

Austin Montessori School Upper Elementary Reading List 2011-2012

August 22, 2011

(Descriptions are from Amazon and author websites)

Alcott, Louisa May *Little Men* 370 pages 10+

In this sequel to *Little Women*, Jo and her husband are running Plumfield Estate School, home to a small group of needy boys, relatives, and sons whose mischievous antics and emotional upheavals can make you laugh and cry. Makes a good family read-aloud too!

Alexander, Lloyd *Time Cat* 224 pages

When Jason finds out that his cat Gareth can travel through time, he begs to go along. Soon cat and boy find themselves in ancient Egypt on the first of nine unforgettable adventures.

Avi *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* 240 pages 10+

On a long, grueling journey from England to Rhode Island in 1802, a 12 year old changes from a prim and proper girl to a swashbuckling mate of a mutinous crew and is accused of murder by the captain. Awash with shipboard activity, intense feelings, and a keen sense of time and place, the story is a throwback to good old-fashioned adventure yarns on the high seas.

Babbitt, Natalie *The Search for Delicious* 158 pages

Twelve-year-old Gaylen sets off on horseback to poll the kingdom about which food should stand for “delicious” in Prime Minister DeCree’s new and rather unusual dictionary. He meets a 900-year old creature, dwarfs who live underground, and Ardis the mermaid. “Fantasy-adventure that’s as fresh and sparkling as spring water. It’s truly delicious.”—The New York Times

Balliett, Blue *Chasing Vermeer* 254 pages

Calder and Petra, two sixth-graders at the University of Chicago Lab School, find themselves at the center of an international art scandal. Drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, the children must use their problem-solving skills and knowledge of the Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer to solve the mystery. Can they decipher a crime that has left even the FBI baffled? Secret pentomino messages are hidden in the illustrations of this book.

Barrie, J. M. *Peter Pan* 170 pages

Based on Barrie's famous play, this book is filled with unforgettable characters: Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up; the fairy, Tinker Bell; the evil pirate, Captain Hook; and the three children – Wendy, John, and Michael – who fly off with Peter Pan to Neverland, where they meet Indians and pirates and a crocodile that ticks.

Beatty, Patricia *Jonathan Down Under* 219 pages 10+

Jonathan follows his impractical father from the gold fields of California to Australia. Through many adventures and disasters, Jonathan responds with courage and determination to fulfill his father’s dreams, amidst the rough-and-ready society of nineteenth-century Victoria.

Birdsall, Jeanne *The Penderwicks* 272 pages

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel’s sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel’s owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

Birney, Betty *The World According to Humphrey* 122 pages

Humphrey, Class 26's pet hamster, narrates this story. He is an irresistible character and has a positive influence on the students, as well as on the families he visits on the weekends. This book shows that “you can learn a lot about yourself by getting to know another species.”

Bruchac, Joseph *The Arrow Over the Door* 80 pages

This story is based on a real event in 1777 before the Battle of Saratoga. It is told in alternate voices by Samuel Russell, a Quaker boy, and Stands Straight, an Abenaki boy whose mother and brother were killed by colonists. The two boys meet and each one grows as a result of the encounter. With a surprising amount of drama and suspense, this novel explores the complexities of the Native American – European American relationship.

Buff, Mary & Conrad *The Apple and the Arrow* 76 pages

The year is 1291, and Walter, the 12-year-old son of William Tell, the greatest Bowman in the land of Uri, lives happily in the remote heights of the Swiss Alps. But Walter's peaceful life is shaken as his country enters a revolution against Austria, and Walter must carry a secret that could threaten the life of the father he loves so dearly. The dramatic tale of William Tell has become a legend around the world. A Newbery Honor book

Bulla, Clyde Robert *Riding the Pony Express* 94 pages

Dick Park is the son of a Pony Express rider, Katy Kelly is the daughter of a way station master, and Little Bear is an Indian boy who lives nearby. How these three friends keep the mail moving is just part of this fast-moving tale about the great experiment in transcontinental communication.

Byars, Betsy *Tornado* 64 pages

When a tornado appears in the distance, Pete, the farmhand, gathers everyone into the storm cellar and, to keep them from thinking about the danger, tells them stories about the dog he had when he was a boy. Named Tornado, Pete's pet was no ordinary dog. Among other things, he played card tricks! Irresistible and heart-warming!

Cheng, Andrea *Honeysuckle House* 136 pages

Sarah, 10, is Chinese American, but she speaks only English and doesn't want to learn Chinese. She is not happy when the teacher expects her to take care of the new student, Ting, who has just arrived from Shanghai. This absorbing novel, told in the girls' alternating voices, is more than a friendship story about immigration and assimilation. It shows the cultural differences across generations and inside families.

Cheshire, Simon *The Curse of the Ancient Mask and Other Case Files* 169 pages

Saxby Doyle Christie Chandler Ellin Allan Smart, whose father loves crime novels, has developed a schoolyard reputation as a sleuth. Confident, though occasionally baffled, the young detective organizes the evidence methodically. Careful readers can solve these cases too!

Clements, Andrew *No Talking* 160 pages

Dave Packer's fifth-grade classmates are so boisterous and difficult to quiet down that the teachers have dubbed them "The Unshushables." Dave has just read about Mahatma Gandhi and learned that the man practiced silence one day a week to bring order to his mind. Though Dave likes to talk nonstop, he's determined to give the idea a try. An encounter with Lynsey, another chatterbox, sparks the boys and girls into challenging each other to a no-talking contest for 48 hours.

Cohen, Barbara *Thank You, Jackie Robinson* 128 pages

After Sam's father died, he became so wrapped up in the Brooklyn Dodgers that he could describe every game they'd played in the past four years. Nobody was very interested, until Sam met Davy. They came from different races, religions, and generations. But it didn't take long before they had a friendship that went well beyond baseball.

Cornelissen, Cornelia *Soft Rain* 115 pages

In the spring of 1838, nine-year-old Soft Rain learns there will be no more school for the Cherokee children in her North Carolina community. The tribal council has signed a treaty with the white men, and they must move west (on the Trail of Tears). "An eye-opening introduction to a painful period of American history" – Publishers Weekly

Crofford, Emily *Born in the Year of Courage* 160 pages 10+

When Manjiro, a young fisherman, is marooned on an island far from his native Japan, he knows nothing of the outside world. Japan is an isolated country and foreigners are called barbarians. However when he is rescued by the barbarians, he has some amazing adventures. This gripping narrative of survival and self-discovery takes place in early 19th-century Japan.

Curtis, Christopher Paul *Bud, Not Buddy* 272 pages 10+

An orphaned runaway, Bud copes with the adult world with his numbered "Rules and Things." His few treasures from his former life with "Momma," are kept in a battered suitcase. One, a flyer advertising a musical group, leads him on a fantasy journey to an amazing reality. (Newberry Medal Winner)

Dahl, Roald *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* 160 pages

Willy Wonka's famous chocolate factory is opening at last! But only five lucky children will be allowed inside. And the winners are: Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee, and Charlie Bucket (our hero), a boy who is honest and kind, brave and true, and ready for the wildest time of his life!

Dalgliesh, Alice *The Courage of Sarah Noble* 60 pages

In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to build a new home for their family. "Keep up your courage," her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy to feel brave inside. The dark woods were full of animals and Indians, too, and Sarah was only eight! An inspiring, true story of Sarah's journey.

DiCamillo, Kate *The Tale of Despereaux* 269 pages

This somewhat dark story begins "within the walls of a castle, with the birth of a mouse." Despereaux Tilling, the new baby mouse, is different from other mice. A true romantic, he loves Pea the Princess with an overwhelming love, but is banished by his own father to the foul, rat-filled dungeon. This expanded fairy tale, full of unpredictable twists of plot, is scary enough to be exciting, yet enchanting and heartening. A tale of hope and redemption. Newbery Medal winner

DeJong, Meindert *The House of Sixty Fathers* 189 pages

Young Tien Pao is alone on his family's sampan when the boat breaks loose from its moorings and is caught by the rushing waters of the river. The sampan lands in Japanese territory. With only his pig for company, Tien Pao begins the long journey back to his parents. "Not only a tense adventure story but also a moving picture of one small boy's tenacious courage." --The New York Times Newbery Medal winner

Dillon, Eilis *The Island of Horses* 224 pages

The people of remote Inishrone, an island off the coast of Ireland, know better than to go to the Island of Horses. Everyone has heard tales of men who have gone there and never come back. Yet one day young Pat Conroy and his friend Danny MacDonagh head off anyway, telling their parents that they are fishing for eels. Instead they find mysteries. Full of unforgettable individuals, this book was chosen by the Sunday Times (London) as one of its 99 Best Books for Children.

Draper, Sharon *Out of My Mind* 304 pages 10+

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording and has no delete button. She's the smartest child in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people, her teachers and doctors included, don't think she's capable of learning, because Melody can't talk. One day she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never, ever forget.

DuBois, William Pene *The Twenty-one Balloons* 172 pages

Professor William Waterman Sherman intends to fly across the Pacific Ocean, but he lands instead on Krakatoa. There he discovers a world of unimaginable wealth, eccentric inhabitants, and incredible balloon inventions. This classic fantasy-adventure was the winner of the 1948 Newbery Medal. "William Pene du Bois combines his rich imagination, scientific tastes, and brilliant artistry to tell a story that has no age limit." – The Horn Book

Enright, Elizabeth *Gone-Away Lake* 272 pages

A splendid summer discovery is shared by two young cousins who stumble upon a swamp and its colorful occupants, human and otherwise. Newberry Honor Book.

Erdrich, Louise *The Birchbark House* 244 pages

Omakayas, or Little Frog, was the sole survivor of a smallpox epidemic on Spirit Island, and she was only a baby. She was rescued by a fearless woman named Tallow and welcomed into an Ojibwa family on Lake Superior's Madeline Island. Beginning in the summer of 1847, when Omakaya is a girl, the book lets us experience a year in her life, including experiences such as tanning moose hides, building a home out of birchbark, and making maple syrup.

Fenner, Carol *Yolonda's Genius* 208 pages

An African American family escapes the dangerous streets of Chicago by moving to a small Michigan town. When Yolonda's younger brother, Andrew, has trouble learning to read, Yolonda develops a plan to prove to her widowed mother and the world that Andrew is a musical genius. Dynamic characters and a compelling storyline draw readers into Yolonda's world. (Newberry Honor book)

Fitzhugh, Louise *Harriet the Spy* 296 pages

Harriet is determined to become a famous author when she grows up, so she practices daily by following a regular spy route in New York City and writing down everything she sees in her secret notebook. Her life is turned upside down when her classmates find it and read it. This book has a multitude of characters with very realistic interactions. The Chicago Tribune raved, "brilliantly written... a superb portrait of an extraordinary child."

Fleischman, Paul *Bull Run* 128 pages 10+

The individual voices in this book give a human face to the first major battle in the Civil War. In a series of snapshot-like first-person accounts, 16 characters (all fictional excepting Gen. Irvin McDowell) from all walks of life – male and female, black and white, Northern and Southern – trace their thoughts, emotions and experiences, from their first bright hopes through the brutal reality of battle. The result is heartbreaking and remarkably vivid.

Forbes, Ester *Johnny Tremain* 264 pages 10+

This book weaves the fictional story of Johnny Tremain, a promising silversmith apprentice, with the historical events and people of Revolutionary-era Boston. Johnny becomes increasingly involved with the Sons of Liberty, rubs shoulders with Paul Revere, John Hancock and Samuel Adams, and deals with a great personal tragedy. Yet the book reminds us of the simple hope "that a man can stand up." Winner of the 1944 Newbery Award and still captivating and inspiring!

Funke, Cornelia *Dragon Rider* 523 pages

Dragon Rider is about a brave young dragon called Firedrake who embarks upon a dangerous journey to the Rim of Heaven in the Himalayas--a magical place where silver dragons can rest easy, free from the threat of destruction by mankind and their only hope of sanctuary. The key to its location is a map rendered by a rat who is a master cartographer. Firedrake is joined on his quest by Ben, an orphaned boy, and Sorrell--a wise-cracking Brownie that is an odd, but ingenious, grumpy kind of fairy.

Gardiner, John Reynolds *Stone Fox* 96 pages

Although Stone Fox has never lost a race, Willy is determined to win the next National Dog Sled Race. He needs the money to save his grandfather's farm. "A superb piece of story-telling—without doubt the most exciting and moving book this season." (The New Yorker, 1980)

Giff, Patricia Reilly *Pictures of Hollis Woods* 176 pages 10+

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. She even runs away from the Regans, the one family who offers her a home. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take

Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she plans to take Josie with her. Yet behind all her plans, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, fixing each moment of her time with them in pictures she'll never forget. Newberry Honor book.

Hautzig, Esther *The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia* 243 pages 10+

Ten-year-old Esther Rudomin describes "the end of my lovely world" when her family is arrested in 1941 and taken from their home. They are shipped by cattle car to a Soviet forced-labor camp in a remote Siberian Village. Esther, her mother, and her grandmother manage to stay together and keep each other alive. A moving memoir, first published in 1968. "I spoke to Esther. Her book has impacted me for 22 years."— a reader, 2003

Heinlein, Robert *Have Spacesuit, Will Travel* 255 pages 11+

Teenager Kip Russell, infatuated with the idea of traveling to the Moon, enters a contest to win such an opportunity. However, his dream becomes a nightmare when he comes upon a race of space creatures who have kidnaped a little girl from Earth's Moon Station. Kip ends up traveling to Pluto and beyond with Pee Wee and an alien space guide whom they call the "Mother Thing." First published in 1958. "Here is superior science fiction." – The NY Times

Hobbs, Valerie *Sheep* 144 pages

A stray pup begins learning to herd sheep on a California ranch, and the dream of that work stays with him after a fire destroys the ranch. He moves from situation to situation, and name to name. Beautifully told in the border collies's simple, first-person voice, the story captures the canine's struggle for food, shelter, and love. "Very engaging."

Holling, Holling C. *Paddle-to-the-Sea* 48 pages

In this Caldecott Honor book, originally published in 1941, a young Indian boy in the Canadian wilderness carves a wooden figure in a 12-inch canoe and names him Paddle-to-the-Sea. Wanting to travel by water to the Atlantic Ocean, the boy sends the wooden figure instead. Filled with nature, history, and drama, this story is a classic, and a good book to share aloud. "Geography of the best kind made vivid by the power of imagination." – Horn Book

Holm, Jennifer *Turtle in Paradise* 191 pages

It's 1935, the Depression Era, and jobs are hard to come by. Turtle's mother is lucky to find work as a live-in housekeeper. When she learns that her employer can't stand children, she sends her 11-year-old daughter from New Jersey to Key West, Florida, to live with relatives. Turtle discovers a startlingly different way of life amid boisterous cousins, Nana Philly, and buried treasure.

Hunt, Irene *Up a Road Slowly* 178 pages 10+

After her mother's death, Julie goes to live with Aunt Cordelia, a spinster schoolteacher, who helps her learn many life lessons. Full of witty dialogue and characters who seem very real, this book won the Newbery Medal. "Those who follow Julie's growth — from a tantrum-throwing seven-year-old to a gracious young woman of seventeen — will find this book has added a new dimension to their lives." – NY Times Book Review

Kehret, Peg *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio* 224 pages

This heartfelt memoir takes readers back to 1949 when the author, at age 12, contracted polio. In that year, there were 42,000 cases reported in the U.S., but the author was the only one stricken in her hometown in Minnesota. Using fictionalized dialogue, she describes her seven-month ordeal: her diagnosis, treatment, frustration, and pain. Honest and well-written.

Kirkpatrick, Katherine *Escape Across the Wide Sea* 210 pages +10

It's 1686. Daniel and his Huguenot (French Protestant) parents escape from France where they have been persecuted for their religion. This book brings a world long gone to vivid life: slave ships, weavers' rooms, sugar plantations, and one brave boy who grows up on his voyage to freedom and the New World.

Konigsburg, E. L. *The View from Saturday* 163 pages

Four brilliant, shy, offbeat 12-year-olds have a tea party each Saturday morning. Why did Mrs. Olinski, returning to teaching 10 years after being paralyzed in a car accident, choose these four to be her sixth-grade quiz bowl team? Both humorous and profound, this book won the 1996 Newbery Medal.

Korman, Gordon *Swindle* 252 pages

Sixth-grader Griffin Bing finds an old baseball card, but a collector cons him out of it. Griffin devises a plan to get it back, in spite of a menacing guard dog and a high-tech security system. Humorous and action-packed, this book presents some thoughtful moral dilemmas. Who is the rightful owner of the card? What will Griffin do to get it back? Will he lie and steal?

LaFevers, R. L. *Flight of the Phoenix* 134 pages

Nathaniel Fludd never dreamed that mythical beasts were real, or that he would be the one supposed to take care of them. He would rather draw than go on an adventure. However he learns that a long line of Fludds have been beastologists. First book in a fun, fantasy adventure series.

Larson, Kirby *Hattie Big Sky* 288 pages 10+

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 in Montana. With a stubborn stick-to-itiveness, Hattie faces frost, drought and blizzards. 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. (Newbery Honor Book)

L'Engle, Madeleine *Meet the Austins* 192 pages

"Yes, by all means 'meet the Austins,' for a nicer family would be hard to find. The book is beautifully written, with integrity and warmth, and young people are bound to identify with the characters, each a person in his own right, and to read absorbed from first page to last. Thoroughly recommended."—Chicago Tribune

Lenski, Lois *Indian Captive* 298 pages 10+

In this classic frontier adventure, Lois Lenski reconstructs the real life story of Mary Jemison, who was captured in a raid as young girl and raised amongst the Seneca Indians. Meticulously researched and illustrated with many detailed drawings, this novel offers an exceptionally vivid and personal portrait of Native American life and customs.

Levine, Gail *Ella Enchanted* 232 pages

At birth, Ella is inadvertently cursed by an imprudent fairy named Lucinda, who bestows on her the "gift" of obedience. Anything anyone tells her to do, Ella must obey. Another girl might have been cowed by this affliction, but not feisty Ella. She sets out on a quest of self-discovery, trying to track down Lucinda to undo the curse. This is a most remarkable version of Cinderella!

Lin, Grace *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* 282 pages

By day, Minli works with her very poor parents in the rice fields. By night she listens to her father's stories about the Jade Dragon who keeps Fruitless Mountain bare and the Old Man of the Moon who holds everyone's destiny. Beautifully illustrated and elegantly written, this novel combines elements of Chinese folk tales with a captivating adventure story. A Newbery Honor book

Lindgren, Astrid *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter* 176 pages

On the night Ronia was born, a thunderstorm raged over the mountain, but in Matt's castle and among his band of robbers there was only joy - for Matt now had a spirited little black-haired daughter. Soon Ronia learns to dance and yell with the robbers, but it is alone in the forest that she feels truly at home. Then one day Ronia meets Birk, the son of Matt's arch-enemy. Soon after Ronia and Birk become friends the worst quarrel ever between the rival bands erupts, and Ronia and Berk are right in the middle (By the author of *Pippi Longstocking*)

Lowry, Lois *Number the Stars* 156 pages 10+

As the German troops begin their campaign to “relocate” all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen’s family takes in Annemarie’s best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.

MacLachlan, Patricia *Arthur for the Very First Time* 128 pages

Arthur Rasby is ten years old and having the worst summer of his life. His parents don’t listen to him, so he writes everything down -- everything that’s *real* -- in his journal. But when he goes to stay with his Great-Aunt Elda and Great-Uncle Wrisby on their farm, his world is turned upside down. For the first time Arthur wonders what’s real and what’s not. His aunt and uncle do things Arthur’s parents would never do – like singing to their pet pig, and speaking French to a pet chicken. Arthur begins to understand there is more than one way of seeing and doing and loving. And he realizes there’s a whole world just waiting to be discovered.

Malone, Marianne *The Sixty-Eight Rooms* 274 pages

On a class trip to the Chicago’s Art Institute, Ruthie and Jack see the famous Thorne Rooms. These are amazingly detailed miniature rooms, representing different time periods, made in the 1930s by Mrs. James Ward Thorne. With a key that allows them to shrink small enough to sneak inside and explore the rooms, the adventure begins.

Mass, Wendy *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* 289 pages 10+

In one month Jeremy Fink will turn thirteen. But does he have what it takes to be a teenager? Jeremy’s summer takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious wooden box arrives in the mail with the engraved words “the meaning of life: for Jeremy Fink on his thirteenth birthday.” Now, where are the keys? This novel is full of surprising twists and thought-provoking ideas!

McCaughrean, Geraldine *The Death-Defying Pepper Roux* 336 pages 11+

Pepper’s fourteenth birthday is a momentous one. It’s the day he’s supposed to die. At least that’s what his Aunt Mireille predicted on the day of his birth. Naive and trusting, Pepper sets a course through dangerous waters, inviting disaster and mayhem at every turn, one eye on the sky for fear of angels, one on the magnificent possibilities of being alive. An unforgettable cast of characters and lyrical prose make this book hard to put down.

McCloskey, Robert *Homer Price* 160 pages

Homer is an all-American boy who lives in a small Midwestern town in the 1940’s. He is oblivious to difficult challenges; he just takes things as they go. See how things go with the donut machine and his pet skunk! Robert McCloskey has kept readers in stitches for generations!

McGraw, Eloise *The Moorchild* 241 pages

Set long ago in a place where humans and fairies intermingle, this book combines fantasy with contemporary human concerns. Because she is half Folk (elf/fairy) and half human, Saaski has no place in either world. The human villagers taunt her and blame her for their problems. But Saaski simply wants to find the truth about the past and a place where she can fit in. Magical!

Morey, Walt *Gentle Ben* 193 pages

Mark’s father makes his living by catching salmon every year on a boat called the Far North. Mark feels lonely, but he finds a friend named Ben, who happens to be an Alaskan brown bear, a bear so huge that no one else will come near him! This book will take you to Alaska before it became a state, with its hardy people and incredible landscape. You might want a dictionary nearby for fishing and boating terms.

Mowat, Farley *Owls in the Family* 112 pages

This is the humorous and heart-warming story of two owls, a boy and a dog. It takes place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, where Wol and Weeps shake up a whole neighborhood!

Murphy, Jim *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*
176 pages 11+

On August 3, in hot smelly Philadelphia, then our nation's capital, George Washington was writing letters and worrying about whether to support the French in their revolution, when a young French sailor died in a boarding house. As church bells began to toll more and more often, it became clear that there was an unknown killer in town. Thoroughly researched, generously illustrated with fascinating archival prints, and unflinching in its discussion of medical details, this book is recommended for students in grades 6 - 12. Newberry Honor Book.

Newman, Leslea *Hachiko Waits* 96 pages

"Hachi, you are the best dog in all of Japan." Professor Ueno speaks these words to his faithful dog before boarding the train to work every morning. And every afternoon, just before three o'clock, Hachi is at the train station to greet his beloved master. One day, the train arrives at the station without the professor. Inspired by a true story of the legendary Akita, who became a national symbol for loyalty and devotion; this is a must-read for dog lovers of all ages.

O'Brien, Robert C. *The Silver Crown* 272 pages

Ellen awakens one morning with a mysterious silver crown on the pillow beside her. What magic powers it possesses she has not yet discovered, but the sudden changes in her life are unmistakable: her house is burned down, her family has disappeared, and a man in a dark uniform is stalking her. Can Ellen ever find her family? Can she use the power of the silver crown to thwart the powers of darkness?

O'Dell, Scott *The Black Pearl* 144 pages 10+

Deep in an underwater cave in the Vermilion Sea, Ramon Salazar finds an oyster containing a black pearl. It is so lustrous and lovely that his father, an expert pearl dealer, is certain Ramon has found the legendary Pearl of Heaven. But is there a price to pay for a prize so great?

Paterson, Katherine *The Bridge to Terabithia* 208 pages

Jess is eager to start fifth grade. He's been practicing his sprints all summer, determined to become the fastest runner at school. Then Leslie, the new girl in class, who also happens to be Jess's new next-door neighbor, leaves all the boys in the dust, including Jess. Nonetheless Jess and Leslie soon become inseparable and create an imaginary, secret kingdom in the woods called Terabithia. Humor, realism and heart-wrenching emotion are woven together in this Newbery-winning novel.

Paver, Michelle *Wolf Brother* 293 pages 10+

Set 6,000 years ago, this fast-paced adventure delves into a world of spirits and mysticism not often seen in children's literature. Torak, 12, witnesses his father's brutal attack by a giant, demon-possessed bear and promises to find his way to the Mountain of the World Spirit. Before dying, his father instructs him to avoid other men and tells him that his guide will find him.

Pinkwater, Daniel *Lizard Music* 160 pages

With his parents off at a resort and his older sister shirking her babysitting duties, Victor has plenty of time to try a few things he's been curious about. Exploring the nearby city of Hogboro, he runs into a curious character known as the Chicken Man who speaks brilliant nonsense, but seems to be hip to the lizard musicians (real lizards, not men in lizard suits) who've been on TV. Are the lizards from outer space? From "other space"? "Wildly imaginative. . . This is a natural high." —Booklist (starred review)

Pryor, Bonnie *Seth of the Lion People* 128 pages

Set during prehistoric times, this adventure story tells of Seth, a crippled boy with a talent for telling stories and remembering the past. Seth's tribe values physical strength above all else, so Seth must decide if he should seek his destiny with a tribe beyond the mountains or stay where he is no longer needed.

Rawls, Wilson *Summer of the Monkeys* 288 pages 11+

The last thing a 14-year-old boy expects to find along an old Ozark river bottom is a tree full of monkeys. Jay Berry Lee's grandpa had an explanation, of course: the monkeys had escaped from a traveling circus. By the end of the summer, Jay had learned a lot more than he bargained for, not just about monkeys, but about faith and knowing what you really want, ... and growing up. Set in rural Oklahoma in the late 1800s, this book is full of rich detail and delightful characters.

Robinet, Harriette *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues* 160 pages

During the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott, six months after Rosa Parks made her famous protest, Alfa Merryfield and his family struggle to pay the rent. But someone keeps stealing their rent money – and now someone is accusing them of stealing! Alfa and his sister Zinnia don't have much time to solve this mystery. They must “walk the walk and talk the talk of nonviolence” that Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders preach – and what they discover may be more than they dreamed...

Rogers, Lisa *The Great Storm: The Hurricane Diary of J. T. King* 160 pages

Before the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, J. T. is a normal teenager. Though he sleeps on a rickety cot in the pantry of his grandmother's boardinghouse, life at the corner of Q ½ and 25th Streets is as secure as the sturdy old house itself. But when the storm hits, brave and compassionate J. T. is poised to weather and record for all time the greatest storm any American has ever survived.

Rutkowski, Marie *The Cabinet of Wonders: The Chronos Chronicles* 272 pages

Petra Kronos has a simple, happy life. But it's never been ordinary. She has a pet tin spider named Astrophil who likes to hide in her snarled hair and give her advice. Petra also has a father in faraway Prague who is able to move metal with his mind. He has been commissioned by the prince of Bohemia to build the world's finest astronomical clock. Petra's life is forever changed when, one day, her father returns home – blind. The prince has stolen his eyes, enchanted them, and now wears them. But why? Petra doesn't know, but she knows this: she will go to Prague, sneak into Salamander Castle, and steal her father's eyes back. Petra finds that many people in the castle are not what they seem, and that her father's clock has powers capable of destroying their world.

Ryan, Pam Munoz *The Dreamer* 370 pages

Neftali Reyes, a shy boy from Chile, sees, hears, and feels poetry all around him from an early age. Luckily he finds understanding and encouragement from his stepmother and his uncle, whose humanitarian and liberal attitudes also influence him. In early adulthood, he starts using the pseudonym Pablo Neruda. This fictional biography with wonderful illustrations by Peter Sis, allows readers to enter the mind of the Nobel Prize-winning poet.

Schaeffer, Jack *Old Ramon* 112 pages

A wise old shepherd teaches Pedro how to take care of a flock in the harsh terrain of the Mojave Desert. Pedro learns about sheep, rattlesnakes, and wolves, as well as bravery and wisdom. Set in the Old West where the cultures of Mexico and California converge, this book offers both a journey back to the past and a universal story of growing up. A 1961 Newbery Honor book

Selden, George *The Cricket in Times Square* 152 pages

Set in New York City, this is the tale of a musical cricket and his friends, a mouse and a cat of real character, who live in a subway station newsstand. A clever spin on the city mouse, country mouse story, this book appeals to all ages. “This is absolutely grand fun for anyone, a nine to ninety book with the most enchanting portraits by Garth Williams.”—The New York Herald Tribune

Selznick, Brian *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* 544 pages

Hugo, an orphan, lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. When his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life is put in jeopardy. “... the images in my new book don't just illustrate the story; they help tell it.” – Selznick

Sewel, Anna *Black Beauty* 245 pages 10+

Black Beauty is a handsome, sweet-tempered colt with a strong spirit, free to gallop in the fresh green meadows with his beloved mother and their kind master. But when his owners are forced to sell him, Black Beauty goes from a life of comfort and kindness to one of hard labor and cruelty. Bravely he works as hard as he can, determined to survive.

Smith, Alexander McCall *Akimbo and the Baboons* 80 pages

Akimbo is excited to have his cousin, Kosi, visit him on the game reserve where he lives. When a visiting scientist invites the boys to join her when she studies a pack of baboons, they can't wait to go along, but the boys find out that there is always danger in the African bush.

Springer, Nancy *The Case of the Missing Marques* 240 pages 10+

Enola Holmes, who lives with her mother on the family estate, is the much younger sister of Sherlock. When their mother goes missing, Enola heads for London to find her and avoid being sent to boarding school. Here are two mysteries, with clues and ciphers, high adventure in Victorian England, and a plucky heroine who adopts a number of disguises.

St. John, Lauren *The White Giraffe* 208 pages 10+

When her parents are killed in a house fire, Martine, 11, is sent to live with a grandmother she didn't know she had at a wildlife sanctuary in South Africa. She learns of a legendary white giraffe and of poachers who intend to capture it. Laced with African folklore, this fascinating tale will especially appeal to conservation-minded children.

Steig, William *Dominic* 160 pages

This is the humorous, but philosophical account of a dog who gets restless one day and sets off to see more of the world, leaving a note on his door for his neighbors: "... I embrace you all and sniff you with love. I don't know when I'll be back. But back I will be." Dominic is good-hearted, courageous, and smart. Both joyful and sad, this book has sophisticated language and themes, indicating Steig's respect for children's intelligence. A true gem!

Sutcliff, Rosemary *Black Ships Before Troy* 151 pages 10+

The *Iliad* is one of the greatest adventure stories of all time. In it, the abduction of the legendary beauty, Helen of Troy, leads to a 10-year conflict in which even the gods and goddesses take sides and intervene. Here are the stories of the Trojan horse, Aphrodite and the golden apple, and the fearsome female Amazon warriors, as well as Hector, Achilles, and Odysseus. "The *Iliad* is not an easy book, with violent battle scenes and psychological drama, but there is enough magic and charm in the story to keep even the most faint-hearted reader enthralled."

Taylor, Theodore *The Cay* 144 pages 11+

In 1942, 11-year-old Phillip Enright lives with his parents on a Dutch island in the West Indies. When the war moves too close for comfort, his mother decides to travel with him back to Virginia. Their boat is torpedoed, and they are separated. Phillip finds himself adrift on a life raft with an old black man and a cat. A gripping, award-winning novel of prejudice, love, and survival.

Thurber, James *The Wonderful O* 80 pages

Two pirates, Black and Littlejack, sail off in search of treasure aboard Black's vessel, the Aeiou. "A weird uncanny name," remarks Littlejack, "like a nightbird screaming." Black explains that it's all the vowels except for O, which he hates since his mother got wedged in a porthole. They arrive at the island of Ooroo and demand the treasure, but there's a problem. "The loveliest and liveliest of parables. The end is a real surprise." —Harper's Magazine

Treffinger, Carolyn *Li Lun, Lad of Courage* 96 pages

Although he lives in a fishing village on the coast of China, Li Lun is strangely afraid of the sea. Other boys taunt him, and even his father calls him a coward. When Li Lun refuses to go fishing, his parents banish him to the mountaintop with just a small satchel of food and a few rice seedlings. 1948 Newbery Honor book and one of the "Newbery Honor Roll" of reissued classics.

Twain, Mark *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* 270 pages

Huck finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure and quite a cast of characters. "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn. . . . There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since." – Ernest Hemingway

Vanderpool, Clare *Moon Over Manifest* 351 pages 10+

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train bound for Manifest, Kansas, to live with an old friend for the summer. She jumps off the train, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was, and is disappointed to find that it's just a worn-out old town. However she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos. There are really two stories here, Manifest on the brink of WWI, and Depression-era Manifest. Winner of the Newbery Award.

White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web* 192 pages

An affectionate, sometimes bashful pig named Wilbur befriends a spider named Charlotte, who lives in the rafters above his pen on a farm in Maine. In this story of friendship, hardship, and destiny, E.B. White reminds us to open our eyes to the wonder and miracle often found in the simplest of things. Published in 1952, this is one of the classics of children's literature.

White, Ruth *Belle Prater's Boy* 224 pages 10+

What really happened to Belle Prater, the aunt of 12-year-old Gypsy Leemaster? When Belle's son Woodrow comes to live in tiny Coal Station, Virginia, he sets off a chain of events that solve this mystery, as well as the mystery of Gypsy's own father's death seven years earlier. "so fresh that readers can practically smell the lilacs and the blossoming fruit trees." Publishers Weekly

Wiggin, Kate Douglas *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* 188 pages

The irrepressible 10-year-old Rebecca Rowena Randall burst into the world of children's book characters (and her new life in Maine) in 1903 when storybook girls were gentle and proper. Soon enough, she wins over her prim Aunt Miranda, the whole town, and thousands of readers everywhere with her energetic, indomitable spirit. Jack London and Mark Twain enjoyed this book!

Woodruff, Elvira *The Orphan of Ellis Island* 175 pages

A lonely orphan named Dominic Cantori is accidentally left behind on a class field trip to Ellis Island. Locked in the park building, he is transported back in time to Italy in 1908. There he meets other orphans who are desperately poor and hungry and unlocks the door to his past.

Woods, Shirley *Kit, the Adventures of a Raccoon* 96 pages

Born in the hollow of a maple tree, Kit spends his early days sleeping and eating. But the security of his mother's warmth and milk are soon things of the past as he learns to fend for himself. The dangers wild animals face in their encounter with humans are realistically portrayed.

Yates, Elizabeth *Amos Fortune, Free Man* 192 pages

"It does a man no good to be free until he learns how to live." These were the words of Amos Fortune, born the son of a king of the At-mun-shi tribe in Africa. When Amos was only fifteen, he was captured by slave traders and brought to Massachusetts, where he was sold at auction. He never lost his dignity and courage but dreamed of being free and of buying the freedom of his closest friends. Based on a true story, this book is a Newbery Award winner.

<i>Akimbo and the Baboons</i>	Smith	<i>Sheep</i>	Hobbs
<i>Amos Fortune, Freen Man</i>	Yates	<i>Small Steps: The Year I got Polio</i>	Kehret
<i>An American Plague</i>	Murphy	<i>Soft Rain</i>	Cornelissen
<i>Arthur for the Very First Time</i>	MacLachlan	<i>Stone Fox</i>	Gardiner
<i>Belle Prater's Boy</i>	White	<i>Summer of the Monkeys</i>	Rawls
<i>Black Beauty</i>	Sewell	<i>Swindle</i>	Korman
<i>Black Ships Before Troy</i>	Sutcliff	<i>Thank you, Jackie Robinson</i>	Cohen
<i>Born in the Year of Courage</i>	Crofford	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Twain
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Curtis	<i>The Apple and the Arrow</i>	Buff
<i>Bull Run</i>	Fleischman	<i>The Arrow Over the Door</i>	Bruchac
<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>	Dahl	<i>The Birchbark House</i>	Erdrich
<i>Chasing Vermeer</i>	Balliett	<i>The Black Pearl</i>	O'Dell
<i>Dominic</i>	Steig	<i>The Bridge to Terabithia</i>	Paterson
<i>Dragon Rider</i>	Funke	<i>The Cabinet of Wonders</i>	Rutkowski
<i>Ella Enchanted</i>	Levine	<i>The Case of the Missing Marques</i>	Springer
<i>Escape Across the Wild Sea</i>	Kirkpatrick	<i>The Cay</i>	Taylor
<i>Flight of the Phoenix</i>	LaFevers	<i>The Courage of Sarah Noble</i>	Dalgliesh
<i>Gentle Ben</i>	Morey	<i>The Cricket in Times Square</i>	Selden
<i>Gone-Away Lake</i>	Enright	<i>The Curse of the Ancient Mask and</i>	Cheshire
<i>Hachiko Waits</i>	Newman	<i>The Death-Defying Pepper Roux</i>	McCaughrean
<i>Harriet the Spy</i>	Fitzhugh	<i>The Dreamer</i>	Ryan
<i>Hattie Big Sky</i>	Larson	<i>The Endless Steppe</i>	Hautzing
<i>Have Spacesuit, Will Travel</i>	Heinlein	<i>The Great Storm</i>	Rogers
<i>Homer Price</i>	McCloskey	<i>The House of Sixty Fathers</i>	DeJong
<i>Honeysuckle House</i>	Cheng	<i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i>	Selznick
<i>Indian Captive</i>	Lenski	<i>The Island of Horses</i>	Dillon
<i>Jeremy Fink & the Meaning of Life</i>	Mass	<i>The Moorchild</i>	McGraw
<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	Forbes	<i>The Orphan of Ellis Island</i>	Woodruff
<i>Jonathan Down Under</i>	Beatty	<i>The Penderwicks</i>	Birdsall
<i>Kit, the Adventures of a Raccoon</i>	Woods	<i>The Search for Delicious</i>	Babbitt
<i>Li Lun, Lad of Courage</i>	Treffinger	<i>The Silver Crown</i>	O'Brien
<i>Little Men</i>	Alcott	<i>The Sixty-Eight Rooms</i>	Malone
<i>Lizard Music</i>	Pinkwater	<i>The Tale of Desperaux</i>	DiCamillo
<i>Meet the Austins</i>	L'Engle	<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i>	Avi
<i>Moon over Manifest</i>	Vanderpool	<i>The Twenty-One Balloons</i>	DuBois
<i>No Talking</i>	Clements	<i>The View from Saturday</i>	Koningsburg
<i>Number the Stars</i>	Lowry	<i>The White Giraffe</i>	St. John
<i>Old Ramon</i>	Schaeffer	<i>The Wonderful O</i>	Thurber
<i>Out of My Mind</i>	Draper	<i>The World According to Humphrey</i>	Birney
<i>Owls in the Family</i>	Farley	<i>Time Cat</i>	Alexander
<i>Paddle-to-the-Sea</i>	Holling	<i>Tornado</i>	Byars
<i>Peter Pan</i>	Barrie	<i>Turtle in Paradise</i>	Holm
<i>Pictures of Hollis Woods</i>	Giff	<i>Up a Road Slowly</i>	Hunt
<i>Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm</i>	Wiggin	<i>Walking to the Bus-Rider Blue</i>	Robinet
<i>Riding the Pony Express</i>	Bulla	<i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i>	Lin
<i>Ronia, the Robber's Daughter</i>	Lindgren	<i>Wolf Brother</i>	Paver
<i>Seth of the Lion People</i>	Pryor	<i>Yolanda's Genius</i>	Fenner

