends. The story centers around Pitu, a talented young hunter who has the potential to become a great leader and a powerful shaman. During a hunting trip Pitu finds himself caught in a blizzard and is transported into the spirit world. His journey back home is fraught with dangerous encounters of mythical creatures. The novel transports the reader through beautiful worldbuilding, dynamic characters and thoughts of morality. It provides an opportunity for students to explore Inuit language and culture, with a useful glossary.

Recommended for: Intermediate

**Jordan-Fenton,
Christy and
Margaret
Pokiak-Fenton**

Fatty Legs: A True Story

ISBN-13: 978-1773213507
Publisher: Annick Press, 2010
Genre: Non-Fiction
Pages: 112

Fatty Legs is the moving memoir of an Inuit girl who emerges from a residential school with her spirit intact. After months of begging her father to allow her to attend one of these schools so she could learn to read like her older sister, Margaret-Olemaun finally gets her way. However, she quickly realizes that school is nothing like she had imagined. Her strength, courage and resilience stand out as she navigates her way through a very difficult time.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Kacer, Kathy

Call Across the Sea

ISBN-9781773214788
Publisher: Annick Press, 2021
Genre: Historical Fiction
Pages: 216

Sixteen year old Henny has grown up on her father's boat, the Gerda III and has viewed this as her home away from home. The comfort and peace that she found with Gerda III was more human than people knew. She loved accompanying her father on supply runs and sailing the water between Denmark and Sweden. But, when Hitler orders the Gestapo to round up Jewish citizens, Henny quickly determines that the Gerda III is much more than a boat, but is now a means of escape for her Jewish neighbors and family.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Kelkar, Supriya

American as Paneer Pie

ISBN-9781534439382

Publisher: Aladdin Books, 2020

Genre: Realistic Fiction; Contemporary

Pages: 320

American as Paneer Pie tells the story of Lekha Divekar, an American-born daughter of Indian immigrants. Within the walls of her home Lekha's cultural identity is strong, but at school most of her classmates are unaccepting and judgemental of her. Lekha's school experience starts to shift when a new Indian student, Avantika and her family move into the neighborhood. Outside of school, political views that promote racism grow and create an unsafe environment for Lekha and her family. Lekha's desire for acceptance makes it difficult for her to stand-up and she must learn how to use her voice to promote positive change.

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Kessler, Liz

When the World was Ours

ISBN-9781534499652

Publisher: Aladdin, 2021

Genre: Historical Fiction

Pages: 352

Taking place during the Second World War, a story of three childhood friends who have spent the perfect day together celebrating Leo's 9th Birthday. Within moments, the innocence expressed within the smiling, carefree faces is now replaced with feelings of devastation and heartbreak as they are ripped apart from one another in an effort to survive their worst nightmare. Finding hope in the mist of horrific darkness is what will encourage the three to fight to find their way back to one another during a time of so much uncertainty.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Khan, Hena**More to the Story**

ISBN-9781481492096

Publisher: Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2019

Genre: Realistic Fiction; Contemporary

Pages: 272

Jameela Mirza is a middle school student who is actively involved with her school's Newspaper Club. She relishes the thought of writing quality articles and becomes frustrated with the current student Editor in Chief whom she feels consistently rejects her suggestions. Jameela's life is turned upside down when her father must travel overseas to Abu Dhabi for work in order to help keep the family financially afloat. She adores her father and relies on him for support and encouragement. Unfortunately, her woes are further increased when her favourite sister, Bisma, is diagnosed with cancer. She must navigate a new reality and, in doing so, decides to channel her feelings into a fundraising campaign to help support cancer research. Jameela, along with her family, friends (including a new British boy) and teachers help her on her journey.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Intermediate

Leno, Katrina**Sometime in Summer**

ISBN-9780316194518

Publisher: Poppy, 2022

Genre: Fiction; Contemporary; Fantasy

Pages: 416

On Anna Bell's fourteenth birthday, her mother announces that she is selling the family business, the bookshop that she and Anna's father have run since before Anna was born, and that she and Anna are going to spend most of the summer in the seaside town of Rockport, Massachusetts. Still reeling from her parents' divorce and the changes brought to her life by puberty, Anna is thrown by the news. But over the course of the summer, having met two new friends and made discoveries about her family's past, Anna comes to recognize that though change is inevitable, it is our reaction to it that defines our lives. A magical coming-of-age story.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Leyh, Kat

Snapdragon

ISBN-13: 978-1250171115

Publisher: First Second, 2020

Genre: Graphic Novel; Fantasy

Pages: 236

While looking for her missing dog, *Snapdragon* ('Snap') meets Jacks, rumored to be the town witch. As Snap strikes a deal and forges a friendship with Jacks, she discovers they have more in common than she first realized. In this magical realist story, Snap challenges bullies, supports diverse friends, and learns about her own identity.

Recommended for: Intermediate

**Lippincott, Rachael
with Mikki Daughtry
and Tobias Laconis**

Five Feet Apart

ISBN- 978-1665904964

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic

Pages: 265

Stella likes to be in control. She's even developing an app to help others take control of their health. She does everything she can to ensure that she will qualify for a lung transplant - medication, education, distance. Will has stopped caring about everything and is waiting for the day when he turns 18 and can take control of his own health and refuse all the treatments his mother keeps foisting on him. When they find themselves in the hospital at the same time, it's frustration at first sight. Both of them cystic fibrosis patients, both of them taking completely different approaches to the remainder of their lives, both of them needing love and friendship. Will it happen or will the five feet they need to keep between them keep them apart?

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Intermediate

Peck, Richard**The Best Man**

ISBN-10: 0147515793

Publisher: Dial Books, 2016

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Pages: 256

This is an adolescent coming of age story. Archer, the protagonist, charmingly retells his story of transitioning from a naive child into a self-aware and observant teenager. Guided by relationships with his family members and Lynette, his best friend, Archer experiences the many trials of growing up; he faces bullies at school, grieves the loss of a loved one, and discovers how to be 'the best man.'

Recommended for: Lower-Middle Intermediate

Robertson, David Alexander**Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story**

ISBN- 978-1553799757

Publisher: HighWater Press; 10th Anniversary edition, 2021

Genre: Historical Fiction

Pages: 40

Sugar Falls is a compelling graphic novel with powerful illustrations of the true story of indigenous children who were forcibly removed from their homes and taken to residential schools. The story opens in the modern day with Daniel assigned a school project to talk with an Elder and Survivor of residential schools. April, a classmate, connects Daniel with her grandmother Betty Ross. Betty was abandoned at a young age by her traumatized mother and later adopted into a loving family whom she lived with until she was eight. Her adopted father would take her to Sugar Falls and share teachings from their ancestors. Betty recounted how these teachings helped her develop her resiliency and survival strength. When faced with physical, mental, sexual and emotional abuse at the residential school, she demonstrates how her father's words helped her cope. Betty now shares the legacies of her past, ensuring her ancestors' language, customs and history to foster a climate of healing.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Senzai, N. H.

Escape from Aleppo

ISBN-978-1481472173

Publisher: Paula Wiseman Books, 2018

Genre: Realistic Fiction; Historical Fiction

Pages: 256

Nadia, a young girl living in Aleppo, finds herself navigating the war torn streets of her once beautiful city as she struggles to reunite with her family before they escape to Turkey. Coming for a middle class family, Nadia's most trying situation before the start of the war was auditioning for a television milk commercial. On her journey, she befriends two young orphan boys and a mysteriously gracious old man and his donkey. With their help, Nadia learns she has the courage to become a leader.

Recommended for: Middle-Upper Intermediate

Smith, Heather

Barry Squires, Full Tilt

ISBN-9780735267466

Publisher: Penguin Teen, 2020

Genre: Fiction

Pages: 224

12 year old Barry Squires wants something to define his life and his existence other than the birthmark on his face. He is determined to be a member of the Full Tilt Dancers in St. John's, Newfoundland after watching Riverdance twice and is confident that he will be successful in his audition. Unfortunately, his parents do not take his dream seriously and he finds himself in an emotional journey as he struggles to completely understand the world that surrounds him.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Tian, Xixi**This Place is Still Beautiful**

ISBN-9780063086029

Publisher: Balzer + Bray, 2022

Genre: Fiction; Contemporary

Pages: 368

This Place is Still Beautiful is a coming of age novel told from alternating points of view of sisters, Annalie and Margaret. Annalie, the younger sister, is a sweet, content young girl who wants to enjoy life, make friends, and enjoy her summer flirting with the most popular boy in school. She hopes to become a pastry chef and strives to maintain a drama-free existence. As the older sister, Margaret has always blazed ahead, achieving straight A's in school, participating in all the social justice clubs as she forages ahead fighting for what she believes in. Margaret could not wait to leave their hometown for college but when Annalie calls her to come home after finding a racial slur graffitied on their garage door, Margaret quickly returns and takes charge. The sisters spend their summer butting heads with one another, trying to bond with their mother, and falling for boys they discover (or re-discover) through their summer jobs. As the summer passes Annalie and Margaret uncover truths about their inner selves and eventually they form a sisterly bond that they feel has been missing since childhood.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Warga, Jasmine**Other Words for Home**

ISBN-13:978-0062747815

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; Reprint edition, 2019

Genre: Poetry; Fiction

Pages: 352

Jude is a 12 year-old Syrian refugee who has come to Cincinnati with her pregnant mother to escape the civil war in her home country. She has left behind her father, and also her brother, who is working with the revolutionaries and has not been heard from for months. In addition to all this, Jude has to deal with the problems of fitting into her new middle school, and learning English as a second language.

Recommended for: Intermediate

Annotations

2012 Listings Organized Alphabetically by Author

Almond, David

Skellig

ISBN: 0440229081

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

Date: 2001

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Awards: Printz Honor

Ten-year-old Michael is coping with a lot. His new baby sister is dangerously ill, his new house is crumbling down around him, and he is caring for a strange creature he has found in his garage. Michael and Mina, his new friend, nurse Skellig back to health as he tries to understand exactly who or what Skellig is.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Speak

ISBN: 9780142414736

Publisher: Puffin

Date: 2009

Genre: Contemporary

Awards: National Book Award Finalist

This is the challenging and gritty story of Melinda, an isolated teenager who has virtually lost the ability to speak. Following a party over the summer holidays, she spends the better part of a year being alienated and harassed by the students in her school. Melinda's pain and self-discovery evokes empathy from the reader and questions about the strength necessary to be truly brave. This book deals with complex and mature subjects.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Bennett, Cheri**Anne Frank and Me**

ISBN 0-689-11973-8

Publisher: Puffin USA

Date: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction, Fantasy

Awards: International Reading Association/Children's Book Council "Children's Choice" (2002); Double nominee, ALA "Best Books for Young Adults and YALSA "Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers" (2002)

During a class field trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole falls and suffers a head injury. When she regains consciousness, she discovers that she has been mysteriously transported back in time as a Jewish teenager to Paris during the Nazi occupation. The first person narration engages the reader in a personal account of the experiences of French Jews during the Second World War.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Boyne, John**The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**

ISBN: 85751532

Publisher: Random House

Date: 2007

Genre: Historical

Awards: Irish Book Award Children's Book of the Year, Irish Book Award People's Choice Book of the Year

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is set during 1942 and is told from the perspective of a young German boy, Bruno. His father has just been promoted and the family is compelled to move to an isolated location. Bruno decides to explore along the long fence one day and meets another young boy whose life is very different from his own. Their friendship results in tragedy. This is a powerful rendering of the Holocaust and its devastating effects upon children.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Bray, Libba

A Great and Terrible Beauty

ISBN: 0385732317

Publisher: Delacorte

Date: 2003

Genre: Horror, Fantasy, Historical

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen year old Gemma returns to England after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

**Buchanan,
Andrea J. and
Miriam Peskowitz**

The Daring Book for Girls

ISBN: 978-0-06-147257-2

Publisher: Collins

Date: 2007Genre: Informational

The Daring Book for Girls is the companion manual for The Dangerous Book for Boys. Wide ranging topics include How to Negotiate a Salary, Cootie Catchers, Friendship Bracelets, and How to Be a Spy. Arranged in eclectic sections, there are many coloured illustrations to the text. Readers can dip in and dip out with ease. There is something for every girl here.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Buffie, Margaret

Who is Frances Rain?

ISBN: 0-919964-83-4

Publisher: Kids Can Press Ltd.

Date: 1989

Genre: Fantasy, Mystery

Fifteen-year old girl Elizabeth with her family, including a new step-dad, vacation at her grandmother's cottage for the summer holidays. While exploring the mysterious Rain Island, Lizzie discovers a mysterious pair of glasses that take her back to the past. She embarks on a journey of discovery that connects her past to the present. This book is a marvelous read that has fantastic results in the classroom.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Choldenko, Gennifer**Al Capone Does My Shirts**

ISBN: 01 42403709

Publisher: Penguin Young Reader Group

Date: 2006

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Newbery Honour Book

Moose Flannigan lives on Alcatraz with his family where his dad works as a prison guard. Natalie, his sister who has autism, is Moose's responsibility. Moose tries to meet the demands of caring for her but this becomes increasingly challenging as his friendship with the warden's daughter grows.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Clarke, Joan**The Word for Home**

ISBN 0-14-100502-5

Publisher: Penguin Books

Date: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Children's Choice Award 2004

This is a beautifully written, award winning, Newfoundland novel about young sisters who are left in the care of the mean-spirited Mrs. Hatch (or Sour Olive as the girls prefer to call her) after their mother dies and their father leaves them to look for gold.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Colfer, Eoin and Andrew Donkin**Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel**

ISBN: 078684882

Publisher: Hyperion Books

Date: 2007

Genre: Graphic Novel, Fantasy

Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel retains the original intent of the novel of the same title. The twelve year old brilliant Artemis Fowl is engaged in shady money making schemes that involve stealing secret fairy information and kidnapping an officer in the fairy army, Captain Holly Short. The fairy troops come to negotiate with Artemis Fowl. An innovative look at the subterranean world of dwarves, elves, and gnomes, this graphic novel with its action-packed, full-colour panels will be sure to appeal to young adolescent readers.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Collins, Suzanne

The Hunger Games

ISBN: 9780439023528

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2010

Genre: Science Fiction

Awards: Cybil Award – Fantasy & Science Fiction, Children's Choice

Book Award

16 year-old Katniss lives in Panem, a post-apocalyptic country comprised of Districts governed by a dictatorial Capitol. To demonstrate its power and to sustain its rule by fear, each year the Capitol conscripts two young adults from each District to compete in the Hunger Games. Through competition and the unlikeliest of heroes, the story presents a shocking examination of society's expectations for success and its impact on the individual.

Other titles in the series: Catching Fire, Mockingjay

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Covey, Sean

The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make: A Guide for Teens

ISBN: 9780743265041

Publisher: Fireside

Date: 2006

Genre: Contemporary, Informational

In The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make, Sean Covey gives teens the strong advice they need to make informed and wise decisions. Using real stories from teens around the world, Sean shows how to succeed in school, make good friends, get along with parents, wisely handle dating and sex issues, avoid or overcome addictions, build self-esteem, and much more.

The six key decisions are:

School: What you going to do about your education?

Friends: What types of friends will you choose, and what kind of friend will you be?

Parents: Are you going to get along with your parents?

Dating and Sex: Who will you date, and what will you do about sex?

Addictions: What will you do about the addictive stuff?

Self-Worth: Do you like yourself?

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Creech, Sharon**Love that Dog**

ISBN: 0064409597

Publisher: Harper Collins

Date: 2003

Genre: Poetic verse

Love that Dog is told in verse through a series of written responses from the main character, Jack, to his teacher, Miss Stretchberry. It transpires over the course of a full school year. Jack's responses reveal his growth as a writer and his love of his dog. He becomes very interested in Walter Dean Myers, another writer. This is a beautiful and inspiring tale.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Dr. Seuss**The Butter Battle Book**

ISBN 0-394-86580-4

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers

Date: 1984

Genre: Picture book, Satire

Awards: New York Times Notable Book of the Year (1983)

This satirical book tells the story of the Yooks and the Zooks who disagree on how bread should be eaten: the Yooks eat it butter-side down and the Zooks eat it butter-side up. Over the years, their conflict worsens until total destruction becomes eminent. The story is a metaphor for Cold War mentalities that continue to pervade stereotypes and assumptions of today.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Donnelly, Jennifer**A Northern Light**

ISBN: 0152053107

Publisher: Harcourt, Inc.

Date: 2003

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Carnegie Medal Winner, Printz Honor Book Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults by the ALA; Named a Best Book of 2003

Based on a true story, Donnelly weaves fact with fiction as we read this coming of age story about Mattie and the power of words. Historical fiction set in 1906, this novel explores life at the time and details the self-sacrifices made by many of the characters. Two plots are woven together; the first tells of murder, and the second, reveals Mattie and her desire to write.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

DuPrau, Jeanne

The City of Ember

ISBN: 978-0375822742

Publisher: Yearling

Date: 2004

Genre: Science fiction

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day with Doon. She wants to be a messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city while Doon wants to be an underground pipeworker to figure out how to mend the essential but failing generator. It isn't until Lina and Doon manage to decipher a mysterious letter and become the first people to leave the city in 241 years that they discover they have been living underground. This is the first Book of Ember - an exciting science fiction series. A movie of the same name was released in 2008.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Ellis, Deborah

Parvana's Journey

ISBN: 0888995199

Publisher: Greenwood

Date: 2002

Genre: Realistic Fiction

This is the second novel in The Breadwinner series. Shauzia is a fourteen year old girl living in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Disguised as a boy and begging for survival, Parvana and the reader are taken on a compelling and eye opening journey through poverty and the harsh conditions that some people have to endure. This is a powerful and sincere story that young and old alike should enjoy.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Mud City

ISBN: 0888995423

Publisher: Greenwood

Date: 2003

Genre: Realistic Fiction

This is the third novel in The Breadwinner series. Shauzia is a fourteen year old girl living in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Disguised as a boy and begging for survival, Parvana and the reader are taken on a compelling and eye opening journey through poverty and the harsh conditions that some people have to endure.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Ellis, Sarah**Odd Man Out**

ISBN: 0888997035

Publisher: House of Anansi

Date: 2006

Genre: Realistic, Fiction

Kip is spending the summer with his grandmother and his eccentric female cousins while his mother is away with her new husband. His grandmother's house is going to be torn down so there are very relaxed rules. When Kip beats in a closet, he discovers a mysterious binder belonging to his deceased father. The binder contains bizarre information written from the perspective of an undercover agent. However, the truth about his father is revealed at the family talent night when Kip shares what he has discovered.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Fisher, Suzanne**Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind**

ISBN: 0440238560

Publisher: Laurel Leaf

Date: 1989

Genre: Realistic Fiction

The title character, Shabanu, is very strong willed and has been allowed many freedoms that are not traditionally permitted to Muslim girls. Her life of comparative independence is very much beloved until her regular routines are called into question when the marriage plans of her sister are abruptly altered.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Fleischman, Paul**Seedfolks**

ISBN: 0064472078

Publisher: Harper Trophy

Date: 1997

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: Newbery Medal

Written in vignettes through the voices of thirteen multiple characters from various backgrounds, this story is about developing a community garden in an urban American setting. The themes connect the seemingly disparate characters and celebrate their differences.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Funke, Cornelia

Inkheart

ISBN: 0439709105

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy

Inkheart relates the magical story of Maggie's father who is able to bring characters from books to life when he reads aloud. Maggie is forced to face several of these evil characters in a series of adventures. Funke creates a plausible fantasy world populated by both real and otherworldly characters replete with vivid descriptions.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Gardner, Oliver

Letters to a Bullied Girl

ISBN: 9780061544620

Publisher: Harper Collins

Date: 2008

Genre: Informational

This collection of letters brings to light the severity of bullying during the teenage years, offering a balanced viewpoint from the perspectives of bullies, bystanders and the victims of bullying. The many letters of support written to Olivia via a letter-writing campaign from 2 strangers, sisters Emily and Sarah Buder, shows the power of human compassion.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Giff, Patricia Reilly

A House of Tailors

ISBN: 10- 0440238005

Publisher: Yearling

Date: 2006

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Maine Student Book Master List

Dina Kirk leaves her family in Germany very suddenly to join her uncle in Brooklyn, New York. She has an amazing talent for sewing but she hates it with a passion. At age thirteen, she is forced to rely on her skills to earn a living in a foreign country. Throughout the course of the book, she realizes that she is a strong person capable of great heroism and compassion.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Gilley, Jeremy**Peace One Day**

ISBN 0-399-24330-5

Publisher: GP Putnam And Sons

Date: 2005

Genre: Mixed media

This mixed media journal by Jeremy Gilley presents a chronological commentary on Jeremy's travels around the world while trying to get the attention of UN decision-makers. His goal was to establish one day of cease-fire around the world to celebrate peace; he succeeded and September 21 was named the UN International Day of Peace

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Gore, Al**An Inconvenient Truth**

ISBN: 0670062723

Publisher: Dolphin

Date: 2007

Genre: Environmental science

This book shadows the academy award-winning (and Nobel Prize winning) documentary of the same name. This book is ideal as a companion resource, or as an introduction to the environmental issue of climate change. Rich photographs, maps and simple text make this timely message accessible for all.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Haddix, Margaret Peterson**Among the Hidden**

ISBN: 0689824750

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Date: 2000

Genre: Futuristic

Awards: ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, ALA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults

Luke is living a secret life as one of the Shadow Children, third children who are forbidden to exist by the Population Police. He cannot leave his house for any reason and cannot have any friends. One day Luke meets a young neighbour and, through her, learns of an underground network of Shadow Children. He is faced with a choice; to join the Shadow Children network and to risk everything, including his life, or to continue with his barren existence.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

**Haworth-Attard,
Barbara**

Home Child

ISBN: 0-00-639312-80

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.

Date: 1996

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: CLA Notable Book of the Year

Fourteen-year old Arthur has been sent from England to work as a Home Child in Canada. Sadie, the main character, cannot understand why her father treats him so harshly and why her mother merely ignores him. A strong friendship forms between these two characters and many strange discoveries shock Sadie's world.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Henegan, James

Torn Away

ISBN: 1-55143-263-3

Publisher: Orca Book Publishers

Date: 1994

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Mystery

Thirteen-year old Declan has been torn away from his native soil of Ireland after his mother, father, and sister have been killed on the streets of Belfast. He is forced to live in Canada with his uncle's family. He wishes to return to Ireland and seek revenge for his family's murderers, but the lure of his new friends, family, and surroundings cause him even more struggles with his choices in life.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Herge

The Adventures of Tin Tin, Volume 1

ISBN: 978-1-4052-2894-7

Publisher: Egmont Date: 2007

Genre: Graphic Novel

The Adventures of Tintin Volume 1 includes "Land of the Soviets" and "Tintin in the Congo". Tintin, a reporter for Le Petit Vingtième, and his loyal dog, Snowy, are sent to the former Soviet Union and the Congo to report on events. Their investigations lead to adventure as they are constantly having to rescue themselves from dangerous situations. The stories provide a glimpse into the historical attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes of the 1930s about both the Soviet Union and colonial Africa.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Hinton, S. E.**The Outsiders**

ISBN: 0-14-038572-X

Publisher: Puffin Books

Date: 1967

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: ALA Best Young Adult Books, 1975

This is a story that transcends time and students rate it number one year after year. A teenage boy who belongs to a gang on the poorer end of town struggles with issues related to stereotyping, violence, school, families, and love. Rival gangs collide causing dramatic changes for all of the major characters. An amazing and memorable story, this is highly recommended for all young readers.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Holt, K. Willis**When Zachary Beaver Came to Town**

ISBN: 0440229049

Publisher:

Date: 1998

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: National Book Award

Toby Wilson is dealing with the absence of his mother who has recently left when Zachary Beaver, "The World's Fattest Boy", comes to Antler, Texas as part of a traveling show. Toby befriends the lonely and unhappy Zachary and helps him to achieve his dream of being baptized. This relationship also helps Toby to learn to accept the things he cannot change.

Recommended Grade: Middle Intermediate

Iggulden, Conn**The Dangerous Book for Boys**

ISBN: 0007232748N

Publisher: Harper Collins

Date: 2006

Genre: Non-fiction

The Dangerous Book for Boys is the companion manual for The Daring Book for Girls. Wide ranging topics include Dog Tricks, Building a Treehouse, Juggling, Making Cloth Fireproof, and Sampling Shakespeare. Arranged in eclectic sections, there are many coloured illustrations in the text. Readers can dip in and dip out with ease. This text is designed for ease of reading entry and will appeal to boys.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Kadohata, Cynthia

Kira-kira

ISBN: 0689856407

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Date: 2006

Genre: Realistic

Awards: Newbery Medal

When Katie's sister, Lynn, falls extremely ill, Katie must face the realities of living in a world of prejudice and poverty without the benefits of the beauty and glitter that Lynn provides through her wonderful outlook on life. Katie and her family have always relied upon Lynn to express insight and understanding about the world. Now Katie has to continue the belief that there is always something shining...she just has to find it.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Koja, Kathe

Talk

ISBN 0-374-37382-5

Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre / Fsg Kids

Date: 2005

Genre: Realistic

When Kit lands the lead in a school play about homosexuality, he doesn't expect things to be so real. He has been struggling with his own sexuality and his best friend has been supporting him to come out. The dual narration of the plot emphasizes the expectations and assumptions people have about each other as well as the misconceptions people are guided by when they are not open to other possibilities. This book is powerful, emotional and deals with complex and mature subjects.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

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

ISBN: 0689867158

Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Date: 2004

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Awards: Teen's Choice Award

Branwell Zamborska is unable to speak. He hasn't spoken a word since Nikki, his baby half sister has gone into a coma and he is accused of being the one who hurt her. Connor, Branwell's best friend, attempts to uncover the reason for Branwell's silence and what has really transpired on Wednesday, November 25. This book is powerful, emotional and deals with complex and mature subjects.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Kuipers, Alice**Life on the Refrigerator Door**

Publisher: HarperCollins Canada, Limited

ISBN: 13: 978-00613-70496

Date: 2007

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic

This novel is written in a unique style – a series of notes detailing the day-to-day life of a mother and daughter. Their main source of communication is leaving notes for each other, some only a few lines, on the refrigerator door. The reader is provided with an intimate perspective with which to engage the characters as the ordinary becomes extraordinary while exploring the value of family.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Liao, Jimmy**The Sound of Colors**

ISBN 0-316-93992-7

Publisher: Little Brown and Company

Date: 2006

Genre: Picture book

This story incorporates engaging and original illustrations which could only be imagined. A young blind girl travels through a subway system while attaching colours to the sounds she hears on her journey. The extended metaphor for imagination and personal growth has links to curriculum outcomes for English Language Arts, Art and Health.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Maclean, Sue

The Nine Lives of Travis Keating

ISBN: 9781554551040

Publisher: Fitzhenry & Whiteside

Date: 2008

Genre: Realistic Adventure

Awards: 2010-2011 Hackmatack Short List

This engaging and imaginative novel, set in small community on the Northern Peninsula, Newfoundland, follows 12 year-old Travis as he attempts to save a colony of feral cats, while dealing with the angst of being accepted as the new boy in town. Through the challenges of the adventure, Travis comes to terms with the death of his mother and realizes he has to make peace with the town bully.

Other titles in the series: The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Major, Kevin

Blood Red Ochre

ISBN 0-770-42717-0

Publisher: Seal Books

Date: 1996

Genre: Realistic Fiction/Historical Fiction/Fantasy

Awards: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year Award, Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

The dual narration of this novel may be perceived by some students as confusing at first; however, the convergence of plots at the end is engaging and a genus for summative activities. The modern plot deals with David and his search for answers about the Beothuks while he works on a school project with Nancy, a mysterious transfer student. The historical plot deals with Daudooset, a Beothuk teenager who is struggling to help his family survive illness, starvation and the impending threats of the Whiteman.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate (links with Grade 8 Social Studies)

Major, Kevin**Eh! to Zed**

ISBN 0-889-95222-1

Publisher: Red Deer Press

Date: 2000

Genre: Verse/Picture Book

This is a picture book that uses colourful illustrations to support rhyming words linked to Canadian culture and identity.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Matas, Carol**After the War**

ISBN: 9780689807220

Publisher: Simon Schuster

Date: 1997

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: ALA Best Book of the Year, Mr. Christine Honour Book

After World War II, Ruth, a 15-year-old survivor of Buchenwald concentration camp, is alone. Recruited by Brikah, an underground organization that helps displaced European Jews emigrate to Palestine, Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children there, using secret routes and forged documents. The journey teaches her to find her own strength to survive and to learn to trust again; the story offers insight into the days and months immediately following the Holocaust.

Other titles in the series: The Garden

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Greater Than Angels

ISBN 0-590-51540-3

Publisher: Scholastic Canada

Date: 1998

Genre: Historical Fiction

The powerful and emotional story of Anna Hirsch and her family who are captured by the Nazis in 1940 and sent to a refugee camp in France. It is an amazing story of the horrors of the Holocaust and the power of love to overcome many of the evils caused by war. It is full of suspense from beginning to end.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

**McMurchy-Barber,
Gina**

Free as a Bird

ISBN: 9781554884476

Publisher: Dundurn Press

Date: 2010

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Governor General's Literary Award Finalist, Canadian Library Association Finalist, BC Book Prize Finalist, IBBY Books for Disabled Young People, Snow Willow Awards Finalist, VOYA Top Shelf Awards, CCBC Best Books for Kids and Teens

After living with and being loved by her grandma for the first eight years of her life, Ruby Jean, who has Down Syndrome, is institutionalized by her mother. Ruby Jean suffers through the mental, verbal, and physical abuse that she experiences daily until she encounters forward-thinking workers from the Community Living Society who give her a glimmer of hope. Released from the tortures of the institution in her mid-teens, Ruby learns that she is worthy of love and caring as she adapts to living with a foster family. This story is based on the conditions in the Woodlands School, a residential institution that operated between 1878 and 1996 in British Columbia.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

McNaughton, Janet

Catch Me Once, Catch Me Twice

ISBN: 978-0773674493

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

Date: 1996

Genre: Realistic Fiction/Fantasy

Set during the Second World War, Ev's father is sent overseas by the military. She and her mother are forced to move in with her grandparents in St. John's because Ev's mother is pregnant. In St. John's, Ev meets Peter with whom she goes to school. They spend time exploring the mysteries of the fairy world on Signal Hill and listening to stories told by Peter's grandmother. The main crisis occurs when Ev's father goes missing-in-action.

Other titles in the series: Make or Break Spring

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

McNaughton, Janet**The Secret Under My Skin**

ISBN 0-00648522-7

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

Date: 2001

Genre: Science Fiction

Awards: Ruth Schwartz Award (2001), Mr. Christie Award, Gold Seal, Ann Connor Brimer Award (2001), Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award

Set in 24th century Newfoundland and Labrador, Blay Raintee is searching for answers about her past while trying to survive the technocaust. The book can be seen as an eerie forecast of the future if the planet continues to be abused and neglected. A strong theme of environmental and social action pervades the entire story.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Meyer, Stephanie**Twilight**

ISBN: 0316015849

Publisher: Little Brown

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy, Romance, Horror

Bella has just moved to the small town of Forks to live with her father and is fascinated by one of her fellow students, Edward. He is part of a family of five beautiful teenagers who do not mix with the other students at the school. Eventually, Bella and Edward become a couple, much against Edward's better judgement because Bella is in danger every minute they are together. Edward has a challenging time when he is with Bella because he is a vampire. Although he, along with his family, have decided to only live on animals, he is still at risk of losing control. The plot continues with conflicts between a rival set of vampires and werewolves. This is the first of a series; New Moon, Eclipse and Breaking Dawn.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Mikaelson, Ben

Petey

ISBN: 0786813369

Publisher: Hyperion

Date: 2000

Genre: Realistic/Historical

Trevor Ladd comes to the rescue of Petey, a disabled old man when school bullies are throwing snowballs at him. He is new in town and befriends Petey. Petey was born with cerebral palsy and finds it difficult to communicate. Trevor attempts to help Petey to find a long lost friend. It is by assisting Petey that Trevor learns a lot about himself. Based on a true story, this is a positive recounting about the power of the individual to make a difference in the lives of others.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Oppel, Kenneth

Half Brother

ISBN: 9781554686117

Publisher: HarperCollins

Date: 2010

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Awards: Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award, Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children, Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, CBC Radio Young Canada Reads winner

Ben Tomlin is uprooted from his home in Toronto and moves to Victoria, B.C. where his father, a behavioural scientist begins an experiment with a chimpanzee named Zan. Can Zan learn to live as a human and communicate with them? A special bond develops as Ben becomes a "brother" to Zan and when his father loses funding for the experiment, Ben and his mother are forced to make a decision to take radical actions to save Zan.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Oppel, Kenneth**Silverwing**

ISBN: 0006481795

Publisher: HarperCollins

Date: 1998

Genre: Fantasy

Awards: Mr. Christie's Book Award, CLA Book of the Year for Children Award

Shade, a young and small bat, is blown off course when migrating south for the winter. He has to depend upon his own resourcefulness to return to his family. This animal fantasy has broad appeal to both boys and girls.

Other titles in the series: Sunwing, Firewing

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Park, Linda Sue**A Single Shard**

ISBN: 0440418518

Publisher: Calerion Books

Date: 2003

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Newbery Medal

Set in 12th Century Korea, the homeless, Tree-ear is taken in by a kind and ethical disabled master in a village of potters. When Tree-ear breaks a piece of pottery created by Min, the best potter in the village, Tree-ear is forced to work off his debt. The protagonist confronts a dilemma after the Emperor commissions pottery from Min who has developed a new inlay design. While taking his master's pottery to the Emperor, Tree-ear breaks it – and is left with only a single shard to demonstrate what this new technique can offer. The novel has a surprising ability to connect us to a time and place far from our own.

Recommended: Lower Intermediate

**Pfzeter, Mark and
Jack Galvin**

My Everest Story

ISBN:0-525-46089-6

Publisher: Penguin

Date: 1998

Genre: Contemporary Non-Fiction, Adventure

Mark Pfetzer begins mountain climbing at age thirteen. But his dreams for the future are big. By the time he is fifteen years old he is headed to Mt. Everest to attempt what most people told him was impossible. In 1995, he may be the youngest person to summit Mt. Everest ... if he succeeds. Mark's journey becomes not only a test of his physical endurance and his skills as a mountain climber, but also a test of his emotional endurance and commitment.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Polack, Monique

The Middle of Everywhere

ISBN: 9781554690909

Publisher: Orca Books

Date: 2009

Genre: Contemporary Realism

Awards: Quebec Writers' Federation Prize nominee

Noah Thorpe is sent to live with his father in George River, an Inuit community in northern Quebec. Noah's views and beliefs are challenged by the dramatic changes in school, family life and the environment. To the Inuit he is a qallunaaq – a stranger from the south – who knows nothing about the trials, devastation, and culture of the Inuit. It is not until Noah is on a winter camping trip that he realizes that he will have to learn to adapt if he wants to make it home.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Porter, Pamela**The Crazy Man**

ISBN: 0888996950

Publisher: Groundwood Books

Date: 2005

Genre: Historical Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Verse

Awards: 2005 Governor General's Literary Award, 2006 TD Book

Award, 2006 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

Set in 1965 on a Saskatchewan farm, we learn how tragedy has struck the Emaline's family. Told in free verse, the reader comes to explore the values of loyalty and truth. Many prejudices evident in that era come forward. Though some hard realities are discussed, the story is quite uplifting.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Rennison, Louise**Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging**

ISBN: 0060521848

Publisher: HarperTeen

Date: 2003

Genre: Contemporary, comedy

This mature fast-paced, humor-packed novel in diary form will have students lining up to read it when they hear the out-loud laughter coming from their classmates. Georgia is Every Girl – to the extreme. Convinced that hers is the dullest life around, this teenager self-obsesses about her looks and boys while her parents are a little strange, and her younger sister embarrasses her to no end. Although completely inexperienced with boys – she is determined to change that, if she can only figure out what to do.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Rowling, J. K.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

ISBN: 043935806

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2003

Genre: Fantasy

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone begins the remarkable series that introduces us to Hogwarts, a school of wizardry and secrets.

Harry is a famous young wizard who takes on the fearsome Dark Lord Voldemort, the murderer of Harry's parents. He must contend with the world of the Muggles (the world of ordinary people) in between terms at Hogwarts where Harry and his friends, Ron and Hermione, regularly battle the forces of evil. This series introduces readers to a wide variety of characters as Harry progresses through his formal schooling to become a fully accredited wizard and as he attempts to vanquish his arch enemy, Voldemort. The series concludes when Harry completes his time at Hogwarts and challenges Voldemort for the last time in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallow.

Other titles in the series: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone,

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Said, S. F.

Varjak Paw

ISBN: 0440420768

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

Date: 2003

Genre: Fantasy, Adventure

Varjak Paw is a cat that belongs to a special breed, the Mesopotamia Blue. When the owner of the house dies, Varjak Paw ventures to the dangerous world outside of his sheltered life. While there, he learns a martial art that has been passed down through the generations.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

**Segovia, Patty and
Rebecca Heller****Skater Girl**

ISBN: 978-1-56975-542-6

Publisher: Ulysses Press

Date: 2007

Genre: Nonfiction, Informational

This girl's guide to skateboarding is an empowering need-to-know handbook for any female teenager interested in skateboarding. It offers extensive information about boarding culture, including what it takes to become a pro. The book covers all aspects of skateboarding: how to get your start, tricks that range in difficulty, and a history of women's skateboarding.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Shakespeare, William**A Midsummer Night's Dream – The Graphic Novel**

ISBN: 9780195438017 (Original version)

Publisher: Oxford

Date: 2011

Genre: Graphic Novel, Drama

This classic story of rumours and deception retold in graphic style creates new interest in Shakespeare's dramatic form. Other titles in the series: Modern version (ISBN 9780195438024), Quick text version (ISBN 9780195438031)

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Short, Robin**Rock Stars**

ISBN: 1897174128

Publisher: Creative Book Publishers

Date: 2006

Genre: Informational

In 2006, Canada was represented by Brad Gushue's curling team at the XX Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. Robin Short, sports editor for The Telegram, details the team's journey to the Olympics and their challenges along the way.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Smith, David J.

If the World Were a Village

ISBN 1-55074-779-7

Publisher: Kids Can Press, Ltd.

Date: 2002

Genre: Informational

Awards: International Reading Association Children's Book Award (2003)

This informative text presents global issues in a “village” setting – 100 people instead of 6 billion. The realistic and manageable population size really challenges students to consider inequities in the world and to pose questions and solutions. Includes a companion website at <http://www.mapping.com/village.html>.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

Stratton, Allan

Chanda's Secrets

ISBN: 1550378341

Publisher: Annick Press

Date: 2004

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Chanda, aged 16, lives in the impoverished world of sub-Saharan Africa; a world filled with heartache. Her father died and there has been a series of stepfathers; all of whom are abusive and/or neglectful. Although AIDS is common, it is not a topic that is socially acceptable for discussion. Her third stepfather dies from AIDS and her mother is in the process of dying from AIDS. Despite the desperation and the stigma associated with the illness, Chanda's courage and intelligence help her to face the death of her mother. This is a dark book with very moving social commentary on the appalling treatment of individuals living with AIDS.

Other titles in the series: Chanda's Wars

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Tan, Shaun**Lost and Found**

ISBN: 9780545229241

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine

Date: 2011

Genre: Radical Literature, Picture Book

This collection of three illustrated short stories in picture book format that deal with emotional issues: depression, the sense of belonging and cultural assimilation. Each story is separate and presents unique illustration styles and voices; all three share a common thread of loss and hope.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Thompson, Kate**The New Policeman**

ISBN: 9780061174278

Publisher: The Bodley Head

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy, Adventure

Awards: Whitbread Children's Book Award

J.J. Liddy is part of a family of musicians. Time seems to be slipping away faster and faster in the community of Kinvara to the point where there is not enough time to enjoy life's simple pleasures. As a result, J.J.'s mother asks him to find more time as a birthday gift. This journey takes the reader to a magical land called Tír na nÓg, the land of eternal youth where J.J. must solve the riddle of evaporating time.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

**Van Draanen,
Wendelin**

Flipped

ISBN: 0-375-81174-5

Publisher: Alfred A. Knoff

Date: 2001

Genre: Realistic

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. Juli Baker loves her sycamore tree and the eggs she collects daily. She also loves Bryce Loski. However, Bryce definitely does not reciprocate Juli's feelings; he is convinced that she is weird and strange. Things change though once the two have a confrontation. Juli's passionate beliefs, once the cause of Bryce's dislike, now begin to endear her to him. Bryce's lack of support of Juli's crusades causes negative feelings in Juli towards Bryce, and she begins to think that he is not as interesting as she had originally thought him to be. Will they be able to resolve their differences?

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

Weeks, Sarah

So B. It

ISBN: 0064410471

Publisher: Harper Trophy

Date: 2004

Genre: Contemporary, Realistic Fiction

Awards: Parents' Choice Gold Award

Heidi is the daughter of a mentally disabled mother. She lives with her mom and a neighbor, Bernadette. She doesn't know when her birthday is or even who is her father. Everything about her past is a mystery. Heidi's mom has a limited vocabulary. A favorite word is "soof". One day, curiosity gets the better of Heidi and she embarks on a journey to discover her past. What she discovers will not only change the way she lives, but forever changes how she views life.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Whelan, Gloria**Homeless Bird**

ISBN: 0439296919

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers

Date: 2000

Genre: Contemporary, Realistic Fiction

Awards: National Book Award, ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, ALA Notable Children's Book, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Booklist Editors' Choice

Koly is a thirteen-year-old girl from a rural village in India. Her parents arrange a marriage to a young man from another village. The family doesn't realize Koly is to marry a dying boy and was basically sold for her dowry. According to custom, a widow can never return home without bringing shame to her family. As a result, Koly is destined to a life of poverty. Can she escape? This novel was inspired by a newspaper article about the real thirteen-year-old widows in India today.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Wilson, Janet**Imagine That!**

ISBN: 0773732217

Publisher: Fitzhenry and Whiteside

Date: 2000

Genre: Picture Books

On her hundredth birthday, Auntie Violet reminisces with her great granddaughter, Elizabeth, about all of the changes that have taken place over her lifetime in the twentieth century. She shares brief anecdotes about her own girlhood. The pages contain beautiful illustrations of historical personages and reflect the text. Colour coded sidebars containing factual information line both sides of the book. Wide ranging topics include inventions, fashion, history, and medicine to entertainment, toys, food, and transportation. This is a fabulous resource to spark research and class discussions.

Recommended Grade: Intermediate

Resources

Professional Resources

Gelman, Judy and Viki Levy Krupp. *The Kids' Book Club Book*. (2007) Tarcher.

Henderson, Darwin L. & May, Jill P. *Exploring Culturally Diverse Literature for Children and Adolescents. Learning to Listen in New Ways*. (2005) Pearson.

Opitz, Michael F. and Michael P. Ford with Matthew D. Zbaracki. *Books and Beyond: New Ways to Reach Readers*. (2006) Heinemann.

Tomlinson, Carl M. & Carol Lynch-Brown. *Essentials of Young Adult Literature*. (2007) Pearson Allyn & Bacon.

Internet Sites for Young Adult Texts

Governor General's Literary Awards

<https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/prizes/governor-generals-literary-awards>

Newbery Medal Home Page

<https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbery>

The official page of the John Newbery Award as maintained by the Association for Library Service to Children. It includes information about the award, descriptions of the award winners, and a printable list of all the previous winners.

Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries

<http://www.nlpl.ca/>

Sora

<https://www.soraapp.com/welcome>

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