

Exceptional Books for Fifth & Sixth Graders

FICTION

Cooper, Susan. **Ghost Hawk**.^{*} 2013.

Lexile: 940

At the end of a winter-long journey, Little Hawk returns to find his village decimated by a white man's plague. A new friendship with a young white settler is risky, but meaningful.

Federle, Tim. **Better Nate than Ever**.^{*} 2013.

Lexile: 930

An eighth-grader, who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical, concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."

Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**.^{*} 2013.

Lexile: 720

When 12-year-old Kyle wins the chance to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by a famous gamemaker, he expects a night of fun. But, locked inside, he and the other winners must solve a series of clues and puzzles and escape by morning – or lose the grand prize.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **The Thing about Luck**. 2013.

Lexile: 700

Just when 12-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving her to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

Lloyd, Natalie. **A Snicker of Magic**. 2014.

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic. Felicity Pickle is convinced the magic is still there, and she hopes to bring it back.

Lord, Cynthia. **Half a Chance**. 2014.

Lucy, with her parents, has just moved to a rural New Hampshire community, where she and her new friend Nate plan to spend the summer taking photos for a contest. But Lucy soon learns that pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. **Counting by 7s**.^{*} 2013.

Lexile: 770

After her parents are killed in a car accident, 12-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people, and find herself a surrogate family.

Timberlake, Amy. **One Came Home**.^{*} 2013.

Lexile: 690

In 1871 Wisconsin, 13-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha – presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in – and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

Vawter, Vince. **Paperboy**.^{*} 2013.

Lexile: 940

When an 11-year-old boy takes over a friend's Memphis newspaper route in July 1959, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

CLASSICS AND MODERN CLASSICS

Creech, Sharon. **Walk Two Moons**.^{*} 1994.

Lexile: 770

After her mother leaves home suddenly, 13-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Gantos, Jack. **Dead End in Norvelt**.* 2011.

Lexile: 920

In the town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, 12-year-old Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, Girl Scout cookies and countless bloody noses.

L'Engle, Madeleine. **A Wrinkle in Time**. 1962.

Lexile: 740

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and forces of evil as they embark on a heart-stopping journey through space to search for Meg's father, who mysteriously disappeared after experimenting with fifth dimension time travel.

Levine, Gail Carson. **Ella Enchanted**.* 1998.

Lexile: 670

At her birth, Ella was given the "gift" of obedience by a foolish fairy; she must obey any order she's given, even if it's chopping off her own head! But strong-willed Ella is determined to break the curse, and sets off on a quest full of ogres, giants and wicked stepsisters.

Lowry, Lois. **The Giver**.* 1993.

Lexile: 760

At the annual Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas is chosen for something special. His lifetime assignment leads him to The Giver - a man who holds all memories of the past - and through him, Jonas learns the terrible truth about his society.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes**.* 1998.

Lexile: 660

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune - which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative - Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert, where he finds his first real friend, a treasure and a new sense of himself.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac Magee**.* 1990.

Lexile: 820

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his peers.

Turnage, Sheila. **Three Times Lucky**.* 2012.

Lexile: 560

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now 11, and her best friend Dale turn detective when her adopted father seems implicated in a murder.

NONFICTION

Go! A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design by Chip Kidd. 2013.

Explore the different elements of design, including form, line, color, scale and typography, and discover how to use them in creative ways.

J 741.6 KID

The Great American Dust Bowl by Don Brown. 2013.

Brown brings the "Dirty Thirties" to life in this nonfiction graphic novel of one of America's most catastrophic natural events: the Dust Bowl.

J 973.917 BRO

Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker by Patricia Hruby Powell. 2014.

Lexile: 790

This book follows the life of famous performer and civil rights advocate Josephine Baker as she works her way from the slums of St. Louis to some of the world's grandest stages.

JB Baker

The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius by Jan Greenberg. 2013.

This account of ceramics artist George E. Ohr traces his youth during the Civil War, his unconventional creations and the remarkable trove discovered after his death.

J 738.092 GRE

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