

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS BOOKS FOR TWEENS IN GRADES 5 & 6

RED BUTTERFLY

By A.L. Sonnichsen

J FICTION SONNICHSEN



In China, a foundling girl with a deformed hand raised in secret by an American woman must navigate China's strict adoption system when she is torn away from the only family she has ever known.

STARGIRL

By Jerry Spinelli

J FICTION SPINELLI



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.

MY LIFE AS A STUNTBOY

By Janet Tashjian

J FICTION TASHJIAN



Twelve-year-old Derek Fallon has the opportunity of a lifetime--to perform stunts in a movie featuring a popular twelve-year-old star--but complications arise involving his best friend, a capuchin monkey, and Derek's chronic inability to concentrate on schoolwork.

SISTERS

By Raina Telgemeier

J GRAPHIC TELGEMEIER



Sisters Raina and Amara have a strained relationship which doesn't improve much over the years, but when something doesn't seem right between their parents, they realize they must figure out how to get along.



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NOTE ABOUT THIS LIST: This list is geared towards students who are able to read the titles in the Teen Room, but aren't quite willing to leave the great books in the Children's Room. Many of these titles are available in both locations and offer more complex characters, plots and vocabulary and mostly deal with issues faced by middle-schoolers.

BETTER NATE THAN NEVER

By Tim Federle

J FICTION FEDERLE



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."

INCARCERON

By Catherine Fisher

J FICTION FISHER



To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape.

RUINS OF GORLAN:

RANGER'S APPRENTICE, BOOK 1

By John Flanagan

J FICTION FLANAGAN



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.

SATURDAY BOY

By David Fleming

J FICTION FLEMING



Every day seems to bring more trouble to 11-year-old Derek, whose former best friend bullies him, while at home he deals with the long absence of his pilot father, and his mother's moodiness.

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DEAD END IN NORVELT

By Jack Gantos

J FICTION GANTOS



Twelve-year-old Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

LILY AND DUNKIN

By Donna Gephart

J FICTION GEPHART



Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from his New Jersey home of 13 years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo meets Dunkin, and their lives forever change.

INQUISITOR'S TALE

By Adam Gidwitz

J FICTION GDIWITZ



Crossing paths at an inn, thirteenth-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee, and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound, the three of whom join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution.

TUNNELS

By Roderick Gordon

J FICTION GORDON



When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.

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GLASS SENTENCE

By S.E. Grove

J FICTION GROVE



In 1891, in a world transformed by 1799's Great Disruption--when all of the continents were flung into different time periods--thirteen-year-old Sophia Tims and her friend Theo go in search of Sophia's uncle, Shadrack Elli, Boston's foremost cartologer, who has been kidnapped.

WHOLE STORY OF HALF A GIRL

By Veera Hiranandani

J FICTION HIRANANDANI



When Sonia's father loses his job and she must move from her small, private school to a public school, Sonia experiences culture shock as she tries to navigate the school's unfamiliar social scene. After her father is diagnosed with clinical depression, she finds herself becoming even more confused about herself and her family.

STORMBREAKER: ALEX RIDER, BOOK 1

By Anthony Horowitz

J FICTION HOROWITZ



After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

SOME KIND OF HAPPINESS

By Claire Legrand

J FICTION LEGRAND



Finley Hart is sent to her grandparents' house for the summer, but her anxiety and overwhelmingly sad days continue until she escapes into her writings which soon turn mysteriously real and she realizes she must save this magical world in order to save herself.

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LIFE AS WE KNEW IT

By Susan Beth Pfeffer

J FICTION PFEFFER



Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

GOLDEN COMPASS

By Philip Pullman

J FICTION PULLMAN



Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

ECHO

By Pam Munoz Ryan

J FICTION RYAN



Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

WHO COULD THAT BE AT THIS HOUR?:

ALL THE WRONG QUESTIONS, BOOK 1

By Lemony Snicket

J FICTION SNICKET



Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue.