

# Austin Montessori Terra/Nova Reading List (2008)

## General Fiction

- Banks, *Indian in the Cupboard* (series) A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.
- Brink, *Caddie Woodlawn* (1936 Newbery Medal) The adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-1800's.
- Brink, *Magical Melons* More stories about Caddie Woodlawn.
- Burnford, *The Incredible Journey* Two dogs and a cat cross several hundred kilometers of wild Canadian forests in search of their beloved owners.
- Clark, *Secret of the Andes* (1953 Newbery Medal) An Indian boy who tends llamas in a hidden valley in Peru learns the traditions and secrets of his Inca ancestors.
- Cheng, *Honeysuckle House* Two 10-year-old girls, one Chinese-American, the other a recent Chinese immigrant gradually forge a friendship as they learn just how hard it can be to fit in.
- Cleaver, *Where the Lilies Bloom* Set in the Appalachian hills, the story—narrated by 14-year-old Mary Call—tells of her sometimes humorous efforts to keep her family together and independent after their sharecropper father dies.
- Conrad, *Stonewords: A Ghost Story* (Edgar Allan Poe Award) Zoe discovers that her house is occupied by the ghost of an eleven-year-old girl, who carries her back to the day of her death in 1870 to try to alter that tragic event.
- Dahl, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.
- Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach* The story of a boy who escapes two wicked and finds adventure by way of a magical peach.
- Dahl, *The B.F.G.* Taken from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie helps him save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.
- Declements, *Nothing's Fair in 5th Grade* Initially repelled by an overweight new student who has serious home problems, the fifth grade class finally learns to accept her.
- Dicamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux* (2004 Newbery Honor) 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.
- du Bois, *The Twenty-One Balloons* (1948 Newbery Medal) Professor William Waterman Sherman intends to fly across the Pacific Ocean. But through a twist of fate, he lands on Krakatoa, and discovers a world of unimaginable wealth, eccentric inhabitants, and incredible balloon inventions.
- Enzensberger, *The Number Devil* Annoyed with his math teacher who assigns word problems and won't let him use a calculator, twelve-year-old Robert, who hates math, finds help from the number devil in his dreams. If you like *Alice in Wonderland* or *The Phantom Tollbooth*, try this.
- Farley, *The Black Stallion* A boy is shipwrecked on a desert island with a horse destined to play an important part in his life.
- Fenner, *Yolanda's Genius* (1995 Newbery Honor) A girl develops a plan to prove to the world that her little brother is a musical genius.
- George, *My Side of the Mountain* (first of a trilogy) (1968 Newbery Honor) Adventures of a boy who runs away to the Catskill Mountains and learns to live off the land.
- Gipson, *Old Yeller* (1957 Newbery Honor) A boy and his dog in Texas frontier days. Adventure, humor, and high emotion.
- Hamilton, *Cousins* A girls learns about family love and forgiveness from two deaths in her family.
- Henry, *Misty of Chincoteague* (series) (1947 Newbery Honor) Two children, Paul and Maureen, work together to bring the wild pony, Phantom, and her newborn foal, Misty, to Chincoteague Island.
- Horvath, *The Trolls* (National Book Award Finalist) Eccentric Aunt Sally comes to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip, and every night the bedtime story gets a little weirder.

Hunt, *Up a Road Slowly* (1967 Newbery Medal) Traces the important moments in a girl's life from 7 to 17. Beautifully written and thoughtful; not action-packed.

Linklater, *The Wind on the Moon* Two English sisters have magical adventures while their father is away.

MacGrory, *Secret of the Ruby Ring* When she makes a wish on a special ring, eleven-year-old Lucy is transported from her pampered present to a somewhat turbulent time in Ireland in 1885, where she must work as a servant for a wealthy family until she can find a way back home.

MacLachlan, *Sarah Plain and Tall* Two children experience the apprehensions and joys of the possibility of a new mother. Set in 19<sup>th</sup> century midwest.

Martin, *A Corner of the Universe* (2003 Newbery Honor) A 12-year-old girl's mentally ill uncle comes to live with her family, causing problems but also opening her eyes to a larger world.

McEwan, *Daydreamer* Adventures of a 10-year-old boy with a spectacular imagination.

McGraw, *Moccasin Trail* (1953 Newbery Honor) A pioneer boy, brought up by Crow Indians, is reunited with his family and attempts to orient himself in the white man's culture.

Neville, *It's Like This, Cat* (1964 Newbery Medal) An adolescent boy and his cranky tomcat, living in 1960's New York City, meets interesting characters and works out conflict with his father.

North, *Rascal* (1964 Newbery Honor) Stories of a truly amazing raccoon.

O'Brien, *Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of Nimh* (hardback) or *The Secret of Nimh* (paperback) (1978 Newbery Medal)

O'Dell, *A Black Pearl* (1968 Newbery Honor) A 16-year-old boy does battle with an enormous devilfish that guards a rare, black pearl.

O'Dell, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* (1961 Newbery Medal) A beautiful Indian girl stranded on an island off California makes her home with her brother while she awaits a rescue which will take 18 years.

Park, *A Single Shard* (2002 Newbery Medal) Tree-ear, a 12th century Korean orphan finds his future through his intuitive interest in the potter's trade.

Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia* (1978 Newbery Medal) Jesse's colorless rural world expands when he becomes friends with Leslie, the new girl in school. When Leslie meets a tragic end, Jesse learns what true friendship is.

Paulsen, *Hatchet* (1988 Newbery Honor) Dramatic story of a boy who, following a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, must learn to survive with only a hatchet and his own wits.

Paulsen, *The River* Sequel to *Hatchet*.

Peck, *Soup* (series) The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town. Lots of laughs.

Pinkwater, *Five Novels* A collection of five very funny stories by Daniel Pinkwater, including the humorous classic *Slaves of Spiegel*.

Pitts, *Racing the Sun* A middle-class, suburban 12-year-old boy's Navajo grandfather comes to live with him, turning his world upside down and changing his life forever.

Raskin, *The Westing Game* (1979 Newbery Medal) The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Rawls, *Summer of the Monkeys* In the late 1800s, a fourteen-year-old Ozark mountain boy spends the summer trying to recapture monkeys escaped from a traveling circus.

Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows* A boy and his beloved coonhound pups romp through the Ozarks, hunting raccoons. A tragic ending leads to personal growth and hope.

Sachar, *Sideways Stories From Wayside School* (series) Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School.

Selden, *The Cricket in Times Square* (1991 Newbery Medal runner-up) The adventures of a country cricket who accidentally arrives in New York City and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

Sobel, *Encyclopedia Brown* (series) Boy detective Encyclopedia Brown, fifth-grade mastermind solves mysteries. Each book is set up so that readers can try to solve the case along with the boy genius, and the answers to all the mysteries are found in the back.

Speare, *Sign of the Beaver* (Newbery Honor) A 12-year-old pioneer boy befriends an Indian boy and must choose between his family's way of life and that of his new friend.

Stratton-Porter, *Girl of the Limberlost* Wounded by her embittered mother's lack of sympathy, Elnora finds comfort in the nearby Limberlost Swamp.

Taylor, *The Cay* Dramatic events in wartime bring a white boy to confront his own racial prejudice as he is marooned on a desert island with a black man and a cat.

Taylor, *Timothy of the Cay*

Voigt, *Homecoming (Tillerman series)* Abandoned and alone, four brave children begin a search for a home and an identity.

White, *Charlotte's Web (1953 Newbery Honor)* Wilbur, the pig, discovers that he is to be the farmer's Christmas dinner; his spider friend, Charlotte decides to help him.

White, *Trumpet of the Swan* Louis, a voiceless Trumpeter swan, finds himself far from his wilderness home when he determines to communicate by learning to play a stolen trumpet. By the author of *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*.

## Classic Fiction

Alcott, *Little Men* The sequel to *Little Women*. A houseful of orphaned boys and how they grow up.

Alcott, *Little Women* In the middle of the Civil War, four sisters mature and explore the world, with the help of their mischievous male neighbor.

Appolonius, *Jason and the Golden Fleece* The dramatic story of Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece and his relations with the dangerous princess Medea. Written by Appolonius of Rhodes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* First published in 1813, this social satire is Jane Austen's most famous book. It describes the relationship of a young English man and woman as it slowly turns from mutual dislike (complete with lots of great insults) to love.

Barrie, *Peter Pan* Peter, the boy who didn't want to grow up ...

Bronte, *Jane Eyre* An English woman's passionate search for a richer life than that traditionally allowed women in Victorian society.

Burnett, *A Little Princess* Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1905 story about a pampered little rich girl who suddenly finds herself poor and fatherless.

Burnett, *The Secret Garden* The story of Mary Lennox's transformation from impudent orphan to compassionate friend in the forbidden garden of Misselthwaite Manor.

Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass* Lewis Carroll's further adventures of Alice. Here's where you will find "Jabberwocky."

Cather, *My Antonia* Set in Nebraska in the late 19th century, this is the story of the spirited daughter of a Bohemian immigrant family and their life on the frontier.

Collodi, *Pinocchio* The adventures of a talking wooden puppet whose nose grew longer if he told a lie.

Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* The tale of an English sailor marooned on a desert island for nearly thirty years.

Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes (collected stories)* The world's most famous detective stories.

Dumas, *The Three Musketeers* Classic story of adventure and romance in 17<sup>th</sup> century France.

Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows* The adventures of four animal friends who live along a river in the English countryside – Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.

Homer, *The Iliad* Ancient Greek tale of the Trojan War and its heroes.

Homer, *The Odyssey* On his way home from the Trojan War, Odysseus has some amazing adventures ...

Kipling, *The Jungle Book* Imaginative tales of India during British colonial times. Be sure to get the original version, not a cartoon edition for little children.

London, *Call of the Wild* 1903 classic of a kidnapped dog and Yukon gold

London, *White Fang* The story of a wolf-dog who endures great cruelty before he comes to know human kindness.

Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* An orphan girl comes to live with a farm family and makes their lives a lot more ... interesting. Wonderful stories about a wonderful character.

Sewell, *Black Beauty* Perhaps the world's most famous horse story – and an early protest against the mistreatment of animals.

Stevenson, *Treasure Island* Pirates! Treasure! Danger! Oh, no, it's ... the ... Black ... Spot!

Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings (Fellowship of the Ring trilogy)* The classic saga of Frodo, Gandolf, Sauron and the Rings of Power.

Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* One of the greatest of American novels. Huck befriends a runaway slave named Jim and eventually risks his life to help Jim gain his freedom.

Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* Classic story about an orphan growing up on the Mississippi River. Both humor and adventure.

White, *The Once and Future King* A retelling of the Arthurian legend, from King Arthur's birth to the end of his reign.

Wiggin, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* A ten-year-old girl's adventures in Maine. Rebecca is one of the great, spirited girl characters of English fiction.

## Historical Fiction

Aiken, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* Brave and resourceful Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia have to endure wicked wolves and a grim governess in the English country house of Willoughby Chase. Many suspenseful adventures.

Alcock, *Singer to the Sea* God Phaidon's sister Cleo was turned to stone when she looked at Medusa's head and now Paidon takes her along when he escapes with his uncle. They eventually find themselves marooned on an island haunted by strange echoes. Many dangers must be overcome before they can get to the mainland.

Alder, *Crossing the Panther's Path* Fifteen-year-old Billy falls under the spell of the Shawnee chief Tecumseh and becomes his interpreter.

Alder, *The King's Shadow* A young Welsh serf suffers a brutal attack by ruffians that changes his life. He ends up at the Battle of Hastings with King Harold.

Almedingen, *The Crimson Oak* A young boy grows up in Czarist Russia.

Auch, *Ashes of Roses* Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911. Before long she becomes part of the hard-knock life of factory work. Just when she starts to feel settled, a terrible fire devastates the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.

Avi, *Captain Grey* A young kidnap victim is given a crash course in piracy. A robust pirate adventure with a neat twist.

Avi, *Crispin: the Cross of Lead* (2003 Newbery Medal) Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy flees his village and meets a juggler who holds a dangerous secret. Adventures of a 13-year-old boy set around the time of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Peasant Rebellion in England.

Avi, *Don't You Know There's A War On?* Howie and Denny live in Brooklyn in 1943 and both of their fathers are off in the war. They discover their teacher is about to lose her job and try to help her keep it.

Avi, *The Escape From Home 1851* Mayra and Patrick escape Ireland's brutal poverty with only the belongings in their bundles and tickets for ocean passage. Fate brings them together with young Sir Laurence Kirkle and they embark on a daring scheme that will either lead to freedom, or dire consequences. Book 1 of a series called *Beyond the Western Sea*. Book 2: *Lord Kirkle's Money*

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* It is 1832 and 13-year-old Charlotte is being sent home to America from her English school. She is the only passenger aboard a merchant ship with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew.

Baker, *Walk the World's Rim* In sixteenth century colonial Mexico a 14 year-old Indian boy becomes a member of deVaca's expedition through the southwest. (1527)

- Banim, *Drums at Saratoga* Nathaniel ran away from home to follow the British army down the Hudson River. He faces many hardships and even capture by the Americans.
- Banks, *Abraham's Battle* Abraham, a free black man, and Private Lamar Cooper, a poor white Confederate soldier, meet by chance before the battle at Gettysburg. Their paths cross one more time, during the battle. A great story.
- Barrett, *Anna of Byzantium* Anna is a princess and her father's chosen successor to rule the Byzantine Empire. However, the birth of a baby brother and her own arrogance and intelligence change her destiny.
- Barron, *The Lost Years of Merlin* A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.
- Bartos-Hoppner, *Save the Khan* (1598) A young prince struggles with the meaning of loyalty as she supports his Khan in a war impossible to win.
- Beatty, *Charley Skedaddle* (Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction) Charley enlists as a drummer boy in the Union Army and eagerly awaits his first battle. But when it comes, the horrors repulse and terrify him and he flees to the mountains.
- Beatty, *Eight Mules from Monterey* In 1916 Fayette, her mother and brother, embark on a mission to establish library outposts in the Monterey mountain country.
- Beatty, *Holdfast* (1600) At the time of Elizabeth I, an Irish orphan and her dog are captured and taken to England.
- Beatty, *Jayhawker* Lije Tulley is a Kansas abolitionist and is asked to serve as a spy for the Union. He is sent to live with a group of Southern bushwhackers which includes Charley Quantrill, Jim Hickok, and a teenager named Jesse James.
- Beatty, *Jonathan Down Under* Jonathan follows his impractical father from the gold fields of California to Australia. Through many adventures and disasters, Jonathan responds with courage and the determination to fulfill his father's dreams.
- Beatty, *Turn Homeward, Hannalee* Twelve-year-old Hannalee is a Georgia mill hand who is shipped north by the Union Army to work in Yankee mills. This is the story of how she kept her promise to return to her family. *Be Ever Hopeful, Hannalee* (sequel)
- Beatty, *Who Comes with Cannons* Truth Hopkins lives with her Quaker relatives and becomes involved in a dangerous underground movement to further the cause of freedom without the use of guns.
- Bishop, *Twenty and Ten* Ten young refugees from the Nazis are hidden by a nun and twenty French children.
- Blacklock, *Pankration* Nic runs from the deadly plague in Athens only to be captured by pirates. He lives desperately through other dangers as he tries to get to Olympia where his friend Gellius will be fighting in the Pankration event.
- Blos, *A Gathering of Days* Catherine Hall, a New Hampshire farmer's daughter, keeps this journal of the ordinary and extraordinary events of her hard yet happy life.
- Blos, *Brothers of the Heart* A lame boy runs away, finds work with a fur trading company, and is left to spend the winter alone at the company cabin in the wilderness.
- Bradley, *Ruthie's Gift* Eight-year-old Ruth is an energetic tomboy who loves her rough-and-tumble brothers, but sometimes can't help wishing for the company of another girl.  
Easier
- Bradshaw, *The Dragon & the Thief* Prahoteop is searching for his destiny but fails at all the trades he tries. Finally becoming a thief, he stumbles upon the cave of a dragon. His task becomes bring her and her treasure to safety in Nubia. A fantasy with adventure and magic. A good read.

- Brady, *Say You Are My Sister Ramona* and her family experience a series of disasters that leaves the three sisters suddenly on their own. As they learn to survive, Ramona must live with the one secret she fears will destroy them as a family.
- Brady, *The Toad on Capitol Hill* Dorsy makes a powerful wish that her new stepmother and stepbrothers will go back to Philadelphia. Then the British attack Washington in the War of 1812 and she wonders if her wish has brought the enemy into the capital.
- Brady, *Toliver's Secret* Ten-year-old Ellen must disguise herself as a boy and carry a message to General Washington.
- Brink, *Caddie Woodlawn* (Newbery Medal) Caddie was a real little girl who grew up in a pioneer community in the Wisconsin woods in the 1860's. Caddie and her brothers and sisters play games and pranks, go to school, do chores. She makes friends with an Indian & is almost struck by lightning. A great book.
- Bruchac, *A Boy Called Slow* The story of a Lakota Sioux boy who grew up to be one their most famous chiefs, Sitting Bull.
- Bruchac, *Children of the Longhouse* In a Mohawk village of the late 1400's, eleven-year-old twins are caught up against their will in a dangerous rivalry with a gang of older boys.
- Bruchac, *The Arrow over the Door* A historical meeting during the Revolutionary War is told in the alternating viewpoints of a 14-year-old Quaker boy and a young Abenaki Indian.
- Buck, *The Big Wave* Two boys growing up in a fishing village in Japan have their lives changed by the coming of the big wave.
- Buff, *The Apple and the Arrow*. (1952 Newbery Honor) The story of William Tell, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Swiss freedom fighter, as told by his eleven-year-old son – from whose head Tell is forced to shoot an apple.
- Bulla, *A Lion to Guard Us* Amanda is much too young to be a servant, but with her mother ill and her father in the new colony of Jamestown, her job keeps her brother & sister from living on the streets of London.
- Carbone, *Storm Warriors* Nathan goes against his father's wishes to learn how to become a surfman and rescue the crews of sinking ships. Inspired by the African American crew of the Pea Island Life-Saving Station on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.
- Cheripko, *Caesar Rodney's Ride* (2004 Parent's Choice Recommended) To tell the larger story of the Second Continental Congress and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Jan Cheripko takes up the story of Caesar Rodney-a largely unknown delegate from Delaware who rode some 80 miles by horseback to attend the meeting at the last minute and vote.
- Choi, *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* Born during the thirty-six year Japanese occupation of Korea, ten-year-old Sookan has known no other life. When the Russians drive out the Japanese, she and her family flee south to the safety of the thirty-eighth parallel.
- Clapp, *Constance* A 14 year old girl arrives on the Mayflower and tells about her observations and feelings from the first dreadful winter to her marriage at age twenty.
- Clapp, *I'm Deborah Sampson* A young woman disguises herself as a man and joins the army. This is based on a true story of how she remained undiscovered and of the adventures she had both during and after the war.
- Clapp, *The Tamarack Tree* Rosemary and her brother are orphaned and sent to live with relatives in Vicksburg, Mississippi. She makes friends with a Southern belle, falls in love with a Yankee boy, and lives through the siege of Vicksburg.
- Cole, *The Dragon in the Cliff* Mary Anning learned how to hunt for fossils from her father. This is the story of how she discovered the first complete ichthyosaur skeleton at the age of thirteen.

- Collier & Collier, *My Brother Sam is Dead* A family has divided loyalties during the Revolutionary War.
- Collier & Collier, *War Comes to Willy Freeman* An African American girl sees her father die at the hands of the British and finds out that her mother was captured and taken to New York.
- Conrad, *Pedro's Journal* This is the story of Columbus told from the perspective of a cabin boy aboard the Santa Maria.
- Cornelissen, *Soft Rain* Soft Rain is a 9 year old Cherokee girl. One day, without warning, white soldiers arrive at her house and command them to leave with them. Thus starts the long and dangerous journey, now called the Trail of Tears.
- Cowley, *Dar and the Spear Thrower* Adventures of a Cro-Magnon (prehistoric) boy about to become a man of the tribe. Dar's passion to possess a spear-thrower sends him on a dangerous journey into unknown territory.
- Craig, *Malu's Wolf* Malu's clan is wise in the ways of animals, but never before has an animal lived with them. So when Malu rescues an orphaned wolf cub, the clan issues a stern decree: if he harms one of the people, he must die.
- Crofford, *Born in the Year of Courage* When Manjiro, a young fisherman, is shipwrecked far off the coast of his native Japan, he knows nothing of the world outside his homeland. Japan was an isolated country and foreigners were called "barbarians". But when Manjiro is rescued by "barbarians" he has some amazing adventures and startling discoveries.
- Crompton, *The Ice Trail* A young boy lives with a tribe of Abenaki Indians. Some braves find a pair of ice skates and he sees a chance to escape back into his English world.
- Crossley-Holland, *The Seeing Stone* In late twelfth-century England, a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seem to have many parallels to his own.
- Cushman, *Catherine, Called Birdy* (Newbery Honor 1995) Catherine feels trapped. Her father is determined to marry her off to a rich man, any rich man, no matter how awful. Witty fictional diary of the daughter of a 13<sup>th</sup> century English knight.
- Cushman, *The Midwife's Apprentice* (1996 Newbery Medal) In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.
- Dahlstedt, *The Terrible Wave* A young girl experiences the Johnstown Flood.
- Dagleish, *The Courage of Sarah Noble* In 1707, an 8-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness, and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.
- De Angeli, *Skipack School* (1700) A Mennonite boy newly arrived in Pennsylvania proves his responsibility and is rewarded by his parents and teacher. (1939)
- De Angeli, *The Door in the Wall* (1950 Newbery Medal) In medieval times, a boy learns his own strength when he saves the castle and discovers there is more than one way to serve his king.
- De Felice, *Lucas Whitaker* Lucas is the only one in his family to survive consumption. He flees his family farm in grief and becomes apprentice to a local doctor. Lucas tries to prove to the doctor that he knows of a strange cure that is supposed to cure this dread disease.
- De Felice, *Weasel* Nathan has heard about the man the Shawnee Indians call Weasel. Then one dark night, a speechless stranger knocks on the cabin door and beckons Nathan to follow him.
- De Trevino, *I, Juan de Pareja* (Newbery 1966) (1630) Juan is a slave who serves the painter Velasquez and secretly & illegally becomes a painter on his own.

Denzel, *Hunt for the Last Cat* Twelve-year-old Thorn is the only one who can save his people from one of the last saber tooth cats.

Dickinson, *A Bone from a Dry Sea* The story goes back and forth between a young girl in modern times visiting her father's archeological dig and an early human who lived mostly in the sea.

Dickinson, *The Kin - Suth's Story* Suth and five other orphans are cut off from their Kin and lost in the desert. They are captured by the Monkey Kin and Suth must find the courage to lead his friends to freedom. Two more books coming in the series.

Dorris, *Guests* Moss is frustrated because his father has invited outsiders who dress in strange clothes and speak an odd language to the village's special harvest feast.

Dorris, *Morning Girl* Morning Girl, a twelve-year-old Taino and her younger brother Star Boy, live in a vibrant community on a Bahamian island in 1492.

Dorris, *Sees Behind Trees* Walnut doesn't see as well as others do. How can he hit the target accurately and prove he is ready to be an adult?

Durbin, *The Broken Blade* (1800) A young boy takes his father's place as a French Canadian voyageur. Great adventures. (1997).

Durrant, *The Beaded Moccasins* Based on a true story of Mary Campbell who was captured by the Delaware Indians on the morning of her twelfth birthday.

Erdrich, *The Birchbark House* Omakayas is an Ojibway girl who lives on an island in Lake Superior. The traditional rhythms of her people's lives are shattered when a visitor comes to their lodge, bringing an invisible enemy that will change things forever.

Field, *Calico Bush* (1932 Newbery) An orphaned 13-year-old French girl becomes a bound-out servant to a family who is ill prepared for frontier life in Maine.

Fisher, *Understood Betsy* Sickly, overprotected Elizabeth Ann is sent to live with her "horrible Putney cousins" in Vermont. A funny, affectionate story of country life at the turn of the century.

Fleischman, *By the Great Horn Spoon* In 1849, young Jack Flagg sets out to replace his Aunt Arabella's fortune in the California gold fields. Jack and his Aunt's butler have many wild adventures.

Fletcher, *Walk Across the Sea* Eliza, daughter of the lighthouse keeper, has experienced the kindness of a Chinaman, Wah Chung. Now the townspeople conspire to expel the Chinese people forcibly. Should she help him and risk her father's anger?

Forbes, *Johnny Tremain* (1944 Newbery Medal) The story of a tragically injured young Boston silversmith who ends up deeply involved in the American Revolution .

Fox, *The Slave Dancer* (Newbery Medal) Jesse Bollier, aged 13, is kidnapped from his home in New Orleans onto a slave ship. His horrible job is to play his fife for the slaves to "dance" to, to keep their muscles from atrophying on the voyage.

Fritz, *Early Thunder* Just as the Revolutionary War is about to begin, the town of Salem finds its loyalties divided.

Garfield, *The Drummer Boy* An English boy tries to get home after his regiment is defeated by the French.

Garfield, *The Boy and the Monkey* (1969) An orphaned boy trains his monkey to steal for him, the penalty for which is hanging.

Gray, *Adam of the Road* (Newbery Medal 1943) A minstrel boy searches throughout England for his father and his dog.

Greene, *Out of Many Waters; One Foot Ashore* (sequel) Kidnapped from their parents during the Portuguese Inquisition, Maria and Isobel were shipped to Brazil & forced to work as slaves. These are the stories of what happens to each when they escape on separate ships.

- Greene, *The Leveller* As Tom grew up he was shunned and feared by his neighbors. They believed that his mother had pledged his soul to the devil. So at age 14, Tom strikes out on his own and chooses a life of boldness and wit.
- Greene, *The Summer of My German Soldier* The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve, her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners. Even though she is Jewish, she develops a dangerous friendship with a prison escapee.
- Gregory, *Earthquake at Dawn* Edith and her maid are swept into the disorder & turmoil generated by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Their adventures are captured on film by Edith, a character based on the real photographer Edith Irvine.
- Griek, *A Gift for Ampato* This story is based on the real-life discovery of the five-hundred-year-old mummy of a young Inca girl recently found in the Andes. The author has imagined who that girl was and how she came to be on this mountain.
- Hamilton, *The People Could Fly* Collection of Afro-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom.
- Hansen, *Which Way Freedom?* (Coretta Scott King Honor Book) When the Civil War began, Obi knew it was time to run -- or be sold again. If he was caught, he'd be killed. . . or worse. But if he stayed, he might never know freedom.
- Hanson, *The Captive* Kofi's safe world is suddenly shattered by ghostly white men who have arrived from the coast, stealing his people to sell into slavery.
- Harrah, *My Brother, My Enemy* Fourteen-year-old Robert Bradford becomes involved in the Bacon Rebellion, a conflict between Indians and plantation owners in the Virginia colony.
- Harrell, *Longwalker's Journey* Minko and his family are being moved from their homeland. He isn't allowed to bring his pony, Black Spot, but the pony stubbornly follows anyway, through hundreds of miles in bitter winter weather. The Choctaw Trail of Tears.
- Haugaard, *A Messenger for Parliament* (1641); *Cromwell's Boy* (1643) A 13 year old boy fights with Cromwell against King Charles.
- Hesse, *The Cats in Krasinski Square* (2004 Parents' Choice Gold) Cats, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Jewish Resistance against the Nazis in Poland.
- Hilgartner, *A Murder for Her Majesty* (1590's) A young girl hides from her father's murderers by disguising herself as a boy and singing in a cathedral choir.
- Hobbs, *Jason's Gold* Jason travels the trail to the Klondike in search of his brothers and gold.
- Holab, *The Robber and Me* Set in nineteenth-century Germany, this story tells how one boy struggles to do what he believes is right in the face of a town's prejudice.
- Houston & Houston, *Farewell to Manzanar* In 1942, when the author was seven years old, she and all her family were sent suddenly to Manzanar internment camp in the desert of California.
- Howard, *When Daylight Comes* (1733) On St. Jan Island, a Danish girl wakes one morning to find her world turned upside down. The black slaves are in revolt and all the white plantation owners are being killed. She is taken captive and made a slave to the new queen of the island. Based on true events.
- Hughes, *Guerrilla Season* Fifteen year old Matt would rather farm than fight in Missouri's Civil War. When his mother decides to move the family back North, he must decide what to do.
- Hunter, *The 13th Member* (1590) Adam uncovers a plot to murder King James I with witchcraft.
- Hutchins, *Tonka the Cave Boy* This is the story of how life may have been for a boy living in a cave 8,000 years ago. It is based on evidence unearthed at Russell Cave in Alabama.

Jacobs, *James Printer* Bartholomew is a printer's devil in his father's print shop. James, an Indian, is a master apprentice who must choose sides during King Philip's war.

Jones, *Boy of the Pyramids* A mystery.

Karr, *The Great Turkey Walk* Big brawny Simon Green, who's just completed third grade for the fourth time, plans to herd a huge flock of bronze turkeys from Missouri to Denver and make his fortune.

Keehn, *I Am Regina* Regina is captured & adopted by Indians.

Keith, *Rifles for Watie* (Newbery Medal) A Kansas farm boy joins the Union Army. He is sent to spy on Cherokee Indian troops fighting for the South under Chief Stand Watie. He is caught and has to pretend to be a Confederate soldier.

Kelly, *The Trumpeter of Krakow* (1461) (Newbery Award – 1929) A young patriot guards a jewel in a church tower.

Kerr, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* When nine-year-old Anna's father is suddenly, unaccountably missing, her family flees Berlin in secrecy and Anna is forced to learn the skills needed to be a refugee.

Kochenderfer, *The Victory Garden* Eleven-year-old Teresa encourages her classmates to work together to help save Mr. Burt's victory garden.

Konigsburg, *A Proud Taste for Scarlet & Miniver* Stories from the medieval life of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of England and mother of Richard the Lionheart. Eleanor of Aquitaine's life is told by various people who knew her well.

Konigsburg, *The Second Mrs. Giaconda* (1480's) The story of Leonardo daVinci, his apprentice, and the painting of the Mona Lisa.

Lasky, *The Night Journey* Nana tells her great-granddaughter about Czarist Russia and her eventual escape.

Latham, *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* (Newbery Medal) The story of Nathaniel Bowditch, the "arithmetic" sailor. It is more an exciting adventure story than a biography and very good at explaining the science part of Bowditch's work.

Lawrence, *The Secrets of Vesuvius* Flavia and her friends visit an uncle near Pompeii. They uncover a riddle that may lead them to a great treasure. Additional Titles: *Pirates of Pompeii; Assassins of Rome; Dolphins of Laurentum* (and more. . .)

Lawrence, *Thieves of Ostia* Flavia and her friends try to find out who is killing all the dogs in the neighborhood. They are almost kidnapped by a slave dealer and uncover a series of burglaries.

Lenski, *Indian Captive* Based on the true story of Mary Jemison, who was adopted by the Seneca Indians and chose to remain with them the rest of her life.

Lenski, *Strawberry Girl* (Newbery Medal 1946) Birdie Boyer is ten when her family moves to the Florida backwoods. They learn to deal with the drought and frost and also with unfriendly neighbors, the Slaters.

Lester, *Pharaoh's Daughter* The story of Moses and his adoring sister who is taken in by Pharaoh and becomes his adopted daughter. She would do anything for her brother, but Moses must discover his own identity on his own.

Levitin, *Journey to America* A mother and three daughters escape from Nazi Germany and travel to the U.S. to be reunited with the father. Sequels: *Silver Days / Annie's Promise*

Levitin, *Journey to America; Silver Days* In 1938 Lisa's father leaves for America in the middle of the night. Lisa, her mother and two sisters wait in Berlin for him to send the money for their tickets to America.

Lewis, *The Honorable Sword* (1500's) After the Yori family is defeated, two boys make a vow to avenge them and to regain possession of the Honorable Sword.

- Lively, *Boy Without a Name* A foundling boy is apprenticed to a stone mason. He can't be like other boys until he finds his whole name.
- Lofts, *Rupert Hatton's Story* A young boy pursues learning to play the violin against his father's wishes with disastrous results.
- London, *The Call of the Wild & White Fang* Thrilling books about men and dogs in the Alaskan wilderness.
- Lowry, *Number the Stars* (1990 Newbery Medal) In Copenhagen in 1943, Annemarie shelters her friend Ellen and is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save Ellen's life. Story of a ten-year-old Danish girl and her family's courageous efforts to smuggle Jews out of their Nazi-occupied homeland to safety in Sweden.
- Lunn, *Root Cellar* A lonely girl finds an old root cellar and is magically transported back to the time of the American Civil War.
- McCaffrey, *Black Horses for the King* Galwyn, son of a Roman Celt, escapes from his tyrannical uncle and joins Lord Artos, later known as King Arthur, using his talent with languages and way with horses to help secure and care for the Libyan horses that Artos hopes to use in battle against the Saxons.
- McClung, *Hugh Glass, Mountain Man* A true story of how Hugh Glass survived a grizzly bear attack and being abandoned by his fellow trappers without food, supplies or weapons.
- McGraw, *Mara, Daughter of the Nile* Mara is a proud slave girl who yearns for freedom. In order to gain it, she finds herself playing the dangerous role of double spy for two arch enemies.
- McGraw, *Master Cornhill* (1665) A boy finds himself without friends, family, and money when the plague and Great Fire hit London.
- McGraw, *The Golden Goblet* All Ranofar wanted was to be a master goldsmith like his father. But his wicked half brother beat him and ordered him to be an apprentice in his stonecutting shop. Then Ranofar suspects his brother of stealing from one of the tombs and sets out to prove his guilt.
- Meigs, *Invincible Louisa* (Newbery Medal) A biography of Louisa May Alcott that is almost as exciting as a novel.
- Miller, *The Golden Spur* A young stable boy at Versailles takes great risks for a horse and gets caught up in the French Revolution.
- Minard, *Long Meg* (1560's) Meg longs for adventure and disguises herself to join Henry VIII's soldiers for the war in France.
- Morpurgo, *Waiting for Anya* A young French shepherd places his life in danger when he helps protect a growing number of Jewish children who have sought refuge at a reclusive widow's farm.
- Murphy, *Black Angels* In the summer of 1961, Celli begins to see black angels playing in her yard. Celli is embarrassed by her black housekeeper's outspoken support of the civil rights movement. Then her long-lost grandmother arrives and changes the way Celli looks at life, color, faith and family.
- Naidoo, *Journey to Jo'Burg: A South African Story* When their baby sister becomes dangerously ill, Naledi and her younger brother travel to Johannesburg to find their mother. There, in the city's ghetto, they discover the painful reality of black African life under apartheid.  
Sequel: Chain of Fire
- Nixon, *A Family Apart* (Orphan Train Quartet series) Children from a poor New York family are adopted by abolitionists in the midwest and find themselves involved with the Underground Railroad.
- O'Conner, *Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia* Barbara Bird has two goals. One is to get noticed -- a little fame and glory for a day. The other is to go to Disney World. She has a chance for the first one when a new boy agrees to be her partner in the spelling bee.

O'Dell & Hall, *Thunder Rolling in the* The daughter of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tells the story of the tribe's attempted flight to Canada.

O'Dell, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* Before her rescue, an Alaskan Indian girl spends eighteen years alone on a Pacific island.

O'Dell, *Sarah Bishop* Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

O'Dell, *Sing Down the Moon* A Navajo girl tells of the 1864 forced march to Fort Sumner.

O'Dell, *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* Sacajawea, a young Indian woman, accompanied by her infant and cruel husband, experiences joy and heartbreak when she joins the Lewis and Clark Expedition seeking a way to the Pacific.

O'Dell, *The King's Fifth* (1541) Esteban, a young mapmaker, is diverted from his search for knowledge by his desire for gold.

Osborne, *The Memory String* Darath learns to become a hunter and shaman during his 13th winter. These skills help him lead his totem group on a dangerous journey from the Siberian peninsula to a new world.

Palmer, *The Egyptian Necklace; Treachery in Crete; At the Lion Gate* A series with the same characters, fifteen-year-old Ar and his friend Pta. The first one starts off with a tomb robbery which the boys solve with ingenuity and quick wits. In the second, they thwart the plans of brigands and flee from the Palace at Knossos just before it is sacked and burned. Further adventures take place in ancient Mycenae.

Park, *A Single Shard* (Newbery Medal 2002) Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village. He longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Paterson, *Jip: His Story* (1999 Parents' Choice Silver Honor) Orphaned Jip grows up on a poor farm in Vermont. He develops a deep friendship with a mentally ill man who is brought to the farm for safe-keeping. Setting is 1850's conflict between abolitionists and pro-slavery forces.

Paterson, *Of Nightingales that Weep* The vain young daughter of a samurai finds her comfortable life ripped apart when opposing warrior clans begin a struggle for imperial control of Japan.

Paterson, *The Master Puppeteer* In 18th century Osaka, when Japan's old samurai tradition was dying, a boy runs away from home to apprentice himself to the Hanaza puppet theater. (1976)

Paterson, *The Sign of the Chrysanthemum* Muna travels to the capital of twelfth-century Japan to search for his father whom he has never met.

Paulsen, *Mr. Tucket* Francis Tucket is heading west on the Oregon Trail and is captured by Pawnee Indians. A one-armed mountain man rescues him and teaches him lessons in survival. The start of a series: *Call Me Francis Tucket, Tucket's Ride, Tucket's Gold*

Pearsall, *Trouble Don't Last* One night eleven-year-old Samuel is pulled from his bed by a fellow slave and starts the frightening journey on the Underground Railroad to Canada. Medium

Peck, *The River Between Us* Tilly & her family live in Illinois on the Mississippi River. One day two remarkable people arrive from New Orleans and things are never the same.

Pryor, *Seth of the Lion People* Seth, crippled from childhood, expects to follow his father as Teller-of-Stories. But a new leader has no use for him, so Seth sets off on a journey over the mountains to find the people who tend crops and live in huts.

Pyle, *Otto of the Silver Hand* The son of a robber baron is kidnapped.

Ray, *Standing Lions*

Ray, *The Golden Bees* Kenofor travels through the Greek islands searching for an oil jar where one of Princess Leda's famous bee earrings is hidden.

Ray, *The Voice of Apollo*

Ray, *The Windows of Elissa* Elissa is trapped in the city of Carthage when it is besieged by the tyrant of Syracuse.

Reeder, *Captain Kate* Kate's is determined to haul the family's coal down the C&O Canal even if she has to take her stepbrother along to help. They risk encounters with the rebels, manage the canal's locks, and have to hide the fact that they are two children traveling alone.

Reeder, *Shades of Gray* The Civil War was over, but it had taken a terrible toll on twelve-year-old orphan, Will Page. Will is forced to live with his Uncle Jed, a coward who had refused to fight.

Reig, *Diary of the Boy King, Tut-Ankh-Amen* This is a fictional diary of the daily life of the King Tut during his ninth year of life, the year he became King of Egypt.

Reiss, *The Upstairs Room* (1973 Newbery Honor) A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

Richter, *A Light in the Forest* A boy who is captured and adopted by Indians is later returned to his parents and finds difficulty in reconciling the two worlds.

Rinaldi, *Time Enough for Drums* A girl is torn between her family's involvement in the fight for independence and her own feelings for a Tory sympathizer.

Rinaldi, *Wolf by the Ears* Seventeen-year-old slave Harriet Hemmings belongs to Thomas Jefferson. She lives at Monticello itself, and must decide whether to stay a slave in a golden cage or escape and find her freedom.

Robinet, *Children of the Fire* Eleven year old Hallelujah gets lost in the path of the Great Chicago Fire.

Robinet, *Missing From HayMarket Square* Some children get caught up in the riot in Chicago

Robinet, *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues* It is June, 1956 in Montgomery, Alabama. Alfa supports the bus boycott but walking brings disaster as some white boys steal his pay.

Robinet, *Washington City is Burning* Virginia is sent to the White House to work for Dolly Madison. She is also secretly asked do dangerous work to help her own people escape slavery.

Rodman, *Yankee Girl* It is 1961 and Alice's FBI-agent father has been assigned to Mississippi to protect black people who are registering to vote. Alice & her family are suddenly in the midst of racial turmoil.

Rogasky, *The Golem* (1500's) The golem, a nonhuman creature, is created by Rabbi Loew to help the Jews of Prague against their enemies.

Rubalcaba, *A Place in the Sun* It was just an accident. But when Senmut's sculpting chisel slips from his fingers, striking and killing a dove, Egyptian priests exile the nine-year-old to a lifetime of hard labor in the gold mines of Nubia.

Rupert, *The African Mask* A Yoruba girl discovers her talent for creating fine pottery but faces a future that offers no room for her gift.

Salisbury, *Under the Blood Red Sun* (Scott O'Dell Award / GA Book Award 96/97) Tomi is a young Japanese-American boy living in Hawaii when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. Suddenly, he is treated as the enemy.

Schur, *The Circlemaker* The czar's soldiers are riding into villages throughout the Ukraine and seizing Jewish boys for the military. Mendel knows that he too may be taken, but his father's words enable him to make choices that will alter his life forever.

Schurfranz, *Roman Hostage* When the Visigoths sought refuge from the Huns within the Roman Empire south of the Danube River, Rubric becomes a hostage. He is sent to Constantinople and learns of plans of treachery against his father, a Visigoth chieftain.

Seredy, *The Good Master* (Newbery Honor) Jancsi welcomes his cousin Kate for a summer on the farm on the Hungarian plains. They have many adventures including horseback races, country fairs & festivals, and a dangerous run-in with gypsies. Medium

Seredy, *The Singing Tree* (Newbery Honor) The continuing story of Kate and Jancsi during World War I taking care of the farm, and all the relatives, Russian soldiers, and German war orphans who take refuge there. (Sequel)

Shemin, *The Little Riders* An American girl is caught in Holland during World War II and helps hide the treasures of the town.

Smucker, *Runaway to Freedom* Julilly and Liza escape their Mississippi plantation and follow the North Star and the Underground Railroad to Canada. This book really helps you feel what it might have been like to run and hide.

Speare, *Calico Captive* A girl is taken captive in an Indian raid and forced to march to Montreal where she is sold to the French. Based on a true incident in 1807.

Speare, *Sign of the Beaver* A boy is helped by an Indian boy to survive the harsh Maine winter.

Speare, *The Bronze Bow* (Newbery Medal) Daniel, a Galilean boy, struggles to reconcile his need to take care of his family with his oath of revenge against the Romans. He meets the teacher Jesus, who makes him aware of other choices open to him.

Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* A girl in Puritan Connecticut becomes friendly with an old woman who lives on the edge of the village. She and the old woman are accused of witchcraft.

Sutcliff, *Eagle of the Ninth* A young centurion goes among the hostile tribes beyond the Roman Wall to recover the eagle standard of the lost Ninth, a legion which mysteriously disappeared into the wilds of Caledonia under his father's command.

Sutcliff, *The Shining Company* Based on the oldest N. Britain poem "The Gododdin", the novel retells of the fight between the Three Hundred Champions and the Saxon invaders.

Sutcliff, *The Silver Branch* More than a century after *The Eagle of the Ninth* leaves off, two cousins join the Roman side in the fight against a tyrannical British emperor.

Taylor, *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* (1977 Newbery Medal), *Road to Memphis* (Coretta Scott King Award), *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* (Coretta Scott King Award) Cassie Logan and her family live in rural Mississippi in the 1920's and 30's. These books are about the racism of the Deep South and how it affects the Logans at different times during Cassie's childhood and youth. This Trilogy follows a black American family through the Depression and into World War II, as they confront racism, loss, and joyful triumphs.

Temple, *The Ramsey Scallop* Elenor and Thomas are betrothed, but hardly know each other. Before the marriage, the village priest sends them on a religious pilgrimage where they have many adventures.

Trease, *Bows Against the Barons* (1381) A peasant boy joins Robin Hood and his men when he carelessly kills one of the king's deer

Trease, *Escape to King Alfred* Two children escape from the Danes to warn King Alfred of a surprise attack. Good action.

Trease, *Message to Hadrian* Young Paul takes a message from a friend in Britain to the court of Emperor Hadrian in Rome. Great adventure and action.

Trease, *Web of Traitors* An adventure story of ancient Greece.

Treece, *The Queen's Brooch* Marcus is raised with the Celts and becomes a tribune when his father dies. He is caught up in the conflict with Buds and her people.

- Treece, *The Centurion Drucus* is a retired centurion who just settles on his farm when he is caught between Boadicea's tribes and the Romans.
- Treece, *The Last Viking* The story of the Viking leader who fought against King Harold just before the Battle of Hastings.
- Turnbull, *Maroo of the Winter Caves* Maroo and her family are returning to their winter cave when tragedy befalls them. She and her brother take a shortcut over the mountains in search of help.
- Twain, *Tom Sawyer*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Both of these are great. Your parents might like to read these out loud with you so they can enjoy them all over again.
- Vining, *I Will Adventure* (1596) A boy goes to London to be a page, sees a play and meets Shakespeare. (This author sometimes listed as "Gray" or "Vining".)
- Weir, *The Lion and the Rose* A young boy defies his family to become a stone carver and helps rebuild St. Paul's Cathedral.
- White, *The Sword in the Stone*; *The Once and Future King*
- Wilder, *The Little House books* A family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie, where they build a house, meet neighboring Indians, build a well, and fight a prairie fire. This is the original, authentic series. If you haven't read them all, get started! *Little House in the Big Woods*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Farmer Boy*, *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, *By the Shores of Silver Lake*, *The Long Winter*, *Little Town on the Prairie*, *These Happy Golden Years*, *The First Four Years*
- Willis, *Danger Along the Ohio* When traveling down the Ohio River, three children become separated from their father. They decide to follow the river in hopes of finding him. Their situation is complicated when Amos rescues a wounded Indian boy from the river.
- Wilson, *I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade* A Mongolian girl with a crippled foot, disguises herself as a boy and rides across the Gobi desert to search for her swift horse. She ends up in the court of the great Khan.
- Winterfeld, *Detectives in Togas* Three Roman students find their teacher bound and gagged when they arrive at school. They try to discover the culprit and save their classmate from prison.
- Winterfeld, *Mystery of the Roman Ransom* Roman schoolboys discover a plot to assassinate one of their own fathers. They follow clues through many dangers to expose the plot.
- Wisler, *Red Cap Ransom* Powell was a real boy who joined the Union army as a drummer in 1862, aged 13. He was captured and taken to the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia. *Mr. Lincoln's Drummer*
- Wojciechowska, *Shadow of a Bull* (1965 Newbery Medal) Manolo knows he is a coward. But as the son of the greatest matador in Spain, everyone expects him to be a great bullfighter.
- Wong, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* (biography) Jade Snow Wong was born in San Francisco in the 1920's. She led a very sheltered Chinese life until she was about ten. Eventually she must convince her parents to allow her to be the first girl in her family to go to college.
- Woodruff, *George Washington's Socks* Five children find themselves transported back into the time of George Washington and the American Revolution, where they begin to live out American history firsthand and learn the sober realities of war.
- Yep, *Dragon's Gate* (1994 Newbery Honor) A prequel to *Dragonwings*; tells of 14-year-old Otter's 1865 emigration from China and subsequent troubles in California.
- Yep, *Dragonwings* (1976 Newbery Honor) In San Francisco in 1903, Moon Shadow Lee and his father love to make kites and flying machines. They even write to the Wright brothers for advice. If you liked this one, try some of Yep's many other books. *Dragon Gate* - building

the railroad through the Sierra Nevada Mountains *The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung; A Chinese Miner*, a story of the California Gold Rush

Yolen & Harris, *Queen's Own Fool* (1559) Nicola, a young traveling player, catches the eye of Mary, Queen of Scots, and becomes her fool. She follows her back to Scotland and when the Scots turn against Mary, is there anything Nicola, just a fool, can do to save her?

Yolen, *Passager, Hobby, Merlin* (Young Merlin Trilogy)

Yolen, *The Dragon's Boy* Young Arthur meets a dragon and comes to accept him as a friend.

## Science Fiction

Asimov, *I, Robot* A collection of stories that explore the questions that arise when humans make robots superior to themselves in strength and intelligence.

Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451* In the future it's illegal to own books or think for yourself. A fireman in charge of burning books slowly changes his mind and joins the underground movement to save them.

Brin, *Brightness Reef* While defying a galactic prohibition on settling the planet Jijo, six alien races - squatters on a forbidden world - have developed a common civilization. Although they are united by the respect they have for themselves and for their home, they fear the day their presence is discovered. First book of a trilogy.

Burroughs, *A Princess of Mars* First of the 11-book series featuring John Carter of Mars. Burroughs is most famous for inventing Tarzan, but John Carter is his best character. Classic old-school sci fi.

Christopher, *The Tripods Trilogy* Young Will Parker and his companions work to liberate Earth from the ruling Tripods, who capture mature human beings and make them docile, obedient servants.

Duprau, *The City of Ember* The city of Ember was built deep underground as a last refuge for the human race. Two young people must find the way out of the aging city before all the lights go out forever.

Farmer, *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*. (1995 Newbery Honor) In Zimbabwe in the year 2194, the military ruler's 13-year-old son and his younger siblings leave their technologically overcontrolled home and find themselves on a series of perilous adventures.

Jones, *A Tale of Time City* A young evacuee from the London blitz is captured and taken to Time City, a place that exists in space and time outside history

Lowry, *The Giver* (1992 Newbery Medal) A boy with special powers escapes a future society that has given up its humanity to achieve peace and stability.

## Fantasy

Alexander, *The Arkadians* Lucian is about to be put to death, but he escapes and meets a girl with mystical powers and a poet who has been enchanted and turned into a donkey.

Alexander, *The Book of Three; The Black Cauldron* (1966 Newbery Honor); *The High King* (1969 Newbery Medal) The chronicles of Prydain, one of Alexander's most successful fantasy series.

Cooper, *The Dark is Rising* (series) (1974 Newbery Honor)

Farmer, *The Sea of Trolls* (2004 Parents' Choice Gold) Magic, trolls, Vikings, dragons, medieval England, lots of adventure.

Fletcher, *Dragon's Milk* Kaeldra, an outsider adopted by an Elythian family as a baby, possesses the power to understand dragons and uses this power to try to save her younger sister, who needs dragon's milk to recover from an illness.

Funke, *Dragon Rider* A young dragon and a runaway boy quest for the Rim of Heaven, pursued by an evil dragon out to destroy them.

Furlong, *Wise Child / Juniper* Medieval setting, black magic vs. white magic, strong female characters. *Juniper* is the "prequel" to *Wise Child*.

Juster, *The Phantom Toolbooth* A journey through a land of fantasy where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers and finds a cure for his boredom.

L'Engle, *Wrinkle in Time* (series) (1963 Newbery Medal) Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret time travel work for the government.

- LeGuin, *A Wizard of EarthSea* (series) A tale about a reckless, awkward boy named Sparrowhawk who becomes a wizard's apprentice after the wizard reveals Sparrowhawk's true name. The boy comes to realize that his fate may be far more important than he ever dreamed possible. First of 4 books in the EarthSea Cycle.
- Lewis, *Chronicles of Narnia* (series)
- Lisle, *Afternoon of the Elves* Sara-Kate, the poorest, least reputable girl in school, invites Hillary home to see what the village elves have built in her yard. Story of friendship.
- Lunn, *Doublespell* (Originally published as *Twin Spell*) A set of twins tries to unwind the mysteries that surround their new house.
- McKinley, *The Blue Sword* Sequel to *The Hero and the Crown*.
- McKinley, *The Hero and the Crown* Story of a girl who finds her own strength as she battles a dragon no man could defeat.
- Nesbit, *The Enchanted Castle*. Classic story of magic and enchantment. Written in 1907, it's the inspiration behind Lewis's *Narnia* series and Rowland's *Harry Potter*.
- Pullman, *The Golden Compass* Epic novel (first in a trilogy) about missing children, a golden, truth-divining compass and a young girl and her "daemon" who are catapulted into a life-and-death struggle against dark forces. For older readers.
- Tolkien, *The Hobbit* Background for *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Introduces Bilbo, Gollum, Gandalf, and the Ring.
- Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers, The Return of the King* The 1950's trilogy that essentially created fantasy as a genre (and is still its best example). For older, advanced readers.
- Wrede, *Dealing with Dragons* (First of a trilogy) A young princess becomes bored with her life and ends up the willing prisoner of an aging dragon.
- Yolen, *Mightier Than the Sword: World Folktales for Strong Boys* Collection of fourteen familiar and little-known tales of sons, brothers, kings, and trolls – men and boys united by a common heroism that comes from strength of character, wisdom, and compassion.
- Yolen, *Wizard's Hall* A bumbling young apprentice wizard saves the wizards' training hall from forces of evil by trusting and believing in himself. (Sounds like *Harry Potter*, but Yolen had the idea first ...)

## Biography

- Dahl, *Boy* Author Roald Dahl's recollections of his childhood.
- Eaton, *Gandhi, Fighter Without a Sword* (1951 Newbery Honor) The story of the man who led India to independence from Britain and taught the world the power of non-violence.
- Frank, *Diary of Anne Frank* Tells the true story of the Jewish Frank family as they hide from the Nazis during World War II.
- Freedman, *Lincoln: a Photobiography*. (1988 Newbery Medal) Best children's book on Abraham Lincoln.
- Freedman, *The Life and Death of Crazy Horse* Dramatic story of one of the last great Lakota Sioux chiefs, a leader in the Lakota victory at the Battle of Little Bighorn.
- Freedman, *The Voice That Challenged a Nation* (2005 Newbery Honor) Story of Marian Anderson, the Afro-American opera star who broke the barrier of segregation in the arts.
- Freedman, *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane*. (1992 Newbery Honor) Follows the lives of the Wright brothers and describes how they developed the first airplane. Great photos.
- Kuklin, *Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders Against Child Slavery* An account of the former Pakistani child labor activist whose life and unexplained murder has brought to the attention of the world the evil of child slave labor. Ages 11 and up.
- McMullan, *The Story of Harriet Tubman : Conductor of the Underground Railroad* How Harriet Tubman helped free over 300 slaves as a "conductor" for the Underground Railroad and how she became a nurse, a scout and spy for the Union Forces during the Civil War.

Reich, *Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso* The life of a great pianist and composer, the wife of composer Robert Schumann, mother of eight, and friend of many famous composers and musicians.

Stanley, *Joan of Arc* A biography of the fifteenth-century peasant girl who led a French army to victory against the English and was burned at the stake for witchcraft.

Stanley, *Leonardo da Vinci* The best children's book on the Italian Renaissance artist and inventor.

Stanley, *Shaka: King of Zulus* A biography of the nineteenth-century military genius and African Zulu chief.

### **Science, History, and Other Non-fiction**

Armstrong, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* True survival story of English explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his men trapped in an Antarctic winter in 1914.

Blumberg, *The Incredible Journey of Lewis & Clark*

Couper & Henbest, *Big Bang* Explores the Big Bang theory of how the universe may have begun.

Curlee, *Brooklyn Bridge* This stunning visual history tells the dramatic story of the history and construction of the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

Curlee, *Parthenon* (2004 Parents' Choice Recommended) Beautifully illustrated story of the Parthenon, the ancient temple of Athena, patron goddess of Athens in ancient Greece – one of the world's most famous buildings.

Filipovic, *Zlata's Diary* Originally published in Croat by UNICEF, this is the wartime diary of an 11-year-old Sarajevo girl who describes her experience of the war in Bosnia.

Holling, *Minn of the Mississippi (1952 Newbery Honor)* The history of the Mississippi River Valley is told in text and pictures through the adventures of Minn, a snapping turtle, as she travels downstream.

Holling, *Paddle-to-the-Sea* (Caldecott Honor) A young Indian boy carves a little canoe with a figure inside and names him Paddle-to-the-Sea. Paddle's journey, in text and pictures, through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean provides an excellent geographic and historical picture of the region.

Holling, *Pagoo* An intricate study of tide pool life is presented in text and pictures through the (fictional) story of Pagoo, a hermit crab.

Hoose, *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* (2004 Parent's Choice Gold Award) The tragedy of extinction is explained through the dramatic story of a legendary bird, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and of those who tried to possess it, paint it, shoot it, sell it, and, in a last-ditch effort, save it.

Jackson, *The Bone Detectives: How Forensic Anthropologists Solve Crimes and Uncover Mysteries of the Dead* Excellent treatment of the subject for ages 11 and up.

Jackson, *Twin Tales* This comprehensive look at multiple birth answers questions about such issues as identical and fraternal twins, conjoined twins, legendary pairs, and twin telepathy. Great photos.

Mowat, *Never Cry Wolf* A scientist is dropped alone onto the frozen Canadian tundra, where he begins his mission to live among the howling wolf packs and study their ways.

Rahn, *How Plants Travel* Beautifully describes the many ways plants are dispersed by wind, water, animals, and people.

Sattler & Maestro, *Our Patchwork Planet* One of the best books on tectonic plates, continental drift, volcanoes, and earthquakes.

Stanley, *Big Annie of Calumet: A True Story of the Industrial Revolution* A fascinating look at U. S. labor history and conditions (around 1913) and a glimpse of one of its long-ignored heroines.

Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* Famous novelist travels across 1960 America with his poodle, Charley, in one of the first mobile homes ever made.

Ward, *My Friend's Beliefs* Young people from different religious traditions describe their beliefs and customs.

### **Recommended Books on Human Sexuality**

Age 9-10: *Girls are Girls and Boys are Boys*, Sol Gordon

Age 11-12: *My Body Myself for Boys* Linda Maderas (highly recommended)

*My Body Myself for Girls* Linda Maderas (highly recommended)

*The What's Happening to My Body Book for Boys/Girls* Linda Maderas