


Advanced Novels and Supplemental Reading Materials Spring 2012
Advanced Learner Programs Office

Novels RESERVED FOR ADVANCED READERS at these ASSIGNED GRADE LEVELS
 (Listed alphabetical by grade level)




 = Newly Approved Novels


Grade	Title/Author	Book Summary	Comments
K	Abigail Adams Cassie Mayer	This title looks at Abigail Adams, from her early life, through the work that made her famous. She was a great role model for women in the United States of America.	Nonfiction
K	Benjamin Franklin Cassie Mayer	This title looks at Benjamin Franklin, from his early life, through the work that made him famous.	Nonfiction
K	Frederick Douglass Cassie Mayer	This title looks at Frederick Douglass, from his early life, through the work that made him famous.	Nonfiction
K	Homes of Living Things Bobbie Kalman	This book examines how different kinds of animals make homes in their habitats. Children will discover why animals and plants are suited to the places in which they live. Amazing photographs show animals that live in hot or cold temperatures, as well as animals that live high up in the trees, on the ground, or underneath the earth.	
K	Lily and Miss Liberty Carla Stevens	Miss Liberty is coming to America. The French are presenting this wonderful statue as a gift, and many people are raising money to help build her pedestal. In hopes of raising her own contribution, Lily makes and sells crowns resembling Miss Liberty's. She believes that this statue is important because it will welcome immigrant families into the United States. This enthusiasm is set against a disgruntled attitude held by some, believing that instead, money should be raised to feed the poor. Lily realizes Miss Liberty's true symbolism--freedom for all, of thought and expression	Early Novel
K	Living Things in My Back Yard Bobby Kalman	Backyard animals are the most familiar to children. This engaging book will get your students to answer these questions: Which animals do you come into contact with most? Which of these animals have wings? Which ones burrow into the ground? And which ones live in the trees? Here you can also meet some common backyard residents such as birds, butterflies, raccoons, squirrels, bees, skunks, and frogs, and occasional visitors such as bats, deer, and coyotes	Nonfiction
K	Mr. Putter and Tabby Run the Race Cynthia Rylant	Mrs. Teaberry has persuaded Mr. Putter to sign up for the seniors' marathon. First prize is golf clubs, but second prize is . . . a train set! Mr. Putter really wants that train set. Never mind that he can't even touch his toes. Somehow, he has <i>got</i> to find a way to place second. . . .	Early Novel
K	The Adventures of Tom Sawyer: A Song for Aunt Polly	Easy Reader Classics feature illustrated stories chosen from beloved children's novels that are retold in a simple writing style. Every child who has ever been tempted by blue skies and sunshine will identify with Tom's predicament: it's a beautiful day, and he wants to play at the swimming hole... <i>not</i> on the piano. So crafty Tom hides from Aunt Polly--what youngster in his place wouldn't? And that's what makes this perfectly crafted excerpt from an acknowledged classic so enjoyable on its own.	

K	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer: The Spelling Bee</i>	Easy Reader Classics feature illustrated stories chosen from beloved children’s novels that are retold in a simple writing style. The circus has come to town, and Tom’s dreaming of seeing the big top. So when his teacher announces that whoever wins the spelling bee will get a free ticket, Tom is even willing to <i>study!</i> But will he also cheat to get what he wants? A fun story about doing the right thing, even if it means giving up something you really want.	
 K	<i>The Dog Who Belonged to No One</i> Amy Hest	A little dog travels all around looking for a home. A solitary little girl spends her Sundays on her bicycle, delivering her parents' baked goods all over the town. One day during a storm, both Lia and the dog end up in a soaking rain. The pup and the girl end up at Lia's parents' home to escape the down pour. Lia and the little dog find comfort. A friendship between the dog and girl begins as a result of this meeting.	Concepts: Friendship, Belonging Skills: adjectives, compound words, drawing conclusions Treasures: K-Units 1, 2, 6
K	<i>Thomas Jefferson</i> Cassie Mayer	This title looks at Thomas Jefferson, from his early life, through the work that made him famous.	Nonfiction
K-1	<i>How Does it Feel?</i> Bobbie Kalman	Texture is how something feels. Nature is full of things with surfaces and coverings that we can see and touch. How does a snake’s skin feel? How is it different from the bark of a tree? This engaging book features close-up photographs of different textures found on plants and animals. Children can compare these textures to the textures of familiar objects found in their homes or classrooms.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>How Does It Move?</i> Bobbie Kalman	This book is suitable for ages 6 to 8 years. Sunflowers turn their heads to face sunlight, some plants close their flowers at night, and others move their heads to trap insects. Vines creep up the sides of trees or buildings, and some trees shoot down roots from seeds that grow above the ground. Animals also move in many ways. Animals with limbs walk, run, hop, leap, climb, dance, and crawl. Animals with wings fly, flap, soar, and glide. Animals that live in water swim, hover, dive, leap, porpoise, and breach. Young readers will become aware of the different ways in which plants and animals move, as well as learn new vocabulary about movement through questions and activities.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>Is it Big or Small?</i> Bobbie Kalman	This introductory book uses close up images of plants, animals, and people to help children compare the relative sizes and weights of natural objects. “Is it big or small?” promotes the learning of these concepts in a natural way. Through brilliant visuals, children will be motivated to find and compare natural objects in size, weight, and volume and learn the appropriate words to describe these properties.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>Is it the Same or Different?</i> Bobbie Kalman	Grouping and classification are among the first math and science skills that children need to learn. This fun book will challenge children to observe natural creatures to see what makes them the same and different. It presents a much more interesting way of looking at objects because the objects may not be exactly the same. For example, birds have two wings, but the wings of different birds may not look similar.	Concept Book


K-1	<i>The Raft</i> Jim LaMarche	Nicky has no idea what he’s getting into when his father drops him off for the summer at his grandmother’s cottage in the woods. “There’s nobody to play with ... She doesn’t even have a TV.” But this “river rat” is not the normal kind of grandma. Without pushing, she quietly allows Nicky to discover for himself the wonders of river life. Gradually, Nicky’s interest in drawing the wildlife he sees brings him closer to his artist grandmother.	
K-1	<i>What Are Natural Structures?</i> Bobbie Kalman	Structures are made up of parts arranged in a way that serve a certain purpose. This book looks at natural structures such as plants, animal bodies, mountains, caves, rock formations, and icebergs, the materials from which they are made, and their colors, shapes, and textures. It shows structures made by animals, such as beehives and bird nests. The book also compares natural structures to human-made structures, such as natural bridges and human-made bridges, a ladybug and cars shaped like beetles, a bird and an airplane, and giraffes and construction cranes.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>What Are These Animals Doing?</i> Bobbie Kalman	This book is about animal behavior. It challenges students to guess what animals are doing and why. Topics of this title include camouflage and mimicry, color changes, migration, animal senses and adaptations, courtship dances, care from mammal mothers, playing dead, scary body parts, tongue teasers, and some silly stuff to encourage story writing.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>What Color Is It?</i> Bobbie Kalman	This book shows examples in nature that correspond with each color in the rainbow. There are also examples of color opposites such as white and black. Children will also enjoy learning how to combine certain colors to make new colors such as pink, brown, green, and orange.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>What Comes Next?</i> Bobbie Kalman	Some patterns are visual; other patterns are events that repeat at a certain time or in certain places. Children will learn about patterns that are predictable events such as day and night, seasons, and weather. They will also be delighted to discover that bees dance and birds migrate using certain patterns, and that many other patterns also occur in behavior. This book will promote observation, interpretation, and estimation skills in even the youngest readers.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>What Does It Look Like?</i> Bobbie Kalman	Nature is full of patterns. Patterns are made up of shapes such as spots, stripes, circles, triangles, and combinations of these. Colors play a big part in patterns as well. Bobbie Kalman’s book helps explain how some patterns help camouflage animals or scare predators away, and how certain patterns seem to appear everywhere in nature! For example, spirals can be seen in the formation of flower petals, the construction of many seashells, in ocean waves, and in hurricanes.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>What Shape Is It?</i> Bobbie Kalman	Almost every shape can be found in nature! The sun, moon, and Earth are circles and spheres. The wings of butterflies contain triangles, the cells of honeybees are hexagons, and the hood of the hooded mantis has a diamond shape. This book explains both flat shapes and 3-D shapes and shows amazing examples of them all	Concept Book


K-1	<i>What Time is It?</i> Bobbie Kalman	We measure time in minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, seasons, years, and in historical dates. We talk about mealtimes, bedtimes, school times, holiday times, and good times. We also use words such as past, present, future, next, last, before, and after. This engaging book looks at human time as well as how time passes in nature. Time is about change. How do animals and plants sense changes in time? What changes do we see in nature throughout a day, month, and year?	Concept Book
K-1	<i>Where is It?</i> Bobbie Kalman	This simple book uses wonderfully appealing images in nature to teach children about location, orientation, and the relative position of objects. These early concepts include left and right; on, under, above, and over; between and in the middle of: far, near, and beside; inside and outside; around, across, and through; and many more position and location words.	Concept Book
K-1	<i>White Wolf (A-Z Mysteries)</i> Ron Roy	W is for Wolf. . . . Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose are thrilled to visit Wallis Wallace at her new cabin in the Maine wilderness. On their very first day, they glimpse a white wolf and her babies on a cliff. But soon after the kids spy the wolf family, the pups are wolf-napped! Can Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose sniff out the culprits before the white wolf starts suspecting them?	Good for newly independent readers Early novel
1	<i>Blackberries in the Dark</i> Mavis Jukes	Nine-year-old Austin visits his grandmother for the first time since his granddad's death. The awkwardness of that first day does not lead to a morose story; instead, it is one of love, shared feelings and family. Grandma and Austin recall the last time all of them were together: Grandpa and Austin had gone fishing; they picked blackberries in the dark and Grandma made a pie which they ate in the middle of the night. After holding each other and crying together, Austin trots off to pick berries followed by Grandma, outfitted in Grandpa's fishing gear. Old memories are cast into new traditions as they pick berries in the dark. The togetherness is fortified when Grandma adds a link of heritage by giving Austin her antique doll and Grandpa's trout-shaped fishing knife. The simple actions and genuine emotions are accentuated by subtleties of language and intertwining of phrases. Caution: The term "Hell's bells" is uttered by the grandmother in the story.	Early novel
1	<i>Diary of a Spider</i> Doreen Cronin	The diary is written by Worm's friend Spider and filled with similar verbal high jinks, deadpan humor and visual jokes that offer readers a whimsical glimpse of the world from a small creature's point of view. Endpapers feature photos of Spider's family as well as his favorite book (<i>Charlotte's Web</i>), his discovery of a "neat sculpture!" (a toilet bowl) and a playbill from his school's production of "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" (a review blurb by Worm says, "You'll dig this play"). Children will relate to the book's droll humor, as when Spider goes to the park with his sister ("We tried the seesaw. It didn't work") or when he takes his molted skin for show-and-tell. A slight story line about the tension between Spider's friendship with Fly and his Grandpa's prejudice against all six-legged bugs threads together the amusing vignettes. (When Grandpa says, "Without spiders, insects could take over the world," Bliss features a menacing alien bug as President of the United States.)	


 1	<i>First Year Letters</i> Julie Danneberg	A new teacher puts up a mailbox to receive letters from her students and staff at the school. Through the letters, the reader finds out about the learning and exploits that occur in her classroom. There's the calamitous field trip, visits from the firefighter, observations by the principal, and the glitches with snacks and classroom pets. Some of the letters are shown in childish handwriting, and the reader can see a huge improvement in penmanship skills between the beginning and the end of the year.	Concept: Relationships, Communication Skills: inference, tone, cause/effect, author's conveyance of messages, diary and letter writing Treasures: Gr.1-Unit 1, 3
 1	<i>How Oliver Olson Changed the World</i> Claudia Mills	Oliver feels excited when his third-grade teacher announces the upcoming space sleepover. The field trip involves viewing the stars and planets through a telescope, playing space games, and watching a science-fiction movie. But Oliver knows he won't be able to go because his overprotective parents don't allow sleepovers. When Crystal, a concerned classmate with whom he is partnered, intervenes to help Oliver learn to express himself, he begins to grow toward independence.	Concepts: Friendship, Becoming Independent Skills: Point of View, drawing conclusions, inference (early novel) Treasures: Gr.1-Unit 4, 5
1	<i>Tomorrow's Alphabet</i> George Shannon	This unusual alphabet book is really a different sort of concept book that teaches logical sequencing. The letters of the alphabet are used to demonstrate where things come from. "A is for seed" is followed on the next page with "tomorrow's APPLE." "D is for puppy? Tomorrow's DOG." All of the combinations are clever, well chosen, and well within youngsters' experience.	Concept Development
1	<i>What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?</i> Steve Jenkins and Robin Page	An opening page, clearly explaining how to use the book, is followed by a double-page spread picturing the mouths of several different animals, accompanied by the question, "What do you do with a mouth like this?" The next spread shows each animal in full, explaining in a few simple words how the part functions. Tail, ears, nose, and eyes are covered in the same manner. A picture glossary at the back shows each animal again, postage-stamp size, with an informative note elaborating on the creature's special adaptation. The notes also neatly answer questions that might arise during a reading (Why <i>do</i> horned lizards squirt blood out their eyes?) and add to the interactive aspect of the book. A variety of animals are represented—some (elephant, hippo, chimp) will be comfortably familiar; others (four-eyed fish, blue-footed booby) are of interest because of their strangeness.	Nonfiction
 1 Early 2	<i>Archibald Frisby</i> Michael Chesworth	Archibald Frisby is an intelligent and inquisitive little boy. He examines his cat's skeletal structure, and has experimented with kitchen appliances. He would rather spend time with scientific investigations than participate in sports. His mother sends him off to camp with hopes that he will become a "normal" kid. While camping, Archibald observes constellations and turns nature walks into opportunities to anticipate photosynthesis. His passion for science excites the other campers, especially when his understanding of physics helps them to beat the counselors in a game of baseball.	Concepts: Inquiry, Science Skills: Cause/Effect, Drawing Conclusions, Predicting, Treasures: Gr.1, Unit 5



 1 Early 2	<i>Beatrix</i> Jeanette Winter	This is a biography of Beatrix Potter’s life. The author includes Beatrix Potter’s own words to emphasize certain aspects of the story. The story tells about Potter’s life as a young child and young adult. Beatrix spent a lot of time with the animals she befriends. The reader learns about the events that encourage Beatrix Potter to write stories featuring animals. Children will develop and understanding of how Potter explored science and art to connect to the world at large.	Concepts: Creativity, Change, Love of Nature Skills: Drawing conclusions, personal writing, summarizing Treasures: Gr. 1-Unit 5, Gr. 2-Unit 3
1-2	<i>Down Girl and Sit</i> Lucy Nolan	In a clever take on the dog story, this chapter book is told from the point of view of two canines who think they have a handle on the human world, but are amusingly mistaken. Shaggy Down Girl and spotted Sit laugh at their owners for not burying their treasures and Down Girl protects all the food in the house by eating it. The snappy text mimics a yip-yappy dog’s world, often frenetic and frantic, and full of well-intentioned mistakes, such as waking an owner really early so he isn’t frightened by the alarm clock. The ink-and-wash pictures will help most kids keep things straight	
1-2	<i>Elena’s Serenade</i> Campbell Geeslin	In this story set in Mexico, a young girl longingly watches her papa blow into a pipe to create bottles, and dreams about doing the same. Papa disapproves, with comments about her size and gender. Hurt and angry, Elena takes her brother’s advice and, disguised as a boy, begins a journey to Monterrey, home of the great glassblowers. Although the men laugh at her, she closes her eyes and plays “ <i>Estrellita</i> ” while blowing a star out of glass. Desperate to share her talent with her father, Elena blows out a giant bird and flies home, and Papa soon realizes how special she is. The story flows well and Spanish words are smoothly incorporated into the text.	
1-2	<i>Gooney Bird Greene</i> Lois Lowry	Gooney Bird Greene is as unorthodox as her name: wearing pajamas and cowboy boots, she arrives at the door of her new second-grade classroom all alone, “without even a mother to introduce her.” She announces she has just moved from China (which turns out to be the name of a town, not the country) and demands “a desk right smack in the middle of the room, because I like to be right smack in the middle of everything.” Dressed each day in another eccentric outfit, she relays to the class a series of stories that are “absolutely true” even though they initially seem anything but. Stretching the facts creatively through some wily wordplay, Gooney Bird explains how she spent time in jail (while playing Monopoly), acquired diamond earrings at a palace (they came from a gumball machine in an ice cream shop called The Palace). Interruptions from curious classmates heighten the fun.	
1-2	<i>One Candle</i> Eve Bunting	A first-person narrative from Bunting, who delivers a moving family history framed within the celebration of Hanukkah. Grandma ritualistically makes a candle from a hollowed-out potato in memory of the time she and Great-Aunt Rose spent in Buchenwald. The repeated story unites the family as they celebrate the present and remember the past.	

1-2	<i>One Tiny Turtle</i> Nicola Davies	This nicely developed picture-book introduction to the loggerhead turtle sketches the life experiences of a typical female. The author exhibits a flair for alliteration and imagery in her descriptive narrative about this sea animal: "Just beneath the surface is a tangle of weed and driftwood where tiny creatures cling. This is the nursery of a sea turtle." Several pages follow the creature's early period and departure for the larger sea, and then the years of growth and travel are skimmed until her eventual return to the beach of her birth to lay her own eggs. On many pages curving lines of smaller type add bits of explanation, augmenting the story line.	Nonfiction Not a "true novel"
1-2	<i>Rachel, The Story of Rachel Carson</i> Amy Erlich	She loved the woods, built a summer cottage in Maine, wrote about the ocean, and finally published her landmark book about the poisonous pesticides killing wildlife. Ehrlich skims a few highlights of Carson's life and work, sometimes poetically. "A transparent, elongated paramecium drifted slowly across the field of the microscope. In that simple one-celled organism she saw the complexity of the universe." The author focuses on Carson's love of nature and writing, but her life seems uneventful. The dozen dated and sketchy episodes begin with a childhood scene in 1912, then touch on teenage and college years, and skip from a 1929 bit of research at Woods Hole to 1945 when Carson edited documents for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.	Biography - Great link to environmental issues
1-2	<i>Roberto: The Insect Architect</i> Lana Laden	This good-natured tale that introduces a termite who "went against the grain.... Roberto didn't eat his food. He played with it." While other termites picnic on "wood chips" and shotgun shacks, Roberto yearns to build with boards. He also exhibits a philanthropic streak. His first project is a neighborhood for homeless bugs, including a fireproof stone dwelling for a ladybug whose first house, per the nursery rhyme, burned down. Laden (When Pigasso Met Mootisse) wittily imagines a termite with a social conscience, one who ensures that bedbugs have "their very own beds." She incorporates woodworking tools into her bug-themed spreads and creates furniture from carefully cropped pieces of cork and veneer.	A Tale, not a "true novel"
1-2	<i>The Best Horse Ever</i> Alice Delacroix and Ronald Himler	The author skillfully interweaves two plotlines: Abby's struggle to prove to her parents that she can take care of the animal, and her efforts to maintain her relationship with her best friend despite their diverging interests. Abby soon realizes that caring for Griffin is time-consuming. She doesn't understand why her friend is afraid of him, and she doesn't appreciate Devon's interest in her cat's new kittens. With her parents' advice, Abby learns how to balance taking care of Griffin with the rest of her life and to reconcile her differences with Devon.	First Grade (Early second) Beginning chapter book


1-2	<i>The World According to Humphrey</i> Betty Birney	A substitute teacher brings Humphrey to Room 26, explaining, “You can learn a lot about yourself by taking care of another species.” Unfortunately, when Mrs. Brisbane returns to school, she is less than enthusiastic about taking on a class pet, and is unaware of the impact that the hamster has on the students, as well as on the families with whom he spends his weekends. Humphrey manages to bring out hidden courage and kindness in those he visits. Humphrey’s views underscore the importance of knowing the full story before making judgments, and his presence makes a positive difference in the lives of the people he meets.	Beginner Type Early Novel
 1 Early 2	<i>Yours Truly, Goldilocks</i> Alma Flor Ada	This book tells its story through an exchange of letters. The author records the attempt of the three little pigs to plan a housewarming party. Meanwhile the villains from familiar fairy tales are planning ways to spoil plans of the little pigs. As with this type of story, the villains learn a lesson.	Concepts: Safety, Friendship, Bullying Skills: Letter Writing, Examining Text Features, Predicting Treasures: Gr. 1-Unit 2, 4, 6, Gr. 2 Unit 1
2	<i>Castle on Hester Street</i> Linda Heller	Young Julie is visiting her grandparents, and is treated to her grandfather’s tall tale version of his life history, with many interruptions and corrections from her grandmother. A grandfather tells his granddaughter tall tales about each stage in his immigration to the U.S. and his early life in New York. Then the grandmother deflates each tale and explains how things really were back then. This two-step process to be a clever way to teach children about the experience which their grandparents went through, first hooking them with a silly story, and then hitting them with the facts.	
2	<i>Colin Powell</i> Laura Hamilton Waxman	This is a straightforward factual account of Colin Powell. It talks about his childhood through his military career. This book depicts how Colin’s life parallels the Civil Rights Movement in the United States of America. Colin Powell served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is made up of the chiefs of the army, navy, air force, and marines. He was the first African American to become Secretary of State. He has won many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the President’s Citizens Medal, and the Congressional Gold Medal. He started a program called America’s Promise to help children in need.	Nonfiction
2	<i>George Washington Carver: The Peanut Wizard</i> Laura Driscoll	Introducing Smart About Scientists: These books feature biographical information about the world’s greatest scientists, ideas on scientific thinking, and real science experiments kids can try at home. Annie Marcus is just nuts about peanut butter! When Annie finds out that George Washington Carver was responsible for the popularity of peanuts, she picks him for her scientist report. Annie learns all sorts of fascinating info-George Washington Carver was born into slavery, but his dedication and unquenchable thirst for knowledge drove him to become a professor at a time when most institutions of higher learning were closed to blacks. This title explores Carver’s brilliant career and discoveries, as well as his triumph over segregation to become one of the world’s most renowned plant experts.	Historical Fiction


2	<p><i>Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stewart Little</i> Peggy Gifford</p>	<p>Moxy Maxwell is a procrastinator. She was assigned <i>Stuart Little</i> for summer reading, but it is still unread on the last day before the first day of school. Moxy’s mother is well aware of this lapse. Moxy won’t be allowed to play the eighth daisy petal in the water ballet at the local pool if she hasn’t finished the book by the time Mom returns home. Intentions are good, but events keep getting in the way. Moxy’s room must be cleaned, and the dog has to be trained. She also takes time to ponder the idea of inventing a hammock that automatically stops swinging when the inhabitator gets off. She decides to plant a peach orchard (with bad results). The short, sassy chapters have an immediacy that may have readers wringing their hands as the clock ticks down.</p>	
2	<p><i>Plantzilla</i> Jerdine Nolan</p>	<p>At the end of the school year, Mortimer takes a plant home from his third-grade classroom. Throughout the summer, Plantzilla continues to grow and Mortimer continues to love and nurture it. Strange things ensue. His quiet, boring, well-ordered household, complete with well-mannered cat and prize-winning Chihuahua, is totally disrupted: the plant starts to grow tentacles and to eat meat (the dog disappears) and perform all sorts of amazing feats. The boy’s parents begin to worry, but the protagonist is delighted with his clever plant. The text is all in the form of letters-from Mortimer to his teacher describing the progress of his plant, from Mortimer’s mother to Mr. Lester complaining about it, and from Mr. Lester to each of them.</p>	Not a “true novel”
2	<p><i>Poppy</i> Avi</p>	<p>A fast-paced, allegorical animal story. Mr. Ocax is a great horned owl who rules the mice that live around Dimwood Forest, preying on their fears by promising protection from the dreaded porcupine in exchange for unconditional obedience. Challenging his despotic authority is the smart-talking, earring-sporting golden mouse Ragweed, whose refusal to obey turns him into a meal for the owl. His timid sweetheart Poppy returns home, where she learns that a delegation must go to request permission from Mr. Ocax to relocate half of the mouse family. When he refuses, Poppy decides to undertake the scouting journey to the proposed new home anyway. She plans to expose Ocax as a cowardly bully.</p>	
 2	<p><i>Rare Treasure: Mary Anning and Her Remarkable Discoveries</i> Don Brown</p>	<p>This picture-book biography recounts the life of Mary Anning. She discovered a complete ichthyosaur on the beach at Lyme Regis. She was a self-taught paleontologist who spent her lifetime discovering and collecting fossils. She was a role model for women by becoming one of the first commercial fossil collectors. Her collection was well regarded by the scientific community as relevant to prehistoric research. 200 years later, Mary Anning’s’ discoveries are so important that they continue to inform scientist of today.</p>	<p>Concepts: Finding your passion, perseverance Skills: figurative lang., foreshadowing, Character Dev., drawing conclusions, similes Treasures: Gr. 2-Unit 6</p>


 2	<i>The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon</i> Jacqueline Davies	This book concentrates on a short era in the life of John James Audubon. It focuses on his interest in birds and their migration habits. In an effort to discover whether the birds returned to the same location each year, Audubon banded the birds with silver thread before they flew south in the fall. This provided a way to identify the birds when and if they returned in the spring. James was a self-taught painter and ornithologist. He created life-sized portraits of birds. Audubon was the first person in North America to band a bird and that Audubon became the greatest painter of birds of all time.	Concepts: discovery perseverance, ambition, inquiry Skills: Drawing conclusions, inference Treasures: Gr. 2-Unit 5, 6
2	<i>W K Kellogg</i> Laura Hamilton Waxman	An account of W. K. Kellogg's life. William Kellogg was born in Battle Creek, Michigan. After working as a broom salesman, he worked with his brother, Dr. John H. Kellogg, during the 1890s to develop new ways to prepare grain for breakfast cereals. After their first success with flaked wheat, they developed a cornflake, and in 1905 Will went on his own to form the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Co. It was soon renamed the W.K. Kellogg Co., and he achieved great financial success with his line of breakfast foods and revolutionized the world's breakfast eating habits. He was a pioneer in large national advertising campaigns to promote a product. In 1929 he retired as president but remained chairman of the board until 1946. In 1930 he established the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which became one of America's richest philanthropic organizations.	Nonfiction
2	<i>We the Children/ Benjamin Pratt & the Keepers of the School</i> Andrew Clements	Benjamin Pratt's school is about to become the site of a new amusement park. Ben has been wondering if he's going to like an amusement park in the middle of his town. It's going to change everything. And, Ben is not so big on all the new changes in his life. Maybe it would be nice if the school just stayed as it is. The school is over 200 years old and sits right on the harbor. The playground has ocean breezes and the classrooms have million-dollar views. Ben starts to discover that these million-dollar views have a lot to do with the deal to sell the school property. But, as much as the town wants to believe it, the school does not belong to the local government. It belongs to the CHILDREN and these children have the right to defend it!	
2	<i>Westlandia</i> Paul Fleischman	Wesley is not an ordinary boy: "He alone in his town disliked pizza and soda, alarming his mother and the school nurse. He found professional football stupid. He'd refused to shave half his head, the hairstyle worn by all the other boys, despite his father's bribe of five dollars." It all starts (the civilization, that is) when Wesley overturns a plot of ground in his yard to see what new and unknown seeds might blow into it. Curiously, just one kind of plant grows—an unusual, flowering, fruit-bearing plant that tastes of "peach, strawberry, pumpkin pie, and flavors he had no name for." Soon, Wesley is literally reaping the fruits of his labors—using the fruit rind to make a cup for the juice he squeezes, barbecuing the root tubers, and weaving the bark into a hat to keep off the sun.	Not a "true novel"



2	Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge Mem Fox	A small boy, Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, knows and likes all of the old folks in the home next door, but his favorite is Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper – she has four names, too. Hearing that she has lost her memory, he asks the old folks what a memory is (“Something from long ago”; “Something that makes you laugh;” “Something warm;” etc.), ponders the answers, then gathers up memories of his own (seashells collected long ago last summer, a feathered puppet with a goofy expression, a warm egg fresh from the hen) to give her. In handling Wilfrid’s memories, Nancy finds and shares her own.	
 2-3	<i>Across the Dark and Wild Sea</i> Don Brown	This is a picture book biography containing figurative and descriptive language, of Columcille, an Irish monk of the sixth century. During this time in history, books were rare and only a few people could read Columcille mastered writing at an early age as a student in a monastery. He became a monk and an accomplished scribe and poet. Columcille had hand-lettered a Psalter. The king ruled that the copy belonged to the owner of the original manuscript. Because of the great fight with bloodshed that occurred over the Psalter, Columcille exiled himself from his homeland. In exile, he and the other scribes devoted their lives to transcribing manuscripts, and books.	Concepts: Plagiarism, copyright laws, accomplishment, consequences of our actions Skills: cause/effect, examining author’s craft Treasures: Gr. 2-Unit 3, Gr. 3-Unit 3
2 and above	<i>Hate That Cat</i> Sharon Creech	Portrait of a boy who discovers the power of self-expression. Jack works on a poetry journal for Miss Stretchberry, now his fifth-grade teacher. He responds to her instruction with skepticism, all the while absorbing the depth of feeling in the poems she shares. The main character resists getting a new pet and despises an aloof neighborhood black cat with which he has an unpleasant run-in. He also grapples with putting into words his feelings about his mother, who is deaf, a fact that is slowly and deftly revealed in his poems. When the Christmas-present kitten he has learned to love disappears, Jack grieves anew, until the despised black cat saves the day. All of the poems are addressed to Miss Stretchberry, and Jack’s growing excitement as he discovers the delights of sound (“ <i>Tintinnabulation!</i> ”) and expression is palpable. He also learns the poetry of silence as he and his mother communicate through sign language and tender gestures.	
2-3	<i>Helen Keller: Courageous Advocate</i> Welvaert, Scott, Martin	A biography (graphic novel) telling the life of Helen Keller, a blind and deaf women who became an author and advocate for the blind. Written in graphic-novel format	Graphic Novel - Biography
 2-3	<i>Journey</i> Patricia Maclachlan	This novel is about a family’s experiences as they learn to cope with the absence of a mother who leaves her children with their grandparents. The structure seems simple, but the concepts allow for rich discussion. The main character is an 11 year old boy who trusts that his mother will return to the family. Photos taken by the grandfather, the grandmother’s photo album, and discarded torn pictures left by the mother play a pivotal role in the character’s understanding and maturation.	Concepts: family, trust, abandonment, love, memories, betrayal Skills: use of descriptive language, examine symbolism Treasures: Gr. 2-Unit 1, 3



2-3	Journey to the Bottomless Pit: The Story of Stephen Bishop and Mammoth Cave Elizabeth Mitchell	The thrilling setting is the focus of this novel about Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, which Mitchell shapes around the astonishing biography of Stephen Bishop, a slave who, in 1838 at the age of 17, became the cave's explorer and tourist guide. He crawled through tight winding passageways, discovered an underground river, scaled huge rocks, and dared to walk on a rickety ladder across the "Bottomless Pit." Mitchell weaves in the facts of slavery at the time, including Bishop's amazing achievements in learning to read and studying geology. It's the story of a young man who works hard and finds his way and the amazing descriptions of the cave that will grab readers.	Concept: Inquiry, Courage, Perseverance Skills: Cause/Effect, Drawing Conclusions, Inference, Charac. Dev. Treasures: Gr.2-Unit 6 Gr. 3-Unit 1, 5
2 and above	<i>Of Thee I Sing A Letter to My Daughters</i> Barack Obama	In characteristically measured prose, the 44th President introduces 13 American icons and heroes as exemplars of personal virtues, from Georgia O'Keeffe (creativity) and Jackie Robinson (courage) to Helen Keller (strength) and Cesar Chavez (inspiration). Though he includes Billie Holiday in his gallery (a gifted singer) along with a free translation of Chavez's <i>!Si se puede!</i> as "Yes, you can!" Obama offers general but cogent summations of why each figure merits admiration—Martin Luther King Jr., for instance, "taught us unyielding compassion," and Helen Keller, "never waiting for life to get easier," "gave others courage to face their challenges." Long's superb technical gifts and gentle sense of humor shine in the pictures.	For use with multiple grade levels
2-3	<i>Sacagawea: Journey into the West</i> Jessica Gunderson	In graphic novel format, tells the story of Sacagawea, the teenage Shoshone mother who traveled with the Lewis and Clark expedition as an interpreter.	Graphic Novel - Biographical
2 and above	The Seven Habits of Happy Kids Sean Covey	Children will learn subtle messages in these seven stories teaching good habits. A nice added benefit is the parent discussion at the end of each section which gives ideas on opening up conversations with children. On the same page are steps you can do to solve problems or promote the character trait in your child. Issues in the book include: having a plan, work comes before play, everyone can win, listen before speaking, together is better, and balance is best. Each character trait has a separate story so parents could choose to repeatedly read the story with the behavior they would like to develop or improve.	NOT A NOVEL Recommended for building character and positive work habits in children
2-3	<i>The Water Horse</i> Dick King-Smith	Set in the 1930s, this story tells of a young Scottish girl, Kirstie, and her brother, Angus, who find a mysterious egg capsule, washed up on shore after a storm and take it home. To their delight, this "mermaid's purse" hatches into a lovable sea monster they call Crusoe. It keeps growing and growing, until finally it is too big to live anywhere but in nearby Loch Ness. The characters are believable and, since King-Smith relates events from the point of view of the water horse as well as those of Kirstie and her family, readers get to know the friendly, not-at-all-fearsome monster. Occasional black-and-white illustrations effectively complement the text. NOT LIKE THE MOVIE	


2-3	<i>The Year of Miss Agnes</i> Kirkpatrick Hill	This story is a portrait of a dedicated teacher, set mostly in a cozy village classroom in 1948. Fred, a ten-year-old girl, describes the year Miss Agnes takes over the one-room school. Unlike the school's other teachers, none of whom have lasted, Miss Agnes encourages the children to explore art, literature, and their own potential. She also teaches basic subjects in relevant ways and shows sensitivity to the rhythms of village life and to each child. The students are devastated when it's time for Miss Agnes to leave, but the story ends with a happy surprise. Fred's plain, direct voice, sprinkled with regionalisms, will connect readers with the well-integrated cultural particulars, the poignant scenes of home life, and the joy Fred feels learning in the snug classroom, the snow falling outside.	
2-3	<i>Thimble Summer</i> Elizabeth Enright	Garnet found a silver thimble in the sand by the river and she was sure it had magic, for the summer had proved exciting and interesting in so many different ways. There was the coming of Eric, an orphan and such a nice addition to the family; the building of a new barn with money loaned by the government; and the fair at which Garnet's carefully tended pig won a blue ribbon and three dollars and a half! Every day brought pleasure of some kind to Garnet of the flying pigtails, for she was bursting with energy and good spirits and she loved the outdoors and growing things.	
3	<i>Everything on a Waffle</i> Polly Horvath	In the small Canadian town of Coal Harbour, in a quaint restaurant called The Girl on the Red Swing, everything comes on a waffle--lasagna, fish, you name it. Even waffles! Eleven-year-old Primrose Squarp loves this homey place, especially its owner, Kate Bowzer, who takes her under her wing, teaches her how to cook, and doesn't patronize or chastise her, even when she puts her guinea pig too close to the oven and it catches fire. Primrose can use a little extra attention. Her parents were lost at sea, and everyone but her thinks they are dead. Nobody knows what exactly to think of young Primrose, and Primrose doesn't quite know what to make of her small community, either.	<i>A William and Mary Navigator is available for \$12.00 from The Center for Gifted Education at The College of William and Mary</i>
 3	<i>Granny Torrelli Makes Soup</i> Sharon Creech	This book contains stories and conversations in short chapters. The grandmother in the story reveals pearls of wisdom to her granddaughter, Rosie, and her granddaughter's best friend, Bailey, while making soup and pasta in the warmth and understanding of an Italian kitchen. Rosie and Bailey are more than best friends, but have come to a point in their relationship where they experience a misunderstanding. Bailey is blind, and Rosie learns to read Braille, just like him. Bailey does not appreciate his friend's effort. She does not realize that she took away something that only he could do. The story is told in an authentic voice of the main character, revealing feelings from fury and anxiety to joy and gratification.	Concepts: Prob. Solving, Conflict, Acceptance Skills: Cause/Effect, point of view, examining plot, RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events. RL.3.2 determine central message, lesson, moral, and explain how it is conveyed through key details, Treasures: Gr. 3-Unit 6

3	<p><i>Handel Who Knew What He Liked</i> M. T. Anderson</p>	<p>In this picture-book biography, both illustration and text are characterized by a saucy style, impeccable pacing, and a richness of content, and the two harmonize splendidly in a manner befitting the subject. Anderson's words and anecdotes are well chosen, and his sense of timing heightens impact whether describing mischievous childhood antics of the classical composer (the boy smuggling a clavichord past unsuspecting parents) or solemn occasions (the circumstances surrounding the creation and performances of the Messiah). The author is also adept at conveying the spirit and flavor of Handel's music. Hawkes's highly textured acrylics manage to combine depth and drama with a great sense of fun.</p>	Biography
3	<p><i>Riding Freedom</i> Pam Munoz Ryan</p>	<p>This is a fictionalized biography of the first woman to vote in the state of California, and perhaps in the whole United States. Charlotte Parkhurst, known as Charley, spent most of her life masquerading as a man. Raised in an orphanage where she is the only girl, she is prevented from being adopted. Her knack with horses soon enables the disguised Charley to pursue her dream of driving a stagecoach. She does it so well that she is admired and sought after, and is offered the opportunity to earn a livelihood in the California gold fields. Many trials arise, including the loss of sight in her left eye, but throughout, Charlotte remembers her friends, works hard and persistently, and fulfills her ambitions, culminating in her voting in a presidential election. A concluding note tells more about the historical facts surrounding Parkhurst's life.</p>	<p>Historical in nature Gender issues Historical Fiction</p> <p>A novel study is available on the ALPs intranet site.</p>
 3	<p><i>Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs</i> James Rumford</p>	<p>This is a picture-book biography about Jean Francois Champollion, the first person to learn to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs. He spent the early part of his life learning all the known ancient languages. Afterward, he requested to work with scholars attempting to translate the hieroglyphs with the help of the Rosetta Stone. He was turned away and pursued the translations on his own. He was successful and became famous for his ability to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs. Readers will be fascinated with the small hieroglyphs that are embedded in the text and in the margins.</p>	<p>Concepts: Ambition, Perseverance, Problem Solving Skills: Drawing Concl., Cause/Effect, Treasures: Gr. 3-Unit 1</p>
3	<p><i>Snow Treasure</i> Marie McSwigan</p>	<p>An exciting and suspenseful tale of Norwegian children and their contributions to protecting their town's gold during the German occupation in 1940. Convinced that the Germans will try to steal their town's considerable wealth of gold bullion from the banks, the townsmen decide that it must be removed. Since a group of adults can't remove the gold without the Germans finding out, the townsmen develop a daring plan involving the children. In teams, the children will carry the bouillon on their sleds down to the river where one of the townsmen will load them onto his ship to take to the United States.</p>	<p><i>A William and Mary Navigator is available for \$12.00 from The Center for Gifted Education at The College of William and Mary</i></p>



3	<i>The Good Dog</i> Avi	A story with a decidedly canine point of view. Jack's malamute is the top dog in Steamboat Springs, CO. His enemy is not a cat but a sad excuse for an Irish setter. Sedate small-town life is interrupted by the appearance of Lupin, a she-wolf that urges dogs to free themselves from the tyranny of domesticated life. The noble McKinley tries to help her, and save a mistreated greyhound, but is misunderstood and relegated to the "dog house" by rather dim-witted humans. Communication between dogs and humans is awkward at best. There is a lot of dialogue among the dogs, among the humans, and between humans and dogs. The people come off as pretty stupid and McKinley is rather tolerant of the limitations of his "human pup" owner.	
 3	<i>Turtle in Paradise</i> Jennifer Holm	This is a Newberry Honor book. Eleven-year-old Turtle is sent from New Jersey to Florida to live with relatives because her mother's housekeeping job doesn't allow children. The setting is Key West in June of 1935, during the Depression Era. Turtle learns that life is different in her new community, and she needs to learn to survive. This story includes family stories, humor, and adventure. The author includes rich history and the essence of Key West, Florida in her writing.	Concepts: Self-awareness, Change, Family, Survival Skills: Character Dev., Treasures: Gr. 3-Unit 6
3-4	<i>A Crooked Kind of Perfect</i> Linda Urban	Eleven-year-old Zoe dreams of giving piano recitals at Carnegie Hall. When her father purchases a Perfectone D-60, though, she must settle for the sounds of the organ rather than the distinguished sounds of a baby grand. Zoe must depend on a quirky support system: her father, who gets anxious when he leaves the house and who earns diplomas from Living Room University; her workaholic mother; and her classmate Wheeler, who follows Zoe home from school daily to spend time with her father, baking. Instead, aware of the stark difference between her dream and her reality, she forges ahead and, as an underdog, faces the uncertainty of entering the competition. In the end, resilient and resourceful Zoe finds perfection in the most imperfect and unique situations, and she shines.	
3-4	<i>A Year Down Yonder</i> Richard Peck	15-year-old Mary Alice has to stay with Grandma alone--for a whole year, maybe longer. From the very first moment when she arrives at the depot clutching her Philco portable radio and her cat, Bootsie, Mary Alice knows it won't be easy. And it's not. She has to sleep alone in the attic, attend a hick town school where in spite of her worn-out coat she's "the rich girl from Chicago," and be an accomplice in Grandma's outrageous schemes to run the town her own way--and do good while nobody's looking. But being Grandma's sidekick is always interesting, and by the end of the year, Mary Alice has grown to see the love in the heart of her formidable Grandma.	<i>A William and Mary Navigator is available for \$12.00 from The Center for Gifted Education at The College of William and Mary</i>
3-4	<i>Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad</i> Ellen Levine	Had the story not been documented, one would believe that the story of a fugitive slave shipping himself to freedom by freight mail was merely an urban legend. In Henry Freedom's Box this unbelievable but daring true story is brought to life. The story traces Brown's early life to his ultimate escape to freedom at the age thirty-three. Award-winning illustrator Kadir Nelson creates such realistic intimacy with his muted but intense illustrations of former Virginia slave Henry "Box" Brown.	Historical Fiction


3-4	<i>The Year of Miss Agnes</i> Kirkpatrick Hill	This is a story of a gifted teacher and how she impacts her students and their community in post-World War II Alaska. Fredrika (Fred), a young girl living in rural Alaska, narrates this story. Fred describes how life in Athabasca changes after a new teacher, Miss Agnes, comes to their school. Fred had experienced a series of teachers who did not understand the local culture and customs. Miss Agnes is different. She genuinely cares about the children as individuals and makes what they are learning relevant to their lives. Miss Agnes uses innovative teaching methods to engage all of the children in their studies. She even learns sign language to help a deaf student! The students gain confidence in their abilities and become passionate learners.	A novel study is available on the ALPs intranet site.
3-4	<i>Touchblue</i> Cynthia Lord	Eleven-year-old Tess doesn't want to leave her island home, but her family will have to move to the mainland if the state of Maine closes their small schoolhouse for lack of students. To increase their numbers, several families take in foster children, and so 13-year-old musician Aaron, who has bounced around since his grandmother's death because his mother is an alcoholic, comes to stay with Tess' family. Tess pins all her hopes on Aaron, but he is not at all what she expected: he doesn't like reading, he throws up on her dad's lobster boat, and he'd rather stay in his room. Tess schemes for a way to help Aaron love island life. This is a feel-good story about letting go of your expectations and accepting the good things already in front of you.	
3-5	<i>When Marian Sang The True Recital of Marian Anderson</i> Pam Munoz Ryan	A picture book biography as understated and graceful as its subject, singer Marian Anderson (1897-1993). Tracing the African-American diva from her beginnings as eight-year-old church choir wonder ("the pride of South Philadelphia") through years of struggle to rise above the racism that would delay her debut with the Metropolitan Opera until she was 57, this book masterfully distills the events in the life of an extraordinary musician. Ryan's narrative smoothly integrates biographical details with lyrics from the gospel songs Anderson made famous.	Biography
 4	<i>Beyond Mayfield</i> Vaunda Micheaux Nelson	This story is set in Pennsylvania during the early 1960s. A neighborhood of children is bused from their integrated town of Mayfield to a school in which the black children are not truly accepted by their classmates or by all of their teachers. One character has returned from the Navy and decided to join the Freedom Riders in their efforts to register black voters. The author's writing invites readers to a historic time and place during the 1960s. Teachers will need to lay a foundation for reading a book taking place during this time in history with its political and societal realities.	Concepts: Change, Discrimination, Skills: Character Dev., Cause/Effect, Inference Treasures: Gr. 4-Unit 1
 4	<i>Just in Time, Abraham Lincoln</i> Patricia Palacco	The author creates a story that involves time travel as a way of having readers experience the battle at Antietam in 1863. The characters are reluctant to learn about history until their grandmother's friend permits them to dress up as Union soldiers. While in costume, the characters travel back in time to learn about the battle that led to Lincoln's writing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The characters meet Abraham Lincoln and develop a greater understanding of that period in history.	Concepts: Peace and War, Transformation, Skills: Examining Plot and Photographs, Treasures: Gr. 4-Unit 2


 4	<i>Shooting the Moon</i> Frances O’Roark	This novel is told in first person with well-developed characters. The setting is 1969 during the Vietnam War. A family has taken pride in the father’s military career. The father was promoted to the office of Colonel in a previous war. The main character is thrilled when her brother enlists to serve in the Medical Corps in Vietnam. She discovers that her mother and the Colonel are not supportive of the brother’s enlistment. Through correspondence with her brother and soldiers at the fort’s recreation center, the main character is introduced to war and the shades of gray surrounding issues of war.	Concepts: Conflict, Change, Controversy of War Skills: character dev., inference, drawing conclusions, opinion writing Treasures: Gr. 4-Unit 1
 4	<i>Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down</i> Andrea Pinkney	This is a picture book that recognizes the 50 th anniversary of the historic Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in. It is the story surrounding four college students staging a peaceful protest that led to the fight for racial equality and civil rights for all. The author uses the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to express the mood and strength of mind during that period in history. "Their order was simple. A doughnut and coffee with cream on the side," along with other metaphors, successfully highlights the protestor’s resolve to do away with the segregation. This protest was instrumental in leading to the 1966 Supreme Court ruling against racial discrimination. The back of the book contains a civil rights timeline and bibliography.	Concepts: Racism, Perseverance, Skills: Imagery, Mood, Examine author’s use of quotes and descriptive metaphoric language Treasures: Gr. 4-Units 2, 6
4	<i>The School Story</i> Andrew Clements	When Natalie writes a story, a really good story, Zoe is determined to let the whole world know. Using her formidable wits and all the resources available to a well-to-do New York City girl, Zoe, along with their timid English teacher, Ms. Clayton, proceeds to chip away at the challenge. The catch? The editor Natalie wants happens to be her own mother, an editor at Shipley Junior Books. But Natalie wants her authorship to remain a secret to her mom so that she'll get a fair shake. What ensues is a masterfully elaborate plot to get the manuscript in the right hands--and away from the arrogant, unfriendly editor in chief.	A novel study is available on the ALPs intranet site.
4-5	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> Pam Munoz Ryan	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> , a Pura Belpre Award Winner, is a dynamic story about a little girl who believed her life would be wonderful forever and would always live on her family’s ranch in Mexico. Esperanza would always have fancy dresses and a beautiful home filled with servants. Papa and Abuelita would always be with her. But a sudden tragedy shatters her world and forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California, where they settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn’t ready for the hard labor, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, and lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick, and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances, because Mama’s life and her own depend on it.	A novel study is available on the ALPs intranet site.



4-5	<i>Fever 1793</i> Laurie Halse Anderson	<i>Fever 1793</i> takes place in Philadelphia during the summer of 1793. Mattie Cook lived above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spent her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. Then the fever breaks out! Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie’s world upside down. At her feverish mother’s insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.	A novel study is available on the ALPs intranet site.
 4-5	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> Linda Sue Park	TEACHERS SHOULD READ THE BOOK IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE CHOOSING TO USE IT INSTRUCTIONALLY WITH STUDENTS. This is based on a true story of the life of Salva and Nya, whose lives eventually come together. Salva’s school in Sudan is attacked by rebel soldiers. The author tells of several Salva’s years on the run. He spends time in refugee camps in Ethiopia and then Kenya, where he is one of 3,000 young men chosen to go to America. He is adopted by a family in Rochester, New York. Nya, is a young Sudanese girl. She chronicles her daily life, in which she walks eight hours to fetch water for her family. In an extraordinary turn of events, Salva returns home to help his people and builds a well, making fresh water available for the community and freeing Nya to go to school. Note: There is violence in the context of the Civil War taking place in the Sudan.	Concept: National Unrest, Survival, Courage, Prob. Solv. Skills: point of view, Treasures: Gr.4-Unit 1, 2, 6; Grade 5-Unit 1, 3, 6
4-5	<i>Letters From Rifka</i> Karen Reese	Twelve-year-old Rifka's journey from a Jewish community in the Ukraine to Ellis Island is anything but smooth sailing. Modeled on the author's great-aunt, Rifka surmounts one obstacle after another in this riveting novel. First she outwits a band of Russian soldiers, enabling her family to escape to Poland. There the family is struck with typhus. Everyone recovers, but Rifka catches ringworm on the next stage of the journey--and is denied passage to America ("If the child arrives . . . with this disease," explains the steamship's doctor, "the Americans will turn her around and send her right back to Poland"). Rifka's family must leave without her, and she is billeted in Belgium for an agreeable if lengthy recovery. Further trials, including a deadly storm at sea and quarantine, do not faze this resourceful girl.	Novel
4-5	<i>Out of My Mind</i> Sharon M. Draper	Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people--her teachers and doctors included--don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind--that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.	

4-5	<i>The Last Newspaper Boy in America</i> Sue Corbett	The David family has delivered the <i>Cooper County Caller</i> to residents of Steele, PA, for as long as anyone can remember. Wil's 12th birthday signals that he will take over for his older brother, and he's been practicing his tosses from his bike. When the circulation manager phones the day before his start date to inform him that the <i>Caller</i> has decided to discontinue home delivery, Wil is devastated. The more he thinks about it, the madder he gets: folks in his rural community rely on that paper for important news and employment opportunities. Many are jobless since the factory shut down. Putting his stubborn streak to good use, Wil goes up against the big corporation that bought the paper.	
4-5	<i>The Last Safe House A Story of the Underground Railroad</i>	In short chapters, the story of escaped slave Eliza Jackson and her family unfold, paralleling the effect on and courage of Canadian Johanna Reid and her family, who hide Eliza and her brother Ben until they can safely reunite with their mother. The narrative introduces the points of view of Johanna, who must cope with the changes the "midnight visitors" bring, and Eliza and Ben, who recount their adventures traveling north to Canada from Virginia. Smoothly sandwiched in are maps, drawings, and factual passages that give background details of the time, such as life on Southern plantations, profiles of important figures in the history of abolitionism, and activities, which nicely break up the information.	Historical Fiction
4-5	<i>The Magic Thief</i> Sarah Prineas	Young Conn opens the first volume of this new trilogy, noting "A thief is a lot like a wizard." Conn is a thief but, through desire and inevitability, becomes a wizard by book's end. This evolution begins when Conn picks the pocket of the wizard Nevery, who is startled that the nicked magical stone didn't kill the boy. Nevery takes on Conn as a servant, but the boy's inquisitiveness and talents move him to apprentice status. Nevery has recently returned to Willmet to save the city-state, which is faltering as its magic seeps away. As Conn becomes more enmeshed in his new life, he navigates through the intricate dealings of both the wizarding world and the political machinations of the Under lord. What works wonderfully well here is the boy's irresistible voice, which is supplemented by the writings of Nevery in his journal; it's creased and stained pages appearing as a part of the design.	
4-5	<i>The Wanderer</i> Sharon Creech	This intimate novel poetically connects journey with self-discovery. 13-year-old Sophie learns that her three uncles and two male cousins plan to sail across the Atlantic. Despite her mother's protests and the men's misgivings, Sophie joins the "motley" crew of the 45-foot, <i>The Wanderer</i> and soon proves herself a worthy sailor. The novel unfolds through travel logs, predominantly penned by Sophie. The teens' insightful observations reveal the frailties of both the boat and its six passengers, whose fears and regrets anchor them down.	

 4-5	<i>Walt Whitman: Words for America</i> Barbara Kerley	This is a picture book biography that focuses on Walt Whitman’s formative years. Whitman’s life is paralleled to what was happening in the nation during the time before, during, and after the Civil War. The illustrations are just as informative as the text. The author writes of Walt’s passion for language. As Walt Whitman traveled the country from top to bottom, he was fascinated by the people he met and attempted to capture America’s grace and vigor through his new style of poetry. Poetry is embedded throughout the text. Readers will discover that they understand Whitman’s poetry because of the context of the poems in Whitman’s life and in our nation’s history.	Concepts: Perseverance, Change Skills: Examining writing style, poetry, tone, mood, examining illustrations Treasures: Gr. 4-Unit 1, 2, 3; Gr. 5-Unit 1, 6
 5	<i>Amazing Impossible Erie Canal</i> Cheryl Harness	This book tells about the history and construction of the Erie Canal to connect the Hudson River with the Great Lakes. The author uses text, maps, and pictures to emphasize important aspects of the process. Readers will learn about the politics involved in the planning and building of the canal, as well as the joy and pride people took in the achievement of this magnificent and complex engineering masterpiece.	Concept: Change, Perseverance, Teamwork Treasures: Gr. 5-Unit 5
5	<i>Biography of Barack (A DK Biography)</i> Stephen Krensky	The author excels at providing context not only for Obama's election, but also for his unlikely rise to prominence. Readers learn about his childhood, adolescence, education, and adulthood without losing sight of the tumultuous social and racial changes overtaking America in the second half of the 20th century.	Biography
5	<i>Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607</i> Elisa Carbone	TEACHERS SHOULD READ THE BOOK IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE CHOOSING TO USE IT INSTRUCTIONALLY WITH STUDENTS. The main character, Samuel Collier, a rough and tough young orphan, becomes the page of Captain John Smith as they head for the New World. Brought up in poor conditions and street-smart, Samuel has to learn to control his anger and to use his head instead of his fists. During the journey on the ship the Susan Constant, Samuel begins his lessons in determining right from wrong. Through interactions with other boys his age, as well as key figures such as Captain John Smith, Reverend Hunt, and Master Wingfield, Samuel encounters conflict and discovers ways to avoid it. His first contacts with the native peoples in the Caribbean and in the New World further teach Samuel about different perspectives and about the value of culture. Survival in the new colony tests Samuel as he evaluates these life lessons and learns to make choices using his heart instead of his fists. CAUTION: The book uses very descriptive language to describe this period in history.	Historical Fiction Mature content in the context of life and conflict in an early settlement.

5	<p><i>Elephant Run</i> Roland Smith</p>	<p>TEACHERS SHOULD READ THE BOOK IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE CHOOSING TO USE IT INSTRUCTIONALLY WITH STUDENTS. It is 1941, and fourteen-year-old Nick Freestone has been sent by his mother to live on his father's teak plantation in Burma to escape the dangers of the <u>London Blitz</u>. Unfortunately, the <u>War in the Pacific</u> is also gearing up, and the Japanese takeover of Burma is imminent. Soon after Nick arrives, Rangoon falls to the invaders, and Japanese troops infiltrate the country. The Freestone plantation is overrun and converted into an operating center for the Japanese command; Nick's father is taken to a labor camp, and Nick himself is held prisoner on the plantation and forced to work for the enemy officers. With the help of Taung Baw, a legendary, ancient Buddhist monk whose name means "Hilltop," Nick and Mya (a young Burmese girl whose father was the head "mahout," or elephant handler on the plantation) manage to escape and attempt a daring rescue of Nick's father. Riding on the back of a huge, rogue elephant named Hannibal, Nick, Mya, and Hilltop journey through the dangerous jungle in pursuit of their quest, enduring heat and hunger, evading occupation troops, and navigating among Burmese natives who might be friend or foe.</p>	<p>Historical Fiction Mature content in the context of war.</p>
 5	<p><i>Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman</i> Meg Wolitzer</p>	<p>This is a novel about three competitive children with a love for Scrabble. Each of the main characters is challenged by personal dilemmas ranging from being considered a nerd to meeting parent expectations. The rules of Scrabble are explained, and there are lists of two-letter words, definitions, and anagrams. The characters learn that happiness means being true to themselves, regardless of outside pressures. Teamwork and playing fair are emphasized in the story. The intelligent female characters are positive role model. There is touch of implausibility in the story as one of the main characters has the ability to feel words and pictures beneath his fingers and tell what they are without looking. One caution in the story is that one of the characters appears in a cigarette ad. Cigarettes are portrayed in a negative light.</p>	<p>Concept: Friendship, Ethics Skills: Charac. Dev., Plot Structure RL.5.5. Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem. RL.5.6. Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described. Treasures: Gr. 5-Unit 3: Using Your Wits</p>

5	<p><i>Give Me Liberty</i> L. M. Elliott</p>	<p>Thirteen-year-old indentured servant Nathaniel Dunn arrives in Williamsburg in 1774 to work for the local carriage maker. As the royal governor and the king's loyalists attempt to control the colonists more tightly, it becomes apparent that there will be no peaceful resolution to the tension. Through his friendship with an elderly schoolmaster, Nathaniel is exposed to music, philosophy, and the political ideas of the day. While his inclination is to keep to himself and avoid trouble, he cannot help but be caught up in the events around him. One of his fellow servants is full of patriotic fervor and draws Nathaniel into the protests. The carriage maker, a staunch loyalist, becomes increasingly volatile as his business dwindles in the face of rising tension. In the end, Nathaniel must determine what he believes in and act accordingly.</p>	Advanced Novel
5	<p><i>Phantom Tollbooth</i> Norton Jester</p>	<p>It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," Milo laments. "[T]here's nothing for me to do, nowhere I'd care to go, and hardly anything worth seeing." This bored, <i>bored</i> young protagonist who can't see the point to anything is knocked out of his glum humdrum by the sudden and curious appearance of a tollbooth in his bedroom. Since Milo has absolutely nothing better to do, he dusts off his toy car, pays the toll, and drives through. What ensues is a journey of mythic proportions, during which Milo encounters countless odd characters who are anything but dull. As Milo heads toward Dictionopolis he meets with the Whether Man ("for after all it's more important to know whether there will be weather than what the weather will be"), passes through The Doldrums (populated by Lethargarians), and picks up a watchdog named Tock (who has a giant alarm clock for a body). The brilliant satire and double entendre intensifies in the Word Market, where after a brief scuffle with Officer Short Shrift, Milo and Tock set off toward the Mountains of Ignorance to rescue the twin Princesses, Rhyme and Reason. Students and teachers choosing this book will need to appreciate its use of language and irony.</p>	
 5	<p><i>Redwall</i> Brian Jacques</p>	<p>TEACHERS SHOULD READ THIS BOOK IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE CHOOSING TO USE IT WITH STUDENTS. This fantasy has a mouse, Matthias, as the protagonist and a rat, Cluny the Scourge, as the antagonist. This adventure is a cross between the King Arthur stories and Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH. The main character has dreams of becoming a brave combatant, just like his hero, Martin the Warrior. The mouse's character evolves throughout the adventure from bumbling youngster to a more mature protector. The setting of the story is Redwall Abbey, a fortified type of monastery, and the surrounding countryside. Cluny the Scourge is intent on taking over Redwall Abbey and its peaceful inhabitants. The struggle is to maintain the environment of harmony enjoyed by the animals associated with Redwall Abbey. The characters both major and minor are well developed. The author uses detailed and descriptive language to engage the reader. The animal characters supporting the antagonist are evil acting villains who freely kill, pillage, and destroy in the story. There is some cautionary language used by the villains (i.e. references to the devil and hell in the context of their character's deportment.)</p>	<p>Concepts: Courage, Compassion, Change Skills: Charac. Dev., Tone, Foreshadowing, Descriptive Writing, CC RL.5.5. (structure) L.5.4. (multiple-meaning) RL.5.2. Determine a theme of a story ~how characters in a story respond to challenges or RL.5.3. Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story Treasures: Gr. 5-Unit 3</p>

 5	<i>Stepping on Cracks</i> Mary Downing Hahn	This historical fiction novel takes readers to 1944 during World War II in a home front in Maryland. It won the Scot O'Dell Award for historical fiction. The main character's brother is fighting in the war, while another young man in the story is an army deserter. The author creates an ethical storyline involving pacifism in which the main characters take a critical look at the customary propaganda about the war.	Concepts: Conflict, Patriotism Skills: Descriptive writing, Charac. Dev. Plot Dev., Point of View Treasures: Gr. 5-Unit 1, 4
5	<i>The Dreamer</i> Pam Munoz Ryan	Neftalí Reyes was born to a domineering father, who wants his sons to be strong, powerful men of industry. But Neftalí and his older brother, Rodolfo, are creative souls more interested in books and music than math and business. Neftalí is shy, stuttering and unsure of himself, and feels most at home surrounded by nature or the many interesting objects he collects, like shiny keys, feathers and beautiful stones. His head is full of stories, and he is entranced by the rhythmic sounds of the forests, rivers and jungles. Though his stepmother tries to protect him, Neftalí is subject to his father's mood swings, strict rules and cruelty. As he grows up, inspired by his uncle, a progressive journalist and activist on behalf of the native Mapuche, Neftalí finds his voice and strength in the written word --- first in political essays and finally in poetry.	Recommended for the middle to end of fifth grade
5 End of the Year	<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> Gary Schmidt	On Wednesday afternoons, while his Catholic and Jewish schoolmates attend religious instruction, Holling Hoodhood, the only Presbyterian in his seventh grade, is alone in the classroom with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling is convinced hates his guts. He feels more certain after Mrs. Baker assigns Shakespeare's plays for Holling to discuss during their shared afternoons. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island during the late '60s, as he leaps into his future with his eyes and his heart wide open.	End of Grade 5 *Middle School Issues
 5	<i>The Word Snoop</i> Ursula Dubosarsky	This is a REFERENCE BOOK. The Word Snoop examines the development of the English language using the persona of a detective. Beginning with the first alphabet, and moving on to anagrams, Shakespeare, punctuation, acronyms, palindromes, mnemonics, slang, puns, portmanteau words, euphemisms, clichés, malapropisms, to texting. The pages contain examples and illustrations to help the reader understand the concept of the text. Each section ends with a secret message written as a puzzle or code needing deciphering.	Reference Book

Various Levels	<i>Would You, Could You</i> Trudy White	This utterly unique book of whimsical pictures, questions and ideas will tickle imaginations, provoke laughter, stir feelings and encourage exploration. "...a book of questions to get kids laughing, thinking, talking, drawing, writing and exploring the world...illustrations are whimsical...questions are clever." "...inspires children and adults to look more closely at the world around them. While published as a children s book, Could You? Would You? is for everyone. It inspires writers to think, artists to look more closely at their surroundings, and everyone who has ever dreamed to discover what makes them unique."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Questions to stretch the imagination • Good for Writing Prompts • Could be used for center ideas • Not to be used as a novel
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