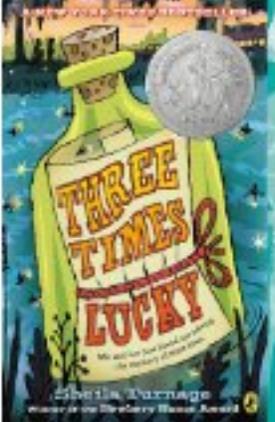


**Mary T. Kincaid:
My Amazing Reading List 2015**

Mysteries:



Three Times Lucky.

Sheila Turnage, 2012, Dial Books For Young Readers.

Story set in Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, with a collection of eccentric southern characters that are sure to capture the imagination of any reader.

Moses LoBeau, named because she was pulled from the flood waters, is a rising sixth grader in a little town where there are no secrets and everybody is in everyone's business. When the lawman, Joe Starr, shows up asking questions about a case he is working on, things start to happen. There is a local murder, a first for the community. Throughout the story Mo sends messages to her upstream Mom trying to locate her. She and her buddy, Dale Evans Earnhardt, III, stay in the thick of the mystery and action. The setting of the story is a café called Tupelo Café run by Mo's caretakers, The Colonel and Miss Lana who bring a rich flavor of joy and whimsy to the story.

This is for the reader who enjoys humor with their mystery. The dialect is not difficult and adds flavor to the story. An intermediate reader will enjoy this.



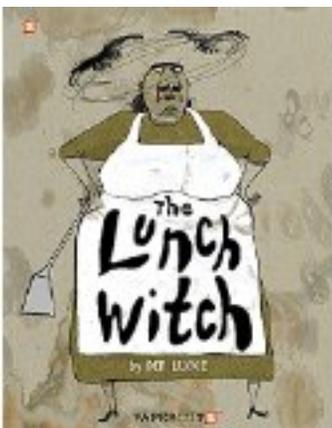
Sammy Keyes: A Kiss Goodbye

Wendelin Van Draanen, 2014, Alfred A Knopf.

This is the eighteenth book with Sammy Keyes, girl detective. Sammy has spent years addressing other people's mysteries. Her friends must now come together to figure out who threw her off the third story balcony. Sammy has made friends getting around on her skateboard, and crawling up and down the fire escape to her grandmother's apartment. Everyone collects at her bedside to wait for her to come out of her coma while they think about who could have pushed her.

The Sammy Keyes mysteries are for your girls who like to solve mysteries. They are for intermediate readers.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

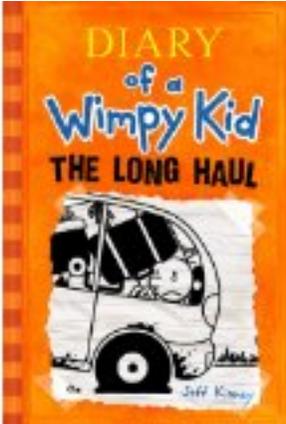


The Lunch Witch #1

Deb Lucke, 2015, Papercutz

Grunhilda has inherited her ancestors' big black pot and their recipes, but no one believes in magic anymore. Her one useful skill is cooking up pots of foul brew. She is driven by necessity to take a job as a lunch lady at Salem Elementary School. She loves to scare the kids until she meets a timid little girl named Madison who needs help at home and at school. She accepts a relationship with this unlikely child and their adventures have many unexpected side effects.

I recommend this for a more mature reader. The interaction between the dialogue and the pictures adds a dark, gross, politically incorrect dimension to this story which only older readers will enjoy.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul

Jeff Kinney, 2014, Abrams

Mom's spontaneous road tri inspired by a new issue of Family Frolic leads to the Greg Heffley discussion of zero control over his life, gas station bathrooms, crazed seagulls, and other situations. His seat in the back of the van is the place where he can make many ironic observations about his family. To top it all off, his mom plays Spanish language tapes so the family can learn the language while they travel. It's very entertaining.

The vocabulary is not difficult and the pictures will help a struggling reader become more proficient. The pictures supplement the meaning of the text.



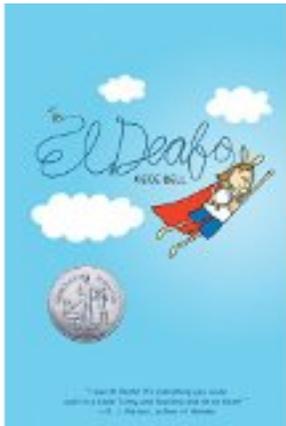
Nate the Great

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat,

Illustrated by Marc Simont, 1972, Delacort Press.

Nate solves the mystery of Annie's missing picture. He looks everywhere and figures it out. These stories has been around and proven itself for generations of readers.

These are graphic novels for young readers who need reading practice.



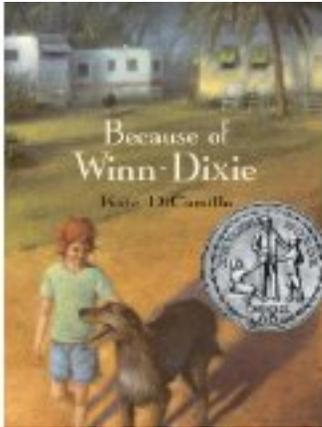
El Deafo

Cece Bell, 2014, Abrams.

This graphic novel is the author's story of losing her hearing after an episode of meningitis. The pictures are excellent, and Cece and her family are represented by a rabbit family. Cece overcomes her problems one at a time. She learns to walk after her illness, and we learn about hearing aides, lip reading, making friends, and fitting in.

The style of this book is a true four panel comic book style with four panels a page. The vocabulary is for beginners, and they will enjoy this book.

NOVELS

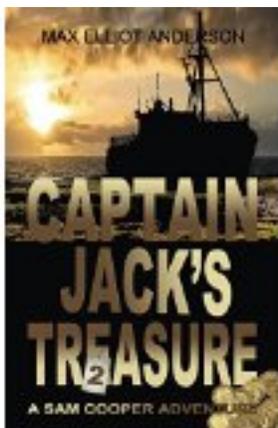


Because of Winn-Dixie

Kate DiCamillo, 2000, Candlewick Press

India Opal Buloni moves to Naomi, Florida with her father who is a preacher at the Open Arms Baptist Church. Her adventures include finding a dog and making an assortment of eccentric friends. Opal wants to know more about the mother who abandoned her and her father so she coaxes ten things about her mother from her father. This is a wonderful story about finding your way no matter what your problems are.

This story is for intermediate readers. They will have the skills to enjoy the humor in it.

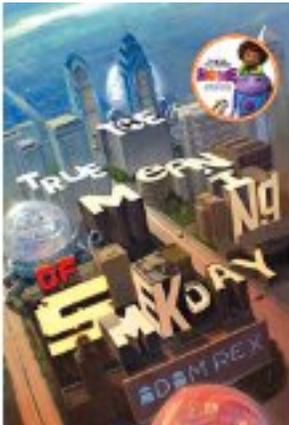


Captain Jack's Treasure: A Sam Cooper Adventure

Max Anderson, 2011, Elk Lake Publishing.

Sam Cooper and his friends Tony and Tyler spend their summer working on a boat with Captain Jack. They are given a metal detector and spent the summer hunting treasure. Their summer adventure teaches them many things.

This story is for intermediate readers who like adventure stories, boys or girls.

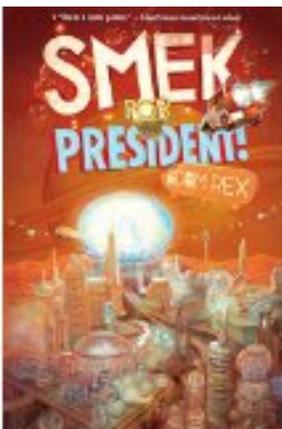


The Meaning of Smek Day: The Movie Tie In Edition

Adam Rex, 2015, Disney-Hyperion.

This book inspired the movie *Home*. Gratuity, Tip, writes an essay on the True Meaning of Smekday for the National Time Capsule contest. Her mom has a mole on her neck that the aliens use to send her mother information. On Christmas Eve a huge spaceship shows up and abducts her mother. All the humans are relocated to Florida but Tip misses the rocket pod and ends up traveling to Florida with a renegade Boov mechanic in an attempt to find her mother. The Boov works on her car called Slushious and keeps them moving across the country through their adventures. There are some pictures but this is an illustrated story rather than a graphic novel.

This is for intermediate readers who liked the movie.

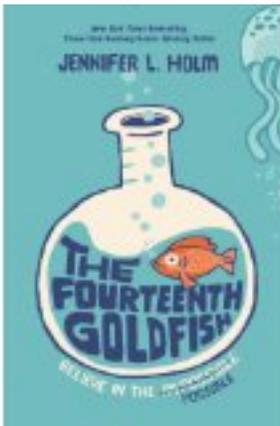


Smek for President!

Adam Rex, 2015, Disney-Hyperion

Tip and J. Lo want to make things right with the Boov who have taken over earth. Dan Landry has taken credit for their work and wants to be president. The Boov blame J.Lo for interfering with their plans to colonize earth. J.Lo in an attempt to clear his name gets back in Slushious that J. Lo has turned into a spaceship and head to New Boovworld, the alien's new home on one of Saturn's moons. The Boov's first ever presidential election is a reason for Tip and J.Lo to fight to set the record straight about who really saved the planet from the alien race.

This is an illustrated story for intermediate readers.

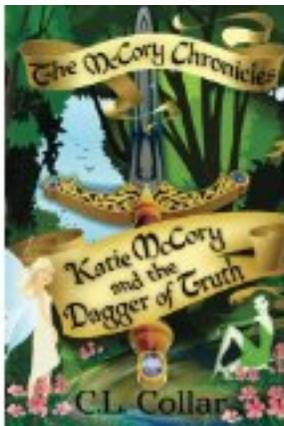


The Fourteenth Goldfish

Jennifer L Holm, 2014, Random House

Eleven year old Ellie misses fifth grade. Her summer involves change. Then one day a stranger shows up. He is bossy, cranky and looks like her Grandpa Melvin a scientist. Grandpa was always obsessed with immortality so the story explores the secret to eternal youth.

Intermediate readers will enjoy this story.

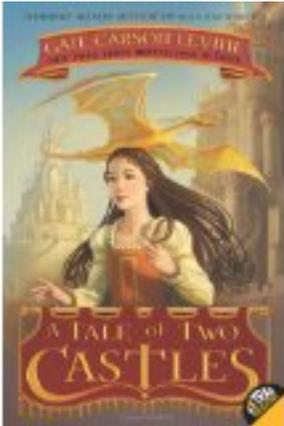


Katy McCory and the Dagger of Truth

C.L. Collar, 2013, Lillybear Press.

This is a fantasy story about magic that sends twins, Katie and Billy and their two best friends on a quest into Fey in pursuit of a stolen talisman, The Dagger of Truth. This dagger has powerful magic and the power to destroy both Fey and the Earth. Brownies and fairies guide them on their mission.

This story is for intermediate readers who like fantasy, and fairies.

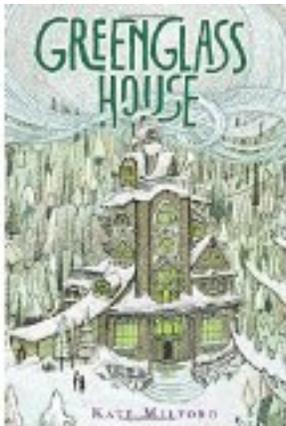


A Tale of Two Castles

Gail Carson Levine, 2012, Harper.

Elodie, who is new to the town of Two Castles, becomes an assistant to a dragon. The dragon solves mysteries and immediately involves Elodie. Their most important case involves a shape shifting ogre, Count Jonty Um. Elodie disguises herself to discover the origin of the threat.

This is a fantasy for an intermediate reader.



Greenglass House

Kate Milford, 2014, Clarion Books

It's wintertime and Milo thinks the Inn is closed for the Christmas holidays so he can enjoy himself. The first night of vacation twelve year old Milo finds himself waiting on guests, unexpected guests.

Soon there is a collection of odd, and secretive guests that are connected with the to the house where he lives. Milo and Meddy have to discover the truth about the Greenglass House.

This is a story for intermediate reader.

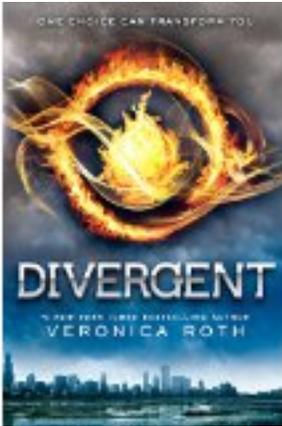


Rain Reign

Ann M. Martin, 2014, Feiwel and Friends.

No one understands Rose's obsessions. Her rules make her different and difficult for her teachers, other kids, and her single father to deal with. The story opens up with her father giving her a dog he found which she names Rain Reign which is a double homonym according to Rose's homonym rules and very special. When her father lets her dog out, Rose has to eave her routines and search for him. This story is told from Rose's point of view and is a powerful story about being special and trying to understand the world.

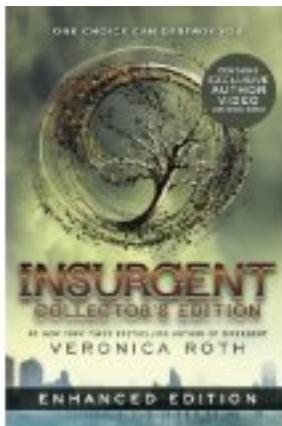
I would recommend this story about a girl with a handicap for struggling readers. It is well told and the vocabulary is simple.



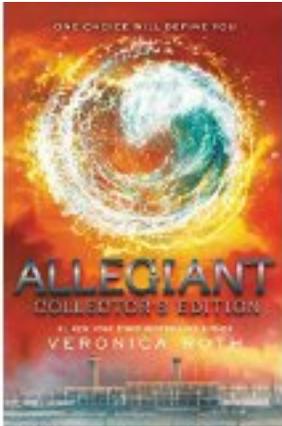
The Divergent Series: The Complete Collection

Veronica Roth, 2011, HarperCollins ebook.

Divergent. The choice our sixteen-year old heroine must make which will decide what faction she will become a part of. Her perfect society demands that she choose where she will spend the rest of her life. As she begins to make her way in her new life she starts to examine the things that she has always taken for granted.

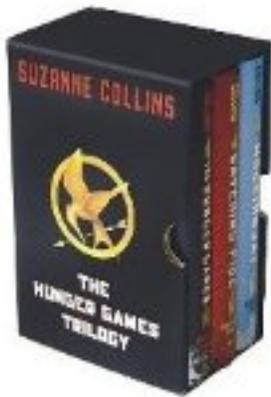


Insurgent. War surges in the factions. Tris attempts to save the people she loves, while still trying to understand the questions of identity, loyalty, politics and love. She struggles with the grief of losing her parents, and her brother. She must continue on the path that makes sense to her.



Allegiant. The conclusion reveals the secrets of the dystopian world. Tris learns that members of the society have been lied to, and there is not the happiness that everyone insists upon.

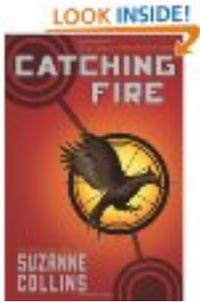
This is a young adult trilogy for a more mature reader.



The Hunger Games Trilogy

Suzanne Collins, 2010, Scholastic Press.

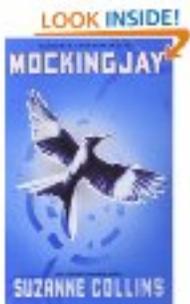
As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.



Catching Fire

Suzanne Collins, 2013, Scholastic.

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has won the annual Hunger Games with fellow district tribute Peeta Mellark. But it was a victory won by defiance of the Capitol and their harsh rules. Katniss and Peeta should be happy. After all, they have just won for themselves and their families a life of safety and plenty. But there are rumors of rebellion among the subjects, and Katniss and Peeta, to their horror, are the faces of that rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.



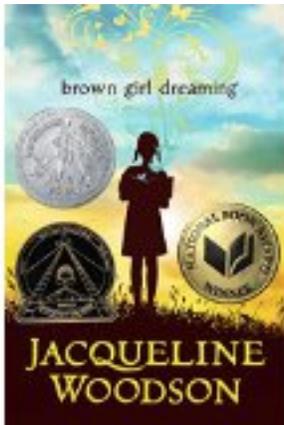
Mockingjay

Suzanne Collins, 2014, Scholastic.

Katniss leads the revolution to overthrow the establishment, and the capital. It is a fight to the death, and she loses her family and friends along the way. The last fight scene involves her storming the capital and losing her sister.

This trilogy is for readers that are at least in the seventh grade. It contains graphic violence. This dystopia is not for the faint or tender hearted.

POETRY

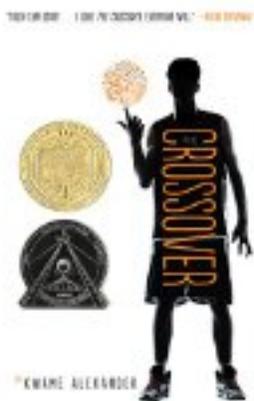


Brown Girl Dreaming

Jacqueline Woodson, 2014, Penguin.

Jacqueline tells the story of her childhood in verse. She spent time with her grandparents in South Carolina in the summers. Then she spent time in New York City. She is a child with her roots in two cultures. She became aware of the Civil Rights movements in the 1960's and 1970's as she lived with the remnants of the Jim Crow Laws. Her memories are told in verse with precision and grace as she relives her experiences.

This is for a reader who is interested in history, or the Civil Rights movement. It is eloquent and easy to read.



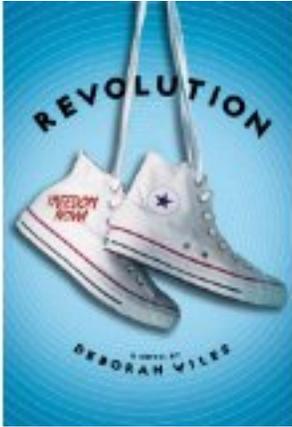
Crossover

Kwame Alexander, 2014, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

A father raises his sons on the basketball court. Josh Bell tells his story of the exercises and the drills he and his brother go through every day. They are exceptional basketball players and their fame is all over their neighborhood. The stories told in poetic form tell us about the growth of a basketball player, his relationship with his family, and his special relationship with his father.

The text is not difficult. A reader who likes to play basketball will enjoy this book.

HISTORICAL NOVEL



Revolution: (The Sixties Trilogy Book 2)

Deborah Wiles, 2014, Scholastic Press

In 1964, Greenwood, Mississippi is experiencing the freedom summer, when the volunteers come on buses to register the people to vote. This is the story of change in a society that just isn't ready to change. Sunny tells us through her eyes what it is like when the pool is closed because the townspeople won't let the black people swim, and rioting happens at the movie theater when she goes to the movies.

There are pictures and other pieces of memorabilia included in the text. But the story is told from the point of view of the twelve year old girl who lives through it.

Story for an advanced reader who likes history.