

Seventh Grade

Absolutely Normal Chaos , Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up quickly during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

After the Last Dog Died: The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson and His 1912 Antarctic Expedition, Carmen Bredeson

Describes the life and career of the Australian explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson, focusing on his 1912 scientific expedition to Antarctica.

Alice in Wonderland , by Lewis Carroll

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

America at Bat , Paul Rosenthal

Examines how the game of baseball has evolved over the years and become woven into American culture and traditions, highlights baseball heroes, and presents trivia questions.

Among the Hidden , Margaret Peterson Haddix

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.

Anastasia Has the Answers , Lois Lowry

Anastasia continues the perilous process of growing up as her thirteenth year involves her in conquering the art of rope climbing, playing Cupid for a recently widowed uncle, and surviving a crush on her gym teacher.

Anne of Green Gables , L.M. Montgomery

An adventurous young orphan goes to live on a farm with an elderly brother and sister.

The Bad Beginning , Lemony Snicket

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

Baseball in April and Other Stories , Gary Soto

A collection of eleven short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California

The Breadwinner , Deborah Ellis

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

Call It Courage , Armstrong Sperry

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

The Call of the Wild , Jack London

The 1903 story about the adventures of Buck, a part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike goldfields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Cast Two Shadows : The American Revolution in the South , Ann Rinaldi

In South Carolina in 1780, fourteen-year-old Caroline sees the Revolutionary War take a terrible toll among her family and friends and comes to understand the true nature of war.

The Cay , Theodore Taylor

Philip, an adolescent white boy who is blinded in a torpedo attack at sea during World War II, acquires a new type of vision, courage, and love when he is stranded on a tiny Caribbean island with Timothy, a kind, elderly black man.

Cheaper by the Dozen , Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

Presents a memoir by two siblings from the Gilbreth clan in which they look at the lives of their parents, discuss their careers as industrial engineers, and share the adventures the couple encountered raising a family of twelve children.

Crash , Jerry Spinelli

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

A Day No Pigs Would Die , Robert Newton Peck.

To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

Dear Mr. Henshaw , Beverly Cleary

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

A Dog's Life , by Peter Mayle

The memoirs of Boy, a shaggy dog of unknown origins, who describes his life in the village of Provence in France

Dragondrums , Anne McCaffrey

When his boy soprano voice begins to change, Piemur is drafted by Masterharper Robinton to help with political work and is sent on missions that lead him into unusual and sometimes dangerous adventures.

Dragonwings , Laurence Yep

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.

The Egypt Game , Zilpha Keatley Snyder

A group of children, entranced with Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies.

A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32 , Joan W. Blos

The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

Geronimo: Apache Freedom Fighter , Spring Hermann

This story examines the life of the Apache chief Geronimo, who led one of the last Indian uprisings.

A Girl Named Disaster , Nancy Farmer

While fleeing from Mozambique to Zimbabwe to escape an unwanted marriage, Nhamo, an eleven-year-old Shona girl, struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

Gregor the Overlander , Suzanne Collins

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince , J.K. Rowling

Novice wizard Harry Potter, now sixteen-years-old, begins his sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the midst of the battle between good and evil which has heated up with the return of the Dark Lord Voldemort.

Here Today , Ann M. Martin

In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.

The Jungle Books , Rudyard Kipling

The adventures of a young boy, Mowgli, who is reared by a pack of wolves, and the wild animals of the jungle

Keeper , Mal Peet

South American journalist Paul Faustino begins his interview with World Cup Soccer star El Gato and learns a fantastic story of a young, lonely boy growing up in the middle of a rain forest who wandered upon a mysterious soccer field and an apparition that appeared to him daily.

Keystone Kids , John R. Tunis

When two young brothers join the Brooklyn Dodgers, one becomes team manager and is faced with the task of uniting a team rife with dissension and prejudice against the new Jewish rookie catcher.

Lily's Crossing , Patricia Reilly Giff

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

The Lost Years of Merlin , T.A. Barron

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Millicent Min: Girl Genius , Lisa Yee

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Old Yeller , Fred Gipson

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

The Ox-Bow Incident , Walter Van Tilburg Clark

A posse captures and hangs three men believed to be guilty of cattle rustling and murder, only to learn later that the men were innocent.

Revenge of the Witch , Joseph Delaney

Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."

The Runner , Cynthia Voigt

As a dedicated runner, a teenage boy has always managed to distance himself from other people until the experience of coaching one of his teammates on the track team gradually helps him see the value of giving and receiving.

Search for the Shadowman , Joan Lowery Nixon

While working on a genealogy project for his seventh grade history class, Andy Bonner becomes determined to solve the mystery surrounding a distant relative who was accused of stealing the family fortune.

Shiloh , by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty 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.

Tuck Everlasting , Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963: A Novel , Christopher Paul Curtis

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.