

GRADES 4-5

J FICTION

Baughman, Sarah R.

The Light in the Lake

Twelve-year-old Addie should stay away from Maple Lake. After all, her twin brother, Amos, drowned there only a few months ago. But its crisp, clear water runs in Addie's veins, and the notebook Amos left behind -- filled with clues about a mysterious creature that lives in the lake's inky-blue depths -- keeps calling her back. **(Libby)**

Behrens, Rebecca

The Disaster Days

Thirteen-year-old Hannah's first real babysitting job turns into a nightmare when a major earthquake knocks out power and phones, cuts off the island, and leaves her stranded with two children. **(Libby)**

Braswell, Liz

Stuffed

Everyone thinks that Clark is too old to still play with stuffed animals. He's almost eleven! Bullies target him at school while his mother tries increasingly un-subtle ways to wean him off his toys and introduce more "normal" interests. But Clark can't shake the feeling that his stuffed friends are important, even necessary. Sometimes they move around in the night, and sometimes in the morning they look a little worse for wear, as if they've engaged in battle. And it turns out . . . *he's right.*

Buckley, Michael

Finn and the Intergalactic Lunchbox

When Earth is threatened by an invading race of bugs called the Plague, 11-year-old Finn, his arch-nemesis, Lincoln, his crush, Julep, and one pink unicorn lunchbox become Earth's last best hope against destruction.

Calabrese, Keith

A Drop of Hope

Times are tough in the small town of Cliffs Donnelly, Ohio (sarcastically called If Only) especially for some of the kids at Rod Serling Middle School, but then an old dry well suddenly begins to grant wishes, or so it seems--three of the students, Ernest Wilmette, Ryan Hardy, and Lizzy MacComber, know what is happening (but do they really?), because sometimes a good deed can make magic happen. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

Carter, Ally

Winterborne Home for Vengeance and Valor

In this entertaining adventure reminiscent of Annie, five precocious foster siblings discover secrets in their sprawling new home. **(Libby)**

Cooper, Abby

Friend or Fiction

About the time that her father was diagnosed with cancer, Jade invented Zoe, an imaginary friend in the pages of her notebook that she could depend on; then one of her classmates, Gresham Gorham (called Clue), somehow brings Zoe to life, and Jade suddenly has a best friend, one she can still control by what she writes in her notebook--but soon Jade begins to wonder how much a friendship is worth if you are calling all of the shots. **(Hoopla)**

Costner, Arianne

My Life as a Potato

After accidentally causing the mascot to sprain an ankle, Ben is sentenced to Spud duty for the final basketball games of the year. But if the other kids know he's the Spud, his plans for popularity are likely to be a big dud! Ben doesn't want to let the team down, so he lies to his friends to keep it a secret. No one will know it's him under the potato suit . . . right? **(Libby)**

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Ferruolo, Jeanne

Ruby in the Sky

Twelve-year-old Ruby Moon Hayes does not want her new classmates to ask about her father. She does not want them to know her mother has been arrested. And she definitely does not want to make any friends. Ruby just wants to stay as silent and invisible as a new moon in the frozen sky. She and her mother won't be staying long in Vermont anyway, and then things can go back to the way they were before everything went wrong. **(Libby)**

Gibbs, Stuart

Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation

In this adrenaline-charged thriller by Gibbs (the Spy School series) introduces 12-year-old supergenius Charlie Thorne and sends her, with two CIA agents, in search of a world-changing equation developed by Albert Einstein before his death. **(Libby)**

Greenland, Shannon

Scouts

The summer before seventh grade, five best friends sneak out to watch a meteor shower, but soon find themselves on the run from a violent mountain clan. **(Libby)**

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

Remarkables

One minute they're there: laughing and having fun at the house next door. The next minute, the teens are gone. Like magic. Marin can't believe her eyes. Who are they? Can anyone else see them? What makes them so happy? Marin is lonely in this new town of hers and eager to figure out more. Then she meets Charley, who reveals that he knows about them, too. He calls them the "Remarkables." **(Libby, Hoopla)**

Kim, Jessica

Stand Up, Yumi Chung!

When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part. **(Libby)**

LaRocca, Rajani

Midsummer's Mayhem

Can Mimi undo the mayhem caused by her baking in this contemporary-fantasy retelling of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Eleven-year-old Mimi Mackson comes from a big Indian American family where everyone seems more accomplished than her. It's easy to feel invisible in such an impressive family, but Mimi's dream of proving she's not the least-talented member of her family seems possible when she discovers a contest at the new bakery in town. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

Malone, Lee Gjersten

Camp Shady Crook

Budding con artists Archie and Vivien spend a summer at a dilapidated, mismanaged Vermont camp competing to get whatever they want from their fellow campers. **(Hoopla)**

Marks, Janae

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

McAnulty, Stacy

The World Ends in April

When seventh-grader Eleanor reads an article online claiming that an asteroid will hit Earth in April, she starts an underground school club to prepare kids for the end of the world as we know it. **(Libby)**

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Murphy, Julie

Dear Sweet Pea

Thirteen-year-old Patricia, widely known as Sweet Pea, navigates her parents' unconventional divorce and finds herself in the unlikely role of her town's advice columnist. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

Noel, Kayla

Coo

Coo, a ten-year-old girl raised by a flock of pigeons, delights in finally making human contact, but quickly learns that our world is more cruel and complicated than she could have guessed. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

Oliver, Lin

Alien Superstar

No one is shocked by the six-eyed alien strolling around the Universal back lot. The tourists just think he's part of the show. It doesn't take long for Buddy to land a role on a popular TV show, playing (of course) an alien. He becomes an overnight heartthrob and is suddenly faced with legions of adoring fans, rides in glamorous limos, and appearances at "all-the-shrimp-you-can-eat" red carpet parties. But can Buddy maintain his secret identity while in the spotlight? **(Hoopla)**

O'Shaughnessy, Kate

The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane

Eleven-year-old Maybelle Lane is a collector of sounds, the most treasured of which is the voice of the father she has never met on an old cell phone that belongs to her mother. One day, she hears her father's voice on a radio show announcing he is judging a singing contest in Nashville, Tennessee. To Maybelle, this is the sound of fate, and she impulsively signs up for the contest without knowing how she'll get to Nashville or who will take her! **(Libby)**

Ostler, Scott

Bouncing Back

Orphaned thirteen year-old Carlos learns what it truly means to be a teammate when he must help save his new wheelchair basketball team's gym from destruction. **(Libby)**

Perez, Celia

Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers

After Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their sleepy Florida town. Includes tips for beginning birders, characteristics of crystals, a cookie recipe, tips for aspiring journalists, directions for creating badges, and facts about the killing of birds for fashion. **(Libby)**

Philbrick, Rodman

Wildfire

Thirteen-year-old Sam Castine is at summer camp while his mother is in rehab, but when the camp is evacuated ahead of a fast moving wildfire, he makes the mistake of going back for his phone, and finds himself left behind, disoriented, and running for his life. **(Hoopla)**

Ponti, James

City Spies

Operating out of a centuries-old manor house on the coast of Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from around the world. When they're not attending an elite boarding school, they're training for their roles as the biggest secret in British Secret Intelligence Service. **(Libby)**

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Reynolds, Jason

Look Both Ways: A Tale in Ten Blocks

Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and weaves them into one funny, poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life. **(Libby)**

Rodkey, Jeff

We're Not From Here

After a year on Mars, a young boy and his family migrate to the planet Choom, but the inhabitants of Choom, the Zhuri, who look like giant mosquitoes, don't really like humans and it's up to the boy and his family to change their minds if they hope to survive. **(Libby)**

Rundell, Katherine

The Good Thieves

In 1920s New York City, a young girl with a deformed foot recruits her new friends, a female pickpocket and two circus performers, to help recover an emerald from her grandfather's mansion in upstate New York after he loses his home to an unscrupulous tycoon. **(Libby)**

Sorosiak, Carlie

I, Cosmo

What is an arthritic thirteen-year-old golden retriever to do when the human he loves most asks him to compete in a dance contest? Say yes, of course. Cosmo has been a devoted older brother to his human, Max, for a lifetime of trick-or-treating, movie watching, and family dance nights. And now Max is convinced that dance is the key to keeping his arguing parents--and his whole family--together.

Staniszewski, Anna

The Wonder of Wildflowers

In Amberland, where natives rely on a dwindling supply of magical fluid and foreigners are unwelcome, ten-year-old Mira juggles her loyalty to her immigrant roots and her desire for acceptance.

Stead, Rebecca

The List of Things that Will Not Change

When 12-year-old Bea's parents first divorced two years ago, they gave her a green notebook in which they had started a list of Things That Will Not Change. Bea takes comfort in adding to her list; it helps her understand number six: "We are still a family, but in a different way." **(Libby)**

Sumner, Jamie

Roll With It

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease. **(Libby)**

Swartz, Ellie

Give and Take

When eleven-year-old Maggie's parents become temporary foster parents for a new baby, her tendency to hoard spirals out of control. **(Libby)**

Torres, Jennifer

The Fresh New Face of Griselda

After her father's landscaping business fails and the family loses their house, sixth-grader Griselda Zaragoza follows her sister's example and begins selling Alma cosmetics while hiding her changed circumstances from friends.

White, J.A.

Archimancy

Shadow School Series. Cordelia Liu knew Shadow School was going to be different. Still, she didn't expect the school grounds to be filled with ghosts. Cordelia soon realizes she's not the only one who can see the ghosts; her new friend Benji can too. Together with super-smart Agnes, the trio are determined to find out why the ghosts are there, and whether there's a way to set them free. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

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J FANTASY

Horwitz, Sarah Jean

The Dark Lord Clementine

When her father is cursed by a rival witch, twelve-year-old Clementine Morcerous assumes his duties as Dark Lord of the realm, but soon questions her father's code of good and evil. **(Libby, Hoopla)**

Littler, Jamie

Voyage of the Frostheart

In a snow-covered land where monsters rule the icy tundra, only song weavers hold the power to control these vicious giants. Ever since his parents were lost on a pathfinding expedition, Ash has spent his life as an outcast. As a budding song weaver, his village marked him as a potential threat, even though all he wants to do is protect them. Can Ash's song weaving save the Frostheart from the monsters hiding under the ice? Or will his untamed powers put his newfound friends in jeopardy? **(Libby)**

O'Hart, Sinead

The Starspun Web

All her life, Tess has lived at Miss Ackerbee's orphanage with her friends and her pet tarantula, Violet. But one day, a mysterious man named Mr. Cleat shows up and whisks Tess away to live with him. Before Tess leaves, Miss Ackerbee gives her a strange lens, and makes an even stranger admission: that Tess can travel to parallel worlds, and has been able to do so since she was found as a baby. **(Libby)**

J MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLECTION

Erlbaum, Janice

Let me Fix that for You

Twelve-year-old Gladys Rand may not have many friends, but at least she has her empire. From her table at the back of the cafeteria, Glad arranges favors for her classmates in exchange for their friendship. She solves every problem, handles every situation, and saves every butt. But the jobs keep getting harder, and when Glad decides the problem that most needs fixing is her parents' relationship, she finds herself in way over her head.

J GRAPHIC

Hale, Shannon

Best Friends

Shannon knows sixth grade is going to be a perfect year. She's got a spot in the in-crowd called The Group, and her best friend is their leader Jen, the most popular girl in school. But the rules are always changing, and Shannon has to scramble to keep up. She never knows which TV shows are cool, what songs to listen to, and, most importantly, which boys you're allowed to talk to. Who makes these rules anyway? **(Libby)**

Jamieson, Victoria

When Stars are Scattered

Heartbreak and hope exist together in this remarkable graphic novel about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a Somali refugee to the Newbery Honor-winning creator of *Roller Girl*. **(Libby)**

Leyh, Kat

Snapdragon

A young girl befriends her town's witch and discovers the strange magic within herself.

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Platt, Jason

Middle School Misadventures: Operation: Hat Heist!

Newell's favorite show of all time is *The Captain!* Newell is beyond excited when he learns that the Captain himself, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, will be at Monster Comic Con. He can't wait to meet The Captain wearing his once-worn-by-The-Captain WWII crusher hat that his dad gave him. But when Newell brings the hat to school, it gets stolen from his backpack!

Steinkellner, Emma

The Okay Witch

Thirteen-year-old Moth Hush loves all things witchy. But she's about to discover that witches aren't just the stuff of movies, books, and spooky stories. When some eighth-grade bullies try to ruin her Halloween, something really strange happens. It turns out that Founder's Bluff, Massachusetts, has a centuries-old history of witch drama. And, surprise: Moth's family is at the center of it all! **(Libby)**

Wang, Jen

Stargazing

Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness. **(Libby)**

J NON-FICTION

J 579 Rajkak

Unseen Worlds: Real-Life Microscopic Creatures Hiding

All Around Us

Discover a hidden universe of microscopic monsters right before your eyes. Travel to locations both familiar and strange as you search for the smallest creatures on Planet Earth. You'll never see the world the same way again!

J 591.47 Johnson

Nature's Ninja: Animals with Spectacular Skills

Did you know that some animals have natural ninja-like talents? In this book, you'll learn all about them, including geckos, sea urchins, bombardier beetles, and more. For example, geckos can grip almost any surface—including walls and ceilings—with their amazing toes. And when collector urchins are attacked, they release tiny, sharp objects that bear a striking resemblance to throwing stars. You will also meet the scientists who are studying these animals' amazing abilities. **(Hoopla)**

J 599.27 Patent

Saving the Tasmanian Devil: How Science is Helping the

World's Largest Marsupial Carnivore Survive

Tasmanian devils are dying at an alarming rate from a type of tumor that appears to be contagious. What scientists are learning while researching the Tasmanian devil has potential to affect all animals, and even humans, as they learn more about how to prevent and hopefully eradicate certain genetic diseases.

J 629.892

Bots! Robotics Engineering: with Hands-On Makerspace

Activities

Robots are everywhere! In *Bots! Robotics Engineering with Hands-On Makerspace Activities*, middle schoolers learn about these devices that vacuum our houses, work in our factories, help us learn at school, sample rocks from other planets, and even bring back images from the bottom of the ocean. In *Bots!* you can find hands-on STEM activities, coding challenges that use free online software, essential questions, and links to online primary resources. **(Hoopla)**

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J BIOGRAPHY

J BIO GINSBURG Levy *Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Journey to Justice*

This biographical graphic novel explores the life of celebrated Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg is a modern feminist icon - a leader in the fight for equal treatment of girls and women in society and the workplace.

J BIO JUDGE Hooks *Ona Judge Outwits the Washingtons: An Enslaved Woman Fights for Freedom*

Born into slavery at Mount Vernon, Ona seized the opportunity to escape when she was brought to live in the President's Mansion in Philadelphia. Ona fled to New Hampshire and started a new life. But the Washingtons wouldn't give up easily. After her escape, Ona became the focus of a years-long manhunt, led by America's first president.