

SIXTH GRADE

1) Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 11.0

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

2) The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John H. Ritter (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 7.0

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

3) The Name of This Book Is Secret (series) by Pseudonymous Bosch (Mystery, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 9.0

When Cass and Max-Ernest find a mysterious case containing vials of liquid and an encoded message asking for help, the two friendless eleven-year olds decide to investigate.

4) The Death-Defying Pepper Roux by Geraldine McCaughrean (Historical Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 10.0

Having been raised believing he will die before he reaches the age of fourteen, Pepper Roux runs away on his fourteenth birthday in an attempt to elude his fate, assumes another identity, and continues to try to outrun death, no matter the consequences.

5) The Big Field by Mike Lupica (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 8.0

Hutch feels threatened when Darryl becomes the shortstop and Hutch is relegated to second base. He tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

6) The Red Blazer Girls: The Ring of Rocamadour by Michael D. Beil (Mystery)

IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 9.0

Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years before.

7) The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo (Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 5.0

This story tells 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.

8) Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 6.0

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

9) From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg (Mystery, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 5.0

Claudia and her brother Jamie run away from home and take up residence in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

10) Eleven (series) by Lauren Myracle (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 6.0

The year between turning eleven and turning twelve bring many changes for Winnie and her friends.

11) Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson (Realistic Fiction, Poetry)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 2.0

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.

12) Missing May by Cynthia Rylant (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 3.0

After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her Uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

13) The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder (Mystery)

IL: MG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 7.0

It's only a game for six children, until an oracle tells the truth and a murderer appears.

14) Swindle by Gordon Korman (Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 5.0

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons sixth-grader Griffin Bing out of a valuable baseball card, Griffin puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back.

15) Coraline by Neil Gaiman (Fantasy, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 5.0

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

16) Chasing Vermeer (series) by Blue Balliett (Mystery, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 6.0

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

17) Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 2.0

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. He travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

18) Sisters Grimm: Fairytale Detectives (series) by Michael Buckley (Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 9.0

Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother who they have always believed to be dead. There they learn they're the descendants of the Brothers Grimm, and the latest in a long line of fairy-tale detectives.

19) Dealing With Dragons (series) by Patricia C. Wrede (Fantasy, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 8.0

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

20) The Lightning Thief (series) by Rick Riordan (Fantasy, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 13.0

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

21) When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (Historical Fiction, Fantasy)

IL: MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 6.0

A twelve-year-old New York City girl living in the 1980s tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

22) Signal by Cynthia DeFelice (Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 5.0

After moving with his emotionally distant father to the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, twelve-year-old Owen faces a lonely summer until he meets an abused girl who may be a space alien.

23) The Secret of Zoom by Lynne Jonell (Fantasy)

IL: MG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 10.0

Ten-year-old Christina lives a sheltered life until she discovers a secret tunnel, an evil plot to enslave orphans, and a mysterious source of energy known as zoom.

24) Malice by Chris Wooding (Fantasy)

IL: MG+ - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 10.0

Everyone has heard the rumors that if you gather the right things and say the right words, you'll be taken to Malice, a world that exists inside a horrifying comic book. Seth and Kady think it's all a silly myth until one of their friends disappears.

25) Closed for the Season by Mary Downing Hahn (Mystery)

IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 6.0

When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

26) The Frog Scientist by Pamela S. Turner (Non-Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 6.3 - AR Pts: 1.0

A professor in Berkeley, California, Dr. Tyrone Hayes studies the effects of pesticides on frog populations.

27) The Frog Princess (series) by E.D. Baker (Fantasy, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 7.0

After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means, and the self-confidence, to become human again.

28) Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 7.0

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou keeps a summer journal which chronicles her first experiences with romance, homesickness, and death.

29) The Wild Girls by Pat Murphy (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 9.0

When thirteen-year-old Joan moves to California in 1972, she becomes friends with Sarah. After winning a writing contest together, they are recruited for an exclusive summer writing class that gives them new insights into themselves and others.

30) Loser by Jerry Spinelli (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 5.0

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

SEVENTH GRADE

1) How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 3.0

A compilation of humorous, short stories about 13 year-old boys trying to ride a waterfall in a barrel, break the world record for speed on skis, and perform other daredevil stunts that are based on Paulsen's own life.

2) The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke (Mystery, Fantasy)

IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 13.0

Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord."

3) Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman (Non-Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 6.6 - AR Pts: 5.0

This book is a biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926.

4) Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements (Fantasy)

IL: MG+ - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 9.0

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

5) Marching For Freedom by Elizabeth Patridge (Non-Fiction)

IL: MG+ - BL: 6.6 - AR Pts: 3.0

This book recounts the three months of protest that took place before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

6) The Ruins of Gorlan (series) by John Flanagan (Fantasy, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 7.0 - AR Pts: 12.0

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

7) The Devil and His Boy by Anthony Horowitz (Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 6.0

In 1593, thirteen-year-old Tom travels through the English countryside to London, where he falls in with a troupe of actors and finds himself in great danger from several sources.

8) Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By by Sharon Robinson (Non-Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 7.3 - AR Pts: 4.0

This is an inspiring collection that pays tribute to baseball legend and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson.

9) Schooled by Gordon Korman (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 6.0

Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie, but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

10) Monster by Walter Dean Myers (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 5.0

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

11) Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 8.0

When fourteen-year-old Liyana and her younger brother move from St. Louis to a new home in Jerusalem where her father was born, they must face many changes.

12) Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 6.0

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression.

13) Among the Hidden (series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Science Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 5.0

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

14) Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (series) by Jack Gantos (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 5.0

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

15) Scat by Carl Hiaasen (Realistic Fiction, Mystery)

IL: MG - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 12.0

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

16) The City of Ember (series) by Jeanne DuPrau (Science Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 9.0

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race, but two hundred years later the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. It's up to Lina and Doon to decipher a hidden message before the lights go out on Ember forever.

17) The Mysterious Benedict Society (series) by Trenton Lee Stewart (Adventure, Mystery)

IL: MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 18.0

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledroptha Curtain.

18) Savvy by Ingrid Law (Fantasy)

IL: MG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 9.0

Mibs Beaumont's thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy," a magical power unique to each member of her family, just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

19) Alex Rider: Stormbreaker (series) by Anthony Horowitz (Adventure)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 7.0

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency.

20) What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones (Realistic Fiction, Poetry)

IL: UG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 3.0

Sophie uses poems to describe her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

21) The Misfits by James Howe (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 7.0

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

22) Downsiders by Neal Shusterman (Science Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 7.2 - AR Pts: 11.0

When fourteen-year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers the Downsiders world which had evolved from the subway built in New York in 1867 by Alfred Ely Beach, she and her new friend experience the clash of their two cultures.

23) Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science by John Fleischman (Non-Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 7.4 - AR Pts: 2.0

Phineas Gage was truly a man with a hole in his head. In 1948, when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain, he miraculously survived to live another eleven years and become a textbook case in brain science.

24) Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 8.0

In alternating chapters, Juli and Bryce describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

25) So B. It by Sarah Weeks (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 6.0

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

26) Peak by Roland Smith (Adventure)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 9.0

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

27) Thirteenth Child by Patricia Wrede (Fantasy)

IL: MG - BL: 6.0 - AR Pts: 14.0

Eighteen-year-old Eff must accept that her special training in Aphrikan magic and being the twin of the seventh son of a seventh son give her extraordinary power to combat magical creatures that threaten the western frontier.

28) Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata (Historical Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 9.0

An action-packed glimpse into the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a bomb-sniffing German shepherd named Cracker and her handler, a young soldier.

29) Aquamarine by Alice Hoffman (Fantasy)

IL: UG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 1.0

On the edge of growing up, during a summer that is the hottest on record, Hailey and Claire learn that life can take an unpredictable course, that friendship is forever, and that magic can be found in the most unexpected places.

30) American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang (Graphic Novel)

IL: MG+ - BL: 3.3 - AR Pts: 1.0

Three seemingly unrelated tales combine the problems of young Chinese Americans with traditional Chinese fables.

EIGHTH GRADE

1) The Hunger Games (series) by Suzanne Collins (Adventure, Science Fiction)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 15.0

In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16 year old Katniss's skills are tested when she voluntarily takes her sister's place.

2) Salt by Maurice Gee (Fantasy)

IL: MG+ - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 9.0

Hari, a downtrodden underclass boy, and Pearl, a privileged girl, both develop a talent to speak to animals and humans through mind control and find themselves thrown together on a quest to save mankind from a terrible weapon.

3) Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 18.0

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

4) Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman (Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 8.0

Vince Luca is just like any other high-school guy, except that his father is the head of a powerful crime organization.

5) The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud (Fantasy)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.9 - AR Pts: 19.0

Nathaniel, a young magician's apprentice, becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder, and rebellion, after he summons the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Loveland.

6) Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney (Adventure)

IL: MG+ - BL: 6.2 - AR Pts: 8.0

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and could infect all of New York City.

7) Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (Historical Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 3.5 - AR Pts: 7.0

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

8) Does My Head Look Big in This? By Randa Abdel-Fattah (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 12.0

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith.

9) A Corner of the Universe by Ann M. Martin (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 6.0

During the summer that Hattie turns twelve, her world is turned upside down with the startling arrival of an uncle no one has ever spoken about. Adam's "school" -- an institution for the mentally disabled -- is being closed.

10) The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (Fantasy)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 10.0

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

11) The Giver by Lois Lowry (Science Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 7.0

The Elders of the Committee choose Jonas to be the person responsible for receiving and keeping all the memories of the past--a huge task for this exceptional boy.

12) Uglies (series) by Scott Westerfeld (Science Fiction)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 13.0

In Tally's world, reaching 16 brings an operation that turns you from ugly to pretty and Tally's almost there, but when her friend runs away, Tally learns about a new side of pretty world and must choose between betrayal and never turning pretty.

13) Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 7.0

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

14) The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy by Diane Stanley (Mystery)

IL: MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 8.0

Eighth-grader Franny and her friends investigate why most of the students at their exclusive boarding school are brilliant, beautiful, and perfectly behaved.

15) The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel (series) by Michael Scott (Fantasy)

IL: MG - BL: 6.4 - AR Pts: 14.0

While working at summer jobs, 15-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in a deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book containing secret formulas.

16) The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart (Realistic Fiction)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 9.0

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.

17) High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places by David Breashears (Non-Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 7.7 - AR Pts: 18.0

This is the story of the famed IMAX cinematographer, adventurer, and mountaineer, whose terrifying experiences during the 1996 season on Mt. Everest became the defining moment of his life.

18) Getting Away With Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case by Chris Crowe (Non-Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 8.7 - AR Pts: 5.0

This book presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955.

19) Feed by M.T. Anderson (Science Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 7.0

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

20) Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (Adventure)

IL: UG - BL: 5.9 - AR Pts: 17.0

Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on San Francisco, 17-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

21) Just Ella by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Fantasy)

IL: UG - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 6.0

In this continuation of the Cinderella story, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape.

22) Bloody Jack (series) by L.A. Meyer (Historical Fiction)

IL: MG+ - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 11.0

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

23) A Girl Named Disaster by Nancy Farmer (Fiction, Adventure)

IL: UG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 14.0

While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

24) Airman by Eoin Colfer (Historical Fiction, Adventure)

IL: MG - BL: 5.8 - AR Pts: 16.0

In the late nineteenth century, when Conor discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while planning a daring escape by way of a flying machine.

25) The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation (series) by M.T. Anderson (Historical Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 8.0 - AR Pts: 13.0

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

26) Hoops by Walter Dean Myers (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 7.0

Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of the Harlem ghetto.

27) Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Historical Fiction)

IL: MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 14.0

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike and the fire that took the lives of her friends.

28) Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 7.0

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

29) Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher (Realistic Fiction)

IL: UG - BL: 6.1 - AR Pts: 10.0

An intellectually and athletically gifted multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

30) The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (Realistic Fiction)

IL: **UG** - BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **10.0**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.