

ADVENTURE

Avi

Poppy

Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

Avi

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger aboard a seedy ship on a transatlantic voyage from England to America in 1832, becomes caught up in a feud between the murderous captain and his mutinous crew.

Corder, Zizou

Lion Boy: The First Book in a Trilogy

In the near future, a boy with the ability to speak the language of cats sets out from London to seek his kidnapped parents and finds himself on a Paris-bound circus ship learning to train lions.

Fleischman, Sid

The Whipping Boy

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Paulsen, Gary

Hatchet

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother. He learns also to survive his parents' divorce.

ANIMAL STORIES

Atwater, Richard

Mr. Popper's Penguins

Mr. Popper starts out with one penguin in his house, but before he knows it there are twelve.

Byars, Betsy Cromer

Tornado

As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy.

DiCamillo, Kate

Because of Winn-Dixie

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her dog, Winn-Dixie.

Finney, Patricia

I, Jack

Jack, a Labrador Retriever, tells about his daily life of food, walks, and the "ape-dogs" and "funny-looking dogs" (cats) in his pack, as well as how everything changes when a pretty girl dog moves into the neighborhood.

Hesse, Karen

The Music of Dolphins

Using sophisticated computer technology, a fifteen-year-old girl, who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.

FANTASY / SCIENCE FICTION

Banks, Lynne Reid

The Indian in the Cupboard

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday. He finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Colfer, Eoin

Artemis Fowl (series)

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Coville Bruce

My Teacher Is an Alien

After Susan sees Mr. Smith, the substitute teacher, peel off his face, she knows he's an alien. Only Peter believes her; together they work to save the class from Mr. Smith's horrible plans.

Dahl, Roald

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Five children are lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory. Only one is lucky enough to win!

DiCamillo, Kate

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

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

DiTerlizzi, Tony

The Spiderwick Chronicles (series)

Chronicles the adventures of the Grace children after they go to stay at their Great-Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house and discover a field guide to fairies and other magical creatures.

Funke, Cornelia Caroline

Dragon Rider

After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find a legendary valley.

MYSTERY

Dixon, Franklin W.

The Apeman's Secret (series)

In this Hardy Boys' book, Frank and Joe do some sleuthing on a "monster" who terrorizes Bayport and a girl who runs away to join a cult.

Keene, Carolyn

The Clue in the Crumbling Wall (series)

Nancy Drew finds a clue leading to the solution of a mystery while trying to locate a missing dancer who is about to gain a large inheritance.

Lobdell, Scott

The Hardy Boys, Undercover Brothers. #1, The Ocean of Osyria (series)

Based on the series by Franklin W. Dixon. A graphic novel in which Frank and Joe Hardy, Callie, and Iola must recover the Ocean of Osyria, an art treasure taken from a Middle Eastern museum, in order to save their best friend, Chet, who has been accused of stealing it.

Petrucha, Stefan

Nancy Drew, Girl Detective. #1, The Demon of River Heights (series)

Based on the series by Carolyn Keene. A graphic novel in which teen sleuth Nancy Drew, and her friends George and Bess, search for missing student film-makers and, in the process, discover the secret behind the local urban myth known as “The Demon of River Heights.”

Snicket, Lemony

The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events)

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

Stilton, Geronimo

Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent (series)

Geronimo Stilton, editor of The Rodent's Gazette, goes on an investigative, underground adventure through New Mouse City to find a missing document.

POETRY

Florian, Douglas

Laugh-eteria: Poems And Drawings

A collection of more than 100 humorous poems on such topics as ogres, pizza, fear, school, dragons, trees, and hair.

Prelutsky, Jack

A Pizza the Size of the Sun: Poems

A collection of humorous poetry on a variety of topics.

Shields, Carol Diggory

Almost Late for School: and more school poems

An illustrated collection of twenty-two poems about the ups and downs of life in school.

Silverstein, Shel.

Light in the Attic

A collection of humorous poems and drawings.

REALISTIC FICTION

Cleary, Beverly

Dear Mr. Henshaw

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Codell, Esme Raji

Sahara Special

Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

Giff, Patricia Reilly

Pictures of Hollis Woods

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

Winkler, Henry

Niagara Falls or Does It? (Hank Zipzer series)

Fearing that he may be failing fourth grade, Hank enlists the help of his friends, and even his annoying younger sister, in an effort to prevent his parents from attending a parent-teacher conference.

SPORTS

Bowen, Fred

Playoff Dreams

Brendan, the best player on a losing baseball team, learns a lesson from a Chicago Cubs all-star about the true value of the game.

Christopher, Matt

Penalty Shot

Jeff, already worried about losing his place on the hockey team because of low grades, suddenly finds himself the victim of sabotage in the form of forged papers. This is one of many sports stories by this author.

Gutman, Dan

Honus and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure (series)

Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus.

Gutman, Dan

The Million Dollar Goal (series)

Twins Dawn and Dusk learn to admire their crotchety old grandmother when they take on the task of training her to play hockey.

Lewis, Beverly

Dreams on Ice

Olivia Hudson's dream of becoming an Olympic skater seems to be ruined when her father moves to Alpine Lake, Colorado.

Minden, Cecilia

Baseball

Explore the fascinating connection between math and baseball.

HISTORY

Keenan, Sheila

Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People

Fascinating facts, historical details, endearing animal photographs and some famous people with their pets are presented in a colorful format that provides many reasons why pet lovers love pets.

Harness, Cheryl

Rabble Rousers: 20 Women Who Made a Difference

Biographies of twenty American women whose actions led to an expansion of freedom for everyone.

Krull, Kathleen

Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (And What the Neighbors Thought)

Presents biographical sketches of twenty famous athletes, emphasizing their unique personalities and the impressions they made on the people who knew them.

Krull, Kathleen

Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame (And What the Neighbors Thought)

Focuses on the lives of presidents as parents, husbands, pet-owners, and neighbors while also including humorous anecdotes about hairstyles, attitudes, diets, fears, and sleep patterns.

Parks, Rosa

Rosa Parks: My Story

Rosa Park's life story reveals the deliberate choices she made that earned her the title, "Mother to a Movement."

Rappaport, Doreen

Eleanor, Quiet No More: the Life of Eleanor Roosevelt

A brief biography of Eleanor Roosevelt. The narrative quickly moves through the important moments of her life as she grew from a shy, unhappy and quiet child to a well respected leader, helping her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and becoming a United Nations representative.

Rappaport, Doreen

John's Secret Dreams: The Life of John Lennon

This picture book biography depicts the life and works of John Lennon. Several lyrics of his songs accompany the text. If you like the Beatles, this book is for you.

Rappaport, Doreen

This School is not White! A True Story of the Civil Rights Movement

In 1965, eight African-American children enrolled in an all-white school. This is the powerful story of their fight for equality.

SCIENCE

Bortolotti, Dan

Tiger Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife

Discusses threats to the tiger's survival and examines tiger conservation efforts around the world.

Bourgeois, Paulette

The Dirt on Dirt

A peek into the world of dirt and soil and sand and mattress lint and earthworms and geology, *etc.* Includes hands-on projects ranging from making a composter to a mud cake.

Janeczko, Paul B.

Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing

Presents a guide to code making, code breaking, and their role in history. This book describes different types of codes and ciphers, discusses code breaking and concealment techniques, and includes brief stories about exciting moments in the history of the art.

Larson, Peter L.

Bones Rock! Everything You Need to Know to be a Paleontologist

A comprehensive guide to paleontology for young readers, which explains how to dig for fossils, clean them, keep records, and develop and test theories. This book describes projects from the authors' experience, including the excavation of the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Murrie, Steve and Matthew Murrie

Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts That Happen Every 60 Seconds

Fun facts about our planet amuse and challenge readers.

Reilly, Kathleen M.

Planet Earth: 25 Environmental Projects You Can Build Yourself

An overview of environmental issues including global warming and pollution. Provides 25 interesting projects you can do to learn about saving the environment.

Seuling, Barbara

Cows Sweat Through Their Noses: and Other Freaky Facts About Animal Habits, Characteristics and Homes.

Presents entertaining and unusual facts about animals.

Skurzynski, Gloria

Are We Alone? Scientists Search for Life in Space

Presents a study of space and the possibility of extraterrestrial civilizations and discusses UFO sightings throughout the twentieth century, crop circles, and other paranormal occurrences.

Taylor, L. R.

Creeps From the Deep: Life in the Deep Sea

In text and photographs, this book presents what is known about the deep ocean and the exotic creatures that live there.