

Just One More Page!

Compiled by WSRA's Children's Literature Committee for 2015 Convention
from titles published between September 2013-December 2014

**A Snicker of Magic* by Natalie Lloyd (Scholastic Press, 2014).

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic, but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle she hopes to bring the magic back. Grades 4-7

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014).

In India, a girl who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident. Grades 6+

**Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff (Philomel Books, 2014).

Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself. Grades 4-6

Artists, Writers, Thinkers, Dreamers by James Gulliver Hancock (Chronicle Books, 2014).

This cultural who's-who illuminates 50 famous figures, through the fascinating trivia of their lives. Artist James Gulliver Hancock depicts historical icons in annotated portraits surrounded by their associated possessions, baggage, and foibles. Each portrait reveals the ordinary quirks of these extraordinary people and captures their personalities in the process. Grades 6+

***Better off Friends* by Elizabeth Eulberg (Scholastic, 2014).

Macallan and Levi are best friends from the first day they meet in seventh grade, but over the years their close friendship keeps interfering with their dating life because everyone else regards them as a couple. Grades 7+

Boys of Blur by N.D. Wilson (Random House, 2014).

When his stepfather moves them to Taper, Florida, in the Everglades, twelve-year-old Charlie discovers a secret world hidden within the sugar cane fields, as well as new family connections and friendships. Grades 3-7

**Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014).

The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South. Grades 4-8

Caminar by Skila Brown (Candlewick, 2014).

In 1981 with the arrival of soldiers in his Guatemalan village, Carlos must flee and join a band of guerillas who head to the mountains where his grandmother lives to warn her about the soldiers. Grades 5-8

Cartwheeling In Thunderstorms by Katherine Rundell (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Willhelmina must find her way after she is plucked out of a wonderful life in Zimbabwe and forced to go to boarding school in England. Grades 3-7

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Cleopatra in Space by Mike Maihack (Graphix, 2014).

When a young Cleopatra finds a mysterious tablet that zaps her to the far, REALLY far future, she learns of an ancient prophecy that says she is destined to save the galaxy from the tyrannical rule of the evil Xaius Octavian. Grades 3-6

Codename Zero by Chris Rylander (Walden Pond Press, 2014).

When a desperate man in a nondescript black suit asks thirteen-year-old Carson Fender to deliver a mysterious package for him, the middle schooler discovers there's something going on in his sleepy North Dakota hometown he had never expected--something involving the CIA. Grades 3-7

Comics Squad: Recess edited by Jennifer L. Holm, Matthew Holm, & Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Random House, 2014).

This all-star tribute to classic Sunday comics includes eight sidesplitting, action-packed stories about every kid's favorite subject—RECESS! With popular characters from Babymouse and Lunch Lady and brand-new soon-to-be favorite characters from superstars including Dav Pilkey, Raina Telgemeier, Gene Yang, and many more. Grades 2-5

Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Dory, the youngest in her family, is a girl with a very active imagination, and she spends the summer playing with her imaginary friend, pretending to be a dog, battling monsters, and generally driving her family nuts. Grades 1-3

****El Deafo*** by Cece Bell (Amulet Books, 2014).

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. Grades 3-7

****Extraordinary Warren: A Super Chicken*** by Sarah Dillard (Aladdin, 2014).

Warren, a bespectacled chicken, is bored with the everyday chicken routine: peck, cluck, feed; peck, cluck, feed. Same old, same old. There must be more to life, no? And there must be more to Warren. He leaves the farm to discover what makes him special—and with the help of an unhatched egg and a snarky, hungry rat, he just might get some answers. Grades 1-4

****Extraordinary Warren Saves the Day*** by Sarah Dillard (Aladdin, 2014).

Delightfully quirky chicken Warren and his sidekick Egg embark on dual adventures when Egg decides to cross the road in this follow-up to *Extraordinary Warren: A Super Chicken*. Grades 1-4

Five, Six, Seven, Nate! by Tim Federle (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Now on Broadway as second understudy for E.T., Nate Foster keeps in close contact with his best friend, Libby, as he faces his nemesis, Jordan Rylance, and his own insecurities as the cast member with the least training and experience. Sequel to *Better Nate Than Ever*. Grades 5-8

Fly Away by Patricia MacLachlan (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2014).

While in North Dakota helping her Aunt Frankie prepare for a possible flood, Lucy finds her voice as a poet with the help of her two-year-old brother, Teddy, the rest of the family, and a few cows. Grades 2-4

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Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka (Amulet Books, 2014).

In his Grandpa Al's garage workshop, child genius Frank Einstein tries to invent a robot that can learn on its own, and after an accident brings wisecracking Klink and overly expressive Klank to life, they set about helping Frank perfect his Antimatter Motor until his arch nemesis, T. Edison, steals the robots for his doomsday plan. Grades 2-6

Girl In Reverse by Barbara Stuber (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2014).

Lillian Firestone is Chinese, but the kids in her 1951 Kansas City high school can't separate her from the North Koreans that America is at war with. Sick of the racism she faces at school and frustrated that her adoptive white family just sees it as 'teasing,' Lily begins to search for her birth mother. Grades 7+

Greenglass House by Kate Milford (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014)

At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure. Grades 5-8

Half a Chance by Cynthia Lord (Scholastic Press, 2014).

Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see. Grades 4-6

Half a World Away by Cynthia Kadohata (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Eleven-year-old Jaden is adopted, and he knows he's an "epic fail." That's why his family is traveling to Kazakhstan to adopt a new baby—to replace him, he's sure. And he gets it. He is incapable of stopping his stealing, hoarding, lighting fires, aggressive running, and obsession with electricity. He knows his parents love him, but he feels...nothing. Grades 5-9

Happy Birthday Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm (Random House, 2014).

Babymouse imagines the biggest, most wonderful birthday party ever for herself and tries to make it happen, but Felicia is planning her own birthday bash for the very same day. Eighteenth book in the ***Babymouse*** graphic novel series. Grades 2-5

Hidden: A child's story of the Holocaust by Loïc Dauvillier & Greg Salsedo, illustrated by Marc Lizano (First Second, 2014).

A grandmother shares with her granddaughter the story of her childhood in Paris during the Holocaust and how she was hidden to save her life. Grades 3-6

Hope Is a Ferris Wheel by Robin Herrera (Amulet Books, 2014).

After moving from Oregon to a trailer park in California, ten-year-old Star participates in a poetry club, where she learns some important lessons about herself and her own hopes and dreams for the future. Grades 4-6

How to Outrun a Crocodile When Your Shoes are Untied by Jess Keating (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2014).

When twelve-year-old Ana's zoologist parents move the whole family into the zoo, the Sneers--the clan of carnivorous female predators in her class--have even more ammunition to make her life miserable, although she tries to act like a chameleon and fade into the background. Grades 4-7

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I Kill the Mockingbird by Paul Acampora (Roaring Brook Press, 2014).

When best friends Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So they hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic. Grades 5-8

Ice Dogs by Terry Lynn Johnson (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2014).

In this survival story set in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Vicky and her dog sled team find an injured sledder in the wilderness. Grades 5-8

Ice Whale by Jean Craighead George (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

In 1848, ten-year-old Toozak, a Yupik Eskimo, sees a whale being born and is told by a Shaman that he and his descendants must protect that whale, which Toozak names Siku, as long as it lives. Grades 4-6

If You're Reading This by Trent Reedy (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2014).

For a responsible sixteen-year-old, Michael Wilson has a lot of problems - his father was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, his over worked and over protective mother will not talk about their situation, and does not want him playing football, and he has suddenly started to receive letters that his father wrote before his death. Grades 7+

Independent Study by Joelle Charbonneau (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014).

Now a freshman at the university in Tosu City with her hometown sweetheart, Tomas, Cia Vale attempts to expose the ugly truth behind the government's grueling and deadly testing, putting her and her loved ones in great danger. Second book of three in *The Testing* series. Grades 7+

Island of Fire by Lisa McMann (Aladdin, 2014).

The magical world of Artimé is gone and the Unwanteds are looking to Alex Stowe for answers, but while his twin brother Aaron continues to build his army in Quill, a very dangerous common enemy is revealed. Third book of seven in *The Unwanteds* series. Grades 3-7

Ivy and Bean Take the Case by Annie Barrows (Chronicle Books, 2014).

After watching a movie about a detective on the television, Bean decides to set up shop as a private investigator--and she and Ivy start looking for mysteries to solve. Grades 1-4

Jungle of Bones by Ben Mikaelson (Scholastic Press, 2014).

When sullen teenager Dylan Barstow is caught joyriding in a stolen car he is sent to his ex-Marine uncle for the summer, but soon they are on the way to Papua New Guinea in search of a World War II fighter plane and Dylan discovers that defiance is not a survival skill when you are lost in a jungle. Grades 5-8

Kate Walden Directs: Night of the Zombie Chickens by Julie Mata (DisneyHyperion, 2014).

Budding film director Kate Walden navigates middle school girl politics and chores on her mother's chicken farm while trying to become the next Spielberg. Grades 3-7

Life of Zarf: The Trouble with Weasels by Rob Harrell (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

As a troll, Zarf Belford is at the bottom of the social ladder at Cotswin Middle School, but when the king goes missing and his insufferable son takes control, Zarf leads his friends Kevin and Chester on a rescue mission. Grades 3-7

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Lord and Lady Bunny Almost Royalty by Polly Horvath (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2014). Madeleine and her hippie parents travel to England to run a candy shop. Meanwhile Mr. and Mrs. Bunny also travel to England, where Mrs. Bunny tries to weasel her way into the ranks of royalty. Grades 3-6

Lunch Lady and the Schoolwide Scuffle by Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014). Lunch Lady and Betty have been fired but the Breakfast Bunch convinces them to return and stop the school's new superintendent and her minions from carrying out an evil plan for revenge. Tenth book in the ***Lunch Lady*** graphic novel series. Grades 2-5

Manhunt by Kate Messner (Scholastic Press, 2014). Henry, Anna, and Jose are on a mission in Paris to recover the Mona Lisa--but when senior members of the Silver Jaguar Society are taken hostage, it is up to Henry to rescue them while continuing to pursue the missing masterpiece. Final book in the ***Silver Jaguar Society*** trilogy. Grades 3-7

Marty McGuire Has Too Many Pets by Kate Messner (Scholastic Press, 2014). After visiting a great ape sanctuary, Marty and her friends set out to raise the money to "adopt" a chimpanzee by organizing a talent show at school and starting a pet-sitting business in Marty's basement--which soon gets out of hand. Third book in the series. Grades 1-3

Nightingale's Nest by Nikki Loftin (Razorbill, 2014). In this twist on "The Nightingale," Little John, despite his own poverty and grief, reaches out to Gayle, an unhappy foster child living next-door who sings beautifully and hides a great secret. Grades 3-7

No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits by Jordan Romero with Linda LeBlanc (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014). The story of Jordan Romero, who at the age of 13 became the youngest person ever to reach the summit of Mount Everest. At age 15, he reached the summits of the world's 7 highest mountains. Non-fiction. Grades 7+

Ollie and the Science of Treasure Hunting by Erin Dionne (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014). While spending two weeks at Wilderness Camp on the Boston Harbor Islands, Ollie, age 13, short, half-Vietnamese, asthmatic, and overweight, must find and protect hidden pirate treasure from those who would steal it for themselves. Grades 5+

Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy by Karen Foxlee (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014). Ophelia, a timid eleven-year-old girl grieving her mother, suspends her disbelief in things non-scientific when a boy locked in the museum where her father is working asks her to help him complete an age-old mission. Grades 3-7

Outside the Box: A book of poems by Karma Wilson (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2014). Dive in to Karma Wilson's latest collection of more than 100 poems—some humorous, some poignant, and all of them *Outside the Box*. Illustrated by Caldecott Honoree Diane Goode, *Outside the Box* has something for everyone. Grades 3-6

Percy Jackson's Greek Gods by Rick Riordan (DisneyHyperion, 2014). Percy Jackson, a modern-day demigod, tells the origin stories of the gods of Olympus and provides an insider's point of view - with plenty of attitude - in this illustrated collection. Grades 5-8

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***Rain, Reign** by Ann M. Martin (Feiwel & Friends, 2014).

Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet. Grades 3-7

Revolution by Deborah Wiles (Scholastic Press, 2014).

It's 1964, and Sunny's Mississippi town is being invaded by people from up north who are spending the summer helping the black people register to vote. Sunny is already trying to adjust to having a new stepmother, stepbrother, and baby sister, and she struggles to figure out what is right and worth fighting for during Freedom Summer. Grades 5-8

Rhyme Schemer by K.A. Holt (Chronicle Books, 2014).

A novel in verse about Kevin's journey from bully to being bullied, as he learns about friendship, family, and his talent for poetry. Grades 6-8

Saving Lucas Biggs by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague (Harper, 2014).

When thirteen-year-old Margaret's father is sentenced to death for a crime he didn't commit, she knows the only way to save him is to use the forbidden family power of time travel. Grades 5-8

Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America by Tonya Bolden (Abrams, 2014).

In 1914, 12-year-old Oklahoman Sarah Rector attracted attention when it became known that the oil found on land allotted to her by treaty was worth a fortune. Grades 4-8

Seven Wild Sisters by Charles DeLint, illustrated by Charles Vess (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

Sarah Jane Dillard discovers and helps an injured 'sangman fairy in the Tanglewood forest, putting herself, her six sisters, and friends Aunt Lillian and the Apple Tree Man in the middle of a fairy feud. Grades 3-7

***Sisters** by Raina Telgemeier (Graphix, 2014).

Two sisters who are constantly at odds take a family road trip that covers more ground—both literally and figuratively—than they expect. Grades 3-8

Space Planet: Water Taxi Rescue by Wendy Maas and Michael Brawer (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

Eight-year-old Archie Morningstar, his taxi driver dad, and a talking cat named Pockets are on an intergalactic mission to save an underwater planet in peril. Grade 1-3

Stubby the War Dog by Ann Bausum (National Geographic, 2014).

American soldier J. Robert Conroy befriended a stray dog with a stumpy tail while training to fight overseas in WWI. They bonded so closely that Conroy smuggled him to Europe, where Stubby accompanied Conroy's regiment on the Western Front, lending both his superior olfactory senses and amiable temperament to the war effort. Grades 4-7

The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond by Brenda Woods (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014).

An uplifting story of a girl finally meeting the African American side of her family. Violet explores racism and how it feels to be biracial, and celebrates families of all kinds. Grades 4-6

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The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel (Simon & Schuster, 2014).

Aboard "The Boundless," the greatest train ever built, on its maiden voyage across Canada, teenaged Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains. Grades 4-8

The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure by Doreen Cronin (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014).

When the squirrel Tail comes barreling into the chicken coop ranting about a round, shiny, green, big, scary thing in the yard, Dirt, Sweetie, Poppy, and Sugar investigate this strange object. Grades 1-3

****The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014).

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. A novel in verse with diverse characters that will especially appeal to boys. Grades 5-8

The Dumbest Idea Ever! by Jimmy Gownley (Graphix, 2014).

What if the dumbest idea ever turned your life upside down? Renowned comics creator Jimmy Gownley shares his adventures as he grows from an eager-to-please boy into a teenage comic book artist. This is the real-life story of how the DUMBEST idea ever became the BEST thing that ever happened to him. Grades 5-8

****The Fourteenth Goldfish*** by Jennifer L. Holm (Random House, 2014).

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager -- which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter. Grades 3-7

****The Great American Dust Bowl*** by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013).

A graphic novel account of the science and history that first created and then, theoretically, destroyed the terrifying Dust Bowl storms that raged in the United States during the "dirty thirties." Grades 5+

****The Great Greene Heist*** by Varian Johnson (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2014).

Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School, but after the last disaster he is trying to go straight -- but when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's former best friend Gabriela, he assembles a team to make sure Keith does not succeed. Grades 5-8

The Griffin and the Dinosaur by Marc Aronson with Adrienne Mayor (National Geographic, 2014).

Traces the research scientist co-author's explorations in Greece and the Gobi Desert for the origins of the mythical griffin, relating the story of the ancient Scythians and the griffins that were said to have guarded their treasure. Grades 5-8

The Inventor's Secret by Andrea Cremer (Philomel, 2014).

In an alternate nineteenth-century America that is still a colony of Britain's industrial empire, sixteen-year-old Charlotte and her fellow refugees' struggle to survive is interrupted by a newcomer with no memory, bearing secrets about a terrible future. Grades 6-8

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The Map Trap by Andrew Clements (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Sixth-grader Alton Ziegler loves maps, and when his portfolio of secret maps is stolen, he begins getting notes with orders that he must obey to get the maps back but, with the help of a popular classmate, he just might succeed before his teacher, principal, or someone else learns he has been studying and mapping things about them. Grades 3-6

The Mark of the Dragonfly by Jaleigh Johnson (Delacorte, 2014).

Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands. Grades 6-8

The Meaning of Maggie by Megan Jean Sovern (Chronicle Books, 2014).

Eleven-year-old Maggie Mayfield is an A-plus student with big plans for herself, but at this moment she is also facing a lot of problems--like starting middle school and figuring out how to help her father who is out of work and in a wheelchair. Grades 4-7

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier (Amulet Books, 2014).

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house. Grades 6-8

The Only Thing Worse Than Witches by Lauren Magaziner (Dial, 2014).

Eleven-year-old Rupert cannot resist applying to an advertisement to be a witch's apprentice, but quickly finds himself over his head with the young witch-in-training who desperately needs his help. Grade 3-6

The Paper Cowboy by Kristin Levine (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2014).

In a small town near Chicago in 1953, twelve-year-old Tommy faces escalating problems at home, among his Catholic school friends, and with the threat of a communist living nearby, but taking over his hospitalized sister's paper route introduces him to neighbors who he comes to rely on for help. Grades 5-8

The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin (Roaring Brook Press, 2014)

Presents an account of the 1944 civil rights protest involving hundreds of African-American Navy servicemen who were unjustly charged with mutiny for refusing to work in unsafe conditions after the deadly Port Chicago explosion. Grades 4-8

⁺***The Prince of Venice Beach*** by Blake Nelson (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

Robert "Cali" Callahan, seventeen, gets swept into the private-investigator business and must deal with the ramifications of looking for fellow runaways who may not want to be found—and with falling in love with one of them. Grades 7+

The Real Boy by Anne Ursu (Walden Pond Press, 2013).

A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magic worker becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster. Grades 3-7

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****The Red Pencil*** by Andrea Davis Pinkney (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder. Grades 4-8

The Riverman by Aaron Starmer (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014).

The first book in a trilogy about a girl who claims she is visiting a parallel universe where a nefarious being called The Riverman is stealing the souls of children and the boy she asks to write her biography because she fears her soul may be next. Grades 4-8

****The Secret Hum of a Daisy*** by Tracy Holczer (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2014).

After 12-year-old Grace's mother's sudden death, Grace is forced to live with a grandmother she's never met. Then she discovers clues in a mysterious treasure hunt -- one that will help her find her true home. Grades 5-8

+***The Secret Sky*** by Atia Abawi (Philomel Books, 2014).

Two teens from different ethnic groups in present-day Afghanistan must fight their culture, tradition, families, and the Taliban to stay together as they and another village boy relate the story of their forbidden love. Grades 8+

The Shadow Throne by Jennifer A. Nielsen (Scholastic Press, 2014).

Young King Jaron has had nothing but trouble with his advisers and regents since he ascended the throne of Carthya, and now King Vargan of Avenia has invaded the land and captured Imogen—and Jaron must find some way to rescue her and save his kingdom. Final book in *The Ascendance* trilogy. Grades 5-9

The Stratford Zoo Midnight Revue Presents Macbeth by Ian Lendler, illustrated by Zack Giallongo (First Second, 2014).

The Stratford Zoo looks like a normal zoo... until the gates shut at night. That's when the animals come out of their cages to stage elaborate performances of Shakespeare's greatest works. They might not be the most accomplished thespians, but they've got what counts: heart. Also fangs, feathers, scales, and tails. Grades 2-5.

The Summer of Letting Go by Gae Polisner (Algonquin Young Readers, 2014).

Four years after her brother, Simon, drowned while in her charge, Francesca, now fifteen, begins to move on after a summer caring for Frankie, who seems to be Simon reincarnated, and getting closer to her best friend's boyfriend. Grades 7+

The War Within These Walls by Aline Sax, illustrated by Caryl Strzelecki (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2013).

Misha and his family do their best to survive in the appalling conditions of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, and ultimately make a final, desperate stand against the Nazis. Grades 8+

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Thomas Jefferson: A Day At Monticello by Elizabeth V. Chew (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Readers spend a day with Thomas Jefferson as he and his grandson visit the vast plantation of Monticello. Readers learn about Jefferson; the gadgets and household items that he reinterpreted and the plow he invented; the famous house; the surrounding farms with their gardens, fields, factories, and mills; the workshops of the enslaved people on Mulberry Row; and much more. Grades 4-6

Threatened by Eliot Schrefer (Scholastic Press, 2014).

Luc is an orphan, living in debt slavery in Gabon, until he meets a Professor who claims to be studying chimpanzees, and they head off into the jungle—but when the Professor disappears, Luc has to fend for himself and join forces with the chimps to save their forest. Grades 6+

Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere by Julie T. Lemana (Chronicle Books, 2014).

At the end of August 2005, ten-year-old Armani is looking forward to her birthday party in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, where she and her extended family live, but Hurricane Katrina is on the way, bringing destruction and tragedy in its wake. Grades 4-7

What Was Ellis Island by Patricia Brennan Demuth, illustrated by David Groff (Grosset and Dunlap, 2014).

Many people thought of Ellis Island as the Island of Hope. Millions of immigrants came to Ellis Island just off New York City from 1892-1954. Grades 3-7

Winter Sky by Patricia Reilly Giff (Wendy Lamb Books, 2014).

Almost twelve-year-old Siria, who chases firetrucks in the middle of the night to ensure her firefighter dad's safety, learns about bravery one winter as she tries to mend a broken friendship. Grades 3-7

Words With Wings by Nikki Grimes (Wordsong, 2013).

Gabby daydreams to tune out her parents' arguments, but when her parents divorce, and she begins a new school, daydreaming gets her into trouble. Her mother scolds her for it, her teacher keeps telling her to pay attention, and the other kids tease her. Until she finds a friend who also daydreams and her teacher decides to work a daydreaming-writing session into every school day. With a notebook "thick with daydreams," Gabby grows more confident about herself and her future. Grades 3-6

Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina by Rodman Philbrick (The Blue Sky Press, 2014).

A twelve-year-old boy and his dog become trapped in New Orleans during the horrors of Hurricane Katrina. Grades 5-8

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