

2018 Suggested Reading for 6-8th Graders

This suggested list is organized by genre and highlights books that are well-written, well-liked, vary in reading level, introduce readers to prolific writers, and promote choice for students. This list was created by Mrs. LaCrosse who reads the books, reads reviews by the professionals, and collaborates with book buyers from local book stores.

Historical Fiction

***A Night Divided* by, Jennifer Nielsen:** When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic are in the West. (A *New York Times* Notable Children's Book, *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year, A Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" Children's Book)

***Projekt 1065* by, Alan Gratz:** Infiltrate. Befriend. Sabotage. World War II is raging. Michael O'Shaunessey, originally from Ireland, now lives in Nazi Germany with his parents. Like the other boys in his school, Michael is a member of the Hitler Youth. But Michael has a secret. (*Kirkus Starred*, *Booklist*, *SLJ*, Jr Library Guild Selection)

***Salt To The Sea* by, Ruta Sepetys:** As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. (*Booklist* Starred Review, *SLJ* Starred Review, *Kirkus*, *VOYA*, *Horn Book* Reviews)

***Under The Blood-Red Sun* by, Graham Salisbury:** Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. (Scott O'Dell Award, Mark Twain Award, CA Young Reader Medal Award, *Kirkus*, *SLJ*, *Horn Book* Reviews)

***Privateer* by, Michael Scandalios:** Mathew Carrigan, a promising young officer in the British Royal Navy, makes a shocking discovery and forsakes his career to track down an act of treason, clear his family's name, and exact revenge. (*Kirkus*, *Publisher Weekly* Reviews)

***Keeper of the Grail* by, Michael Spradlin:** In 1191, fifteen-year-old Tristan, a youth of unknown origin raised in an English abbey, becomes a Templar Knight's squire during the Third Crusade and soon finds himself on a mission to bring the Holy Grail to safety. (*Booklist*, *SLJ* Reviews)

***Chasing Secrets* by, Gennifer Choldenko:** Thirteen-year-old Lizzie and her secret friend Noah, who is hiding in her house, plan to rescue Noah's father from the quarantined Chinatown, and save everyone they love from contracting the plague that is spreading in 1900 San Francisco. (*Booklist* Starred Review, *SLJ*, *Kirkus*, *Horn Book*, *VOYA* Reviews)

***Heart of a Samurai* by, Margi Preus:** In 1841 a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is rescued by a passing American ship, and the crew sets off to America. Learning English on the way, Manjiro a 14-year-old boy, is curious and eager about this new culture, but wonders if he will ever go home and fulfill his dream of becoming a samurai. (Newbery Honor Book)

***Hattie Big Sky* by, Kirby Larson:** For years, 16-year-old Hattie's been shuttled between relatives until she leaves to prove up on her late uncle's homestead claim in Montana. Hattie faces frost, drought and blizzards. Hattie forges ahead, sharing her adventures with her friends, especially Charlie, fighting in France, through letters and articles for her hometown paper. (Newbery Honor Book)

***Between Shades of Gray* by, Ruta Sepetys:** In 1941, 15-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where Lina fights for her life. Lina's great hope is that somehow her father, who has already been arrested by the Soviet secret police, might find and rescue them. A gifted artist, she begins secretly creating pictures that can--she hopes--be surreptitiously sent to him in his own prison camp. (Jr. Library Guild Selection, *Booklist* Starred Review, *NY Times* Notable Book, Carnegie Medal Nominee)

Realistic Fiction

***The Ethan I Was Before* by, Ali Standish:** Ethan's not sure he'll ever escape the memories of the accident that cost him everything. When Ethan meets Coralee he soon discovers that he's not the only

one with secrets, and Coralee's are catching up with her. And what she's hiding just might be putting both their lives in danger. (ALA Book List, *BCCB* Review)

***Wolf Hollow* by, Lauren Wolk:** Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran. (Newbery Honor Book, NPR, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, *SLJ* and *Wall Street Journal* Best Children's Book of the Year, ALA Notable Children's Book)

***Summerlost* by, Allie Condie:** Following the sudden deaths of her father and autistic younger brother, Cedar Lee spends the summer working at a Shakespearean theater festival, making a new friend, and coming to terms with her grief. (*Publisher's Weekly* Starred, *BCCB* Starred, *Kirkus* and *SJL* Reviews)

***Everything, Everything* by, Nicola Yoon:** The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. (*SLJ* Starred, *Kirkus* Starred, NYT Review, Best Book of the Year Amazon, and B&N Teen Blog)

***Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere* by, Julie Lamana:** Armani Curtis can think about only one thing: her tenth birthday. But when Hurricane Katrina hits the Lower Nines of New Orleans, Armani realizes that being ten means being brave, watching loved ones die, and mustering all her strength to help her family weather the storm. (*VOYA*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist* Reviews, Jr. Library Guild Selection)

***Green Bicycle Girl* by, Haiffa Al-Mansour:** Since girls do not ride bikes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, eleven year old Wadjda has to scheme to get her own. (*Booklist*, *Kirkus*, *SLJ* Reviews)

***Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend* by, Matthew Dicks:** A tale imparted from the perspective of long-time imaginary friend, Budo, traces his awareness of his advancing age and constant thought of the inevitable day when eight-year-old Max, an autistic boy, will stop believing in him. (*Booklist*, *Kirkus* Reviews)

***All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* by, Leslie Connor:** Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth—and Perry is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. (*Kirkus*, *SLJ*, *Publisher's Weekly* Starred Review)

***I Kill The Mockingbird* by, Paul Acampora:** In honor of her favorite (deceased) teacher, Lucy starts a guerilla campaign "to turn To Kill a Mockingbird into forbidden fruit." She creatively re-shelves copies in bookstores and libraries, making them nearly impossible to find and thus desirable; social media helps the campaign to take on a life of its own. (*Horn Book*, *SLJ*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist* Reviews)

***The Year Money Grew On Trees* by, Aaron Hawkins:** With frostbitten fingers, sleepless nights, and sore muscles, Jackson Jones and his posse of cousins discover the lost art of winging it when they take over an orchard of three hundred wild apple trees. They know nothing about pruning or irrigation or pest control, but if they are to avoid losing the \$8,000 they owe on an unfair contract with their neighbor, Mrs. Nelson, they just have to figure it out. (Jr. Library Guild Selection)

***Counting by 7's* by, Holly Goldberg Sloan:** Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. (*SLJ* Best Book of the Year Award, *Booklist* Starred Review, *New York Times* Best Seller)

***The Schwa Was Here* by, Neal Schusterman:** A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa; an "invisible-ish" boy goes unnoticed by nearly everyone. Fascinated by "The Schwa Effect"—the fact that no one ever sees Calvin Schwa, the boys form a partnership and get away with all kinds of mischief, conducting experiments that send the Schwa into the home of an old man neighbor. When he gets caught, a whole new adventure begins. (*SLJ* Starred Review)

Mystery

The Spirit of Cattail County: by, Victoria Piontex: Sparrow doesn't have many friends. Some kids believe her house near the swamp is haunted. Others think there's something "unusual" about her. But Sparrow's not lonely because she has a best friend, Boy, who's always with her. But the Boy has a secret of his own, one that Sparrow will need to uncover before the ghost will lead her to Mama. To solve the mystery, Sparrow joins forces with some unlikely allies -- Maeve and Johnny, siblings from a family of town outcasts --and Elena, a visiting child fortune-teller.

Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by, Alan Bradley: Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, must exonerate her father of murder. Armed with more than enough knowledge to tie two distant deaths together and examine new suspects, she begins a search that will lead her all the way to the King of England himself. Read more of the Flavia de Luce Mysteries. (Crime Writers' Association Debut Dagger Award, Agatha and Dilys Award, *Booklist* Starred Review, *SLJ*, *Kirkus* Reviews)

Murder is Bad Manners by Robin Stevens: At an English boarding school in the 1930s, crime-solving friends Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells struggle to find an exciting mystery to investigate until Hazel discovers the dead body of Miss Bell, the science teacher. Read more of the Wells & Wong Mysteries. (*SLJ*, *Times of London*, *The Bookseller*, *Shelf Awareness* Reviews)

Catch You Later, Traitor by, Avi: It's 1951, Pete Collison is a regular kid in Brooklyn, New York, who loves Sam Spade detective books and radio crime dramas. But when an FBI agent shows up at Pete's doorstep, accusing Pete's father of being a Communist, Pete's caught in a real-life mystery. Could there really be Commies in Pete's family? (Edgar Award)

Mr. Lemoncello's Library by, Chris Grabenstein: Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape. Read the whole trilogy! (*Kirkus*, *Booklist* Starred Review, *NYT* Bestseller, Amazon Book of the Month)

Absolutely True: A Pumpkin Falls Mystery, by Heather Vogel Frederick: Truly Lovejoy's family moves to a small town to take over a bookstore. Truly pours herself into uncovering the mystery of an undelivered letter she finds stuck in a valuable autographed first edition of *Charlotte's Web*, which subsequently goes missing from the bookshop. What's inside the envelope leads Truly and her new friends on a madcap treasure hunt around town, chasing clues that could spell danger. (*SLJ*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist* Reviews)

Spy School by, Stuart Gibbs: Ben already pegged his dream job: C.I.A. or bust. Unfortunately for him, his personality doesn't exactly scream "secret agent." Because of his innate math skills, Ben isn't surprised when he is recruited for a magnet school with a focus on science, but he's entirely shocked to discover that the school is actually a front for a junior C.I.A. academy. Could the C.I.A. really want *him*? Try more mysteries by this writer! (Edgar Award Nominee)

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by, John Grisham: With two attorneys for parents, thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone knows more about the law than most lawyers do. But when a high profile murder trial comes to his small town and Theo gets pulled into it, it's up to this amateur attorney to save the day. Try more in this series by this popular adult writer! (Agatha Award Nominee)

Science Fiction/Dystopian/Fantasy

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by, Kelly Regan Barnhill: An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her. (Newbery Winner 2017, *NYT* Bestseller New York Public Library Best Book of 2016, Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2016, Amazon and *SLJ* Top Books of the Year)

Red Queen by, Victoria Aveyard: Mare is a Red blood, a mere thief in a poor village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court where she discovers she has a supernatural ability of her own, so to

cover up this impossibility the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess, but Mare risks everything to help the growing Red rebellion. (*VOYA*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *SLJ* and *BCCB* Reviews)

***Beautiful Blue World* by, Suzanne LaFleur:** Sofarende is at war. For twelve-year-old Mathilde, it means food shortages, feuding neighbors, and bombings. As long as she and her best friend, Megs, are together, they'll be all right. But the army is recruiting children, and paying families well for their service. If Megs takes the test, Mathilde knows she will pass and fears it might separate them forever. (*Kirkus* Starred Review, *SLJ* Starred Review, *Publisher Weekly* Starred Review)

***Ruby Red* by, Kerstin Gier:** Gwyneth Shepherd's sophisticated, beautiful cousin Charlotte has been prepared her entire life for traveling through time. But unexpectedly, it is Gwyneth, who in the middle of class takes a sudden spin to a different era! Together with another teenage time traveler, Gideon, they must journey through time to discover who, in the 18th century and in contemporary London, they can trust. (*Booklist* Starred Review, *NY Times*, *VOYA* Review)

***The Maze Runner* by, James Dashner:** Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze. He realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. But can anyone escape? Read the whole series to find out! (Jr. Library Guild Selection, *NY Times* Bestseller)

***The Uglies*, by Scott Westerfeld:** In Tally's world, your 16th birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. But Tally's new friend Shay doesn't want to change. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world - and it isn't very pretty. (*Booklist*, *SLJ* Starred Review)

***Ender's Game* by, Scott Orson Card:** A veteran of years of simulated war games, Ender believes he is engaged in one more computer war game when in truth he is commanding the last fleet of Earth against an alien race seeking the complete destruction of Earth. (Nebula Award, Hugo Award)

***Jurassic Park* by, Michael Crichton:** An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Creatures once extinct now roam Jurassic Park, soon-to-be opened as a theme park. Until something goes wrong...and science proves a dangerous toy. (*NY Times* Bestseller)

***Cinder* by, Marissa Meyer:** As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, observed by a ruthless lunar people, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story. (*SLJ*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist* *VOYA* and *NYT* Book Review)

***Fahrenheit 451* by, Ray Bradbury:** Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy books, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, until he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, and begins to question everything he has ever known. (National Book Award)

***The Finisher* by, David Baldacci:** Wormwood is full of secrets, known mostly by members of the Council. The rest of the villagers live oblivious, regimented lives. They've been told there's nothing outside of the village except for a forest inhabited by deadly creatures. Vega Jane, 14, is understandably alarmed when she sees her mentor, Quentin Herms, running straight for the Quag. If Council members find out that he left her a note and a map of the forest, who knows what would become of her? Vega uses her skills as a talented decoder to uncover dangerous secrets. (*Booklist* Starred Review, *SLJ* Review)

***The Unwanteds* by, Lisa Mann:** All 13 year olds are labeled as Wanted, Necessary, or Unwanted. Wanted get more schooling and train to join the Quillitary. Necessaries keep the farms running. Unwanteds are set for elimination. It's hard for Alex to leave behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted, but he makes peace with his fate, until he discovers that instead of a "death farm," what awaits him is a magical place called Artimé. (*NY Times* bestseller, *Kirkus*, *SLJ* Review)

Legend by, Marie Lui: From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths--until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets. (*Kirkus, Booklist, VOYA Starred Review*)

Pax by, Sara Pennypacker: Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. (*Kirkus, Booklist, SLJ Starred Reviews, NYT Book Review*)

The Ether by, Laurice Molinari: Under the tutelage of the mighty archangels, Vero, along with several other young angels, begins his training. He must learn to use his new wings, flying and battling mythological Biblical creatures from the leviathan to golems—all while maintaining his regular down on Earth. If he survives training and accepts his destiny—a destiny he did not choose—he must leave everything behind, including his family and the life he loves. Meanwhile, an evil is growing, and Vero appears to be the target. (*SLJ, Publisher's Weekly and Children's Book Review*)

The False Prince by, Jennifer Nielsen: In the faraway country of Carthya, the heir to the throne has been lost for years. A devious nobleman kidnaps four orphans and creates a brutal competition among them. In two weeks, one will be selected to impersonate the prince in an effort to avoid a civil war. What will become of the other four and will the plot succeed amidst a climate of deception and betrayal? (*NY Times, WSJ, LA Times, SLJ Reviews*)

The Golden Compass by, Phillip Pullman: Lyra Belacqua lives in a parallel world in which human souls take the form of lifelong animal companions called daemons. Dark forces are at work in the girl's world, and many children have been kidnapped by beings known as Gobblers. Lyra vows to save her best friend, Roger, after he disappears too. She sets out with her daemon, on an epic quest to rescue Roger and save her world. (*NY Times Bestseller, Newsweek Top 100 Book of All Time, Winner of the Guardian Prize for Children's Fiction*)

The Dark is Rising by, Susan Cooper: On his 11th birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift. He is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in a final battle between the Dark and the Light. (Newbery, Carnegie Honor)

Sports

Breakaway by, Andrea Montolbano: LJ knows her place in the world is on the soccer field. But being a big shot on the field has started going to her head. But when LJ is forced to be a spectator instead of a star, she realizes that sometimes it takes more skill and guts to make others look good, instead of yourself. And, that by losing a little glory, you can win more than just championships. Read more in the Soccer Sisters series. (*SLJ, Booklist Review*)

Football Genius by, Tim Green: Troy White can predict any football play before it happens. And when his single mom gets a job with the Atlanta Falcons, Troy knows it's his big chance to help them out of their slump and finally prove his football genius. But unless Troy can convince star linebacker Seth Halloway that he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship, and Troy's mom's job, are in serious jeopardy. Read other books by this former NFL football player! (*SLJ, Booklist Review*)

Offsides by, Erik E. Esckilsen: Southwind's Indian mascot symbolizes the honor and glory of the athletic tradition. But soccer star Tom Gray sees little more than a stereotype. As a Mohawk, Tom knows the hardships Native Americans face in their struggle for respect. So Tom must make the decision of a lifetime: betray his family and heritage, or boycott Dempsey's team and abandon the sport he loves. (*Kirkus, VOYA, Booklist Review*)

Travel Team by, Mike Lupica: Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court, but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured. (*NY Times* bestseller, *Kirkus*, *Booklist* and *SLJ* Reviews)

Peak by, Roland Smith: After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. He wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. (*Booklist* Starred Reviews)

Stories Written in Verse

The Crossover by, Kwame Alexander: "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a price, as their proves a game-changer for the entire family. (*Kirkus* Starred Review, *SLJ* Starred Review, *The Bulletin* Starred Review)
Be sure to also read **Booked** by this same author.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson: Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become. (National Book Award Winner, Newbery Honor Book)

The Red Pencil by, Andreas Davis Pinkney: Finally, Amira is twelve: old enough to wear a *toob*, old enough for new responsibilities and maybe old enough to go to school in Nyala, Amira's one true dream. But life in her peaceful Darfur village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to dig deep within herself to find the strength to make the long journey, on foot, to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind-- and all kinds of possibilities. (*NY Times*, *Kirkus* and *SJL* Reviews)

Inside Out and Back Again by, Thanhha Lai: Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America. (National Book Award Winner, Newbery Honor Book)

Out of the Dust by, Karen Hesse: This gripping story, written free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. With stoic courage, she learns to cope with the loss of her mother and her grieving father's slow deterioration. There is hope at the end when Billie Jo's badly burned hands are healed, and she is able to play her beloved piano again. (Newbery Award, Scott O'Dell Award, *SLJ* Book of the Year, ALA Notable Children's Book)

Graphic Novels

El Deafo by, Cece Bell: Imagine going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest. Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn't—but also isolates her from her classmates. (Newbery Honor, *SLJ*, *Kirkus* Starred Review)

Rollergirl by, Victoria Jamieson: For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to

keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embarks on a new friendship. (Newbery Honor, NYT Bestseller)

***Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by, Marjane Satrapi:** In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. Be sure to read *Persepolis 2*. (ALA Alex Award, Booklist Editor's Choice, SLJ Award, YALSA Best Books)

***American Born Chinese* by, Gene Luen Yang:** Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format. (Printz Award)

***Maus* by, Art Spiegelman:** A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice, Nazis as cats. Using a unique comic-strip-as-graphic-art format, the story of Vladek Spiegelman's passage through the Nazi Holocaust is told in his own words. (Pulitzer Prize)

Classics

***Charlotte Sometimes* by, Penelope Farmer:** When Charlotte Makepeace wakes up after her first night at boarding school, she's baffled: everyone thinks she's a girl called Clare Mobley, and even more shockingly, it seems she has traveled forty years back in time to 1918. In the months that follow, Charlotte wakes alternately in her own time and in Clare's.

***True Grit* by, Charles Portis:** True Grit tells the story of Mattie Ross, who is just fourteen when the coward Tom Chaney shoots down her father in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150 in cash. Determined to avenge the killing, Mattie enlists the help of Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available U.S. Marshal, and pursue the killer into Indian Territory.

***The Count of Monte Cristo* by, Alexandre Dumas:** Edmond Dantès, is betrayed by his enemies and thrown into a secret dungeon in the Chateau d'If -- doomed to spend his life in a dank prison cell. The story of his long, intolerable years in captivity, his miraculous escape, and his carefully wrought revenge creates a dramatic tale of mystery and intrigue.

***The Wind in the Willows* by, Kenneth Grahame:** Follow Mole, Rat, Toad and Badger from one adventure to the next - in gypsy caravans and stolen cars, to prison and back to the Wild Wood. A story of animal cunning and human camaraderie, this remains a cherished tale more than a hundred years after its publication.

***Oliver Twist* by, Charles Dickens:** Oliver, a poor orphan, escapes the miserable workhouse where he was born only to fall into the clutches of a band of pickpockets led by the odious Fagin. Yet no amount of cruelty can destroy his purity...and through his goodness, he finds salvation. Dickens' *Oliver Twist* has captured readers' hearts for more than 150 years.

***Five Children and It* by, E. Nesbit:** The last thing Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane, and their baby brother expect to find while digging in the sand is a Psammead—an ancient Sand-fairy! Having a Sand-fairy for a pet means having one wish granted each day. But the fivesome doesn't realize all of the trouble that wishes can cause. First published in 1902 *Five Children and It* has been adapted for television and film several times.

***Anne of Green Gables* by, L.M. Montgomery:** The Cuthberts of Green Gables had decided to adopt an orphan - a nice sturdy boy to help Matthew with the farm chores. The orphanage sent a girl instead - a mischievous, talkative redhead who'd be no use at all. She would just have to go back. But the longer Anne was there, the more no one could imagine Green Gables without her.

***Treasure Island* by, Robert Louis Stevenson:** While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, Jim Hawkins and his innkeeper mother find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune. This story has been a hit since it was first published in 1883 – in every form.

***Daddy Long Legs* by, Jean Webster:** Follows the adventures of an orphan named Judy Abbott, whose letters to her anonymous male benefactor trace her development as an independent thinker and writer. Its sequel, *Dear Enemy* (1915), follows the progress of Judy's former orphanage, now run by her friend Sallie McBride, who struggles to give her young charges hope and a new life.

***The Time Machine; The Invisible Man; The War of the Worlds* by, H.G. Wells:** In three classic works, a time traveler finds a strange new world in the year 802,700; a scientist attempts to fulfill his evil desires after becoming invisible; and an astronomer fights for survival after Martians invade Earth.