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# Young Adult Books Fiction Update, 2007-2008

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Young Adult Books  
Fiction Update, 2007-2008  
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**Alexie, Sherman.** The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Little, Brown, 2007. ISBN: 9780316013680 RL YA

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

*2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** Twisted. Viking, 2007. ISBN: 9780670061013 RL YA

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Arnold, Tedd.** Rat Life. Sleuth Dial, 2007. ISBN: 9780803730205 RL YA

After developing an unusual friendship with a young Vietnam War veteran in 1972, fourteen-year-old Todd discovers his writing talent and solves a murder mystery.

**Avi.** Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor and the Merrimac. Hyperion Books for Children, 2007. ISBN: 9781423104469 RL 5.3

Tom's job as an assistant to Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, makes him a target of Confederate spies.

**Avi.** The Seer of Shadows. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780060000158 RL 6.1

In New York City in 1872, fourteen-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs, but when Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn.

**Balliett, Blue.** The Calder Game. Scholastic Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780439852074 RL 5.4

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

**Barry, Dave, and Ridley Pearson.** Peter and the Secret of Rundoon. Disney

Editions/Hyperion Books for Children, 2007. ISBN: 9780786837885 RL 6.7

Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff. Sequel to Peter and the Starcatchers and Peter and the Shadow Thieves.

**Bauer, Joan.** Peeled. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. ISBN: 9780399234750 RL YA

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.

**Beddor, Frank.** Seeing Redd. Dial Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780803731554 RL YA

When Alyss Heart returns to her rightful place on the throne of Wonderland, she is put to the test as enemies, both inside and outside the borders of her queendom, push their own

agendas and wield horrific weapons, while she strives to unify them all. Sequel to The Looking Glass Wars.

**Bennett, Veronica.** Cassandra's Sister: Growing Up Jane Austen. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780763634643 RL YA

A fictionalized biography of Jane Austen focusing on her early life growing up with her sister Cassandra in a large country parsonage family in southern England, and the experiences and people which may have inspired the plots and characters of her famous novels.

**Birdsall, Jeanne.** The Penderwicks on Gardam Street. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

ISBN: 9780375840906 RL 5.8

The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.

**Blume, Lesley M. M.** The Rising Star of Rusty Nail. A. A. Knopf, 2007.

ISBN: 9780375835247 RL 6.2

In the small town of Rusty Nail, Minnesota, in the early 1950s, musically talented ten-year-old Franny wants to take advanced piano lessons from newcomer Olga Malenkov, a famous Russian musician suspected of being a communist spy by gossipy members of the community.

**Bruchac, Joseph.** March Toward the Thunder. Dial Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780803731882 RL YA

Louis Nollette, a fifteen-year-old Abenaki Indian, joins the Irish Brigade in 1864 to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Based on the author's great-grandfather; includes author's note.

**Castellucci, Cecil.** The Plain Janes. Minx, 2007. ISBN: 9781401211158 RL YA

When Jane moves to the suburbs, she thinks her life is over, but she meets three friends who form a club, P.L.A.I.N. (People Loving Art in Neighborhoods), but can art really save a group of misfits from high school? Graphic format.

**Colfer, Eoin.** Airman. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. ISBN: 9781423107507 RL 7.1

In the late nineteenth century, when Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and, hardest of all, trust to carry him to safety.

**Connor, Leslie.** Waiting for Normal. Katherine Tegen Books, 2008.

ISBN: 9780060890889 RL 5.8

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

**Cooney, Caroline B.** Enter Three Witches. Scholastic Press, 2007.

ISBN: 9780439711562 RL YA

When her father betrays the Scottish king and is hung as a traitor, Lady Mary's future is bleak after she loses her only true protector and ends up locked away in the tower by the powerful and deadly Lord and Lady Macbeth.

**Creech, Sharon.** The Castle Corona. Joanna Cotler Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780060846220 RL 5.2

Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever.

**Cullen, Lynn.** I Am Rembrandt's Daughter. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781599900469 RL YA

In Amsterdam in the mid-1600s, Cornelia's life as the illegitimate child of renowned painter Rembrandt is marked by plague, poverty, and despair at ever earning her father's love, until she sees hope for a better future in the eyes of a wealthy suitor. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul.** Elijah of Buxton. Scholastic Press, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780439023443 RL 5.6

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. *Coretta Scott King Author Award, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, Newbery Honor Book, Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children*

**Dekker, Ted.** Chosen (Book 1 of *The Lost Books*). Thomas Nelson, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781595543592 RL YA

As the land of the Forest Dwellers is increasingly decimated by the Horde, Thomas Hunter, supreme commander of the Forest Guard, chooses four sixteen-year-old recruits for a special mission--to find the seven lost Books of History that have power over the past, present, and future.

**Dekker, Ted.** Infidel (Book 2 of *The Lost Books*). Thomas Nelson, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781595543639 RL YA

As Johnis and the other "chosen" recruits of the Forest Guard are pulled into deeper danger to secure the seven lost Books of History, Johnis tries to rescue his mother from enslavement by the Horde, but risks betraying the Forest Dwellers.

**Doctorow, Cory.** Little Brother. Tor Teen, 2008. ISBN: 9780765319852 RL YA

After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

**Dowd, Sioghan.** The London Eye Mystery. David Fickling Books, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780375849763 RL 6.1

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

**Dowd, Siobhan.** A Swift Pure Cry. David Fickling Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780385751087  
RL YA

Coolbar, Ireland, is a village of secrets. Shell, caretaker to her younger brother and sister due to the death of their mother and the absence of their father, is not about to reveal her own secret until suspicion falls on the wrong person. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Dowell, Frances Roark.** Shooting the Moon. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008.  
ISBN: 9781416926900 RL 5.5

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

**Draper, Sharon M.** November Blues. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781416906988 RL YA

A teenaged boy's death in a hazing accident has lasting effects on his pregnant girlfriend and his guilt-ridden cousin, who gives up a promising music career to play football during his senior year in high school. *2008 Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor Book*

**Dunmore, Helen.** *The Tide Knot*. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780060818562 RL 6.0  
Two years after the disappearance of their father, Sapphire and Conor, having moved with their mother to the town of St. Pirans, try to make a new life for themselves, but Sapphire, unlike her mother and brother, finds it increasingly difficult to adjust to her new circumstances and is drawn more and more to the undersea world of Ingo. Originally published in Great Britain in 2006. Sequel to *Ingo*.

**Ellis, Ann Dee.** *This Is What I Did*. Little, Brown, 2007. ISBN: 9780316013635 RL YA  
Bullied because of an incident in his past, eighth-grader Logan is unhappy at his new school and has difficulty relating to others until he meets a quirky girl and a counselor who believe in him. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Ephron, Delia.** *Frannie in Pieces*. HarperTeen, 2007. ISBN: 9780060747169 RL YA  
When fifteen-year-old Frannie's father dies, only a mysterious jigsaw puzzle that he leaves behind can help her come to terms with his death.

**Ferris, Jean.** *Twice Upon a Marigold*. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152063825 RL 5.2  
After a quiet, happy year in a small town, Queen Olympia regains her memory and initiates new plots and manipulations, as the residents of Zandephia and Beaurivage, now ruled by Christian, Marigold, and Swithbert, feel the effects of her bad energy. Sequel to *Once Upon a Marigold*.

**Fleischman, Sid.** *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*. Greenwillow Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780061344459 RL 5.0  
A struggling American ventriloquist in post-World War II Europe is possessed by the mischievous spirit of a young Jewish boy killed in the Holocaust. Author's note details the murder of over one million children by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s.

**Funke, Cornelia.** *Igraine the Brave*. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2007. ISBN: 9780439903790 RL 5.2  
The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight, and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.

**Gaiman, Neil, and Michael Reaves.** *Interworld*. Eos, 2007. ISBN: 9780061238963 RL 5.8  
At nearly fifteen years of age, Joey Harker learns that he is a Walker, able to travel between dimensions, and soon joins a team of different versions of himself, each from another dimension, to fight the evil forces striving to conquer all the worlds.

**Gaiman, Neil.** *M Is for Magic*. HarperCollins, 2007. ISBN: 9780061186424 RL 6.6  
Eleven stories that involve strange and fantastical events.

**Gantos, Jack.** *I Am Not Joey Pigza*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. ISBN: 9780374399412 RL 6.9  
Joey's father returns, calling himself Charles Heinz and apologizing for his past bad behavior, and he swears that once Joey and his mother change their names and help him fix up the old diner he has bought, their lives will change for the better.

**Gardner, Sally.** The Red Necklace: a story of the French Revolution. Dial Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780803731004 RL YA

In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

**Gipi.** Notes for a War Story. First Second, 2007. ISBN: 9781596432611 RL YA

A graphic novel in which three young drifters are caught up in a nameless war in a Balkan country. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Gordon, Roderick, and Brian Williams.** Tunnels. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2008. ISBN: 9780439871778 RL 6.9

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. First in a series; book 2, Deeper, released May 22, 2008.

**Grant, K. M.** How the Hangman Lost His Heart. Walker, 2007. ISBN: 9780802796721 RL YA

When her Uncle Frank is executed for treason against England's King George in 1746 and his severed head is mounted on a pike for public viewing, daring Alice tries to reclaim the head for a proper burial, finding an unlikely ally in the soft-hearted executioner, while incurring the wrath of the royal guard.

**Hale, Shannon.** Book of a Thousand Days. Bllomsbury, 2007. ISBN: 9781599900513 RL YA

Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults, 2008 Cybil Award for Young Adult Fiction*

**Hemphill, Helen.** Runaround. Front Street, 2007. ISBN: 9781932425833 RL 5.4

In Kentucky in the 1960s, partly as revenge against her older sister for publicly embarrassing her, eleven-year-old Sassy decides to make the handsomest boy in the neighborhood her boyfriend, but first she has to find out what makes a boy like a girl, and how to know when he does.

**Henkes, Kevin.** Bird Lake Moon. Greenwillow Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780061470769 RL 6.6

Twelve-year-old Mitch and his mother are spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents separate, and ten-year-old Spencer and his family have returned to the lake where Spencer's little brother drowned long ago, and as the boys become friends and spend time together, each of them begins to heal.

**Hennesy, Carolyn.** Pandora Gets Jealous. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9781599901961 RL 5.6

Thirteen-year-old Pandy is hauled before Zeus and given six months to gather all of the evils that were released when the box she brought to school as her annual project was accidentally opened. First of a series.

**Herrick, Steven.** The Wolf. Front Street, 2007. ISBN: 9781932425758 RL YA  
Sixteen-year-old Lucy, living in the shadow of her violent father, experiences a night of tenderness, danger, and revelation as she and Jake, her fifteen-year-old neighbor, search for a legendary wolf in the Australian outback.

**Higgins, F.E.** The Black Book of Secrets. Feiwel and Friends, 2007.

ISBN: 9780312368449 RL YA

When Ludlow Fitch runs away from his thieving parents in the City, he meets up with the mysterious Joe Zabbidou, who calls himself a secret pawnbroker, and who takes Ludlow as an apprentice to record the confessions of the townspeople of Pagus Parvus, where resentments are many and trust is scarce. *Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts 2008*

**Hinds, Gareth.** William Shakespeare's King Lear. TheComic.com, 2007.

ISBN: 9781893131064 RL YA

Adaptation of King Lear in a graphic novel format.

**Hoffman, Mary.** The Falconer's Knot. Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2007.

ISBN: 9781599900568 RL YA

Silvano and Chiara, teens sent to live in a friary and a nunnery in Renaissance Italy, are drawn to one another and dream of a future together, but when murders are committed in the friary, they must discover who is behind the crimes before they can realize their love.

**Hulme, John, and Michael Wexler.** The Glitch in Sleep. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2007. ISBN: 9781599901299 RL 7.3

When twelve-year-old Becker Drane is recruited by The Seems, a parallel universe that runs everything in The World, he must fix a disastrous glitch in the Department of Sleep that threatens everyone's ability to ever fall asleep again. First of a series, *The Seems*.

**Jenkins, A. M.** Repossessed. HarperTeen, 2007. ISBN: 9780060835682 RL YA

A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings before being caught and punished, while the boy's family and friends puzzle over his changed behavior. *Michael L. Printz Honor book, 2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Johnston, Tony.** Bone by Bone by Bone. Roaring Brook Press, 2007.

ISBN: 9781596431133 RL YA

In 1950s Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy.

**Jonell, Lynne.** Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat. H. Holt, 2007.

ISBN: 9780805081503 RL 5.4

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

**Jones, Diana Wynne.** The Game. Firebird, 2007. ISBN: 9780142407189 RL 6.5

Sent to a boisterous family gathering in Ireland by her overly strict grandmother, orphaned Hayley feels out of place until her unruly cousins include her in a special game involving travel through the mythosphere, the place where all the world's stories can be found, and where some secrets of her past are revealed.

**Kephart, Beth.** Undercover. HarperTeen, 2007. ISBN: 9780061238949 RL YA  
High school sophomore Elisa is used to observing while going unnoticed except when classmates ask her to write love notes for them, but a teacher's recognition of her talent, a "client's" desire for her friendship, a love of ice skating, and her parent's marital problems draw her out of herself.

**Kinney, Jeff.** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal. Amulet Books, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780810993136 RL 5.0  
Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

**Kinney, Jeff.** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. Amulet Books, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780810994737 RL 6.1  
Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother Rodrick from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer. Sequel to Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal.

**Kluger, Jeffrey.** Nacky Patcher and the Curse of the Dry-Land Boats. Philomel Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780399246043 RL 7.0  
When thief and swindler Nacky Patcher and orphaned eleven-year-old Teedie Flinn discover a huge wrecked boat in a small mountain lake near their town, they try to unite all the inhabitants to help rebuild the vessel--an endeavor that forever changes all of their lives.

**Knox, Elizabeth.** Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. ISBN: 9780374318543 RL YA  
Aided by her family and her creation, Nown, Laura investigates the powerful Regulatory Body's involvement in mysterious disappearances and activities and learns, in the process, the true nature of the Place in which dreams are found. Sequel to Dreamhunter. *Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Kostick, Conor.** Epic. Viking, 2007. ISBN: 9780670061792 RL YA  
On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**Kress, Adrienne.** Alex and the Ironic Gentleman. Weinstein Books, 2007.  
ISBN: 9781602860056 RL 6.0  
Alex, who lives with her uncle in the flat above their doorknob shop, meets her new teacher, Mr. Underwood, a descendant of a famous pirate, and soon three vicious men turn up in town, looking for a map to a fabled family treasure.

**LaFevers, R.L.** Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780618756384 RL 6.0  
Twelve-year-old Theo uses arcane knowledge and her own special talent when she encounters two secret societies, one sworn to protect the world from ancient Egyptian magic and one planning to harness it to bring chaos to the world, both of which want a valuable artifact stolen from the London museum for which her parents work.



**Laskas, Gretchen Moran.** The Miner's Daughter. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007. ISBN: 9781416912620 RL YA

Sixteen-year-old Willa, living in a Depression-era West Virginia mining town, works hard to help her family, experiences love and friendship, and finds an outlet for her writing when her family becomes part of the Arthurdale, West Virginia, community supported by Eleanor Roosevelt.

**Law, Ingrid.** Savvy. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9780803733060 RL 6.6  
Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy" -- a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

**Le Guin, Ursula K.** Powers. Harcourt, 2007. ISBN: 9780152057701 RL YA  
When young Gavir's sister is brutally killed, he escapes from slavery and sets out to explore the world and his own psychic abilities. Book 3 in *Annals of the Western Shore* series.

**Lemke, Donald.** Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels, illustrated by Cynthia Martin. Stone Arch Books, 2008. ISBN: 9781434204493 RL 6.5

Lemuel Gulliver always dreamed of sailing across the seas, but he never could have imagined the places his travels would take him. His adventures could be the greatest tales ever told, if he survives to tell them. Graphic novel.

**L'Engle, Madeleine.** The Joys of Love. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008.

ISBN: 9780374338701 RL YA

After graduating from college in 1946, Elizabeth Jerrold pursues her dream of becoming a stage actress, landing a position as an apprentice in a summer theater company where she hones her acting skills and falls in love with an aspiring director.

**Levine, Gail Carson.** Ever. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780061229626 RL 6.3

Teenaged Kezi is to be sacrificed to the Hyte god because of a rash promise made by her father, but young Olus, Akkan god of the winds, falls in love with her and together they try to change her fate through a series of quests.

**Lockhart, E.** The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks. Hyperion, 2008.

ISBN: 9780786838189 RL YA

Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society in order to enliven their mediocre pranks.

**Lowry, Lois.** The Willoughbys. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN: 9780618979745 RL 5.4

In this tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, the four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

**Maguire, Gregory.** What-the-Dickens: The Story of a Rogue Tooth Fairy. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780763629618 RL 7.0

As a terrible storm rages, ten-year-old Dinah and her brother and sister listen to their cousin Gage's tale of a newly-hatched, orphaned, skibberee, or tooth fairy, called What-the-Dickens, who hopes to find a home among the skibbereen tribe, if only he can stay out of trouble.

**Marillier, Juliet.** Wildwood Dancing. Knopf, 2007. ISBN: 9780375833649 RL YA  
Five sisters who live with their merchant father in Transylvania use a hidden portal in their home to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**McCaughrean, Geraldine.** The White Darkness. HarperTempest, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780060890353 RL YA  
Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone--a troubled fourteen year old--discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth. *Michael L. Printz Award, 2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**McKay, Hilary.** Forever Rose. Margaret A. McElderry Books, 2008.  
ISBN: 9781416954866 RL 5.6  
As Christmas approaches, eleven-year-old Rose, the youngest member of the eccentric Casson family, discovers that life is filled with both catastrophic problems and wonderful surprises.

**Mebus, Scott.** Gods of Manhattan. Dutton Children's Books, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780525479550 RL 6.1  
Thirteen-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world that thrives alongside his contemporary New York City, filled with fantastical creatures and people from the city's colorful past who have become gods and goddesses and who have chosen Rory to perform a dangerous mission.

**Mitchard, Jacquelyn.** All We Know of Heaven. HarperTeen, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780061345784 RL YA  
When Maureen and Bridget, two sixteen-year-old best friends who look like sisters, are in a terrible car accident and one of them dies, they are at first incorrectly identified at the hospital, and then, as Maureen achieves a remarkable recovery, she must deal with the repercussions of the accident, the mix-up, and some choices she made while she was getting better.

**Miyabe, Miyuki.** Brave Story. VIZ Media, 2007. ISBN: 9781421511962 RL YA  
With a determined plan to reunite his mother and father, the 10-year-old boy named Wataru knowingly enters a fantasy realm inhabited by a goddess who has the power to change destiny. With the help of the Lizard Boy, the Cat Girl, and the Fire-breathing Dragon, Wataru faces a series of seemingly insurmountable obstacles on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. One way or another, the young hero must reach the Tower of Destiny and bring his mother and father back together again. *2008 Mildred L. Batchelder Award*

**Myers, Walter Dean.** Sunrise Over Fallujah. Scholastic Press, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780439916240 RL YA  
Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

**Myers, Walter Dean.** What They Found: Looking for Love on 145<sup>th</sup> Street. Wendy Lamb Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780385321389 RL YA  
Fifteen interrelated stories explore different aspects of love, such as a dying father's determination to help start a family business--a beauty salon--and the relationship of two teens who plan to remain celibate until they marry. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults*

**Napoli, Donna Jo.** Hush: An Irish Princess' Tale. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007. ISBN: 9780689861765 RL YA

Fifteen-year-old Melkorka, an Irish princess, is kidnapped by Russian slave traders and not only learns how to survive but to challenge some of the brutality of her captors, who are fascinated by her apparent muteness and the possibility that she is enchanted.

**Newton, Robert.** Runner. Alfred A. Knopf, 2007. ISBN: 9780375837449 RL 5.5

In Richmond, Australia, in 1919, fifteen-year-old Charlie Feehan becomes an errand boy for a notorious mobster, hoping that his ability to run will help him, his widowed mother, and his baby brother to escape poverty.

**Oppel, Kenneth.** Darkwing. Eos, 2007. ISBN: 9780060850548 RL 5.0

Dusk, the world's first bat, must lead his colony to safety in a time of changing species.

**Peacock, Shane.** Eye of the Crow. Tundra Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780887768774 RL 5.3

A woman is found stabbed to death in London. A young boy is drawn to the scene to investigate the murder and becomes a suspect himself. First in *The Boy Sherlock Holmes* series.

**Pearson, Mary E.** The Adoration of Jenna Fox. Henry Holt, 2008. ISBN: 9780805076684 RL YA

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

**Pixley, Marcella.** Freak. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. ISBN: 9780374324537 RL YA

Twelve-year-old Miriam, poetic, smart, and quirky, is considered a freak by the popular girls at her middle school, and she eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had.

**Preller, James.** Six Innings. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. ISBN: 9780312367633 RL 6.3

Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game.

**Pullman, Philip.** Once Upon a Time in the North. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

ISBN: 9780375845109 RL 7.7

In a time before Lyra Silvertongue was born, the tough American balloonist Lee Scoresby and the great armoured bear Iorek Byrnison meet when Lee and his hare daemon Hester crash-land their trading balloon onto a port in the far Arctic North and find themselves right in the middle of a political powder keg. Prequel to *His Dark Materials* trilogy

**Raven, Nicky.** Beowulf. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780763636470 RL 5.8

A modern, illustrated retelling of the Anglo-Saxon epic about the heroic efforts of Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, to save the people of Heorot Hall from the terrible monster, Grendel.

**Reeve, Philip.** A Darkling Plain. EOS, 2007. ISBN: 9780060890568 RL YA

While dealing with people from their past and treachery from unexpected sources, Tom, Hester, and Wren return to save the world. Book 4 in *The Hungry City Chronicles*.

**Reeve, Philip.** Starcross. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2007. ISBN: 9781599901213  
RL 8.0

Young Arthur Mumby, his sister Myrtle, and their mother accept an invitation to take a holiday at an up-and-coming resort in the asteroid belt, where they become involved in a dastardly plot involving spies, time travel, and mind-altering clothing. Sequel to Larklight.

**Resau, Laura.** Red Glass. Delacorte Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780385734660 RL 5.4

Sixteen-year-old Sophie has been frail and delicate since her premature birth, but discovers her true strength during a journey through Mexico, where the six-year-old orphan her family hopes to adopt was born, and to Guatemala, where her would-be boyfriend hopes to find his mother and plans to remain. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults, 2008 Americas Award*

**Rex, Adam.** The True Meaning of Smekday. Hyperion Books for Children, 2007.

ISBN: 9780786849000 RL 5.2

When her mother is abducted by aliens on Christmas Eve (or "Smekday" Eve since the Boov invasion), eleven-year-old Tip hops in the family car and heads south to find her and meets an alien Boov mechanic who agrees to help her and save the planet from disaster. *2007 Cuffie Award for Funniest Book (tie), 2008 Cybil Award for Elementary and Middle Grade Fiction*

**Rinaldi, Ann.** The Redheaded Princess. HarperCollins Publishers, 2008.

ISBN: 9780060733759 RL 5.5

In 1542, nine-year-old Lady Elizabeth lives on an estate near London, striving to get back into the good graces of her father, King Henry VIII, and as the years pass she faces his death and those of other close relatives until she finds herself next in line to ascend the throne of England in 1558.

**Riordan, Rick.** The Battle of the Labyrinth. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.

ISBN: 9781423101468 RL 5.1

When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near. Book 4 of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.

**Riordan, Rick.** The Titan's Curse. Miramax Books/Hyperion Books for Children, 2007.

ISBN: 9781423101451 RL 5.0

When the goddess Artemis disappears while hunting a rare, ancient monster, a group of her followers joins Percy and his friends in an attempt to find and rescue her before the winter solstice, when her influence is needed to sway the Olympian Council regarding the war with the Titans. Book 3 of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.

**Salisbury, Graham.** Night of the Howling Dogs. Wendy Lamb Books, 2007.

ISBN: 9780385731225 RL 5.6

In 1975, eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

**Sanderson, Brandon.** Alcatraz and the Evil Librarians. Scholastic Press, 2007.

ISBN: 9780439925501 RL 6.4

On his thirteenth birthday, foster child Alcatraz Smedry receives a bag of sand which is immediately stolen by the evil Librarians who are trying to take over the world, and Alcatraz

is introduced to his grandfather and his own special talent, and told that he must use it to save civilization.

**Schlitz, Laura Amy.** Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village, illustrated by Robert Byrd. Candlewick Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780763615789 RL 5.9  
A collection of short one-person plays featuring characters, between ten and fifteen years old, who live in or near a thirteenth-century English manor. *Newbery Medal, Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts 2008*

**Schmidt, Gary D.** Trouble. Clarion Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780618927661 RL 5.8  
Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

**Schmidt, Gary D.** The Wednesday Wars. Clarion Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780618724833 RL 5.6  
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare, and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Newbery Honor Book, Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts 2008*

**Scott, Michael.** The Alchemyst. Delacorte Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780385733571 RL 6.0  
While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. Book 1 in the six-book series, *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*; book 2, The Magician, to be released June 24, 2008.

**Selznick, Brian.** The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Scholastic Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780439813785 RL 6.0  
When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. *Caldecott Award, 2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts 2008*

**Stewart, Paul.** Hugo Pepper. David Fickling Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780385750929 RL 6.5  
A boy, orphaned and raised in the Frozen North by reindeer herders, boards his birth parents' sled and sets its special compass to "Home", where he uncovers a plot that threatens his mermaid godmothers and other friends of his family.

**Stewart, Trenton Lee.** The Mysterious Benedict Society. Little, Brown, 2007. ISBN: 0316057770 RL 6.4  
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Stewart, Trenton Lee.** The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey. Little, Brown, 2008. ISBN: 9780316057806 RL 6.8

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

**Tan, Shaun.** The Arrival. A.A. Levine, 2006. ISBN: 9780439895293

In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family. *2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults, Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts 2008*

**Thompson, Kate.** The New Policeman. Greenwillow Books, 2007. ISBN: 0061174270  
RL YA

Irish teenager JJ Liddy discovers that time is leaking from his world into Tir na nOg, the land of the fairies, and when he attempts to stop the leak he finds out a lot about his family history, the music that he loves, and a crime his great-grandfather may or may not have committed.

**Thompson, Kate.** Origins. Bloomsbury, 2007. ISBN: 9781582346526 RL YA

Christy's souvenir stone from the yeti's cave proves to be fatal for many of the inhabitants of Fourth World leaving among the survivors a pair of genetically-altered twins whose eventual descendants face an uncertain future in a stone age world of nuclear devastation and disease. Final book of three-book series; first published in UK in 2003.

**Tolkien, J.R.R.** The Children of Hurin. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. ISBN: 9780618894642  
RL YA

A tale of Middle-Earth from times before The Lord of the Rings, when Morgoth, the first dark lord, lived in the vast fortress of Angband, and the tragedy of Túrin and his sister Niënor, children of Húrin, unfolds while war is waged by Morgoth against the lands and secret cities of the Elves.

**Wein, Elizabeth.** The Lion Hunter. Viking, 2007. ISBN: 9780670061631 RL YA

Still recovering from his ordeal as a government spy, twelve-year-old Telemakos, the half-Ethiopian grandson of King Artos of Britain, is sent with his sister to live with Abreha, the ruler of Himyar. His Aunt Goewin warns him that Abreha is a dangerous man, but just how dangerous remains to be seen.

**Wells, Rosemary.** Red Moon at Sharpsburg. Viking, 2007. ISBN: 9780670036387 RL YA

As the Civil War breaks out, India, a young Southern girl, summons her sharp intelligence and the courage she didn't know she had to survive the war that threatens to destroy her family, her Virginia home, and the only life she has ever known.

**White, Ruth.** Way Down Deep. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007. ISBN: 9780374382513  
RL 5.6

In the West Virginia town of Way Down Deep in the 1950s, a foundling called Ruby June is happily living with Miss Arbutus at the local boarding house when suddenly, after the arrival of a family of outsiders, the mystery of Ruby's past begins to unravel.

**Williams, Maiya.** The Hour of the Outlaw. Amulet Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780810993556  
RL 6.8

Rowan, Nina, Xanthe, and Xavier are reunited for their first solo time travel trip, venturing to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1856 in search of an unhappy teen whose decision to run away from his father seems to have changed history. Sequel to The Golden Hour and The Hour of the Cobra.

**Wilson, Budge.** Before Green Gables. Putnam 2008. ISBN: 9780399154683 RL YA  
An authorized prequel to L.M. Montgomery's classic series about the irrepressible red-haired orphan follows Anne's early years before her adoption by the Cuthberts.

**Wolf, Joan M.** Someone Named Eva. Clarion Books, 2007. ISBN: 9780618535798  
RL 6.9

From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

**Wright, Bil.** When the Black Girl Sings. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008.  
ISBN: 9781416939955 RL YA

Adopted by white parents and sent to an exclusive Connecticut girls' school where she is the only black student, fourteen-year-old Lahni Schuler feels like an outcast, particularly when her parents separate, but after attending a local church where she hears gospel music for the first time, she finds her voice.

**Yolen, Jane, and Robert J. Harris.** The Rogues. Philomel Books, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780399238987 RL 5.0

After his family is evicted from their Scottish farm, fifteen-year-old Roddy forms an unlikely friendship with a notorious rogue who helps him outwit a tyrant landlord in order to find a family treasure and make his way to America. Book 4 in *The Scottish Quartet*.

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