



Adventures of Ulysses, The

Evslin, Bernard.

Ulysses and his men embark upon a glorious journey home, unaware that they have angered the gods. Their journey will last for ten years, riddled with many perils.

Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II

Russo, Marisabina.

At first glance *Always Remember Me* appears to be a picture book; however, taking a second look, one realizes that the book can be used for a wide variety of ages. The author bases the story on the family stories that she heard growing up. Oma, her grandmother was raising her three daughters alone in the years leading up to World War II. They, like most Jews, thought the war would not last as long as it did. Just before Oma planned to leave Germany and bring two of her daughters to America, she was sent to a concentration camp. She didn't know if her daughters, now grown, would survive the Holocaust, but miraculously all four did. When Oma was released she made her way back to her village to retrieve the photographs that she had hidden in the wall of their house. Using those photographs, Russo weaves the story of how her mother, grandmother and aunts were reunited in America following the war.

Best School Year Ever, The

Robinson, Barbara.

The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

Black Pearl, The

O'Dell, Scott.

In claiming as his own the magnificent black pearl he finds, a sixteen-year-old youth enrages the sea devil who legend says is its owner.

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Recommended Reading List

Brian's Winter

Paulsen, Gary.

In the book, *Hatchet*, Brian Robeson is rescued after surviving a plane crash and summer alone in the north Canadian woods. Now, in this second sequel, Paulsen shows what would have happened if the 13-year-old boy had been forced to endure the harsh winter.

Bridge to Terabithia

Paterson, Katherine.

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Broken Song

Lasky, Kathryn.

In this companion book to her award-winning *The Night Journey* (1981), Lasky describes the life of violin prodigy Reuven Bloom, and the terrible night when Cossack troops invade his modest home, murder the townspeople, and change his life forever. Dressed like an old peasant woman with his two year old sister, Rachel, riding in a basket on his back, Reuven escapes to Poland, where he sees Rachel off to safety in America and becomes the best demolition man for the Bund, the underground Jewish Workers' Federation. Reassigned, he saves the family of his future wife, Sashie (the protagonist of *The Night Journey*), and ultimately decides to leave his violent life and join Rachel and her adoptive family in America. While the adventurous plot is compelling, it is Lasky's skillful characterization of Reuven and his oh-so-feisty sister that bring the story into focus.

Bronx Masquerade

Grimes, Nikki.

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Grade 6 Recommended Reading List

Bud, Not Buddy

Curtis, Christopher Paul.

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Catherine, Called Birdy

Cushman, Karen.

The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Cay, The

Taylor, Theodore.

After the freighter on which Phillip and his mother were traveling from wartime Curacao to the U.S. is torpedoed, the boy finds himself dependent on an old West Indian for survival.

Crazy Lady

Conly, Jane Leslie.

Vernon Dibbs is finding junior high tough. The grades that come so easily to others elude him, despite earnest struggles and extra hours of study; he feels he lost the one person who considered him in any way special when his mother suddenly passed away two years ago. Then acquaintance with alcoholic Maxine and her retarded son Ronald leads to some tutoring work, and soon he is also involved in a money-making scheme to send Ronald to the Special Olympics; the solutions to Vernon's problems seem to be within his grasp, and his confidence soars.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Avi.

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Grade 6

Recommended Reading List

Dealing with Dragons

Wrede, Patricia C.

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.

Devil's Arithmetic, The

Yolen, Jane.

Hannah resents stories of her Jewish heritage and of the past until, when opening the door during a Passover Seder, she finds herself in Poland during World War II where she experiences the horrors of a concentration camp, and learns why she-- and we--need to remember the past.

Dragonwings

Yep, Laurence.

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

El Lector

Durbin, William.

Thirteen year old Bella has grown up with her grandfather's stories and desperately wants to grow up to be a lector, just like him. Grandfather is an important man in their immigrant community; he is paid to read in Spanish daily to the workers in the cigar factory. From classics such as Don Quixote to national and international newspapers, his resonant voice both entertains and informs - especially about union issues. But factory owners in Florida's Ybor City want to crush the tobacco union and its impending strike. They fire Grandfather, and Bella's school career ends as she takes her place in the cigar factory where her aunt works. A picture is effectively painted of the hot Florida town in which Bella's widowed mother is trying to raise her two children in the midst of the Depression. Bella's character is convincing as we learn of her aspirations, her frustration with her veering out of control brother, Pedro, her fear when her Tía Lola is unjustly arrested and jailed, and her eventual plan to her family back on its feet. This is solid historical fiction based on true events.

Grade 6 Recommended Reading List

Endless Steppe, The: Growing up in Siberia

Hautzig, Esther Rudomin.

During World War II, when she was eleven years old, the author and her family were arrested in Poland by the Russians as political enemies and exiled to Siberia. She recounts here the trials of the following five years spent on the harsh Asian steppe.

Esperanza Rising

Ryan, Pam Munoz.

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, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Estrella's Quinceañera

Alegría, Malín.

Caught between two worlds, Estrella Alvarez (or "Star" to friends at the private school where she is a scholarship student) does not want her mother to plan a *quinceañera*, the traditional 15 year old "coming out" party signifying that a girl has reached womanhood. She'd much rather celebrate at a sophisticated party like those of her friends at private school, Sheila and Christie. Embarrassed by her mother, attracted to a street boy her father emphatically does not like, and feeling separated from her family, old friends in her *barrio* and new friends in her school, Estrella flounders through her fourteenth year trying to figure out who she really is.

Fellowship of the Ring, The

Tolkien, J. R. R. (John Ronald Reuel).

Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.

Forgotten Door, The

Key, Alexander.

John has fallen through a forgotten door to the strange planet Earth and is in great danger. Soon the family who befriends him is in great danger too. Time is running out. He must find the secret passage quickly or he may never get home.

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Recommended Reading List

Freak the Mighty

Philbrick, W. R. (W. Rodman)

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Free Baseball

Corbett, Sue.

Eleven year old Felix Piloto can't understand why his workaholic mother doesn't seem to like baseball. After all, isn't his dad a baseball superstar in their native Cuba? When he gets free tickets to a local farm team game, Felix ditches his babysitter and sneaks into the locker room, where he's mistaken for the opposing team's batboy. Through a fast-paced series of events, Felix finds himself in a neighboring town with a new job - and an opportunity, he thinks, to find out more about his mysterious father. But is he ready to accept the truth about his family? With its solid characterization, large doses of humor, excellent descriptions, and Spanish words and expressions that help readers relate to the world of the Cuban refugee, this may be a good choice for mystery lovers as well as baseball fans.

Ghosts I Have Been

Peck, Richard.

Blossom Culp's gift of second sight, which she discovers gradually, leads her into some unusual adventures.

Girl From Chimel, The

Menchú, Rigoberta.

The book is a series of short chapters, each a story that might contain other tales, which are often from the Maya tradition. Menchú begins with the story of how her grandfather carried off her willing grandmother on a "beautiful brown stallion with a golden mane." Woven throughout her tellings are explanations of some of the traditions and religious beliefs of the Maya. The book is richly illustrated in deep, vivid colors by native Mexican artist Domi. This gives a warm picture of life in Guatemala before it was torn apart by the conflict and brutal genocide that set Menchú on the path of activism that would eventually win her the Nobel Peace Prize.

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Recommended Reading List

Great Brain, The

Fitzgerald, John Dennis.

The exploits of the Great Brain of Adenville, Utah, are described by his younger brother, frequently the victim of the Great Brain's schemes for gaining prestige or money.

Greek Gods, The

Evslin, Bernard.

A collection of classic legends of the Greek gods.

Hatchet

Paulsen, Gary.

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

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths

Evslin, Bernard.

Twenty-six tales from Greek mythology, retold in language that is simple and dramatic.

Hobbit, The

Tolkien, J. R. R. (John Ronald Reuel).

The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.

Holes

Sachar, Louis.

Stanley is just a regular kid until he is found responsible for a crime he didn't commit. We learn about a curse that has been in his family for several generations. His bad luck lands Stanley in a very strange correctional camp in the Texas desert. The warden has all the inmates digging holes in a dry lake bed. The story weaves interesting tall tales from local history and Stanley's family. The relationships among the juveniles in the camp are interesting to follow. Stanley finds a good friend, treasure, and learns to like himself.

**** Text used in SpringBoard**

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Recommended Reading List

Home is East

Ly, Many.

Nine-year-old Amy Lim and her parents live in a Cambodian neighborhood in Florida. She wonders why all of their friends are Cambodian, and her father explains that "life wouldn't be the same without *his* people, that if you didn't share the same history, then there couldn't be true understanding." Amy hears rumors that her mother, who is much younger than her father, is about to leave them, but she doesn't want to believe such a thing could happen. However, it does, and Amy's father begins drinking and loses his job. Suddenly, he and Amy move cross-country to San Diego where he gets a job as a mechanic. Life is different for them, but they settle into a routine, make friends and find a place for themselves. Near the end of the story, Amy sees her mother and is devastated to find that her mother has a new life. She works through her bitterness and comes to realize that during their three years in California it has become home, and she is, in fact, surrounded by people who love her.

House of Dies Drear, The

Hamilton, Virginia.

An African-American family moves into a house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves and soon come to believe that their new home is possessed by the spirit of a murdered abolitionist, Dies Drear.

I Am the Cheese

Cormier, Robert.

Imagine discovering that your whole life has been a fiction, your identity altered, and a new family history created. Suddenly nothing is as it once seemed; you can trust no one, maybe not even yourself. It is exactly this revelation that turns 14-year-old Adam Farmer's life upside down. As he tries to ascertain who he really is, Adam encounters a past, present, and future too horrible to contemplate. Suspense builds as the fragments of the story are assembled--a missing father, government corruption, espionage--until the shocking conclusion shatters the fragile mosaic.

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Indian in the Cupboard, The

Banks, Lynne Reid.

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.

Invitation to the Game

Hughes, Monica.

Unemployed after high school in the highly robotic society of 2154, Lisse and seven friends resign themselves to a boring existence in their "Designated Area" until the government invites them to play The Game.

Island of the Blue Dolphins

O'Dell, Scott.

Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story

Drucker, Malka.

In answer to his daughter's questions, a man recalls the terrifying years of his childhood when a brave Polish couple, Alex and Mela Roslan, hid him and other Jewish children from the Nazis. Based on a true story.

Journey That Saved Curious George, The

Borden, Louise.

Curious about the details of their escape from war time France in 1940, the author consulted a number of primary and secondary sources to help recount the adventures of Hans and Margret Reyersbach, known worldwide for their Curious George books. Told in free verse that is surrounded on each page by illustrations in the style of the 1940s, the layout is inviting, and photographs of the times, reprints of some of Hans' artwork, and photographs of Hans' diary and of other primary source documents add interest to an already fascinating tale. Both of the Reys grew up in well to do families in Hamburg, Germany; both found their way early in their careers to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they formed a working partnership (Margret was a photographer) and soon married. They were living

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Recommended Reading List

and working at the Hotel Terrass in Paris in June, 1940, when the Nazi's invaded. On June 12, along with more than 5 million other people, they fled south to escape the German invaders. With their most precious possessions in their bike baskets, including the original manuscript and drawings for *Curious George*, they pedaled by bicycle to the south of France, where they caught a train for Bayonne and eventually reached Lisbon, Portugal, where they boarded a ship for Brazil. *An Afterward* gives information on the Reys' subsequent move to the United States and a short synopsis of their life here. The book also includes a partial bibliography of the Reys' works.

Journey to the River Sea

Ibbotson, Eva.

Sent in 1910 to live with distant relatives who own a rubber plantation along the Amazon River, English orphan Maia is excited. She believes she is in for brightly colored macaws, enormous butterflies, and "curtains of sweetly scented orchids trailing from the trees." Her British classmates warn her of man-eating alligators and wild, murderous Indians. Unfortunately, no one cautions Maia about her nasty, xenophobic cousins, who douse the house in bug spray and forbid her from venturing beyond their coiffed compound.

Jump Ship to Freedom

Collier, James Lincoln.

By rights young Daniel Arabus and his mother, slaves in Captain Iver's house in Stratford, Conn., should be free. But the Captain refuses to honor their agreement and instead sells Daniel on board a ship to the West Indies.

Kite Rider, The

McCaughrean, Geraldine.

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

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Recommended Reading List

Letters from Rifka

Hesse, Karen.

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

Library Card, The

Spinelli, Jerry.

Collection of four stories in which the lives of four young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.

Little Women

Alcott, Louisa May.

Chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sisters--Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth--as they grow into young ladies and marry in nineteenth-century New England.

Lottery Rose, The

Hunt, Irene.

A young victim of child abuse gradually overcomes his fears and suspicions when placed in a home with other boys.

Maniac Magee

Spinelli, Jerry.

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

Midwife's Apprentice, The

Cushman, Karen.

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.

My Side of the Mountain

George, Jean Craighead.

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A boy runs away from home and spends a year living in a tree in the Catskill Mountains with a young peregrine falcon, depending on his knowledge of the natural world and on nature itself to survive.

Notes from a Liar and Her Dog

Choldenko, Gennifer.

Eleven-year-old Ant, stuck in a family that she does not like, copes by pretending that her "real" parents are coming to rescue her, by loving her dog Pistachio, by volunteering at the zoo, and by bending the truth and telling lies.

Number the Stars

Lowry, Lois.

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Old Yeller

Gipson, Fred.

In the late 1860s in the Texas hill country, a big yellow dog and a fourteen-year-old boy form a close, loving relationship.

On My Honor

Bauer, Marion Dane.

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

One-Eyed Cat

Fox, Paula.

An eleven-year-old shoots a stray cat with his new air rifle, subsequently suffers from guilt, and eventually assumes responsibility for it.

Other Side of Dark, The

Nixon, Joan Lowery.

Seventeen-year-old Stacy awakens from a four-year coma ready to identify, locate, and prosecute the young man who murdered her mother and wounded her.

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Recommended Reading List

Petey

Mikaelsen, Ben.

In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

Play to the Angel

Dahlberg, Maurine F.

In Vienna in 1938, in the shadow of an increasingly dangerous Nazi Germany, twelve-year-old Greta pursues her dream of becoming a concert pianist like her dead brother Kurt, despite a lack of support from her widowed mother.

Pushcart War, The

Merrill, Jean.

A satire on modern city life depicting an outbreak of war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers.

Phantom Tollbooth, The

Juster, Norton.

Milo travels through a magical tollbooth and begins a journey to the Kingdom of Wisdom, where he and a "watch" dog named Tock try to end the feud between numbers and words.

Rascal

North, Sterling.

The author recalls his carefree life in a small midwestern town at the close of World War I, and his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal.

River, The

Paulsen, Gary.

Because of his success surviving alone in the wilderness for fifty-four days, fifteen-year-old Brian, profoundly changed by his time in the wild, is asked to undergo a similar experience to help scientists learn more about the psychology of survival.

Grade 6 Recommended Reading List

Roberto Clemente: Baseball Legend

Ford, Carin T.

Roberto Clemente grew up loving the game of baseball and dreaming of playing for a major league team. At 19, he signed a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers, but that lasted for only one year. He was then drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates, and thus began a brilliant career for the Puerto Rican. Born into a poor but caring family, Clemente never forgot the sacrifices that his parents made for him and spent his career trying to pay them back. At the end of the 1972 season, Clemente went home to Puerto Rico and became active in a drive to collect supplies for earthquake victims in Nicaragua. On New Year's Eve, as he was delivering the supplies to the victims, his plane crashed, killing all aboard. Clemente is remembered as a giant in baseball, but is more honored for the work he did to better the lives of children in Puerto Rico. Carin presents Clemente as a gentle man with a drive to succeed. His character is a strong point in the book. The book is part of Enslow's *Latino Biography Library* series and is suitable for middle or high school age readers. It includes photographs, a table of contents, an index, chapter notes, a list of further reading, and related Web sites.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Taylor, Mildred D.

The story about one African American family, fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s. Nine-year-old Cassie Logan, growing up protected by her loving family, has never had reason to suspect that any white person could consider her inferior or wish her harm. But during the course of one devastating year when her community begins to be ripped apart by angry night riders threatening African Americans, she and her three brothers come to understand why the land they own means so much to their Papa.

Sarah, Plain and Tall

MacLachlan, Patricia.

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

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Recommended Reading List

Secret Garden, The

Burnett, Frances Hodgson.

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Seedfolks

Fleischman, Paul.

As a vacant lot is transformed into a community garden, these vignettes give glimpses into the lives of the fledgling gardeners. As satisfying as harvesting produce straight from the vine.

Shiloh

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.

Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, and tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Skeleton Man

Bruchac, Joseph.

After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and maybe even for her life.

Snow Treasure

McSwigan, Marie.

A fictionalized account of how a group of Norwegian children carried bullion to the sea on their sleds, thus helping their country move its gold reserves to the United States during the German occupation.

Storm Warriors

Carbone, Elisa Lynn.

In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections.

Grade 6 Recommended Reading List

Summer of My German Soldier

Greene, Bette.

When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

Summer of the Swans, The

Byars, Betsy Cromer.

A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally retarded brother gets lost.

Sweetgrass

Hudson, Jan.

Living on the western Canadian prairie in the nineteenth century, Sweetgrass, a fifteen-year-old Blackfoot Indian girl, saves her family from a smallpox epidemic and proves her maturity to her father.

Sword in the Stone, The ***Note 2 titles**

Talbott, Hudson.

By being the only person able to draw a sword from an anvil on a block of marble, a young boy proves himself to be the successor to the throne of all Britain.

Sword in the Stone, The ***Note 2 titles**

White, T. H. (Terence Hanbury).

A retelling of the Arthurian legend.

Tarzan of the Apes

Burroughs, Edgar Rice.

Adventures of a man, who as a baby was lost in the African jungle, raised by apes and later became Lord of the Jungle.

Tuck Everlasting

Babbitt, Natalie

The Tuck family discovers a spring which grants eternal life, decides to protect it for the sake of humanity, and finally meets challenges to their goals in the form of a ten-year-old's inquisitive mind and a greedy stranger who suspects their secret.

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View from Saturday, The

Konigsburg, E. L.

Noah, Nadia, Ethan, and Julian, chosen by Mrs. Olinski as the sixth-grade Academic Bowl team, share the secrets of their remarkable success.

Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963, The

Curtis, Christopher Paul.

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

Rich, Mary and Kimberly Willis Holt

Summer in the tiny Texas town of Antler is traditionally a time for enjoying Wylie Womack's Bahama Mama snow cones and racking up the pins at Kelly's Bowl-a-Rama, but this year it's not going well for Toby Wilson. His 13-year-old heart has been broken twice: once by his mother, who left him and his father to become a country singer in Nashville, and then again by his crush Scarlett Stalling, the town beauty who barely acknowledges Toby's existence. But when Zachary Beaver, "The World's Fattest Boy," comes to Antler as part of a traveling sideshow, Toby begins to realize that there might just be people who have it worse than him.

Whipping Boy, The

Fleischman, Sid.

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

Wright Brothers, The: How They Invented the Airplane

Freedman, Russell.

Follows the lives of the Wright brothers and describes how they developed the first airplane.

Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo

Filipovic, Zlata.

The diary of a thirteen-year-old girl living in Sarajevo, begun just before her eleventh birthday when there was still peace in her homeland.