

ADVENTURE AND SURVIVAL

Airborn by Ken Oppel

A swashbuckling adventure aboard the airship Aurora, replete with pirates, deserted islands & mythical creatures, coming soon to a theater near you! SEQUEL: *Skybreaker*.

Armageddon Summer by Jane Yolen and Bruce Coville

Told in alternating chapters through the eyes of teenagers Jed and Marina, who, along with the Rev. Beelson and his flock of 144 "believers," head to the top of Mount Weupcut in Massachusetts to await the predicted Armageddon.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

17-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Hit the Road by Caroline Cooney

16-year-old new driver, Brit, is pressed into driving her beloved Nannie and Nannie's two best friends across three states to attend their 65th college reunion. A kidnapping, an inheritance, and the fact that it is illegal for Brit to be driving that car make for a hilarious tale of life on the road. ALSO: *Rules of the Road* by Joan Bauer.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

A firsthand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. ALSO: *Within Reach: My Everest Story* by Mark Pfetzer, the youngest person to climb the peak.

Jason's Gold by Will Hobbs

In 1897, 15-year-old Jason Hawthorne has adventures galore as he travels from New York City to the Yukon during the Alaskan Gold Rush.

Life as We Knew It by Sara Beth Pfeffer

A meteor crashes into the moon pushing it into an orbit closer to the Earth and altering the gravitational pull. High school sophomore, Miranda, and her family struggle to survive in a climatically changed world.

Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II by Robert Kurson

The amazing, but true, story of the discovery and salvage of a German U-boat sunk off the New Jersey coast in 1944.

13 Little Blue Envelopes by Maureen Johnson

Ginny doesn't think of herself as adventurous or interesting, but 13 little blue envelopes, \$1000, and directions from her dead aunt to buy a plane ticket to London send Ginny criss-crossing her away through Europe on the quest of a lifetime.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
 These 56 classic Victorian mysteries take Sherlock Holmes and his chronicler Dr. Watson through London and the English countryside bringing evil-doers to justice.

Black Boy by Richard Wright

Wright's unforgettable autobiography of growing up in the South as he struggled against the racism and poverty faced by African-Americans.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

The son of a Hassidic rabbi and the son of an intellectual Zionist form a deep, if unlikely, friendship in the 1940s.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain
 Through a time-travel fantasy, a swaggering Yankee is catapulted into the age of chivalry.

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Houston

A true story of the Japanese American experience during and after the World War II internment.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

The classic story of a scientific experiment to create a man-made human. This mother of all horror novels was written in 1816 when the author was only 18 years old!

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Jane finds terror and romance when she becomes a governess for Mr. Rochester.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

When they are marooned on a deserted island, a group of English schoolboys soon lose their civilized ways.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The friendship between two migrant workers—one a schemer and the other a simple man—is the subject of this short novel.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

Ponyboy Curtis and his friends are "greasers" and, therefore, "outsiders" in their small Oklahoma City in this classic story of class conflict.

The Turn of the Screw by Henry James

In this horror story, a young governess realizes that her two charges are controlled by ghosts.

GETTING REAL

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Chedenko,

Life gets interesting for 12-year-old Moose Flanagan when his family moves to Alcatraz Island where his father has taken a job at the maximum security prison.

Ask Me No Questions by Marina Budhos

Imagine what it's like being an illegal alien in post-9/11 New York. 14-year old Nadira and her family fight deportation after their illegal status is discovered.

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl* by Joyce Carol Oates

When 16-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

Bleachers by John Grisham

In small town Messina, the Spartan High Football team is legendary. For over 30 years coach Eddie Rake led his players to victory. As the now elderly Coach Rake is dying from cancer, former players come from far and wide to remember and honor the man who changed their lives.

A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life by Dana Reinhardt

16-year-old Simone Turner-Bloom's life changes in unexpected ways when her parents convince her to make contact with her biological mother.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes

Eighteen high school students take on the challenge of self-revelation through a series of personal poems that they read aloud to their sometimes clueless classmates.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time * by Mark Haddon
Despite his fear of interacting with people, Christopher, an autistic 15-year-old, investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Dairy Queen by Catherine Murdock
D.J., who does most of the hard work on her family's farm, comes from a family of football greats. When she begins training the quarterback from a rival school, she realizes what she wants out of life.

Haters by Alisa Valdez-Rodriguez
Paski Archuleta moves with her hippy artist dad from New Mexico to Orange County. From her first day, she realizes that things are different in SoCal where everyone looks like a model. At school, she learns to navigate the halls of Aliso Niguel High where money is everything and the beautiful rich "Haters" rule.

Heat by Mike Lupica
Michael Arroyo is a pitcher who dreams of playing in the Little League World Series and, some day, in the Major Leagues. All is on track; then he is benched until his Cuban birth certificate arrives to prove he is only 12 years old and eligible to play. **ALSO: *Travel Team*.**

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos
Jack Gantos, author of the Joey Pigza and Rotten Ralph books, recounts his experience as a young man who turns his life around after a series of unwise decisions that landed him in prison.

Invisible * by Pete Hautman
17-year-old Doug isn't popular at school. He has no friends except for his friend Andy, who is everything that Doug is not. It's clear from the beginning, however, that all is not right in the world that Doug inhabits.

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen
Annabel seems to have everything going for her, but she also carries a deep secret ...one that she would like to tell—if only someone would really listen. **ALSO: *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.**

My Sister's Keeper * by Jody Picoult
A family is torn apart by the conflicting needs of a terminally ill daughter and the younger daughter who was born to save her life.

The Schwa Was Here by Neal Schusterman
A "functionally invisible" boy named Calvin Schwa and his agent, Antsy Bonano, concoct a money-making scheme to take advantage of the Schwa's ability to go virtually unnoticed by everyone.

Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman
Nobody knows 14-year-old Shawn likes movies, chocolate pudding, and the smell of Comet cleanser. Shawn has cerebral palsy which makes it impossible for him to walk, talk, or even eat on his own. Shawn is happy until he comes to believe that his father is going to murder him.

Tequila Worm by Viola Canales
Sofia, an excellent student from a Hispanic family, receives the offer of a scholarship to attend an elite boarding school...a great opportunity that means moving 300 miles away from her family and the community she loves. **PURA BELPRE AWARD**

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher
Tao Jones, an athletic, likable kid with a sense of humor, takes on social bullying in a tale about a group of misfits brought together to find their places in a high school that has no place for them.

DRAGONS AND WIZARDS AND MAGIC, OH MY!

Alanna: The First Adventure by Tamora Pierce
11-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, and learns many hard lessons. **SEQUEL: *In the Hand of the Goddess*.**

The Bartimaeus Trilogy (The Amulet of Samarkand, The Golem's Eye and Ptolemy's Gate) by Jonathan Stroud
In this fantasy-adventure series set in an alternative London, Nathaniel uses his powers to summon up the 5,000 year-old djinni, Bartimaeus, to help thwart his nemeses and to avenge himself.

Bella at Midnight by Diane Stanley
In this homage to the classic Cinderella story, Bella learns the value of loyalty, truth, honor, and what it means to be of noble birth.

The Dark Is Rising Sequence (Over Sea, Under Stone, The Dark Is Rising, Greenwitch, The Grey King, and Silver on the Tree) by Susan Cooper
Destiny brings together Will Stanton, the Drew children, and a boy named Bran in a tale pitting good versus evil in a complex, multi-layered six-book fantasy series. **Coming soon to a theater near you!**

The Earthsea Cycle (The Wizard of Earthsea, The Tombs of Atuan, The Farthest Shore & Tehanu) by Ursula Le Guin
A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed into the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

His Dark Materials Trilogy (The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass) by Philip Pullman
In this fantasy-adventure series, when boundaries between worlds dissolve, Lyra Silvertongue and her daemon find themselves at the center of a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by her father, Lord Asriel. **Coming soon to a theater near you!**

Hero and the Crown by Robin McKinley
Princess Aerin of Damor becomes a legendary dragonslayer, fulfilling her destiny as savior of her kingdom. **ALSO: *The Blue Sword, Beauty, Spindle's End, Rose Daughter*.**

Mystic and Rider by Sharon Shinn
Magic abounds in Gillengaria, now under attack. Senneth, a fire mystic, with his trusted rider, Tayse, is sent by the king to assess the threat of civil war just as a moon-goddess cult bent on eradicating mystics organizes its forces. The first book in the Twelve Houses series. **ALSO: *The Firebird* series.**

A Prayer for Owen Meany * by John Irving
Best friends, Owen and John, grow up in the 1950s and 1960s. At a Little League game, John's mother is killed by a ball hit by Owen Meany. John says Owen is the reason he believes in God; and Owen believes he is God's instrument.

The Titan's Curse * by Rick Riordan
When the goddess Artemis disappears while hunting a rare, ancient monster, Percy and friends attempt to find her before the winter solstice, when she needs to sway the Olympian Council about the war with the Titans. Book 3 in the *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* series.

Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett
Tiffany, a gifted witch-wannabe, teams up with a clan of six-inch high, blue men called the Nac Mac Feeble (aka Wee Free Men) to rescue her baby brother, forcing a showdown with the powerful Faerie Queen. Tiffany's adventures continue in the sequels *A Hat Full of Sky* and *Wintersmith*.

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY

Black Horses for the King by Anne McCaffrey

A different take on the legend of King Arthur told through the eyes of young runaway, Galwyn, who has a unique affinity for horses. A well-researched tale of horse lore set in 5th-century Britain.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Set in WWII Germany, Death tells the story of young Liesel Meminger...of her resilience, her unexpected friendship with a Jew hiding in her basement, of the moments when she almost comes within Death's reach, and of the power of words.

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954-1968 by Diane McWhorter

A compelling look at the national civil rights movement from the Brown vs. the Board of Education decision to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ALSO: ***Remember: The Journey to School Integration*** by Toni Morrison.

Fever by Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, 16-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day by Scott O'Dell

Amid political turmoil and threats of plague, young Tom Barton risks helping William Tyndale publish and smuggle into England the Bible he translated into English.

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata.

Set in the 1950s and told from 13-year-old Katie's point of view, this story tells of a girl's determination to find the "glittering" parts of life amid illness, loneliness and hardship. **NEWBERY MEDAL BOOK.**

Monkey Town by Robert Kidd

When her father plans to bring publicity to their small Tennessee town by arresting a teacher for teaching about evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes Trial prompts 15-year-old Frances to question what she believes about religion, truth and her relationship with her father.

A Proud Taste of Scarlet and Miniver by E. L. Konigsburg

A fictionalized portrait of Eleanor of Aquitaine recounts the major events of her storied life as she awaits a final judgment that will allow her second husband Henry II to join her in heaven.

Samurai Shortstop by Alan Gratz

Toyo survives his first year of school, despite being bullied, and learns the way of the samurai while trying to play baseball in Japan in the late 1800s.

The Shining Company by Rosemary Sutcliff

Set in the year 600 and based on the earliest surviving North British poem, The Gododdin, this novel recounts the heroism of Prosper and the Companions in their fight against the invading Saxons.

Timeline by Michael Crichton

A group of historians has traveled through a "quantum foam wormhole" into feudal France in 1357 and into the middle of a civil war as they try to find a friend and risk being stranded forever.

When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka

The author's Japanese-American grandparents' were removed from their Berkeley home and interned in a series of detention camps during World War II. They returned to a changed and hostile neighborhood. ALSO: ***Eyes of the Emperor*** by Graham Salisbury.

BEACH READS

Born to Rock by Gordon Korman

When high school senior Leo Caraway loses his Harvard scholarship after being falsely accused of cheating on an exam, he feels his life is over. Then he discovers that his biological father is the legendary punk rocker, King Maggot of Purge, and, suddenly, life gets far more interesting. A laugh-out-loud read!

Finding Lubchenko by Michael Simmons

If you like Alex Rider and Artemis Fowl, meet Evan Macalister, the ne'er-do-well, but clever, teenage son of an overbearing, money-pinching millionaire. Evan finds himself in danger and international intrigue trying to save his father from a murder rap. **SEQUEL: *The Rise of Lubchenko.***

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

An episodic, humorous, science fiction adventure, the first book in a five-book trilogy. Read the book then see/rent the movie.

How Angel Petersen Got His Name by Gary Paulsen

Stories about "extreme sports" 50's style, such as shooting waterfalls in a barrel and hang gliding with an army surplus kite, that Paulsen and his friends manage to survive—all to impress the girls.

If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's My Prince? by Melissa Kantor
High school sophomore, Lucy Norton, is pretty sure that her prince must be somewhere. After all, just like Cinderella, Lucy already has: a dead mother, a wicked stepmother, two evil stepsisters, and no friends. ALSO: ***Confessions of a Not It Girl.***

Maximum Ride: School's Out Forever * by James Patterson

After their stay with an FBI agent and trying to live a normal life, Max and her genetically-altered friends head to Florida to save the world, whether they want to or not. Sequel to ***The Angel Experiment.*** **NEXT INSTALLMENT: *Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports*** (coming in August).

Midnighters Series (The Secret Hour, Touching Darkness and Blue Noon) by Scott Westerfield

Having recently moved to Bixby, Oklahoma, Jessica Day now finds herself waking at midnight to the entire world frozen in time. She and a few select others, all born at the stroke of midnight, have a special ability to move about in a mysterious 25th hour.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar

Scott loses old friends and gains unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer while humorously navigating the pitfalls of his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother.

Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman

17-year-old Vince's life is complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent. **SEQUEL: *Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle.***

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

A side-splitting account of the author's attempt to walk the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail from northern Georgia to Maine.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

Amazing Gracie by Dan Dye & Mark Beckoff

An engaging memoir of life with a very special Great Dane who served as the inspiration and muse for the owners of the Three Dog Bakery Company. ALSO: ***Marley and Me*** by John Grogan.

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson
An adaptation of *Fast Food Nation*.

The Colony: The Harrowing True Story of the Exiles of Molokai
by John Tayman

A fascinating depiction of Molokai's 100-year history as an official settlement for nearly 9,000 banished leprosy sufferers. Based on the eyewitness accounts of survivors.

Heroes of Baseball by Robert Lipsyte

Award-winning sportswriter, Robert Lipsyte, profiles the legendary heroes of the game and what they did to achieve that status.

The Octopus and the Orangutan: More True Tales of Animal Intrigue, and Ingenuity by Eugene Linden

Fascinating anecdotes illustrate the workings of the minds of various animals both wild and domestic, e.g. how they use tools, play games and adapt to change.

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science

by John Fleischman

An amazing story about a 19th century construction worker who survived for ten years after a three-foot long iron rod was shot through his brain.

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird by Phillip Hoose

Long thought to be extinct, the legendary Ivory-billed Woodpecker was recently spotted in central Arkansas. This account relates 200 years of history of the bird and those who tried to own it, paint it, shoot it, and save it from extinction.

The Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy and His Backyard Nuclear Reactor by Ken Silverstein

Using an outdated physics book and information from experts, teenager David Hahn cobbles together a crude version of a nuclear reactor causing an environmental emergency in his hometown.

Seeing in the Dark: How Backyard Stargazers Are Probing Deep Space and Guarding Earth from Interplanetary Peril by Timothy Ferris

A look at the growing field of amateur astronomy, where new technologies have allowed neophytes to see as much of the cosmos as professionals.

This Book Really Sucks!: The Science Behind Gravity, Flight, Leeches, Black Holes, Tornadoes, Our Friend the Vacuum Cleaner, and Most Everything Else That Sucks

A light-hearted, yet factual, look at science at work in our daily lives.

THE MYSTERIOUS AND SUPERNATURAL

The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie King

In 1914, a young woman named Mary Russell meets a retired detective, now a beekeeper, named Sherlock Holmes.

Fell by M. E. Kerr.

In a bizarre identity switch, a teenager from a middle-class background enters a posh prep school.

A Great and Terrible Beauty * by Libba Bray

In the Victorian age where women are expected to be seen and not heard and groomed to be wives and mothers, a young woman with supernatural talents finds another way. SEQUEL: *Rebel Angels*.

Restless: A Ghost Story by Rich Wallace

Herbie spends the summer working at a diner, enduring bruising football practices, and pounding through tough runs with the school's

championship cross country team. To relax, he spends time trying to contact the ghost he thinks he sees in the town's graveyard.

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

Based on actual events that inspired Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*, this mystery set in the Adirondacks of 1906 chronicles 16-year-old Mattie Gokey's struggle to find her own voice and to live her own life.

Twilight * by Stephenie Meyer

When 17-year-old Bella goes to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy, who, she comes to realize, is a vampire. SEQUELS: *New Moon* and *Eclipse*.

BRAVE NEW WORLDS

Double Helix by Nancy Werblin

When 18-year-old Eli Samuels takes a summer job at Wyatt Industries against his father's wishes, he makes a startling discovery that connects his family to genetic-engineering experiments in this suspense-filled mystery that raises fundamental bioethical questions.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Aliens attacked Earth and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government begins to breed military geniuses.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

451 degrees is the temperature at which paper burns. In *Fahrenheit 451* firemen are required to burn books forbidden by the government.

Feed by M. T. Anderson

Set in a not-so-distant future where the ability to read, write, and think for oneself is inhibited by a brain implant, Titus and Violet challenge the status quo in this satire about consumerism.

Foundation Trilogy (Foundation, Foundation and Empire, Second Foundation)
by Isaac Asimov

A series about a galactic empire facing decline and fall.

House of the Scorpion * by Nancy Farmer

In a not-too-distant future, 14-year-old Matt Alacran lives in a buffer region of North America where the powerful governments of the United States and Mexico have agreed to let drug lords grow opium poppies as long as the opium is exported to other parts of the world. Matt is a favored member of the drug lord's family, but secrets turn his world upside down.

Pawn of Prophecy by David Eddings

Garion had no idea of his importance to Sendaria and his role in the battle between the Gods and Kings until his beloved Aunt Pol took him away from the farm and the adventure began.

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

Henry and Clare De Tamble are in love, but, unfortunately, Henry is a prisoner of time afflicted with "chrono displacement" disorder which causes him to randomly teleport without warning into the past or the future, usually at a time or place of importance in his life.

* Denotes H-W STUDENT BOOK CLUB SELECTION